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

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

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

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

True patriotism
* It is very important for everyone of the nation wherever he lives to cultivate and possess strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to uphold and safeguard.

Matters related to National Convention coordinated
NCC Work Committee, Management Committee, subcommittees making arrangements for their respective tasks

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein speaking at the meeting (6/2005) of the National Convention Convening Commission. —MNA

YANGON, 8 Oct — The meeting (6/2005) of the National Convention Convening Commission took place at the meeting hall of the commission on Kyakkahsan ground here this afternoon, addressed by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

NCCC Vice-Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members were also present.

Addressing the meeting, Lt-Gen Thein Sein said a series of meetings are being held on matters related to the National Convention, which are to be submitted to the NC when it is reconvened this year-end. Likewise, the National Convention Convening Work Committee, Management Committee and subcommittees are making arrangements for their respective tasks. He urged the officials of the committees and subcommittees to prepare for the matters pertaining to invitations and welcoming of NC delegates, transport and accommodation.

He urged the officials of the committees and subcommittees to prepare for the matters pertaining to invitations and welcoming of NC delegates, transport and accommodation.

The members of the commission are to hold discussions regarding matters to be submitted to the National Convention by the Work Committee, he said.

Next, Secretary Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explained arrangements being made by the commission. Later, those present assessed the matters submitted to the meeting and took part in the discussions. After that, the Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions.

The meeting ended in the evening.—MNA

INSIDE
Better foundations for high education standards, and constantly turning out intellectuals and intelligentsia are needed for emergence of a democratic state. Basic education schools have been opened in border areas for the children to gain wide knowledge and correct thought. The sounds of learning lessons by the children can be heard in Kengtung areas. School enrollment rate of Shan State (East) is 95.98 per cent.

PAGE 6  TEKKATHO TIN KHA
To make concerted efforts for rural development

Today, the combined force of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw, is making all-out efforts for the national development as well as promotion of socio-economic life of the entire national people.

In this regard, emphasis is laid on developing the border areas which lagged behind in development due to various reasons in the past. In addition, five rural development tasks have been laid down and are being implemented with might and main.

Moreover, efforts are also being made to supply electricity to rural areas and to open self-reliance libraries in villages throughout the country.

It is targeted to open at least one library in each and every village all over the country in 2005 at its office in Yangon East District USDA holds annual general meeting.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, UMFCCI President U Win Myint and executives, departmental heads, officials from the agricultural associations, and proprietors of companies from special agricultural zones.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo in his speech said that boosting agricultural production plays a pivotal role in the drive for the economic development of the State and people. Myanmar has a lot of vacant land to be reclaimed. With a total of 25 million sown acreage, the nation has cultivation capacity of 49 million acres. Measures are being taken for meeting the target yields of the ten major crops. In order to boost agricultural production, two methods are applied — extension of sown acreage and boosting per acre yield.

In the process, the government is taking steps for supply of water for respective regions, region-wise land reclamation, cultivation of newly-reclaimed land, granting permission to national entrepreneurs to engage in agricultural farming. It is also rendering assistance and giving encouragement for extended cultivation of cash crops.

Thanks to the irrigation facilities in Magway region, Pakokku plain, and Bagan-NyaungU region, the land along the creeks downstream the dams can be put under onion and garlic. The ministry is providing agricultural methods, high yield strains, and methods on prevention of dangers of insects.

National entrepreneurs have enjoyed opportunities for economic development, and have been given permission for growing perennial crops, rubber, and oil palm. Now, agricultural produce always has ready market in the world. In particular, castor oil plant, plum, ginger, turmeric, medicinal orchid, rubber and palm oil are in high demand. So, the ministry is rendering assistance for extended growing of such cash crops.

Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein said that the Ministry of Commerce is also rendering necessary assistance for ensuring participation of private sector for the economic development of the State. In addition, it helps entrepreneurs to expand the agricultural production. Last year saw an increase in exporting mungos and onions. He called on members of agricultural organizations to strengthen the organizations with greater membership, boosting agricultural production, and income.

The UMFCCI president gave an account of constitution of the federation, and assistance for success of national entrepreneurs. Next, entrepreneurs gave advice and made suggestions for boosting agricultural production. Managing Director of the Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading U Min Hla Aung took part in the discussions. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo delivered concluding remarks.
China opposes to US consideration of requests for limiting 13 categories of Chinese textile

BEIJING, 7 Oct — China firmly opposes the US announcement on considering to accept requests for imposing restriction on 13 categories of textile imports from China, a Press spokesman with the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said on Thursday.

The US Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) recently accepted to consider the application tabled by some US textile industry communities on imposing limits on 13 categories of imported Chinese textile products.

"This action made by the US side obviously runs counter to the World Trade Organization rules," the spokesman said.

The spokesman also welcomed CITA’s announcement on September 30 to again extend the date for making determinations on whether to put safeguard actions on four categories of Chinese textile goods till 30 November.

Singh concerned over Indian wildlife items sale

NEW DELHI, 7 Oct.— Concerned over reports of sale of Indian wildlife articles like tiger and leopard skins in China and Nepal, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday directed that the issue be taken up with the authorities in the two countries through diplomatic channels. The Prime Minister has also directed that a detailed proposal for a National Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (NWCCB) be placed before the Union Cabinet by the third week of this month. — MNAPITI

Strong earthquake kills at least six in India-controlled Kashmir

NEW DELHI, 8 Oct.— At least six people were killed and 87 injured in northern India-controlled Kashmir in a 7.6-Richter-Scale earthquake that hit Pakistan and north India Saturday morning, according to NDTV.

The road between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad was blocked by landslide and houses were reported collapse in India-controlled Kashmir. The earthquake was scaled 6.8 in the Richer-Scale by the Indian Meteorological Department and 7.6 by the US Geological Survey. The epicenter was located 70 kilometers away from Muzaffarabad of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir and 95 kilometers from Pakistan-capital Islamabad.

1,950 US soldiers killed in Iraq since beginning of the war

WASHINGTON, 7 Oct—As of Friday, 7 Oct, 2005, at least 1,950 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 1,521 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

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

The British military has reported 96 deaths; Italy, 26; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,811 US military members have died, according to a AP’s count. That includes at least 1,412 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. — Internet

Explosions kill six Marines in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Oct — Bomb blasts killed six Marines as the US military announced on Friday it had completed a major sweep in western Iraq aimed at suppressing al-Qaeda militants before next week’s vote on Iraq’s constitution.

The military said 50 guerrillas were killed in the six-day offensive, launched on 1 Oct in towns near the Syrian border. The operation was the first in a series of major offensives in the past week in the heartland of the Sunni-led insurgency. US forces have swept through the area before — most recently in May — but militants have always returned, bringing in foreigners from Syria and planning attacks to be carried out elsewhere.

The military said they will now leave a long-term presence there. The military has said it will wrap up the operations in time for Sunni Arabs in the region to vote in the 15 Oct referendum, a key concern of Sunni leaders who have threatened a boycott.

Eight days before Iraqis were to approve or reject the draft constitution, most were still waiting for copies of it to read.

Distribution began in a few Baghdad neighborhoods, but did not appear to have begun elsewhere.

Internet
**Cleric says Iran strong enough to stand sanctions**

**TEHERAN, 8 Oct** — A senior hardline Iranian cleric said on Friday Iran was strong enough to withstand possible sanctions over its nuclear ambitions, as thousands rallied in support of the country’s right to a peaceful atomic programme.

Iran has yet to officially comment on the award on Friday of the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its head Mohammad ElBaradei.

But a source close to the government said awarding the prize to the body that had been investigating Iran’s nuclear programme for three years was a “political move directed at Iran.”

The head of the powerful Guardian Council constitutional watchdog, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, said during prayers at Teheran University that Iran would not cave in to Western pressure over its nuclear ambitions.

“We can stand firm and insist on our rights until we obtain them,” Jannati said during the sermon broadcast live on state radio. “We are not as weak as they (the European Union and United States) think we are.”

Iran insists its nuclear programme is purely for electricity generation, not bomb making. But Washington and the EU want it sent to the Security Council, where it could face sanctions, for failing to disclose the full extent of its atomic activities in the past.

“Sanctions impose hardship and struggle on us, but at the end of the day, they will benefit us even more than they harm,” said Jannati. “We have never lost anything because of sanctions.”

More than 1,000 people gathered in a central Teheran square after Friday prayers and chanted: “Nuclear energy is our right” and “Death to America, Death to Israel.”

Similar state-sponsored rallies were held in cities across the country, state media reported. Iranian officials contacted by Reuters declined to comment on Nobel prize award to the IAEA and ElBaradei.

The IAEA has been investigating Iran’s nuclear programme for almost three years and last month its board of governors passed a critical resolution which could see Teheran’s case referred to the UN Security Council for punitive action. — MNA/Reuters

---

**Indonesian police says Bali bombers from a “new generation”**

**KUTA BEACH (Indonesia), 8 Oct** — Three young suicide bombers who killed 19 other people in Bali represent a new generation of violent militants in Indonesia, Bali police chief Made Mangku Pastika said on Friday.

Explosives on the bodies of the three ripped through restaurants on the tourist island last Saturday, killing 22, including the three men, and wounding 146, police said.

The bombers undoubtedly had help, police officials said. Indonesia, aided by foreign law enforcement officers and its own military, has launched a huge manhunt for others involved.

Attention has centred on Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the al-Qaeda-linked Islamic militant network blamed for past attacks in Indonesia, and two of its leaders, Malaysians Azahari bin Husin and Noordin M Top.

But experts say much of the old JI structure has been destroyed, and the two Malaysians may have formed fresh organizations and recruited new personnel.

Asked about that and reports the bombers might have been only recently trained, Pastika told reporters: “They come from a new group. A new generation means that (they) are not known by the old group,” he said, although he did not rule out links with JI. Police have questioned at least 94 people, but no one has been arrested or charged.

A Western diplomat in Jakarta also suggested the bombers did not necessarily come from JI, saying: “There (are) also of course a lot of other people out there.”

---

**Security tightened on NY subway after word of “specific threat”**

**NEW YORK, 8 Oct** — New York City subway might be the target of a terrorist attack, and the city’s police have taken additional measures to ensure the safety of the subway system and New Yorkers, said New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg on Thursday.

The mayor told a Press conference that the Federal Investigation Bureau (FBI) has shared information on specific threat to New York subway system, and this is the first time the city has information on specific threat.

The mayor assured the New Yorkers that the police have done and will continue to do everything they can to protect the city.

“We will spare no resources, and spare no expense. We will increase police presence at subway,” he said, adding that the focus would be on mass transit vehicles and random bag search for people entering the system would be increased. He urged the public to offer their help reporting what they deem suspicious and letting the professionals do the analysis.

Police Commissioner Ray Kelly and FBI official Mark Mershon were also present at the Press conference. — MNA/Xinhua

---

**Quake kills at least 500 in one Pakistani district**

**PESHAWAR, 8 Oct** — At least 500 people were killed and over 1,700 were injured in one district of Pakistan’s North West Frontier Province by Saturday’s massive earthquake, a senior police officer said.

There were no clear reports on the death toll from the other worst-hit region. Pakistan-held Kashmir, but several villages were believed to have been devastated.

“Initial reports say at least 500 have been killed and 1,700 injured in the north district of NWFP,” Malick Mohammad Saad, a senior NWFP police officer, told Reuters, referring to Mansehra district. “Four cities are badly hit by the earthquake.”

---

**Donated plane to Zimbabwe by China expected next year**

**HARARE, 8 Oct** — A commuter plane donated to Zimbabwe by China following the purchase of two commuter aircraft last year is expected to arrive in the country early next year, an official said on Thursday.

Air Zimbabwe’s spokesperson, David Mwenga, said the plane was still going through the production process.

He said before end of the year the national airline would dispatch a team of engineers to test and inspect the MA60 aircraft.

“We are expecting the aircraft early January and its acceptance will be done before the end of this year,” he said.

Mwenga said the new plane was expected to service Hwange and the Transfrontier Parks among other routes in a bid to promote tourism in the country.

Zimbabwe purchased two MA60 commuter airplanes from China following an agreement that was signed between the two countries in December last year.

The planes were expected to feed into the Far East destination with Harare being the harbour.

They would also ply Lusaka, Lilongwe, Beira and Lubumbashi routes in the region, and the Kariba and Victoria Falls routes locally.

Early this year, Air Zimbabwe relaunched a direct flight from the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Victoria Falls-Johannesburg flight.

---

A New York City police officer searches the bag of a subway passenger in New York City on 6 Oct, 2005. — INTERNET
Death toll rises to 164 in Central America floods

GUATEMALA CITY, 7 Oct— Raging flood waters cut off large areas of Central America and southern Mexico on Thursday, hurting efforts to rescue victims of mudslides that have killed at least 164 people in the wake Hurricane Stan.

Emergency teams battled to reach remote villages where mudslides collapsed under torrential rains, and thousands of evacuees from urban shantytowns hunkered down in emergency shelters as rain pounded the region.

“We have lots of landslides, and some bridges have collapsed,” said Benedicto Giron of the civil-protection agency in Guatemala, where at least 20 communities were completely isolated with rescuers unable to reach them.

“The situation is very delicate. There are many houses damaged and roads covered with landslides,” Guatemalan President Oscar Berger said.

Guatemala said it confirmed 79 deaths, and that the toll would surely rise higher. There were at least 62 dead in El Salvador, 10 in both Nicaragua and Mexico and three in Honduras.

The flooding came from storms sparked by Hurricane Stan, which smashed into Mexico from the Atlantic earlier this week.

Stan was only briefly in the Mexican state of Veracruz but left its footprint. Dazed peasant farmers said in makeshift rain gear made from plastic sheets dragged drenched children to safety.

“Is the weather that is preventing us from doing a more-effective job at this moment,” Mexican President Vicente Fox said. Meteorologists said the rains would continue for several days.

Stan felled trees and flooded sugar cane fields in the Mexican state of Veracruz but left its coffee crop intact.

Dazed peasant farmers clad in makeshift rain gear made from plastic sheets dragged drenched children to safety.

Residents look at the destruction at a train line and a bridge caused by heavy rains from Hurricane Stan in the town of Tapachula in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, Mexico, on 6 Oct, 2005. —INTERNET

Indonesian Army to join hunt for Bali bombers

KUTA BEACH (Indonesia), 7 Oct — Indonesia’s military will join a nationwide hunt for those behind the weekend suicide bombings in Bali, a senior officer said on Thursday, as police confirmed three more Australians were among the dead.

He said the ministry had asked the media to make submissions on their reservations on the act, adding the response they received indicated that few journalists were aware of the provisions of the law while others thought the law was selective.

Zimbabwe’s weak presence in the global media landscape was shown by the country’s inability to “effectively counter” the “bad publicity” it has been receiving from the Western media, the Deputy Minister said. “The reality of global affairs in this unipolar dispensation is that whoever controls images determines and defines reality,” he said.

Matonga said the dominance of Western media in a global village was not “ethical” as each villager had a voice which “must be heard”.

“IT cannot be a global democracy where there is just one voice which seeks a drowning echo throughout the village,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Indian Govt clears Early Warning Centre on oceanic disasters

NEW DELHI, 7 Oct — An Early Warning Centre to provide timely information on oceanic disasters like tsunami will be set up in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad by September 2007.

A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, on Thursday approved setting up of an early warning system for mitigation of oceanic disasters like tsunami and storm surges in the Indian Ocean, Finance Minister P Chidambaram told reporters.

Estimated to cost 1.25 billion rupees, the centre, to be set up at Hyderabad’s Indian National Ocean Information Services, would disseminate information to coastal habitations within 100 kilometres radius within five minutes, which is the international benchmark of such systems prevailing in Japan and Chile.

After becoming operational by September 2007, the Early Warning Centre, which would function round-the-clock, would enable issuance of timely and reliable warning, Chidambaram said.

It would issue watch advisories on tsunami, estimated arrival times, forecast of its strength, surge heights, extent of inundation and warning cancellation. The minister said the equipment, manpower and other related heads of expenditure have been provided to four institutions and government departments, including Department of Ocean Development and National Institute of Ocean Technology.

—MNA/PTI

Zimbabwe defends media law criticized by West

HARARE, 7 Oct — The Zimbabwean Government Wednesday defended its proposed media laws criticized as too tough, bemoaning a uni-polar flow of information characterized by Western media’s dominance of the southern African region and the world at large.

Information and Publicity Deputy Minister, Bright Matonga, said Zimbabwe had come up with theBroadcasting Service Act (BSA) and the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA), to regulate the local media.

The BSA insists on 75 per cent local content programming for all broadcasters. It also bars foreign participation in the country’s broadcasting industry. Matonga also said AIPPA, which was described as “draconian”, seeks to regulate the operations of the print media.

“There has been a lot of politicking around AIPPA, politicking by the same interests we ejected from our land, who seek to turn to the area of democracy and freedom for a fig leaf,” he said.

He was addressing a visiting South African joint senior command and staff course on the Information Policy of Zimbabwe.

He said the ministry had asked the media to make submissions on their reservations on the act, adding the response they received indicated that few journalists were aware of the provisions of the law while others thought the law was selective.

Zimbabwe’s weak presence in the global media landscape was shown by the country’s inability to “effectively counter” the “bad publicity” it has been receiving from the Western media, the Deputy Minister said. “The reality of global affairs in this uni-polar dispensation is that whoever controls images determines and defines reality,” he said.

Matonga said the dominance of Western media in a global village was not “ethical” as each villager had a voice which “must be heard”.

“It cannot be a global democracy where there is just one voice which seeks a drowning echo throughout the village,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua
The projects initiated by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe during his inspection tours across the nation have become historic undertakings. Some of them are the Nine-District Greening Project, irrigation projects, and roads and bridges projects. I would like to present the historic events in his 16-day trip from 22 November 2002 to 7 December 2002. Regarding the inspection tours of the Head of State, a series of articles under the title of “Documentary on historic inspection tours” I compiled and four articles under the title of “Towards a modern and developed nation” writer U Zaw compiled were featured in the dailies.

In this regard, I would like to underline salient points about the tours, referring to the fourth article written by U Zaw.

At the face-to-face meetings held with those in charge of Bagan-NyaungU, Chauk, Yenangyoung, Magway, Pakokku, Monywa, Ayadaw, Hinthada, Mubalim, Kalyay, Kalewa and Myittha, the Senior General asked about the population of respective townships, the number of village-tracts, paddy sown acreage and measures to be taken for rice sufficiency to them and offered “What can I do for your township? We will provide assistance that will surely help develop the region”. He also called for extended cultivation of paddy and high yield. He noted that livestock breeding tasks are to be carried out together with agriculture and asked “How many fish ponds are there in your village? What about poultry farming and pig breeding?” he asked.

He also asked the GDP of the townships and gave guidance on seeking ways and means to increase the GDP. He said that only when there is an increase in the sectors of production and services will there be the rise in per capita income. He also suggested raising the per capita income of a certain township.

Moreover, the Head of State gave guidance on economic development of townships, water supply, rice sufficiency in the region, combination of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks and boosting per capita income.

“Many high schools are there in your township?” “How many students are attending the primary, middle and high schools?” “What is the number of university students?” “So, dropout rate has increased. You should take care of this”. “It is necessary to increase the number of intellectuals, only then will the country become developed”, “Mr. Township Education Officer, you have not compiled data?” “If you’ve done you might be able to make an assessment of the trend”. These were the questions raised by the Head of State in relation to the education and health sectors.

As regards health care services he also asked “How many patients come to the hospital each year?”, “What is the rate of mortality?”, “You should note the mortality rates of newly born and those between 5 and 15”, “What is the common disease in the region?”, “Do you give any vaccine for immunization?”

The life span of the people should be extended, he said. “Do you make any account on the ages of male and female in the township?” “What is the difference compared with the whole country?”

“You want a Station hospital? Then, how many villages are there in this surrounding areas and how far from the town?” “You must be able to confirm the facts and data of your tasks and these must be correct.”

He asked such questions in the interests of the people and for enabling those in charge to be able to carry out their work, and fulfilled all necessary requirements immediately.

While reading issues of the newspaper, I noticed the stories in which officials concerned in Kengtung Township, Shan State (East), around 20 September 2005, answered the questions asked by the Head of State during his inspection tours of Upper Myanmar at the end of 2002.

CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe and party toured Kengtung in Shan State (East) to inspect progress in carrying out the five rural development tasks and to encourage the locals.

During the tour, he witnessed the results of the five rural development tasks and all-round development of Kengtung region. The nutrition development contest for mothers and babies was held in conjunction with the prize-presentation ceremony and health education talks at Kengtung City Hall in Shan State (East) on 17 September 2005.

Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and wife, in Charge of Shan State (East) USDA Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe graced the occasion by their presence, and met the contestants. Local national race people from nearby villages numbering more than 1,200 attended the ceremony. On the occasion, medical experts gave educative talks on health and discussed health development.

The discussions of Paediatrician Dr Tin Swe Aye of Shan State (East) were like answers to the senior General giving guidance to officials concerned on sector-wise development for local national races.

She said that Myanmar stands high position in giving Vitamin A pills to the children. Mortality rate of children under five was 130 out of 1,000 in 1990. In 2003 the rate fell to 66.6. Mortality rate of children under one year in 1990 was 98 and in 2003 it dropped to 49.7.

The Ministry of Health has adopted a plan to significantly reduce the mortality rate of under-five children by two-thirds during the period from 1990 to 2015. To meet the aim, it is effectively implementing health care services in line with the plan. Up to 2003, success was achieved by close to 50 per cent, she said.

The fruitful results came from the harmonious cooperation of health staff and local people. She said she would like to present the data on agricultural progress of Myanmar issued by the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

In Asia, Myanmar is in sixth position in food sufficiency index in the list of 24 Asian nations, so it is above the 18 nations in the region.

Myanmar stands at the ninth in poverty index, so under Myanmar there are 15 nations. It ranks 12th in adult literacy, standing above 12 nations in the list. The average of Myanmar’s social welfare rate is seventh among the Asian nations. As for a developing nation, Myanmar can be said in a prosperous stage.

Additional Education Officer U Than Nyunt said the government is implementing border areas development project, the 24 special regions project and rural development project harmoniously for raising the standard of living of the people.

Better foundations for high education standard, and constantly turning out intellectuals and intelligentsia are needed for emergence of a democratic state. Basic education schools have been opened in border areas for the children to gain wide knowledge and correct thought. The sounds of learning lessons by the children can be heard in Kengtung areas. School enrollment rate of Shan State (East) is 95.98 per cent. There are now strong and healthy children and mothers and expectant mothers in Kengtung region because of the measures undertaken on health.

Better foundations for high education standard, and constantly turning out intellectuals and intelligentsia are needed for emergence of a democratic state. Basic education schools have been opened in border areas for the children to gain wide knowledge and correct thought. The sounds of learning lessons by the children can be heard in Kengtung areas. School enrollment rate of Shan State (East) is 95.98 per cent. There are now strong and healthy children and mothers and expectant mothers in Kengtung region because of the measures undertaken on health.
CEC members, Deputy Minister for Health attend opening of Gyobyu Pipeline in Tuchaung Village in Htantabin Township

YANGON, 8 Oct — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association YCDC Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo inspected development of Tuchaung Village in Htantabin Township yesterday morning.

First, they paid homage to Ywama Patpatti Mahasi Yeiktha TatUkyaung Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vinayaçara of Tuchaung Village and USDA U Than Myint and village elder U Han Tin formally opened the pipeline and inspected water supply tasks from Gyobyu main pipeline to 10,000-gallon capacity water tank in the village through 2-inch water pipeline. Next, they viewed sanitation tasks at the lake in the village carried out by USDA members and local people. At TatUkyaung, they attended the ceremony to set up Phyio Myitta Health Care Association of Htantabin.

USDA CEC Member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin views villagers fetching water from the 10,000-gallon concrete tank in Tuchaung Village. — YCDC

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin offers alms to Sayadaw of TatU Monastery in Tuchaung Village, Htantabin Township, Bhaddanta Vinayacara. — CITY NEWS

USDA U Than Myint and village elder U Han Tin formally opened the pipeline and inspected water supply tasks from Gyobyu main pipeline to 10,000-gallon capacity water tank in the village through 2-inch water pipeline. Next, they viewed sanitation tasks at the lake in the village carried out by USDA members and local people. At TatUkyaung, they attended the ceremony to set up Phyio Myitta Health Care Association of Htantabin.

CEC member Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin accepted 1,200 membership applications from Village USDA Organizer and made donations. They attended the ceremony to put 2-inch diameter Gyobyu Pipeline into service. Secretary of Yangon Division USDA U Aye Myint, Secretary of Htantabin Township USDA, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin gave a speech and presented K1.1 million to the funds of the association to Township USDA Secretary U Than Myint. Deputy Director-General U Aye Myint of No 3 Department of Basic Education and Dr Than Win of the Ministry of Health gave lectures on education matters. Joint Secretary of Yangon Division MWCSC Dr Nwni Ohn on functions of the MCA, a representative of Yangon Division WAO on the future tasks of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, and Yangon Division USDA Executive U Tin Maung Oo on future tasks of the USDA.

Afterwards, the CEC members and the deputy minister viewed health care services for rural people and gave ferrous sulphate and Vitamin A pills to the children.

Tuchaung Village is one mile square. There are over 400 houses in the village. Business of the local people is agriculture. — MNA

Kyimyindine BEHS No 1 pay respects to teachers on 27 Oct

YANGON, 9 Oct — Kyimyindine BEHS No 1 will hold the ceremony to pay respects to teachers for the second time at its Myawitty Hall at 11am on 27 October.

The old students may dial Daw Swan (Tel:223325), Daw Khin Ti Ti (Tel: 512667), Daw Aye Aye Than (Tel: 524405), Daw Nyunt Nyunt Sein (Tel: 650554), Daw Thazin (Tel: 500198), and Daw Sabei (Tel: 534747) to make cash donations. Old teachers have been invited to attend the ceremony. — MNA

Miners Deputy Minister views sale of 2005 Mid-Year Gem Emporium

YANGON, 8 Oct — The 2005 Mid-year Gem Emporium continued at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning. It was attended by Chairman of the Central Committee for the Emporium Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein.

Gem merchants at home and those from abroad put bidding forms into the tender boxes. 205 pearl lots were sold through competitive bidding system today. A total of 1764 gem merchants at home and those from abroad viewed round gem and jade lots. A total of 141 gem lots including two largest reserve price lots — lot No 114 of Mongshu ruby weighing 7.50 kilos and lot No 77 of Mogok ruby weighing 9.60 carats — will be sold through tender and competitive bidding systems on 9 and 10 October.

MNA
Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends…

Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe-Daw Tin Tin Nwe; K 50,000 by Brig-Gen Thura Thein Maung and wife of Bokpyin Station; K 500,000 by Chairman of Kawthuang District PDC Lt-Col Tin Soe; K 100,000 by Chairperson of Taninthayi Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Tin Tin Nwe and other wellwishers. Lieutenant General Maung Bo, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Brig-Gen Thura Thein Maung of Bokpyin Station planted oil palms near the project office.

At the oil palm plantation of Kanbawza Agricultural and Industries Ltd in Taninthayi Township, they heard reports on completion of growing oil palms and tasks to be carried out in charge of the farm U Hla Kyi. Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions. Next, they met with departmental officials of the township. Chairman of Township PDC U Mya Thein briefed them on matters related to the township. The commander instructed officials to coordinate with oil palm companies for cultivating paddy on the places where oil palms are not yet to grow, and on wetland areas.

On 6 October, they arrived in Kamnaw Village of Kyunsu Township via Myeik. At Kamnaw Village Affiliated BEHS, they viewed free medical treatment of specialist teams given to the local people under the supervision of Taninthayi Division WAO and MCWSC members. Patron Daw Tin Tin Nwe explained health care services.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attended the ceremony to pay respects to older persons of 70 years old and above at the school and presented gifts to them. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected the school and its environs and the place for construction of the new school building, and attended to the needs. At the school, they met social organization members, local people and students. Officials submitted reports on matters related to Kamnaw Village and construction of village-to-village roads. Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe explained five rural development tasks to be speeded up for development of Kamnaw Village. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo also explained under taking of five rural development tasks for improvement of the rural areas.

At the cash donation ceremony for construction of the new school building, Lt-Gen Maung Bo donated K 100,000, the Commander K 100,000 and an entrepreneur K 1.3 million and a businessman K 1.2 million to Kamnaw Village PDC Chairman U Thein Myint. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted the local people. They inspected rubber plantations in Kamnaw Island by boat and went back to Myeik.

Opening and closing ceremonies of courses on family health care service of housewives with traditional medicine held

YANGON, 8 Oct — Organized by Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, Yangon West District MCWSC conducted a course on family health care service of housewives with traditional medicine at Latha Township No 2 Basic Education High School on Bogyoke Aung San Street this morning.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Khin Thet Htay made an opening speech. Deputy Director-General Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin of Traditional Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health extended greetings and an official explained Myanmar traditional medicine and herbal plants. Next, Chairperson Daw Khin Thet Htay presented herbal plants to chairpersons of Township MCWA of Yangon West District.

Wellwishers donated cash to Yangon West MCWSC.

The chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC and party viewed traditional medicine stalls of traditional medicine production industries. Altogether 130 trainees are attending the course until 14 October.

Also present on the occasion was Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tin, departmental personnel and others.

The closing ceremony of the similar course, organized by Yangon East District MCWSC took place at Botataung Township No 6 BEHS at 7.30 am today.

Daw Khin Thet Htay made a speech. Daw Nan Shwe Yin, chairperson of District MCWSC presented completion certificates to the trainees.

Daw Khin Thet Htay and party looked round traditional medicine stalls.

Industry-1 Minister meets officials of factories in Mandalay, Sagaing Divisions

YANGON, 8 Oct — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung met with factory managers and staff officers of Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions at Kanaung Hall of Mandalay Brewery Factory of Myanma Foodstuff Industries, Aungmyaythazan Township, this morning. Factory managers reported to the minister on production of respective factories.

After hearing the reports, the minister attended to the needs, and said that it is necessary to make preparations for supply of raw materials to exceed the targets of production and keep storage of spare parts. He urged the officials concerned to carry out the prevention of minimizing the loss and wastage, fire prevention measures and security tasks.

Lt-Gen Maung Maung Bo presents treated mosquito nets to Daw Maw Maw Khin and Daw Su Su Lwin. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo plants a commemorative oil palm at the oil palm farm of Htoo Trading Co in Taninthayi Township. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presents mosquito nets to officials and K 100,000 to the band and pom-pom dance troupe. Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe gave away clothes and rice to the local people, the Patron of Division WAO Chairperson of Pyigyi Mandaing Hospital is one storey reinforced concrete building measuring 80 feet by 40 feet built at a cost of K 30 million. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to Chuangaunkypan oil cultivation paddy to Dr Aye Pyi Sone. Pyigyi Mandaing Hospital is one storey reinforced concrete building measuring 80 feet by 40 feet built at a cost of K 30 million.
Panan Village is located four miles from Kyaukse-Myittha short-cut Road in Kyaukse Township. The village is set up on 17 acres. Over 1,700 people of 282 households are residing in the village. The people are enjoying entertainment from 10 TV sets and two video stations. A total of 886 acres of land are cultivable areas.

Panan Village, the commander and the secretariat member met with over 1,400 local people from Panan, Pankhwa, Kade and Thangedaw villages. First Secretary Ms Li Xiaoyan of Consulate of the People’s Republic of China was present as an observer.

On behalf of the local people, U Thet Tun of Panan Village said that the village lagged behind in development in education, health and economic sectors due to poor transport. Now, the village has been facilitated with gravel road for better transport. Thanks to supply of power in Kade, Pankhwa and Thangedaw villages, the local people can travel to the urban area from their villages day and night. Hence, rural people can enjoy fruitful results of education, health and social sectors.

Panan Village said that the government has placed emphasis on the development of rural areas. In 17 years, the government has constructed 178 irrigation facilities. So, all the vacant lands in the region has been put under paddy. In addition, it has been facilitated with bio-gas power supply task in 80 villages in Mandalay Division are being facilitated with bio-gas power generators.

He, on behalf of local people, expressed gratitude of medical treatments given by the team of specialists. He pledged that locals will lend themselves to national and regional development tasks.

Minister U Aung Thaung said that he was very pleased to hear the words of thanks expressed by the locals. He pledged that measures will be taken with added momentum for the upgrading of village-to-village roads, supply of sufficient supply of power, safe water, and the development of education, health and economic sectors. The cash donation to

Local people enjoying fruits of government’s endeavours (from page 16)

Basic Education Primary School in Panan Village. Chairman of the School Board of Trustees U Nyi Maung and Headmaster U Hla Myint Thein formally opened the school building.

The commander and the secretariat members visited the building. They attended the ceremony to put the self-reliant rural dispensary into service in the village. Chairman of the dispensary construction committee U Aung Than and Village USDA Organizer U Nyi Maung cut the ribbon to open the dispensary.

The commander, the minister and guests trodled on the bridge. Vice-Chairman U Myat Htay formally opened the bridge. The commander, the minister and guests viewed round the dispensary.

After that, they joined the ceremony to inaugurate new Panlaung River Bridge linking Panan and Pankhwa villages in Kyaukse Township. Chairman of the bridge construction committee U Aung Than and 1,700 people of 282 households are residing in the village. The people are enjoying entertainment from 10 TV sets and two video houses. A total of 886 acres of land are cultivable areas.

The village is being supplied with power through one bio-gas power station installed with 10 kv generator. At present, the station supplies power to 156 fluorescent lamps at houses, 35 in the street, 15 at the school, 20 at the pagoda, totalling 226.

Moreover, Department of Development Affairs is carrying out construction of the rural housing in the villages.

In the compound of the monastery in

Minister U Aung Thaung presents injection against snake-bites to Dr Khin Maung Tun.—INDUSTRY-1

Minister U Aung Thaung holds a meeting with people from Panan, Pankhwa, Kade and Thangedaw villages in Kyaukse Township. — INDUSTRY-1

Minister U Aung Thaung for-Sheer provides K 50,000 to Headmaster U Hla Myint Thein. INDUSTRY-1
Local people enjoying fruits of government’s...

(from page 9)

Supervisory Committee
Chairperson of Division

Local people enjoying fruits of government’s...

The opening ceremony of Rural Dispensary in progress in Panan Village of Kyaukse Township. — INDUSTRY-1

Daw Khin Pyone Win a cupboard, medicines, 20 uniforms of MCWA, 500 books of various kinds for the library.

Daw Khin Pyone Win also presented K 500,000 for Thmhtaungwagyi Village post-primary school, Chairperson of Division

Mandalay Division MCWSC Chairperson Daw Khin Pyone Win gives a pair of glasses to a villager at Panan Village. — INDUSTRY-1

WAO Daw Than Than Nyunt exercise books and pencils.

U Tin Aung of Great Wall Co Ltd presented K 1 million for rural dispensary and 22 well-

Communication Officer Mr Jason M Rush explains implementation of the special project to take preventive measure against measles in Myanmar at the office of UNICEF at Yangon International Hotel on 7-10-2005. — NLM
Patron of Taninthayi Division WAO on a trip to Khamaukkyi in Kawthoung

YANGON, 8 Oct—Patron of Division Women’s Affairs Organization Chairperson of Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Tin Nwe and party made a field trip to Khamaukkyi in Kawthoung Township on 30 October.

They held round-table discussions on education, health, social and economic sectors in meeting with rural people from villages, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, members of WAO, MCWCA, Fire Brigade and Red Cross Brigade at the General Administration Department.

Those discussions also included prevention against human trafficking, facts about Myanmar Women’s Affairs Organization, development, education, health, social and economy and security being undertaken by MMCWA and WAO.

They also received hundreds of exercise books, 50 dozens of pencils, 500 books of various kinds for the library, 300 viss of iodized salt, 30 education VCDs on reproductive health, 20 cassette tapes and 50 treated mosquito nets were presented to the representatives of the needy students and Village USDA, WAO and MCWCA.

Those were presented at the meeting sang patriotic songs. Patron of Taninthayi Division Women’s Affairs Organization Chairperson of Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee Daw Tin Nwe and members, Head of Division Health Department Dr Swe Win and a team of specialists arrived at Aungba model village and gave treatment to 225 patients.

Daw Tin Nwe and members met villagers, members of USDA, WAO, MCWCA, Fire Brigade and Red Cross Brigade at Basic Education High School there. The village people said education, health, social and economic conditions of the village have now improved. Daw Tin Nwe and members explained facts about MWAFL and MMCWA.

They presented 100 dozens of exercise books, 50 dozens of pencils, 650 books of various kinds for village library, 300 viss of iodized salt, 50 education VCDs on reproductive health, 30 cassette tapes and 30 treated mosquito nets for the village.

They inspected measures for control of larvace in the houses. On 4 October, Daw Tin Nwe and members met members of social organizations, students and local people at the meeting of Karathuri GAD. They enquired about progress of education, health, social and economy and also explained development of MWAFL and measures being undertaken by MMCWA and laws protecting women.

They presented 100 dozens of exercises books, 450 books of various kinds for village library, 300 viss of iodized salt and 50 treated mosquito nets for the students.

Daw Tin Nwe and party discussed prevention against human trafficking, facts about MWAFL and measures on education, health, social and economy and security being undertaken by MMCWA and MMCWA at the meeting with local people in Bokpyin Township.

They presented 100 dozens of exercise books, 50 dozens of pencils, 550 books of various kinds for village library, 300 viss of iodized salt, 20 education VCDs on reproductive health, 20 cassette tapes and 50 treated mosquito nets for the monastic education school. Daw Tin Nwe and members visited Bokpyin People’s Hospital where Head of Division Health Department Dr Swe Win and a team of specialists gave medical treatment to the patients.

On 5 October, Daw Tin Nwe and team attended the opening of 16-bed Pyigyi Mandaing Hospital. Daw Tin Nwe presented K 100,000 for medical fund and Chairperson of Division MMCWA Daw Tin Ohn K 100,000 to the Medical Superintendent.

Daw Tin Nwe and party presented 100 dozens of exercise books, 450 books of various kinds, 300 viss of iodized salt, 20 education VCDs on reproductive health and 50 treated mosquito nets for schools in Pyigyi Mandaing.

She met officials of WAO and MCWCA and discussed practical implementation of tasks laid down by the MWAFL.

On 6 October, she and the team of specialists went to Kanaw Village, and explained the objectives of MWAFL and MMCWA to local people. They presented 100 dozens of exercise books, 50 dozens of pencils, 550 books of various kinds for village library, 300 viss of iodized salt, 20 education VCDs on reproductive health, 20 cassette tapes and 50 treated mosquito nets for the monastic education school.

The chairperson of Kanaw Village WAO presented 100 membership applications to Daw Tin Nwe.

Daw Tin Nwe and party visited medical treatment to 200 patients and presented spectacles to eye patients and some medicines to the students.
Fruit merchants to discuss apple trade in Shaanxi Province

Xi’an, 7 Oct — Fruit businesspeople from China, Japan, South Korea and 10 ASEAN member countries will gather in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province to discuss the apple trade between 8 and 12 October, organizers said.

Luochuan has now 17,333 hectares of apple orchards and manufactures more than 400,000 tons of high-quality apples, statistics of the Shaanxi Provincial Bureau of Fruit Industry show.

The First Round-Table Meeting of ASEAN-China, Japan and South Korea — Fruit Businesspeople was held in Xi’an, capital city of Shaanxi, at the end of September last year.

During the first meeting, Chinese merchants reached 48 trade agreements worth 980 million yuan (121 million US dollars) with foreign counterparts.

MNA/Xinhua

France criticizes EU budget rebate before Blair trip

PARIS, 7 Oct — France stirred a long-running row with Britain on Wednesday over European Union spending, two days before talks between French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said in an interview with Le Monde newspaper that Britain should contribute more to the EU budget.

He appeared to be referring to Britain’s annual rebate from EU coffers which France says is unfair on other states, particularly poorer eastern European countries that have recently become members.

“We see the efforts made by the Eastern European countries and then we tell them no, when they come to the negotiating table, because the English don’t want to pay. It shouldn’t be that way,” Douste-Blazy said.

Britain holds the EU’s rotating presidency and will host the EU summit on 27-28 October. Blair will meet Chirac and Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin in Paris on Friday.

The EU has failed to agree its 2007-2013 budget, partly because of disagreement between Britain and France.

France wants Britain to accept a reduction of its annual rebate but London says it will do so only if the EU agrees to a review of all its expenditures and favours a reduction in farm spending.

France is the biggest beneficiary of the Common Agricultural Policy, which runs until 2013, and has made it clear it is not prepared to accept any early changes.

Britain won its rebate in 1984 when it was one of the poorer EU countries and got little back from Brussels in farm subsidies which at the time made up 75 per cent of the EU budget. Douste-Blazy said France was paying an extra 12 billion euros (14.35 billion US dollars) into European coffers until 2013.

“We are asking that everybody puts in as much, including the English,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

Senate votes to set detainee treatment rules

WASHINGTON, 7 Oct — Defying President George W Bush, the US Senate voted overwhelmingly on Wednesday to regulate the Pentagon’s treatment of military detainees in the wake of abuse scandals at Abu Ghraib Prison and elsewhere.

The Senate voted 90-9 for a bipartisan amendment to establish rules for detainee interrogation and treatment, even though the Republican administration said the measure would tie its hands as it fights terrorism and threaten to veto a 440-billion-US-dollar bill to fund the Pentagon if it contained them.

The amendment from Arizona Republican Senator John McCain, a prisoner of war in Vietnam, would establish the US Army field manual as the standard for interrogations and bar degrading and inhumane treatment of anyone in US military custody.

Another amendment to the defence bill the Senate was expected to consider this week would clarify the legal status of enemy combatants at the Guantanamo Bay military prison and increase congressional oversight of their detention and release.

McCain said the rules would help US soldiers, who are under intense pressure to extract intelligence from prisoners but blamed when there are excesses.

“I can understand why some administration lawyers might want ambiguity, so that every hypothetical option is theoretically open,” McCain said.

But he said US soldiers are “crying out for clarity” and “Congress cannot shrink from this duty, we cannot hide our heads”.

Jabbing at the administration in which he served, retired four-star general and former secretary of state Colin Powell backed McCain’s amendment, which he said in a letter would “help deal with the terrible public diplomacy crisis created by Abu Ghraib”.

Lawmakers from both parties have said the abuses of prisoners in Iraq and reported mistreatment of prisoners elsewhere stemmed from the administration’s murky policies.

The Pentagon has blamed the Abu Ghraib abuses on a few rogue soldiers and produced reports from several of its own investigations that showed no wrongdoing at top levels.

MNA/Reuters

Three wanted Britons of Pakistani origin sent home

ISLAMABAD, 7 Oct — Three British men of Pakistani origin have been sent back to Britain, where they are wanted for questioning in connection with the murder of a teenage boy in 2004, the British High Commission said on Thursday.

The three, who a Pakistani security official said were from the Scottish city of Glasgow, were arrested in Pakistan three months ago. The men were sent back to Britain on a flight on Wednesday.

They have been wanted in connection with the murder of schoolboy克里斯Donald in March 2004, the High Commission said.

“The murder of Kris Donald was a vicious crime against an innocent 15-year-old boy that caused revulsion throughout Britain,” High Commissioner Mark Lyall Grant said in a statement.

“The search for justice in this case continues, but I’m pleased to be able to say … that we have moved that process on considerably with the return of three suspects.”

The High Commission did not identify the three. Britain and Pakistan do not have an extradition treaty but, following lengthy negotiations, Pakistani authorities amended a 1972 extradition act to allow for the return of the three, Lyall Grant said.

MNA/Reuters

A worker prepares to renovate the display window at a clothing store damaged by one of Saturday’s bomb explosions in Kuta, Bali, Indonesia, on 7 Oct, 2005. —INTERNET
Meeting aims for coordinated bird flu response

WASHINGTON, 7 Oct—Delegates from 80 nations and international agencies began a meeting on Thursday to formulate the best way to fight the growing outbreak of avian influenza before it can cause a human pandemic that could kill millions.

“The world is clearly unprepared, or inadequately prepared, for a pandemic of H5N1 influenza,” US Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt told the meeting.

Everyone at the meeting, sponsored by the US State Department, has agreed in principle to share information quickly to allow health experts to contain the virus if it makes the jump to easily infect people. Now, said officials, it is critical to make sure they actually do so.

“Speed is life,” said a Health and Human Services Department official, who asked not to be named. “With proper coordination, we might be able to intervene in time.”

The officials did not specifically say if other countries and the World Health Organization would share scarce drugs to treat influenza and vaccines if a human epidemic breaks out.

But they hinted strongly that such help would not be available if a country has an outbreak and does not immediately report it.

“We must share epidemiological data and samples with one another,” the HHS official said. “Without that kind of early cooperation, we will pull back to the next firebreak because we will have to begin to protect ourselves.”—MNA/Reuters

Indian Ocean tuna tagged to preempt stock depletion

VICTORIA, 7 Oct—Some 80,000 tuna in the Indian Ocean are being tagged as part of an EU-funded project to preempt the depletion of stocks from over-fishing.

 Authorities in Indonesia say they have found infected chickens that were asymptomatic of the virus, which could raise greater threats to human by making it harder to detect.

Health experts say the finding was bad news but more information was needed as there are many different strains of H5N1. Many have low pathogenicity and are relatively harmless, and only some have proven to be deadly for birds and humans.

Some species of waterfowl, like ducks and geese, are natural hosts of the H5N1 and do not fall ill from it. But the virus has always been known to be virulent in chickens, but they typically fall sick quickly and die within 24 hours of contracting it. — MNA/Reuters

BMW hands German Pope keys to X5 SUV

FRANKFURT, 7 Oct—Germany’s BMW has handed the keys to an X5 full-size sport utility vehicle to Pope Benedict, the world’s largest premium carmaker said on Thursday.

“We are proud to be able to provide Pope Benedict XVI with a BMW car,” the group’s chief of marketing and sales, Michael Ganal, said in a statement following an audience with the pontiff.

Benedict hailed from the small Bavarian town of Markt am Inn, about an hour’s drive from Munich, where BMW is based.

Apart from a fleet of BMW C1 covered scooters, the official Vatican car park only has one BMW 5-Series executive and one 7-Series limousine.

The well-known “Popemobile” by comparison is a modified M-Class SUV built in 1999 by BMW’s arch rival Mercedes-Benz.

Jakarta confirms two suspected bird flu cases

JAKARTA, 7 Oct—Indonesian health officials said on Thursday that two young men, including one who died a week ago, had proved positive for the bird flu virus in local tests.

I Nyoman Kandun, head of disease control at the Health Ministry, said specimens had been sent to a Hong Kong laboratory recognized by the World Health Organization for further testing. Results should be available in the next few days.

Indonesian health officials suspect bird flu in six deaths since July in the world’s fourth-most populous nation, while the Hong Kong laboratory has confirmed four.

“The PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) showed positive for both (men),” said Kandun. “One is a 21-year-old man ... he is still alive and in a stable condition. The other one had died. Both are proven to have had direct contact with dead poultry.”

Bird flu has killed more than 60 people in four Asian nations since late 2003 and has been found in birds in Russia and Europe.

One of the greatest fears of experts is that the H5N1 bird flu virus will mutate to become easily passed between humans, triggering a pandemic. The current H5N1 strain cannot be easily transmitted by people. Millions have died in past flu pandemics.

A Thai-Chinese devotee who pierced rods through his cheeks joins a rally to mark the annual Vegetarian festival in Phuket Province, about 690 km (429 miles) southwest of Bangkok, on 7 Oct, 2005. —INTERNET

A Thai-Chinese devotee who pierced rods through his cheeks joins a rally to mark the annual Vegetarian festival in Phuket Province, about 690 km (429 miles) southwest of Bangkok, on 7 Oct, 2005. —INTERNET

A promoter plays the Sony PlayStation Portable console in front of a giant model on display at the Sony Expo at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Center in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 7 Oct, 2005. —INTERNET

A Thai-Chinese devotee who pierced rods through his cheeks joins a rally to mark the annual Vegetarian festival in Phuket Province, about 690 km (429 miles) southwest of Bangkok, on 7 Oct, 2005. —INTERNET
**SPORTS**

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACROSS</th>
<th>DOWN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Make out</td>
<td>1 Old coin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Intended</td>
<td>2 Knightly tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Royal household</td>
<td>3 Praise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Parcel</td>
<td>4 Table linen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Fishing boat</td>
<td>5 Germ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Greek letter</td>
<td>6 Open-mouthed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 International agreement</td>
<td>7 Sea-slug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Be the property of</td>
<td>12 Passage across</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Fossil resin</td>
<td>13 Frugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Naive</td>
<td>15 Vent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 With employee complement</td>
<td>16 Honest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Lift</td>
<td>18 Alloy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Savoury</td>
<td>20 Alpine province</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Flooded</td>
<td>21 Rate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**FIFA rankings will help to determine European play-offs**

ZURICH, 8 Oct — The draw for the three European zone World Cup play-offs will take place in Zurich next Friday, two days after the qualifying competition ends.

The six teams will be divided into two pots based on their FIFA rankings for September. The three highest placed teams will be in one pot and the three lowest in the other pot.

One team will be drawn from each pot and a second draw will then determine which team will play the first leg at home.

Seven teams who could feature in the draw are ranked in FIFA’s top world 11 for September: the Netherlands, who are second, the Czech Republic (4th), France (6th), Spain (8th), Portugal (9th), Sweden (10th) and England (11th).

Scotland (74th) are the lowest ranked team still in with a chance of finishing second in their group.

The winners of the eight European groups qualify automatically for the finals in Germany next year, along with the two best runners-up.

The remaining six runners-up will face each other home and away on November 12 and 16 with the three winners qualifying for the finals.

---

**Clijsters departs as Davenport reaches semis**

FILDERSTADT (Germany), 8 Oct — Kim Clijsters blew a chance to take the world number one spot from Maria Sharapova this week after losing at the Filderstadt Grand Prix on Friday.

The second seed was beaten 6-3, 6-2 by Elena Dementieva while defending champion Lindsay Davenport overcame another Russian, Anastasia Mysskina, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 to reach the last four.

Clijsters’ defeat ended a 21-match winning streak stretching back to mid-August when she lost to China’s Shuai Peng in San Diego. The Belgian had since won four consecutive titles in Toronto, Los Angeles, at the US Open and Luxembourg.

Clijsters had been on course to regain the number one ranking she first earned in 2003 but had to beat Dementieva and Amelie Mauresmo to gain enough points.

Top seed Davenport meets Daniela Hantuchova in the semi-finals after the Slovak beat Italy’s Flavia Pennetta 6-3, 6-4. Dementieva tackles third-seeded Frenchwoman Mauresmo, who downed number six seed Nadia Petrova of Russia 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

No player strikes the ball as hard as Dementieva and the fifth seed eventually pounded Clijsters into submission.

Her powerful groundstrokes and relentlessness ability to return the ball in the furiously-contested rallies eventually took their toll on the world number three.

---

**Poles struggle to beat Iceland 3-2 in friendly**

WARSAW, 8 Oct — Poland came from behind to beat Iceland 3-2 in their last warm-up before Wednesday’s potential World Cup Group Six decider against England at Old Trafford.

Bayer Leverkusen winger Jacek Krzynowek’s first-half strike kept the Poles in the game after Iceland grabbed two well-worked goals, exposing defensive frailties to lead 2-1 at the break. But coach Pawel Janas made three changes at half-time and Wisla Krakow full-back Marcin Baseczynski and Borussia Dortmund’s Ebi Smolarek took just 19 minutes to give the Poles a lead they never looked like relinquishing.

Janas will be concerned, however, at his first-choice squad’s lacklustre first-half performance, which made little use of their overwhelming possession and exposed familiar problems in defence.

Hit by injuries to playmaker Mirosław Szymkowiak and striker Tomasz Frankowski — the team’s leading scorer in qualifying — Poland also struggled to finish a series of second-half chances. Janas said: ‘We couldn’t put it together until after half time, but in the end I am contented since we won with a team who play football in the British style — hard and aggressive.’

Celtic striker Maciej Żurawski aggravated a recent thigh injury, but should be fit for Old Trafford.

‘We had to pull him off the park, because he didn’t want to come, so sorry, but he’ll be okay by Wednesday,’ Janas said. Poland lead Group Six with 24 points and will take first place automatically if England fail to win their game in hand against Austria on Saturday.

If England beat Austria, the Poles will need a draw but may also go to Old Trafford for the group decider with a place at the finals guaranteed as one of the best-placed runners-up.

---

**Former Argentine keeper Pumipido takes charge of Newell’s**

BUENOS AIRES, 8 Oct — Former Argentine goalkeeper Nery Pumpido has taken over as coach of struggling First Division club Newell’s Old Boys.

Pumpido, a member of the 1986 World Cup-winning team, replaces former Chile coach Juvenal Olmos who resigned two weeks ago.

Newell’s, winners of the 2004-05 Apertura championship, are 16th in this season’s competition having taken nine points from 10 games.

Pumpido won the 2002 South American Libertadores Cup as coach of Paraguayan team Olimpia before moving to Mexico to join UNAL.

He spent 18 months in charge of the Tigers, leading them to the final of the 2003-04 Apertura championship where they lost to Pachuca.

---

**Eriksson’s house hit by vandals**

MANCHESTER (England), 8 Oct — England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson says that vandals who smashed a front window at his London home this week were not disaffected fans.

The vandals threw an object, reportedly a brick, through the window near Regent’s Park last Monday. Police said on Friday they had made no arrests.

The Swede has been in the eye of a media storm since last month’s humiliating 1-0 defeat by Northern Ireland in a World Cup qualifier and a 4-1 friendly rout by Denmark in August.

‘It’s correct that I had some damage to my house, but that’s the third time, I think,’ Eriksson told reporters on Friday.

‘It wasn’t three times after Northern Ireland — but once after it. The other two were much before that, unfortunately, and I don’t think it has anything to do with England fans absolutely not.’

Eriksson, who is preparing his team for two crucial World Cup qualifiers against Austria and Poland in Manchester, was not in the house at the time.

Eriksson said he had found England fans very supportive during his visit to Premier League Manchester United and Manchester City.

---

**Germany’s Bjorn Phau serves the ball against Croatia’s Marin Ancic during the men’s singles semifinal match of the Japan Open Tennis Championships in Tokyo, on 8 October, 2005. Phau lost the match 2-6,1-6.**

INTERNET
New mudslide in Guatemala

mountain kills 40

TEFRAIN (Guatemala), 8 Oct — A huge mudslide engulfed dozens of homes in Guatemala's Maya Indian highlands, killing 40 people as rains and flash floods from Hurricane Stan devastated Central America and southern Mexico.

The tragedy struck two indigenous hamlets in the municipality of Santiago Atitlan, a popular destination for US and European tourists, injuring some 300 people, local government officials said on Thursday.

There were no immediate reports of foreigners killed.

With the new victims, 216 people have now died in floods and mudslides in Central America and southern Mexico in the last few days following Hurricane Stan.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Saturday, 8 October, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Rakhine States, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Shan, Chin and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Yangon Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Magway Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (2.24) inches, Magway (1.73) inches, Kalay (1.66) inches, Belin (1.42) inches, Aunglan (1.30) inches, Mawlaik (1.18) inches, Pyay (1.14) inches, Minbu (0.87) inch, Pyinmana (0.59) inch and Myingyan (0.5) inch.

Maximum temperature on 7-10 2005 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 8-10 2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 8-10 2005 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 7-10 2005 was (7.8) hours approx. Rainfalls on 8-10 2005 were (0.20 inch) at Mungladon, (0.12 inch) at Kaba-Aye and null at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1 2005 were (95.20) inches at Mungladon, (96.34) inches at Kaba-Aye and (100.20) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from South at (14:20) hours MST on 7-10 2005.

Bay interference: Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Special features: Yesterday’s low pressure area over Gulf of Tonking, South China Sea is centered about (300) miles East of Bangkok, Thailand and moving westwards at (06:30) hour MST today. It is likely to move into lower Myanmar areas during the next (24) hours.

Forecast valid until evening of 9-10-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing Division and scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers are likely in Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-10-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-10-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 223/2 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable: Newslight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296864, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office)/297028 (Press).
Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends opening of hospital in Pyigyi Mandaing

Yangon, 8 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-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, oversaw thriving oil palm plantations along Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Taninthayi-Myeik Road and regional development on 5 October morning.

In Pyigyi Mandaing, they attended the ceremony to put Pyigyi Mandaing Hospital into service. Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Brig-Gen Thura Thet Oo Maung of Bokpyin Station and Deputy Director-General Dr Ye Myint of Health Department formally opened the hospital.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo unveiled the signboard of the hospital and sprinkled scented water on it. They visited the hospital.

Deputy Director-General Dr Ye Myint reported on construction of the hospital. The commander explained implementation of five rural development tasks and tasks being carried out for ensuring local food sufficiency, and extension of oil palm, rubber and pepper cultivation.

After that, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that thanks to opening the hospital, local people can enjoy health care services. As the Government is performing cent per cent equitable development of rural and urban regions across the nation, progress has been made in Pyigyi Mandaing.

In-charge of the hospital Dr Aye Pyi Sone accepted K 100,000 to the medical trust-fund and for health and education tasks donated by Commander (See page 8)

Development gap between urban and rural areas narrowed
New school building, dispensary opened in Panan Village, Kyaukse Township

Yangon, 8 Oct — The Government hand in hand with the people is striving with harmonious momentum for achieving success in economic plans being implemented for development of the nation.

Thanks to implementation of dams and river water pumping projects in States and Divisions in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, not only greening tasks but also agricultural ones have developed. Likewise, the Government built factories to create job opportunities for the local people.

Universities and hospitals have been upgraded and opened in the education and health sectors. At present, the people in rural and urban areas enjoy fruitful results of better transport. The gap between rural and urban areas is narrower than the past. Tasks are being carried out in education, health, transport, water supply and economic fields.

Panan Village of Kyaukse Township is one of the developing rural areas. Patron of Mandala- lay Division Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Secretariat Member of USDA Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and party arrived at Panan Village of Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division, yesterday afternoon.

They attended the ceremony to open the new building of self-reliant (See page 9)

Earthquake report

Yangon, 8 Oct — An earthquake of very strong intensity (7.6) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar about (1,900) miles Northwest of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory (60-miles North Northeast of Islamabad, Pakistan) was recorded at (10) hrs (26) min (23) sec MST on 8 October 2005.

An aftershock earthquake of strong intensity (6.3) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar about (1,960) miles Northwest of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory, (100 miles North of Islamabad, Pakistan) was recorded at (17) hrs (21) min (50) sec MST on 8 October 2005. — MNA