Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends ceremony to enshrine religious objects into Siri Verosana Pagoda and Htidaw hoisting and consecration ceremony in Bago

YANGON, 7 Oct — A ceremony to enshrine religious objects into Siri Verosana Pagoda in conjunction with the ceremony to hoist Htidaw atop and consecration ceremony was held at the pagoda near Mazin Dam in Okha Myothit, Bago Township, today, attended by Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Also present on the occasion were Joint-Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Yenanggyo Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejaniya and member Sayadaws, members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, members of Division and Township Sangha Nayaka Committees and 108 invited monks, Daw Mya Mya Sun, wife of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye; Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo; Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann; Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister General Soe Win; Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein; wives of SPDC members, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and wife, senior military officers, departmental heads, members of the pagoda construction committee, wellwishers, religious organizations and guests.

Maha Nayaka of Thudhamma Nikaya of Bago Township Ahibdha Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhammalinkara Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visuddha administered the Nine Precepts.

Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered Seinbudaw (diamond bud), religious objects for the upper reli-

quary, robes and alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visuddha.

Daw Mya Mya Sun donated Hngetmyatnada, robes and provi-
sions to a Sayadaw. Daw Khin Than Nwe also pre-
sented religious objects and donations to a
Sayadaw.

(See page 10)

Inside

Myanmar cannot stop all those who illegally enter the nation, and nor does the US.
Myanmar is taking all possible measures to put an end to poppy cultivation in the nation.
But some persons have local national races grow poppy in the mountains and valleys. As soon as poppy plantations are found out, they are destroyed before long.

Page 8 & 9  Hnin Aye Khaing

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Bring glory to the State through success in sports

In the world today, the sports standard of the world nations is very high along with the efficiency, techniques and fitness of athletes.

In reviewing the sports of Myanmar it can be seen that Myanmar athletes have not only influenced events of South-East Asian Games but in the Asian Games and the Olympics Games. Especially, soccer and track and field events in South-East Asian Games, Myanmar athletes left various milestones.

Nowadays, in accord with the one of the social objectives—uplift of health, fitness and education standard of the entire nation—the government is taking systematic measures for uplift of the standard of Myanmar Sports. On 3 October, Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Council Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony to honour the Selected Myanmar Youth Soccer Team which won Champion in the AFF U-17 Youth Championship-2005 held at Sedona Hotel in Yangon and presented prizes to players of the team.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that correct techniques, hard training, fitness, healthiness and perseverance are the key to success. He urged the youths to continue to work hard with mindfulness and diligence to be able to maintain the momentum of achievements.

With the encouragement of the government and the people, Myanmar sports teams are winning victories gradually.

Selected Myanmar Youth U-20 Team became the champion in ASEAN U-20 Youth Championship-2005—the highest in the age-wise soccer events. The U-17 team managed to win the championship for the second time.

As success in sports is a national pride and indicates the high standard of sports of the nation, the State has honoured the athletes. The national pride and the people, Myanmar sports teams are winning victories gradually.

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As success in sports is a national pride and indicates the high standard of sports of the nation, the State has honoured the athletes. The national pride and the people, Myanmar sports teams are winning victories gradually.

At a time when the State and the entire people have come out in support of players to uplift Myanmar sports standard, Myanmar athletes, on their part, are to continue their efforts with perseverance to bring glory to the nation.

YANGON, 7 Oct — The workshop on upgrading State Sasana Universities of the Ministry of Religious Affairs was held at International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, here, this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Raitha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara and member Sayadaws, academic and management Sayadaws of ITBMU, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, directors-general and officials.

The minister delivered an opening speech, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana suppli- cated on the agenda of the workshop.

Next, the paper-reading session followed. Chancellor of Sitagu World Buddhist Academy Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nanissara gave an Ovada Katha, Head of Department of ITBMU Dr U Ardiççavamsa, Visiting Professor U Kyaw Zaw, Dr Ashin Punnobhasa of Sitagu, Visiting Professor Dr Min Tin Mon, Rector Bhaddanta Vannita of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Mandalay), Additional Head of Department of SPSU (Mandalay) U Myint Swe and Dr Ashin Osadhasara of Sitagu read the papers.

The paper-reading session continues tomorrow. — MNA

Indian Ambassador calls on Chief Justice

YANGON, 7 Oct — Ambassador of the Republic of India Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra called on Chief Justice U Aung Toe at his office at 10 am today.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Soe Nyunt of Supreme Court and Head of Office U Myint Then. — MNA

Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra calls on Chief Justice U Aung Toe.— MNA

Book of Sarpay Beikman Readers Association in circulation

YANGON, 7 Oct — The Sarpay Beikman Readers Association has distributed the 2002 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award winning book titled Nu-Nu-Nge-Nge-Kalay-Aywe Stories written by Hsu Labh Tun to its members in Yangon and districts. Members in Yangon may take out the book from the association at 529/531, Merchant Street, here, and copies of the book have been sent to members in the districts.

Anybody, organizations and libraries may join the association with K 1,500 deposit in advance. The association will subtract value of books from the money. The association will send books to members in districts by postal service, by waterway, by air and by train.

Those wishing to join the association may contact the Secretary of the association, at 529/531, Merchant Street. — MNA
Putin to honour British team who rescued Russian sub

London, 6 Oct — Russian President Vladimir Putin will present medals on Wednesday to members of the British team which helped rescue seven Russian submariners from their trapped vessel in August.

Commander Ian Riches and a team of Royal Navy contractors flew to Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula with a Scorpio underwater robot and freed a Russian AS-28 mini-submarine trapped 190 metres under the Pacific Ocean.

The Royal Navy were called as Russia did not have suitable equipment for the rescue.

The Russian submarine crew had been trapped underwater in a snarl of fishing nets and cables for 76 hours.

New York subway system on alert

New York, 7 Oct — New York City's subway system went under heightened alert on Thursday after officials received information from the FBI about a “specific threat.”

A well-placed US military official told CNN on Thursday that the same intelligence also led to a raid against suspected al Qaeda operatives in Iraq.

There were indications that a terrorist attack on New York's subway system is possible “in the coming days,” said New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly. Both he and Bloomberg declined to give further details, citing security concerns.

No arrests have been made in Manhattan, but operations continue outside the city, Kelly said, without mentioning where.

And Bloomberg said that officials “do not have any reason to believe” that any of the plotters “are in New York at this point in time”.

“There is a possibility that this particular threat may be resolved in the coming days,” said Mark Mershon, assistant director of the FBI's New York field office.

It was the first specific threat against the city's subway system, Bloomberg said. But the threat did not mention specific subway stations, he said.

“It was more specific as to target,” he said. “It was more specific as to timing, and some of the sources had more information that would lead one to believe that it was not the kind of thing that appears in the intelligence community every day.”

Car bomb blasts near convoy of Afghan, foreign troops

Kabul, 6 Oct — A suspected suicide car bomb exploded near a convoy of Afghan and foreign troops on the outskirts of the southern city of Kandahar on Wednesday, but none of the soldiers was hurt, the Afghan Army said. General Muslim Amil, Afghan Army commander for the south, said the attack on the airport road was “probably” carried out by a suicide bomber. The explosives had been placed inside a car. A spokesman for US-led foreign forces said the blast occurred outside a base of Canadian troops in Kandahar, but had caused no casualties or damage.

Surgeon Marina Evans said it appeared to have been caused by an “ineffective improvised explosive device”. The blast came a day after six Afghan civilians were killed in a bomb blast in the far south of Kandahar Province at the Spin Boldak border crossing with Pakistan. More than 1,000 people, most of them militants but including more than 50 US soldiers, have been killed in Taliban-linked violence in Afghanistan this year, the bloodiest period since US-led forces toppled the Taliban government in 2001. — MNA/Reuters

US increases to 152,000 troops for Iraq referendum

WASHINGTON, 7 Oct — The US military has increased its force in Iraq to 152,000 troops, about 14,000 above its usual level, to provide extra security for the 15 October constitutional referendum, the Pentagon said on Thursday.

US commanders in recent weeks had stated the US force would be increased by lesser numbers ahead of the referendum because of what they called the increasing capabilities of Iraqi security forces.

This now is one of the highest US troop totals in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion. The usual level of US forces in Iraq is 120,000. “There are about 152,000 US (troops) in Iraq today,” Army Brig Gen Carter Ham, deputy director for regional operations for the military’s Joint Staff, told a Pentagon briefing.

“There’s still a bit more coming and some that will leave, but that’s a pretty good number, I think, for where we’ll be through the referendum,” Ham added.

US leaders have predicted that militants waging a bloody guerrilla war that already has cost more than 1,900 US lives will try to use violence to disrupt the referendum.

Bali police questioning 39 witnesses for blasts

DENPASAR, Bali, (Indonesia), 6 Oct — Bali’s police were questioning 39 witnesses for Saturday’s string of bombings that have killed 27 people and injured 122 others so far, while certain evidence was tested from seven crime scenes, a police officer said here on Tuesday.

Results were still awaited from the questioning and the analysis of evidence, said Sunarko, assistant to Head of the Public Relations Division of Bali Provincial Police, while confirming that no one had been arrested in connection with the explosions.

The evidence included detonator, cables, jeans, white clothes, sandals and other instruments, said Sunarko, declining to specify the locations of the crime scenes.

In addition, the shattered bodies of the three suicide bombers were being examined by the forensic team, he added. He also called for the public to provide information about the bombers whose photos were displayed nationwide on Monday.

They were new faces to the police, he said at a Press conference at the local government’s media centre. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to host int’l industrial trade fair

Hanoi, 6 Oct — An international industrial trade fair will be held in Vietnam’s Ho Chi Minh City this month, with the expected participation of some 40 enterprises from China, Germany, France, Italy, South Korea, Japan and Thailand.

The 9th international industrial trade fair, EPM Vietnam 2005, slated for 11-14 October, will feature products, technologies and services of the industries of construction, energy, rubber, plastic, ceramics and food processing, the fair’s organizer, the German Hannover Messe Internationale GmbH, told Xinhua on Thursday.

The four-day event co-organized by the AFC International Exhibition Fair Corporation has so far attracted 100 local and foreign companies, the group said.

The 8th international industrial trade fair was held in capital Hanoi in December 2003. — MNA/Xinhua
Tammy plows into Florida

MIAMI, 6 Oct— Tropical Storm Tammy, the 19th storm of an unusually active Atlantic hurricane season, came ashore in northern Florida on Wednesday and brought heavy rain and high waves to parts of the US Southeast coast.

Tammy took shape near the same area where hurricanes Katrina and Rita formed over the past two months, but moved in a northerly direction parallel to the Florida coast rather than west into the Gulf of Mexico. At 8 pm (0000 GMT), Tammy was near Jacksonville, Florida, after making landfall near Mayport, the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami said.

The storm was moving northwest at 14 miles per hour (22 kilometres per hour) and its maximum sustained winds of 30 miles per hour (80 kilometres per hour) were expected to gradually weaken overnight.

Tammy could bring up to five inches (13 centimetres) of rainfall to north Florida, southeast Georgia and parts of the Carolinas. Rainfall could reach 10 inches (25 centimetres) in places, the hurricane centre said.

Ex-Marine alleged of stealing documents from Cheney’s office

WASHINGTON, 6 Oct— A former US Marine has been arrested for allegedly stealing classified documents from Vice President Dick Cheney's office when he worked for the Vice-President's staff, media reports said on Wednesday.

Leandro Aragoncillo, a naturalized American citizen born in the Philippines, worked at the White House from 1999 to 2001 and was assigned to the Vice-President's Office under both Al Gore and Dick Cheney, ABC News reported.

Aragoncillo, 46, worked at the White House for almost three years and took a job at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as an intelligence analyst in July last year, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua

US soldier among 21 killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 Oct— Guerillas using suicide and roadside bombs killed at least 21 people, including a US soldier, on Thursday in the latest in a series of attacks aimed at wrecking Iraq's constitutional referendum next week. The attacks came as Iraqis began picking up copies of the draft constitution that they will vote on 15 Oct after the country's Shiite-led parliament ended a bitter dispute with Sunni Arabs about how the referendum will be conducted.

Under US and UN pressure, parliament on Wednesday reversed its last-minute electoral law changes, which would have ensured passage of the new constitution but which the United Nations called unfair.

Sunni Arab leaders who had threatened a boycott because of the changes said they were satisfied with Wednesday's reversal and are now mobilizing to defeat the charter at the polls. But some warned they could still call a boycott to protest US/US-offensives launched in the past week in western Iraq, the Sunni heartland Thursday's two deadliest attacks in Baghdad involved suicide car bombers.

A man wearing an explosives belt got onto a minibus carrying 14 people: including policemen heading to the police academy, and detonated his payload, said Police Capt Abbas Ali. The bomber, who sat next to the driver, struck as the bus passed a police patrol at the intersection where the academy is located, about 400 yards from the Oil Ministry.

At least nine people were killed and nine others wounded, Ali said. The bus was left a burned-out husk.

Earlier, in Karrada, another part of eastern Baghdad, a suicide car bomb exploded near a convoy of private security contractors, killing three bystanders and wounding six others, police Maj Mohammad Yunis said. One of the four white sport utility vehicles in the convoy was damaged, but none of the foreigners in them was hurt. — Internet

Suicide bomb shows Afghan dangers during NATO visit

KABUL, 6 Oct— NATO leaders seeking to resolve differences over a plan to take control of the war on Islamic militants in Afghanistan visited troops on Wednesday as a suicide bombing underscored the dangers to foreign forces.

NATO, which currently leads a peacemaking operation in Afghanistan, plans to expand its operations in the guerilla troubled south next year and then to take command of US-led foreign forces battling the Taliban-led insurgency.

The United States, which has about two-thirds of the foreign troops in Afghanistan and is looking to cut its commitment given pressures in Iraq, has been trying to get European allies to take on more of the burden of the war against Afghan militants.

But NATO allies France, Germany and Spain last month rejected the US call, insisting NATO should stick to peacemaking.

France reiterated on Tuesday it opposed combining NATO-led forces and US-led troops in Afghanistan under one command, putting it at odds with visiting Afghan President Hamid Karzai. NATO is now exploring a so-called "dual-hatted" solution to the command arrangements that would give one commander overall control of operations but would strictly separate peacemaking and counter-insurgency work. — MNA/Reuters

US says four Marines die in Iraq bomb attack

BAGHDAD, 7 Oct— Four US Marines were killed in a roadside bomb explosion during combat operations in Gharma near Falluja, the military said on Saturday.

A military statement said the deaths occurred on Thursday but gave no further details. It said names were being withheld pending notification of the families.

Falluja, about 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad, is a stronghold of Sunni Arab opposition to US occupation and the Shia-led government.

The attack brought to at least 1,946 the number of US military casualties in Iraq since President George W Bush ordered the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

— MNA/Reuters

Iran rejects Britain’s accusations of involvement in Iraq

TEHERAN, 6 Oct— Iran on Wednesday rejected Britain's claims on Tehran's involvement in attacks to British soldiers in southern Iraq and weapon smuggling to that country, terming it as a "lie".

Earlier in the day, British accused Iran's Revolutionary Guard of supplying explosives technology to guerrillas in Iraq who have killed several British soldiers in a wave of attacks this year.

In a swift response, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi said, "Britain’s conspiracies have been revealed and its scandal in Iraq has made London make up this lie."

London also claimed there is evidence that Iran was in contact with Sunni Muslim rebel groups fighting foreign forces in Iraq.

Asefi asked the British side to present their documents if they have any, asserting that "for sure there is no document because the British themselves are the cause of continuation of insecurity and instability in Iraq and a source of crisis in that country and are trying to blame others for what they do."

The spokesman stressed that Iran’s policy toward Iraq is positive and all Iraqi officials have admitted Iran’s constructive role there. — MNA/Xinhua

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— MNA/Reuters
Two new species of flying reptile found in China

LONDON, 6 Oct — Remains of two new species of 120-million-year-old flying reptiles have been found in a fossil rich area of northeastern China, an international team of scientists said on Wednesday.

The creatures belonged to a group of reptiles called pterosaurs, or winged lizards, that evolved the ability to fly and had previously only been discovered in Europe.

“We report two new pterosaurs that are referred (related) to European groups previously unknown in deposits of northeastern China,” Dr. Alexander Kellner of the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, said in a report in the science journal Nature.

The findings give scientists a further opportunity to examine the relationship between birds and pterosaurs.

The fossils of the species were unearthed at Jehol in the west of Liaoning Province in China where remains of dinosaurs, fish and early bird species have also been found.

Kellner and colleagues in China also compared the distribution of flying reptiles and birds in the area of China where the fossils were found.

They concluded that birds were more diverse and outnumbered pterosaurs. Birds also tended to stay in inland regions while flying reptiles dominated coastal areas. —MNA/Reuters

151 sky divers from eight Jump Planes set a World Record for formation skydiving in Perris, California with a “151-way” jump recently. The Record jump by the women of “Jump for the Cause” set occurred on 18th jump of the week. The group’s previous record was a “131-way” in 2002. —INTERNET

“Stan” kills 162 in Mexico, Central America

Stan dumped half the amount of water on Guatemala in five days that Mitch brought in only three, meteorologists said.

Coffee production was likely to be hit in Guatemala and Honduras just as the harvest is beginning, producers said.

Tens of thousands of people fled their homes in Chiapas and the neighbouring state of Veracruz after Stan, now reduced to a tropical depression, swept in from the Atlantic this week.

It came ashore on Tuesday near the city of Veracruz as a Category 1 hurricane with winds of nearly 80 miles per hour (128 kilometres per hour).

Ten killed, eighteen missing in China mine flooding

BEIJING, 6 Oct — Ten people died and 18 were missing when a coal mine in China flooded, Xinhua news agency said on Wednesday.

It said the cause of the flooding in the mine in the southwestern province of Sichuan on Tuesday was being investigated. China has the world’s deadliest mining industry and accidents are common.

On Tuesday, an explosion in a coal mine in the northwestern region of Xinjiang killed two people and trapped 12. At least 43 people were killed the day before after a blast in a mine in the central Heman Province. Floods, explosions, collapses and other mining accidents killed more than 2,700 people in the first half of this year. —MNA/Reuters
India calls for total elimination of nuclear weapons

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Oct — Warning against the possibility of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists, India has called for total elimination of nuclear weapons in a “progressive and systematic manner” under global and “non-discriminatory” regime to guard against further proliferation.

Addressing a committee of the General Assembly on Tuesday, the Indian delegate to the UN Inder Jit said the non-proliferation framework remains beset with “crisis” and to address this issue, it is necessary for nuclear weapons states to reaffirm their commitment to nuclear disarmament.

But simultaneously, he also called on all states to implement “fully and in good faith” the obligations they have accepted. Though Inder Jit did not refer to any country by name, diplomats said the formulation obviously referred to Iran which has accepted obligations under the NPT and is involved in a confrontation with the US and Europeans over its programme to enrich uranium.

He said dealing with growing proliferation concerns in an inclusive manner consistent with the UN Charter and international law would reinforce the commitment to nuclear disarmament.

“We believe that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are inter-linked and are mutually reinforcing. Only total elimination of nuclear weapons will provide the assurance that there will be no further proliferation,” he said. While pursuing the goal of nuclear disarmament, Inder Jit said, there is a need to take some interim measures to reduce the danger, including “de-arming” nuclear weapons.

“There is an urgent need to adjust nuclear doctrines to a posture of no-first-use and non-use against non-nuclear weapons states. India’s nuclear posture is characterized by responsibility, predictability and a defensive orientation,” he added. But, Inder Jit said it is important to ensure that proliferation issues do not hamper cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy with States whose “non-proliferation records are beyond doubt” — MNA/PTI

EU satellite navigation system may run out of cash

BERLIN, 6 Oct — A funding row could permanently ground Europe’s planned Galileo satellite navigation system, the head of Italy’s space agency has told a German newspaper.

Galileo, the European Union’s answer to the US Global Positioning System (GPS), is designed to help motorists navigate, assist search and rescue operations and monitor crops and livestock when it goes into service in 2008.

“If we do not find a solution over the allocation of additional costs by the end of October, the whole Galileo project is in question,” Sergio Vetrella, president of the Italian space agency ASI, told Die Welt newspaper in an article made available in advance of publication on Thursday.

Vetrella said he was particularly concerned by what he saw as delaying tactics by the Germans, the paper said.

Die Welt said Germany was delaying contributing to extra costs of up to 430 million euros ($514.2 million) US dollars required for the starting phase of the project in 2006.

According to the German Aerospace Centre, Germany is keen first to settle how the work will be divided, Die Welt said. Germany wants a site near Munich to be home to the Galileo control centre, Italy wants the centre to be near Rome, while the French and Spanish favour locations in their countries.

Vetrella said the parties had to agree a basic outline by the end of the month.

Otherwise, the programme may not start as planned in early 2006, leading to additional costs.

MNA/Reuters

Unknown illness claims six more lives in Toronto

OTTAWA, 6 Oct — Six more seniors of a Toronto nursing home have died from an unknown respiratory illness, raising the death toll to 16, Canadian officials said on Wednesday.

“All of these elderly individuals had been previously identified as cases and had underlying medical conditions,” said Dr. David McKeown, Toronto’s medical officer of health.

“There have been no new reported cases in the last 24 hours,” he said.

Public health officials said the cause for the outbreak at the Seven Oaks Home for the Aged in the city’s east end remains unknown but that they are continuing testing. They maintained that the situation is under control. So far, 70 residents, 13 employees and five visitors have been affected. A total of 38 are in hospital, 34 of them are residents, two are staff, and two are visitors to Seven Oaks. — MNA/Xinhua

Four small bombs hit US interests in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina), 7 Oct — Four homemade bombs exploded on Thursday at US-owned banks and a Blockbuster video store in Argentina in what appeared to be a protest against US President George W Bush’s visit next month, police said.

One was hurt in the early morning attacks targeting two Citibank branches and another belonging to BankBoston in towns outside the capital, Buenos Aires. But damage at the Blockbuster store was considerable.

Pamphlets that read “No to Bush in Argentina!” were found in the debris, signed by unknown groups including the “Che Guevara Anti-Imperialist Commando”, said Oscar Rodriguez, police chief in the suburb of San Miguel.

Vandals also smashed windows at a Ford car dealership, police said. US interests, particularly banks, are often targeted in Argentina by groups that plant small bombs on the eve of visits by US or International Monetary Fund officials.

Bush will visit the coastal Argentine city of Mar del Plata on 4-5 November for a summit of heads of state of the Americas. — MNA/Reuters

Bomb near Iraq Oil Ministry kills at least ten

BAGHDAD, 7 Oct — A suicide bomber in a car blew himself up near Iraq’s Oil Ministry in Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least 10 people and wounding eight, police said.

One police source said he believed all of the casualties were Oil Ministry employees.

“As they were entering a bus at a parking lot the suicide bomber rammed his car into it,” said the official. But another police official said the victims were employees at a nearby police academy.

Earlier this week, the oil minister survived an apparent assassination attempt when a bomb exploded beside his motorcade. — MNA/Reuters

Explosion, fire reported at Texas plastics plant

HOUSTON, 7 Oct — Explosions and fire damaged a plastics plant on the central Texas coast on Thursday, and a spokesman for the company it was unknown whether there were any injuries.

State officials said three explosions were reported heard at Formosa Plastics Corp’s complex in Port Comfort, Texas, and it was not known whether chemicals had been released as a result of the blast. Arcadisidents were asked to stay indoors as a precaution. Point Comfort is on the central Texas coast, about half-way between Corpus Christi and Galveston.

In an interview with a Houston television station, Formosa spokesman Rob Thibault confirmed an explosion occurred around 3:30 pm CDT (2030 GMT). “We don’t know how large, and we don’t know if there are any injuries yet,” Thibault said. Flaring and columns of black smoke were visible on the horizon, according to video images. The plumes were visible from Victoria, 30 miles inland. — MNA/Reuters

A US soldier views the scene after a suicide bomber blew himself up aboard a bus in Baghdad on 6 October, 2005.
**Industrialists visit machine parts exhibition**

**Yangon, 7 October** — The exhibition of the machinery parts of the Ministry of Industry-1 was opened at the hall of the industry on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thu U Thaung Lwin, directors-general, managing directors and directors of the departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Industry-1, advisors, officials, technicians, industrialists and guests.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun made a speech on the exhibition and requirements for the production of machine parts as import-substitute products. Next, those present viewed round the machinery parts.

Afterwards, the coordination meeting continued and industrialists took part in the discussions for more production of machine parts from local industrial zones. Later, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun gave a resolution remark.

The machinery parts will be put on display from 9 am to 4 pm on 8 and 9 October and the applications of technicians and industrialists for producing spare machine parts will be accepted during those days.

Minister for Industry-1 receives entrepreneurs from HK

**Yangon, 7 October** — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received President Mr Wong King Wah and party of Wai Hing Machineries & Trading Ltd of Hong Kong at his office at 4.30 pm yesterday.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials.

**273 pearl lots to be sold at Mid-Year Gems Emporium**

**Yangon, 7 October** — Altogether 1,436 gem merchants — 701 foreigners from 145 companies of 11 countries and 735 locals from 305 companies — are attending the 2005 Mid-Year Gems Emporium being held at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here.

The foreign merchants are 577 from the People’s Republic of China, four from Singapore, 90 from Thailand, ten from Japan, one from Sri Lanka, five from Canada, three from India, two from Republic of Korea, two from Italy, three from Australia and four from Malaysia.

Merchants at home and abroad observed jade, jewellery and pearl lots put on display there today.

Under the 2005 Mid-Year Gems Emporium programme, altogether 273 pearl lots including pearl lot No 253 which comprises 113 pearls of world market quality will be put on sale tomorrow. Pearl lots of the 2005 Mid-Year Gems Emporium attract more foreigners than those of the previous emporia, and more foreign merchants will arrive here until 9 October.

Minister for Industry-1 receives Thai guest

**Yangon, 7 October** — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Vice-President Mr Makin Petplai of Shin Satellite Public Co Ltd of Thailand at his office this morning.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information, officials and the head of office.

**Participation of the people...**

(from page 16)

At Dhammawizaya Monastery, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on construction of the monastery by officials. Next, he paid homage and donated provi- sions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indacaka.

They went to the hall of Bokpyin Station where Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with Tatmadawmen and family members of Bokpyin Station.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented soap for Tatmadawmen and family members and Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe foodstuff to Brig-Gen Thura Thet Oo Maung of Bokpyin Station. Charper- son Daw Tin Tin Nwe presented cash to the funds of the Station’s MCAW to Chairperson Daw Nan Laung Ngin. Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted Tatmadawmen and family members.

**Launching ceremony of World Disaster Report-2005 held**

**Yangon, 7 October** — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an address at the launching ceremony of the World Disaster Report-2005, organized by International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Myanmar Red Cross Society, at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint said that the Union of Myanmar will insert its functions concerning disasters in 2005 into the 2006 World Disaster Report. In the introduction session, the paper on MRCS in the Disaster Management of MRCS, that on Dialogue Presentation of Irrigation Department, that on National Disaster Preparedness and Response Management of Health Department, that on Fire Disaster of Fire Services Department and that on Common Natural Disaster in Myanmar of Hydrology and Meteorology Department will be read.

All the participants are to discuss health and social matters and disease control tasks related to the disaster. Disaster Preparedness and Response Division of MRCS is conducting training courses on prevention against the disasters, preparedness and response and management matters. Disaster Assessment Response Teams are to be formed in the rural areas to be able to take preventive measures against natural disasters.

MRCS provided nine relief items with the assistance of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to tsunami victims in Thailand and Ayeyawady Divisions and some regions of Rakhine State. In this regard, officials of Township Red Cross Society and members rendered necessary assistance to the tasks in relief measures.

In conclusion, the minister urged MRCS to cooperate with departments concerned and NGOs for continuously taking preventive measures, preparedness and response tasks. Ms Joanna Maclean of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Office gave a speech. Next, those present were presented with Focus on Information in Disasters with the use of slides.

Later, the second session of the World Disaster Report-2005 followed. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Health, Ambassador and Charges d’Affaires of foreign missions in Yangon, President of MRCS Dr Hla Myint and executives, resident representatives of UN agencies, representatives of International Committee of the Red Cross and officials.

**Local and foreign merchants observe lots of jade at the Mid-Year Gems Emporium. — MNA**

**Pearls lot (No 253) with the highest floor price seen at the Mid-Year Gems Emporium. — MNA**
If one is truly human one has to uphold whatever little honour one possesses —

Hnin Aye Khaing

(Continued from yesterday)

Oh! A lot of lopsided accusations on Myanmar. They are all groundless, and it sticks out a mile. Every nation has faced the problem of relocating people. In many cases, a nation has to use the cultivation lands and residential areas for constructing important buildings, dams and bridges that serve the interest of the majority. The people of those areas are always relocated to an appropriate place. But for the hardworking persons, any place is their home. They can settle at any place and earn their living well. Only those who are afraid to work are always thinking of finding someone to rely on.

I think it was around 1975. Agricultural land had to be seized in Japan for building Narita Airport. Farmers staged protests against the government throughout the construction period of the airport. And when the airport was completed, a large number of people staged a lie-down protest in and around the airport compound. But what happened later? Force had to be used to remove the protesters. In the end, Narita Airport was opened. Sometimes houses have to be dismantled to make way for roads and other facilities for the benefit of the people. But everyone is happy when the road is completed, because it facilitates the flow of goods and passengers. Such problems occur from time to time. Those who were doing well in business of cultivating poppy. A number of Tatmadaw and police members sacrificed their lives in the battles. Myanmar is taking various ways and means to develop border areas and to ward off narcotic drugs in the nation such as cultivation of poppy-substitute crops, opening of vocational training centres, and holding educative talks on dangers of narcotic drugs.

Now, Myanmar is making efforts with might and main to wipe out the dangers of narcotic drugs. The Buddhist culture and customs of Myanmars are totally against abuse of narcotic drugs. In a bid to eliminate narcotic drugs in the nation, there broke out armed conflicts many times between the government troops and the troops of those who were doing well in business of cultivating poppy. A number of Tatmadaw and police members sacrificed their lives in the battles. Myanmar is taking various ways and means to develop border areas and to ward off narcotic drugs in the nation such as cultivation of poppy-substitute crops, opening of vocational training centres, and holding educative talks on dangers of narcotic drugs.
In border areas. I am sure Tutu and the former Czech in the nation with the intention of creating instability are inciting such situation to produce narcotic drugs. Certain persons precursor chemicals are available. A friend of mine who lives in a border area said that there were hardly farmers in her native region. Capitalists from a neighbouring country offered well-paid jobs, so, many youngsters from the region went to the country. About one year later, I came across my friend. My friend said the people who went to the neighbouring country had returned home. They were not well-paid but their bosses added yaba tablets to the drinking water for the workers. So, they could work several days in a row without taking any sleep. But, in the end, they were laid down in bed. Then, they were unjustly sacked because they were sick workers. However, such workers who returned home were already addicted to yaba. Then, some persons who sold yaba in that country sold such kind of stimulant tablets in border areas of Myanmar to me. Tutu and the former Czech president know which nation abuses narcotic drugs most in the world for doing well in business through dirty business including trade of narcotic drugs. They practise double standards, so they are turning a blind eye to that.

Before blaming our nation for producing narcotic drugs, they should ask themselves who financed the drug-producing business and where these financiers were from. When the drugs were produced within the borders of our country, they cried out that they had to impose sanctions on our nation as they could not tolerate its production of narcotic drugs. It was unfair, unjust!

No one in Myanmar had never before heard of a narcotic drug called yaba, let alone to produce it. It was introduced into our country only after it had been used widely in a nation. When we said this, we are afraid that it would be like putting the cart before the ox. Desmond Tutu and Vaclav Havel must know well about it as they have given much help to the eyes of young people. Why are they slandering us? It must be because they just want to please big nations that are trying to install a puppet government of their own choice in Myanmar.

After levelling accusations at us about narcotic drugs, they went on to say that HIV/AIDS is so rampant in Myanmar that the disease is threatening other nations. This time also, Tutu and his friend made a mistake in looking at the map and could not pinpoint the area where there are so many cases of HIV/AIDS. We do not deny that there are cases of HIV/AIDS on our soil. However, it is not so uncontrollable as they have said. It is because there is no sex trade in our country as in others. Nor are there titillating strip clubs or strip tease shows. The nations that have sex industry attract a lot of tourists. And tourist industry is booming there especially because of dirty businesses.

We have read the book entitled "Dispos able People", which is about human trafficking and sex industry. This book won high praise from Tutu himself. In the book, flourishing sex trade of a nation is mentioned in detail but nowhere.

Female Myanmar workers who had gone to that nation and worked there returned home HIV-positive and the disease began spreading in our country. What they said amounts to that we Myanmar people intentionally spreading the disease. They should not have said so.

In our country, talks on spread of AIDS and how to prevent it are often given to schoolchildren by health experts and school teachers. Before, parents and children never discussed sex as we consider it shameful to do so and discussions about it are against our culture.

We, too, have been doing our utmost for the intellectual development in our own way. Tutu and the former Czech ex-president have been one-sided in refering our people to be so naive and so ignorant persons just consuming insufficient amount of food while blaming the government. Many people share my view more or less. I would not say that everything is perfect and complete here. Even in your countries, can you say that all are enjoying peaceful life? Your people could not spare time to seek the refuge of the Buddha and the Dhamma since they have to work very hard to earn their living in the day time and try to visit places of entertainment in the evening. Can you two say that all your respective governments do all correctly? Is it just and fair to make your young men fight against the Iraqi young men in order to get hold of the oil so that they will become richer and richer? The parents of the young men from the west do not know for what purpose their sons have been going to Iraq. They do not know that their sons have risked their lives not to serve the interests of the people. Are they fighting for a just cause? I think I should have the right to ask this question.

In those countries, democratic governments are in power. The governments have won seats and gained power by giving a great deal of election promises. But are the majority of the people of these countries willing to send their children away? In spite of the protests and demonstrations, their children are being sent away to be killed. Tutu is now in his senior years and he has better experiences because he is coloured himself. A person like Tutu should not take part in suppressing our people. He would know that sinistry and disintegration could follow such steps. Please do not force Myanmar to face a similar fate of Iraq. We do not believe that we will be able to develop the nation only when we receive the help of others. Just give us a chance to develop ourselves.

You have been discussing the matter of the elected group too much. But, it was a thing of distant past. The state of affairs and the people then were different. Much has changed for the better. It was in a state of disorder. The people were only interested in defence because of the killings and the dreadful scenes. The people were not their usual self at the time. They did not know whom to consult. As years have passed, quite a large number of people disapprove of the persons who have chosen for their words and deeds. Tutu and his friend would know this.

The group led by such persons is now in dis order. Throughout history, we tried to rebuild the nation on self-reliance and there was always success. The interference in the internal affairs, the attacks with the use of media and the breeding of the traitor elements and making them shout are indeed the acts harming the people of Myanmar.

When a time when we are charged for progress on self-reliance, there are attempts to push the puppet woman onto the stage. They would not impose sanctions or cut aid if they sincerely want to help us. We have to face the problems of the country without evils at all if we were to give aid. It was their intention to move about with no restrictions in the country and do whatever they liked. Otherwise they would not give us aid. It is certainly not the humanitarian spirit.

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Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends ceremony to enshrine religious objects into Siri Verosana Pagoda ...

(from page 1)

Daw Khin Lay Thet offered religious objects for the upper reliquary, robes and alms to the Sayadaw. Similarly, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win donated religious objects for the upper reliquary, robes and offertories to the Sayadaw. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko also presented religious objects for the upper reliquary and provisions. Joint-Secretary Mandalay Wizayon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visarindabhivamsa delivered a sermon and the congregation led by Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party shared merits gained. After that, Daw Kyaing Kyaing conveyed Seinbudaw, Daw Mya Mya San Hngetmyatnadaw, Daw Khin Than Nwe and party religious objects and tiers of Htidaw.

While conveying the Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw, religious objects and tiers of the Htidaw round the pagoda, vocalist Daw Yi Yi Thant sang the song, composed by Deputy Director of Yangon Division Religious Affairs Department, to the accompaniment of the drum troupe of Fine Arts Department.

Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party conveyed the carried religious objects and tiers of Htidaws of encircling zedis to the designated places.

At 9.09 am, Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party sprinkled scented water on tiers of the Htidaw and conveyed them atop the pagoda.

Next, they sprinkled the Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw with scented water and conveyed them atop the pagoda.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko kept religious objects to middle and upper reliquaries. Afterwards, they sprinkled scented water on the reliquaries.

Next, the two commanders fixed tiers of the Htidaw atop the pagoda. They also installed the Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the pagoda.

At that time, members of the Sangha recited Jayanto Bodhiyamule three times.

At the same time, tiers of the Htidaw were hoisted atop four encircling zedis.

Later, the two commanders performed the rituals of golden and silver showers in commemoration of the successful completion of the ceremony.

Members of the Sangha consecrated the Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visokda invests the Nine Precepts to Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party and the congregation. — MNA

Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party conveyed the Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visokda invests the Nine Precepts to Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party and the congregation. — MNA

Daw Mya Mya San offers the Hngetmyatnadaw to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Daw Khin Than Nwe offers the Shwepankhaing to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Daw Kin Lay Thet offers religious objects for the upper reliquary to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Daw Than Than Nwe offers religious objects for the upper reliquary to a Sayadaw. — MNA
Daw Kyaing Kyaing attends ceremony...

Pagoda. Next, the ceremony ended with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasannam Çiram Titthatu. Afterwards, Daw Kyaing Kyaing performed the rituals of golden and silver showers to mark successful completion of the ceremony. Next, Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party visited round the pagoda and offered flowers to the Buddha Image. Afterwards, Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party offered ‘soon’ to the Sayadaws at Myinzuthaka Monastery. — MNA

Road accidents on significant decrease in capital

YANGON, 7 Oct — A coordination meeting on ensuring smooth and secure transport in Yangon Division took place at the office of Yangon Command, addressed by Chairman of the supervisory committee for ensuring smooth and secure transport in Yangon Division Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Speaking to the meeting, the commander said the committee is taking measures to reduce road accidents and to ensure the convenience of the passengers in the capital Yangon by holding weekly meetings. As a result, traffic accidents have been reduced significantly, and there have been more and more people who follow and respect traffic rules and regulations. Next, he called for the public cooperation in taking the measures.

Later, departmental officials, members of the supervisory committee and chairmen of motor car lines reported on measures being taken to reduce road accidents and giving educative talks on traffic rules and regulations to the public and students. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe made concluding remarks.

The meeting was also attended by military region commanders, Yangon Division PDC Secretary Lt-Col Myint Kyi, chairman of district PDCs, heads of department of universities and colleges, chairman of bus lines and departmental officials. — MNA

USDA Secretary-General receives resident representatives of UN agencies

YANGON, 7 Oct — Resident representatives and officials from UNRC UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, WHO, UNODC, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNAIDS called on Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary-General U Hay Oo at the office of USDA Headquarters on New University Avenue in Bahan Township today.

Also present at the call were USDA Joint Secretary-General U Zaw Min, member of Central Executive Committee U Soe Tha and secretaries from Kayin State, Shan State (South) and (North) USDAs.

At the meeting the Secretary-General explained aims and functions of USDA, regional development tasks, five rural development tasks, rural power supply work, and social affairs tasks. He answered the queries raised by those present.

USDA Secretary-General U Hay Oo and representatives of UN agencies posed for a documentary photo. — MNA
Frenchman, Americans win Nobel for organic chemistry

STOCKHOLM, 6 Oct— Frenchman Yves Chauvin and Americans Robert Grubbs and Richard Schrock won the 2005 Nobel Chemistry prize for the synthesis of molecules to produce cheaper, cleaner chemicals and drugs to combat major diseases.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded them the 10 million kronor (1.29 million US dollars) prize for work in metathesis, where molecules “dance round and change partners” to create new molecules.

“Imagination will soon be only the limit to what molecules can be built,” said the Academy citation, calling metathesis “an example of how important basic science has been applied for the benefit of man, society and the environment”.

The Academy said the discoveries of the three men laid the groundwork for research which could lead to the creation of new treatments for diseases like Alzheimer’s, Down’s Syndrome, HIV/AIDS and cancer.

Metathesis, which means “changing places”, refers to the reorganization of groups of carbon atoms — carbon being present in all organic life.

Chauvin, who is 74 and works at the French Petroleum Institute, provided the “recipe” for this in 1971. Shroock, who is 60 and works at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Grubbs, who is 63 and works at the California Institute of Technology, developed effective catalysts for the reaction.

Terrorism biggest threat to Philippines security

MANILA, 6 Oct— Terrorism has become the biggest threat to the country’s security compared to the so-called “terrorist elements” and various criminal groups, a government official said on Tuesday.

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes said at a Press conference that terrorism is the No. 1 among the threats to the republic because it is “really clear and present”.

“We’ve seen (terrorist attacks) in Bali. We have also reports that some of terrorists are probably here so there is clear and present danger of terrorist attack,” said Reyes.

Dozens of people and over 200 others were injured in the bombing on Saturday night in Bali, Indonesia, which was suspected of being conducted by the Indonesian-based southeastern terrorist network, Jemaah Islamiyah (JI).

Reyes downplayed the reports that two terrorists behind the Bali bombings have been trained in the southern Philippine islands of Mindanao. “We don’t necessarily believe all reports that come in but we are verifying them.”

On the current pres- ence of JI operatives in the country, Reyes said: “We cannot prevent them from coming back, but if there are reports on it (JI’s return to the Philippines), we willverify it and will run after them again.”

The JI is being blamed for a number of attacks in Indonesia and the Philippines, including the December 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila.

Reyes said that JI terrorists have been relocated from their training camps in Mindanao as a result of a series of military pursuit operation in 2000.

However, a latest military pronouncement indicated that at least 30 to 40 JI militants are still currently operating in the country.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday issued an order to form a new national anti-crime task force headed by Reyes to “address heinous crimes, high-profile crimes and other crimes as may be directed by the President.”

“Part of the reason why we are here is to integrate intelligence collection and monitoring. The recent Bali bombing is a good enough warning that terrorism is with us and will be with us for many years,” Reyes said.

Indonesian police declare full alert nationwide after Bali blasts

JAKARTA, 6 Oct— The Indonesian police has gone on top alert after Saturday’s Bali bomb blasts, with provincial police chiefs across the country tightening security in a bid to capture the Bali perpetrators and prevent further attacks.

Police spokesman General Ardyanto Boedihardjo said National Police chief General Sutanto has instructed all provincial police chiefs to go on full alert. Jakarta police earlier increased their security alert. Jakarta police earlier increased their security alert.

Defence Minister Antonio Martinez played down the significance of the delay. “The ‘slipping slipped back because of a small technical problem’, he said, adding that he hoped the deal would be signed soon.

French defence industry officials put the blame on the Italian side and said they would press ahead with their own part of the plan, which could create 2,000 French jobs.

However, police could still not be absolutely cer-
Exercise training may ease chronic back pain

NEW YORK, 6 Oct—For workers with disabling back pain, a supervised exercise programme combining resistance training to strengthen the muscles of the lower back with exercises designed to improve flexibility and coordination may help them return to work, a study shows.

A look back at 314 consecutive individuals with chronic back pain attributed largely to work-related causes who participated in the 8- to 15-week exercise programme showed that many of them saw improvement in their ability to move and had less pain.

The active exercise programme worked better than popular passive back pain remedies such as ultrasound, electrical stimulation and hot packs.

“Restorative exercise was effective in improving self-reported functional ability and reducing pain intensity in a sample of patients with spinal complaints,” Dr De Vert Mooney of the Spine and Sport Foundation in San Diego, told the annual meeting of the North American Spine Society in Philadelphia. After completing the rehabilitation programme, the workers demonstrated a modest but significant 13 per cent improvement in functional ability, which may be enough to send them back to work, Mooney said in a statement issued by the Society.

Global disaster death toll soared in 2004

GENEVA, 6 Oct—The death toll from natural disasters soared in 2004 to around 250,000, due largely to the Indian Ocean tsunami, three times that of the previous year and 10 times more than in 2002, according to a report on Wednesday.

The figure was also three times the annual average for the decade 1994-2003, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said in its latest World Disasters Report.

Around 232,010 people are known to have died or gone missing in the December 26 tsunami which struck 13 countries around the Indian Ocean, hitting Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Southeast India particularly hard. However, the number of people affected by natural disasters around the world in 2004 fell to 146 million, well down on the 258 million average of the previous decade, according to the Federation, the largest disaster relief network.

The biggest single cause of disasters in 2004 was flooding, with some 110,000 people affected in Bangladesh, India and China.

Child dies in Wales E coli outbreak

LONDON, 6 Oct—A five-year-old boy has died after contracting E coli food poisoning in an outbreak which has hit 161 people in Wales, mainly children, the hospital treating him said on Tuesday.

Maisie Mooney, from Deri, near Bargoed, Caerphilly, died on Monday night at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children where four other children are being treated for E coli infection. He had been admitted on 27 September, 11 days after the outbreak of the potentially fatal bug was first detected. He was the first to die from the outbreak, which has spread to children at 36 schools in South Wales and subsequently to their parents and relatives.

The source of the outbreak has yet to be confirmed but the Food Standards Agency has linked it to meat supplied to schools by Bridgend firm John Tudor.

Schools, local authorities and other catering outlets supplied by the firm have been told not to use any of the firm’s meat products in case they are contaminated. Symptoms of E. coli include severe diarrhoea and vomiting and can prove fatal for the very young and old. Bristol Royal Hospital said one of its other young patients being treated for E coli, aged 12, was about to be discharged, while the other three, aged eight, four and two, were doing well.

1918 flu virus reconstructed for potential future pandemic

LOS ANGELES, 6 Oct—Scientists have partially reconstructed for the first time the Spanish flu virus that killed 20 to 50 million people worldwide in year 1918, and discovered why the virus could be so lethal. This finding, appearing in the 7 October issue of the journal Science, will provide essential information for flu drug and vaccine research, and help contain a potential flu pandemic in the future, experts said on Wednesday.

The Spanish flu virus is more closely related to avian flu viruses than other human flu viruses. Scientists have predicted that it is only a matter of time before an avian flu outbreak occurs in humans and develops into a global pandemic.

Therapies against a new flu strain would need to disarm the parts of the virus that do the most damage to the body. In order to learn which components of the virus would be the best targets for such therapies, Terrence Tumpey of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and colleagues revisited the 1918 Spanish flu virus.
Dutch coach warns Nistelrooy over self control

Nooordwijk (Netherlands), 7 Oct—Netherlands coach Marco van Basten said he had to reprimand Ruud van Nistelrooy after the Manchester United striker kicked a teammate in training on Wednesday, group match at Euro 2004, so they are still able to reach a high level," said van Basten.

"But missing the two physical strikers, (Jan) Koller and (Vratislav) Lokvenc, might give them some problems because they had a system adjusted to these players for three years now.

Netherlands have 28 points from 10 matches with the second-placed Czechs on 24. The Dutch finish their qualification campaign against Macedonia in Amsterdam on Wednesday.

Van Nistelrooy apologized for the incident in which he kicked defender Ron Vlaar when he was on the ground as the squad prepared for their World Cup qualifier against the Czech Republic on Saturday in Prague.

The Dutch need just a point to book their place in next year's finals in Germany.

"We train always on the knife edge with a lot of emotion but I explained to Ruud that it is important that we control our emotions and treat teammates with respect," van Basten told a news conference on Thursday.

"Saturday will be an important match for both teams and the Czechs will do whatever is needed to win," Van Nistelrooy, who was booked in the 4-0 win over Andorra last month after a provocative celebration in front of an Andorran defender, said: "I spoke with the group and apologized to the player.

"I know their problem and I am not doing the same," van Nistelrooy explained: "The only thing that I can do whatever is needed to win," he said.

"If Kromkamp is not able to play Nigel de Jong will be his logical replacement," Van Basten is unbeaten in 14 matches as national coach since he took over from Dick Advocaat in 2004, but he says the Czechs will be dangerous even with five players missing through injury.

"With almost a complete second team they can win the game," Parreira said. "Brazil must always think about being first, for our ego, for our position in world football," he said.

"Brazil must always be among eight players rested by world champions and also not during my contract till 2008," van Basten. "If Kromkamp is not able to play Nigel de Jong will be his logical replacement," Van Basten.

"But missing the two physical strikers, (Jan) Koller and (Vratislav) Lokvenc, might give them some problems because they had a system adjusted to these players for three years now.

Netherlands have 28 points from 10 matches with the second-placed Czechs on 24. The Dutch finish their qualification campaign against Macedonia in Amsterdam on Wednesday.

Van Nistelrooy said he had apologized.
Gerat white shark crosses Indian Ocean—and back

JOHANNESBURG, 7 Oct—A great white shark has astounded scientists by swimming from South Africa to Australia and back in a journey that sheds new light on the murky world of the ocean’s most feared predator. The epic voyage of the tagged female shark — named Nicole after Australian actress Nicole Kidman — will be described in the Thursday edition of the US journal Science. In the first transoceanic and longest ever recorded trip by a shark, Nicole swam an astonishing 12,400 miles (more than 20,000 kilometres)—and experts reckon she did it for love.

4. “We suspect that she went for reproductive reasons,” Dr Ramon Bonfil of the Bronx Zoo-based Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) told Reuters by telephone.

“There’s plenty of food around South Africa and she would be using too much energy to just go to Australia to feed. Of course we can’t prove this at this stage, it is just a hunch,” said Bonfil, lead author of the study.

Nicole’s tag recorded data on time, temperature, water depth and light levels—but not whether she mated.

Bonfil said her path was remarkably straight—after veering a few hundred kilometres south of Australia’s coastline towards Antarctica, she arced east and northeast to Australia.

MNA/Reuters

CASH DONATED: In memory of late parents of both sides, U Khin Maung Win-Daw Hla Than and family of Room-4, Building-5, Industry-1 Staff Quarters on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township donate K 100,000 to Hmizagon Home for the Aged recently. Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of the Home accepts the cash donation. — It

WEATHER

Friday, 7 October, 2005
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, isolated in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were PyinOoLwin, Thaton and Mawlamyine (0.32) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 6-10-2005 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 7-10-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-10-2005 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 6-10-2005 was (9.4) hours approx. Rainfalls on 7-10-2005 were nil in Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (95.00) inches at Kaba-Aye and (100.20) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from East at (12:50) hours MST on 6-10-2005.

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

Special features: According to the observation at (06:30) hours MST today, a low pressure area has formed over Gulf of Tonking, South China Sea and moved into westwards.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-10-2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Rakhine, Kachin, Chin States and upper Sagaing Division and scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-10-2005: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-10-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

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Participation of the people essential for regional development

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects oil palm plantations, development tasks in Karathuri, Bokpyin

YANGON, 7 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departments concerned, the Patron of Taninthayi Division Women’s Affairs Organization Chairperson of Taninthayi Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee and members left Khamaukgyi on 4 October morning and proceeded to Oil Palm Plantation of Annawa Tun Co Ltd in Chaungkappy Village of Bokpyin Township.

They viewed growing of oil palms at the plantation. Annawa Tun Co Ltd has grown 92,000 oil palm saplings at its plantation.

At Karathuri of Bokpyin Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with departmental officials and social organization members at the combined office of the General Administration Department, and gave instructions on efforts to be made for development of the town and self-sufficiency in food.

At the combined office, the women’s affairs discussion and the ceremony to present assistance to needy children were organized by Taninthayi Division WAO and Taninthayi Division MCWA.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented education and health aids to Executive Officer U Aung Min Kyi, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, wife Daw Tin Tin Nwe, Patron of Division WAO and Chairperson of Division MCWSC, and party gave away education and health assistance to officials.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party oversaw development of the town by car.

On arrival at Crude Palm Oil Factory of South Dagon Oil Mill Co Ltd in Bokpyin Township, Managing Director of the company U Aung Htwe reported on growing of oil palms, construction of the crude oil mill and its running task.

Deputy General Manager U Win Tin of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party viewed round the factory.

At Basic Education High School in Bokpyin, they inspected the multi-media classrooms.

In the afternoon, they went to the combined office of General Administration Department of Bokpyin and met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people.

Chairman of Bokpyin Township PDC U Thein Win briefed them on social, economic, health, education and agricultural sectors of the township. Departmental officials also reported on their respective sectors.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that participation of the people is essential for regional development. He urged them to organize the local people to take part in the regional development tasks.

Next, he inspected free medical treatment being given by specialists of the medical team under the leadership of Taninthayi Division WAO and MCWSC at Bokpyin Township Hospital.

(See page 7)