Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends donation ceremony for six monasteries in Pazundaung, Botataung Townships

YANGON, 9 Oct — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony to donate provisions of Tatmadaw families and wellwishers to six monasteries in Botataung and Pazundaung Townships this afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, local authorities and wellwishers.

Presiding Nayaka of Botataung Minggalarama Pali Tekkatho Monastery member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Agga Maha Gandhava Thacaka Pandita Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ratthisara administered the Five Precepts.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein offered provisions to Presiding Nayaka of Phayabyu Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikad)haya Bhaddanta Narinda-bhivansa.

The commander, the deputy ministers and senior military officers presented alms to members of the Sangha.

Next, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the commander, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, presented provisions to a Sayadaw.

— MNA

The neo-colonialists of the West group are viewing the perpetration of their lackeys as human rights and democracy activities. Thus their accusations in reality are lop-sided slanders against the Tatmadaw government.

— KYAW MYINT NAING

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

**Monday, 10 October, 2005**

**Strive for emergence of discipline-flourishing democratic nation**

The State Peace and Development Council has laid down and is implementing the seven-point Road Map phase by phase for the emergence of a peaceful modern developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, while striving for prevalence of peace and tranquility in the nation and national development. At present, the National Convention, the first and crucial step of the Road Map, is in progress and sector-wise discussions are being held for the drawing of the State Constitution.

The National convention will resume by the end of 2005. Accordingly, the National Convention Convening Commission has been holding meetings to discuss matters to be submitted to the convention as well as those on successful holding of the meeting.

The meeting (6/2005) of the National Convention Convening Commission was held at the meeting hall of the commission on Kyakkasen Grounds on 8 October 2005, with an address by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

In his address, the Secretary-1 stressed the need for the officials of the committees and the sub-committees to make arrangements for invitation, transport, reception and accommodation of the delegates.

The delegates of political parties, the delegates of national races, the delegates of peasants, the delegates of workers, the delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, the delegates of State service personnel, and other invited guests will attend the convention and discuss matters on laying down basic principles and detailed basic principles for the drawing of the State Constitution. Nowadays, detailed basic principles on sharing of legislative powers have already been laid down.

All the delegates representing the entire national people are to draw basic principles in conformity with own national character, traditions and customs and implement them phase by phase. Hence, we would like to call upon the entire national people to take part in the drive for success of the National Convention, a prerequisite for the emergence of a peaceful modern developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation by doing their bit.

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**Commander, Secretariat Member attend Annual General Meeting of Mandalay Division USDA**

**Yangon, 8 Oct — Mandalay Division Union Solidarity and Development Association held the annual general meeting 2005 at its office in Mandalay yesterday morning.**

It was attended by Patron of Mandalay Division USDA 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, departmental officials, members of Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee, members of Mandalay Division Women’s Affairs Organization, Red Cross Society, War Veterans Organization, representatives of National Convention, the secretary and executives of Mandalay Division USDA, executives of six districts and 31 townships, outstanding youths and wellwishers.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that seven objectives have been laid down for organizing this year’s annual general meeting. Emphasis is to be placed on successful realization of the objectives which are not only for the nation and the people but for work guideline of the association. Upholding the seven objectives, it is necessary to discuss yearly accomplishments of the associations at different levels and future tasks. Furthermore, organizational, administrative, economic, social, cultural and educational reports are to be submitted to the meeting. Next, the Secretariat Member gave a speech. Afterwards, prizes were presented to outstanding youths. The commander and the secretariat member accepted cash donations from wellwishers. Afterwards, the annual general meeting followed. Later, the meeting ended with the remarks by the chairman. — MNA

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**Dry Day Supervisory Committee makes inspection**

**Yangon, 9 Oct — Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint checks functions of a dry day inspection team.**

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Counterterror effort must not be confined to specific groups

UNITED NATIONS, 8 Oct — Declaring that it was determined to confront the challenges of terrorism “decisively and completely”, India has said efforts to counter the menace must not be confined to specific individuals or groups but must ensure that their terror operations are halted through “thorough and systematic” eradication. India said it had made it clear that no consideration of political, philosophical, racial ideological, ethnic, religious or any other nature could justify criminal acts intended or calculated to promote a state of terror among the general public. — MNA/PTI

US troops kill four Afghan policemen with “friendly fire”

KARUL, 8 Oct — US troops killed four Afghan policemen and another after mistaking them for militants during an operation in southern Afghanistan in which two Afghan soldiers died, officials said on Friday.

The incident happened on Thursday in Helmand Province’s Ghirish District when US troops spotted a vehicle carrying five armed men approaching an area where they were in contact with militants, said US spokesman Lieutenant- Colonel Jerry O’Hara. He said the police officers had not been in the uniform of the Afghan National Police and the vehicle had tried to drive away quickly.

“Coalition forces shot at the vehicle, killing four and wounding one,” he said. “We are conducting an investigation. Of course we regret this incident.”

A senior police officer in Helmand, Haji Moham- mad Rahim, said the friendly fire incident occurred after Taleban guerrillas attacked a convoy of US and Afghan troops in the same district, killing two Afghan soldiers. — MNA/Reuters

A convoy of British military vehicles pauses while on patrol in the southern Iraq city of Basra on 8 Oct, 2005. MNA/Reuters

Bus plunges into river in China, 20 killed

SHANGHAI, 9 Oct — Twenty passengers were killed when a bus plunged into a river in eastern China as the National Day holiday weekend wound down, the Xinhua news agency reported on Sun- day. The bus, with 36 pas- sengers aboard, hit a taxi and then smashed through the guard-rail of a bridge into the river in Zhejiang Province, Xinhua said. Police rescued 14 slightly injured passengers from the 6-metre-deep waters but 20 drowned and two were missing, the agency said. The four people in the taxi suffered minor injuries.

Pakistan volunteers work at a collapsed building following an earthquake in Islamabad on 8 Oct, 2005. — Internet

Landslide buries Indian bus, Israeli among 13 dead

CHANDIGARH (India), 8 Oct — A landslide buried a passenger bus in northern India on Friday, killing 13 people, including an Israeli man, police said.

Six people were also injured in the accident, which occurred in a re- mote area near Manikaran Town in the mountainous state of Himachal Pradesh.

Bus plunges into a river in eastern China, 20 killed.

Abu Dhabi: A senior police officer in Helmand, Haji Mohammad Rahim, said the friendly fire incident occurred after Taleban guerrillas attacked a convoy of US and Afghan troops in the same district, killing two Afghan soldiers.
Britain warns of “more vicious” attacks in Iraq

NEW DELHI, 7 Oct — British Defence Secretary John Reid said on Wednesday Iraqi guerillas would launch more “vicious” attacks on coalition forces and civilians ahead of a general election for a new government in December.

Reid also warned that Islamic guerillas were trying to spark a civil war by murdering scores of Shiites, who constitute the majority in the country.

“Things are doing better in Iraq, there will be a period during which the terrorists will become more fanatic, more vicious and we have already seen them,” Reid, who is on a two-day visit to India, told a news conference.

Besides fighting American, British and other coalition troops, the rebels were trying to ignite a civil war, he said. “That is why they are murdering en masse Shiites, they are doing it with an awful, terrible venom,” Reid said. “It is with a purpose: to provoke a Shia backlash and create a civil war.”

Britain has hundreds of soldiers in southern Iraq and 95 have been killed since the US-led invasion in March 2003. — MNA/Reuters

Suspected hoax sparks security alert in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Oct — A suspected hoax designed to sow fears of a chemical attack in Malaysia’s diplomatic district struck at five more embassies on Wednesday, police and diplomats said.

Slim packages containing a yellow, oily liquid — and in one case a powder — have been delivered to at least 10 embassies in the past two days, with a message condemning the countries for mistreating Muslims, Kuala Lumpur’s police chief said.

The US, British, French and Australian missions all said they had received the suspicious packages in the mail on Wednesday, but none of the missions were evacuated. The packages were handed over to police and sent for analysis.

The Bernama news agency said the Russian Embassy also received a similar envelope. An embassy official, however, declined to comment.

“I think it’s normal oil, it’s nothing dangerous,” Mustafa Abdullah told Reuters by phone from police headquarters.

The government said the country remained safe and that foreigners should not be unduly worried.

“Whatever precautionary measure that must be taken will be taken,” Foreign Minister Syed Hamad Albar said. “Even after the 11 September (2001), there had been no backlash on foreign missions here.”

Diplomats and police had already been put on alert after suicide bombings killed 27 people last Saturday on the resort island of Bali, in neighbouring Indonesia. The security scare coincided with the eve of Ramadan, the holy Muslim fasting month.

“Yes, we received this morning a CD with traces of yellow liquid inside,” a spokesman for the Australian High Commission said on Wednesday.

The French Embassy reported a similar discovery. “The police came to take a look and they took away the envelope. There was no evacuation,” a French Embassy spokeswoman said.

Within hours, similar packages were found at the Canadian, German, Singaporean, Philippine and Thai missions.

“None of the missions were evacuated. We are taking all necessary security precautions,” said the police spokesman.

“We do not reject negotiations, but we will never accept any negotiation which aims at depriving Iran of its rights enshrined by NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty),” Ahmadinejad told the state television in an interview.

Referring to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board of governors’ resolution on Iran last month, Ahmadinejad regretted that some IAEA members were doing under influence of the big powers.

“They gave up to big powers’ pressures but we expect the IAEA to act upon the law,” he said.

“There are other countries besides the three European states (Britain, Germany and France) offered to enter into talks with Tehran, and Tehran is reviewing the offer,” Ahmadinejad said, referring to name any specific country.

Echoing the President, Iran’s top national security official and chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani also said on Thursday that “if the objective is to conduct negotiations aimed at making us forget our right to the nuclear fuel cycle, the Iranian people will not accept such a thing.”

Iran has been engaged in talks for the past two years with Britain, France and Germany. The EU trio want Iran to give up nuclear fuel cycle, which can be diverted to military purposes.

Iran has refused the demand, insisting that its nuclear fuel cycle is for peaceful purposes.

1,952 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 8 Oct — As of Saturday, 8 Oct, 2005, at least 1,952 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.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,813 US military members have died, according to AP’s count.

That includes at least 1,412 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

UK says police among 12 held in Basra

BAGHDAD, 7 Oct — Basra police officers were among 12 people detained by coalition forces in a raid targeting terrorists in the southeastern city, according to the British military.

Friday’s raid came the day after British Prime Minister Tony Blair accused Iran of helping fighters in Iraq carry out deadly bombings against coalition forces.

Two weeks ago, in the wake of a controversial operation by British forces to rescue two soldiers sparked riots in Basra, a senior Iraqi official later said insurgents had infiltrated the country’s security forces.

The people, accused of being involved in planning attacks in the region, were detained in the Hadem area of the city on Thursday night in a raid that was carried out with “short notice.”

“Some of the individuals are members of Basra police service,” said a statement from the commander of the 12th Mechanized Brigade.

The statement issued on Friday said it was of great concern to the British military “that members of Basra police are involved in terrorism.”

We know that there are good people in the Iraqi police service and the actions of the few should not be allowed to obscure that fact.” — Internet
Cameroon to strengthen cooperation with China in public health

Yaounde, 8 Oct— The Cameroonian Government is to further strengthen its cooperation with China in the area of public health, which has gained great achievements in the past 30 years, a senior official has said.

The cooperation between the two countries which began in the 1970s has proved very fruitful, with hundreds of Chinese doctors coming to the West African country during the last three decades to help the Cameroonian people, said Minister of Public Health Urbain Olanguena Awono on Wednesday when addressing a ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the arrival of the first medical team sent by the Chinese Government to Cameroon.

The past three decades of cooperation was “great and productive”, said Awono, “it has served the poorest group of people in Cameroon”.

Since the first Chinese medical team came to Cameroon in 1975, more than 300 Chinese doctors from China’s Shanxi Province have served in the country. They have treated over two million Cameroon patients, performing around 40,000 operations and saving the lives of more than 25,000 seriously ill patients.

Awono hopes that this “exemplary” cooperation could be further broadened, especially in areas of technical training, maintenance of equipment, pharmacy, medical health infrastructure and the fight against AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases.

During the ceremony, Awono awarded 15 Chinese doctors working in Cameroon with the medal of honour, in order to commend the great contribution they have made to the improvement of public health in the country.

India-China bilateral trade set to establish new record in ’05

Beijing, 8 Oct— Bilateral trade between India and China during the first eight months of this year has touched 12.2 billion US dollars and is all set to cross the record of 13.6 billion US dollars achieved in 2004.

During January-August period, total bilateral trade was worth 12.2 billion US dollars, up by 40.37 per cent over the same period last year, latest Chinese Customs statistics said.

India’s exports to China grew by 28.27 per cent to 6.7 billion US dollars while the country’s imports from China witnessed a hefty 58.66 per cent increase to touch 5.5 billion US dollars.

India enjoyed a trade surplus of 1.2 billion US dollars during the first eight-month period in 2005 compared to 1.7 billion US dollars last year, it said.

“Such high growth rates can be kept, the aim of increasing the bilateral trade volume to 20 billion US dollars or higher by 2008 will be realised soon if not this year,” a trade analyst said.

Garrett Mooney

Six US Marines killed in Iraq attacks

Baghdad, 9 Oct— Six US Marines were killed by roadside bomb blasts during combat operations in Iraq, the US military said on Friday, bringing the total US military death toll to at least 1,948 since the 2003 US-led invasion.

A military statement said four Marines died when a bomb went off in Gharra, near Fallujah, on Thursday. Fallujah, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of Baghdad, is a stronghold of Sunni Arab opposition to US occupation and the Shiite-led government.

Two more Marines were killed on Thursday by a roadside bomb while on patrol in the vicinity of Qarqour, near the Syrian border, where the US forces are conducting a major combat operation aimed at flushing out militant fighters, a separate military statement said.

US and British in Iraq have been repeatedly attacked in recent months by “shaped charges” which are able to pierce armour and hence much more deadly than conventional roadside bombs.

Suicide car bomb kills seven in western Baghdad

Baghdad, 8 Oct— A suicide car bomb attack in western Baghdad on Saturday, killing at least seven people and wounding 16 others, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

“Some police were investigating at a traffic accident scene, and suddenly a car laden with explosives rushed toward them and blew up,” the source said, adding “at least seven people, including one policeman and six civilians, were killed and another 16 were wounded, including 10 policemen and six civilians.”

With a referendum on Iraq’s draft constitution a week away, guerrillas are intensifying attacks against police and military forces in a bid to disrupt the political process in the violence-ravaged country.

A demonstrator holds a placard reading George Bush is terrorist No. 1 during an anti-war demonstration in Warsaw, Poland on 6 Oct. 2005. Hundreds of residents of the Polish city of Bydgoszcz have demonstrated a withdrawal of the Polish troops from Iraq.—INTERNET

Nine killed in S Korea construction collapse

Seoul, 8 Oct— Nine South Korean construction workers were killed when a three-storey structure they were building collapsed on top of them, police said on Friday.

Eight workers were killed at the scene and another died in hospital. Four of the five injured workers were in critical condition, police said.

Concrete supports apparently caved, causing the structure to cave in on the workers on Thursday, police said, adding that they were searching the rubble in case anyone else had been caught in the collapse.

The incident took place in the city of Icheon, about 43 miles southeast of Seoul. —MNA/Reuters

Washington Monument evacuated, no bomb found

Washington, 8 Oct— The Washington Monument was evacuated because of a telephone bomb threat but nothing dangerous was found after a search of the area, law enforcement officials said on Friday.

Sergeant Scott Fear of the National Park Police said on CNN television that “there was a threat but nothing dangerous was found and the monument was reopened One of the most famous landmarks in the United States, the monument named to honour the first US president, George Washington, lies less than one mile (1.6 kilometres) from the White House.

British soldiers tow away a disabled military vehicle while on patrol in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on 8 Oct, 2005.—INTERNET
British hackers jailed for global computer worm plot

London, 9 Oct — Two British hackers were jailed on Friday for helping to spread a computer worm which affected thousands of machines around the world including some at the US Department of Defence. Jordan Bradley, 22, and Andrew Harvey, 23, were part of an international hacking group called “TH34t Krew” which created the “TK worm”, a so-called “Trojan” programme that surfaced on the Internet sometime before February 2003.

Likened to the wooden Trojan Horse of Greek mythology which concealed enemy soldiers, “Trojans” are malicious computer programmes that are disguised as harmless information and can make their way on to a computer over the Internet.

Officers from Britain’s National Hi-Tech Crime Unit (NHTCU) estimated the TK worm caused millions of pounds worth of damage, infecting 18,000 computers around the world.

The programme could also take control of computers it infected. Newcastle Crown Court jailed electrician Harvey for six months and unemployed Bradley for three months.

The men, both from northern England, had admitted conspiring to “effect unauthorized modifications to the contents of computers with the intent to impair the operation of those computers”. British police said that in a separate trial held in the United States in June, 21-year-old Raymond Steigerwalt from Indiana was jailed for 21 months and ordered to pay the Department of Defence 12,000 US dollars in restitution for his role in the plot. Detective Superintendent Mick Deats, deputy head of the NHTCU, said organized criminals were increasingly using such worms to commit crime over the Internet. Companies are taking the brunt of their attempts to steal money and data, but consumers are also being hit,” he said.

“This year, 166 companies responding to our survey into the cost of hi-tech crime said they had lost over 70 million pounds (124.1 million US dollars) to viruses, worms or Trojans.”

Music is good for the heart

New York, 9 Oct — A new study shows that listening to music that has a slow or meditative tempo has a relaxing effect on people, slowing their breathing and heart rate, whereas listening to faster music has a more upbeat tempo has the opposite effect — speeding up respiration and heart rate.

The results, which appear in the journal Heart, support a growing body of research on the potential stress-reducing health benefits of music. Other research has shown that music can alleviate stress, improve athletic performance, improve brain function and health, and boost milk production in cattle, Dr Peter Sleight from the University of Oxford in Britain and colleagues note in their report.

In the current study, researchers monitored breathing rate, blood pressure and other heart and respiratory indexes, in 24 healthy young men and women, before and while listening to short excerpts of different kinds of music including slow and fast, classical music of different genres, and classical music.

The investigators reported that listening to music initially produced varying levels of arousal — accelerated breathing, increased blood pressure and heart rate — that is directly proportional to the tempo of the music and perhaps the complexity of the rhythm.

Quake rocks Indonesia’s Aceh

Jakarta, 9 Oct — A magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale rocked Pakistan, India and Afghanistan on Saturday morning, killing at least 1800 people and injuring thousands of others. The death toll is likely to rise.

Albania police arrest ten linked to human trafficking

Tirane, 9 Oct — Albanian police arrested ten people who belonged to a massive criminal organization allegedly engaged in trafficking people from Albania to Western Europe and the United States, authorities said Friday.

Police from the Ministry of Interior had followed the case for months before they made the arrests in the capital Tirane, the country’s Grave Crimes Prosecutor General Adnand Kosova said at a press conference.

The criminal cell, under the pretense of a travel agency called “Go West”, was led by its boss Nokolin Cako who dispatched his underlings to different districts of Albania to find clients, Kosova said.

According to Kosova, Cako and several Albanian police officers were among the ten people arrested.

The police also seized devices used for making forgery documents along with 1,000 counterfeit passports from a total of 29 countries, a considerable number of fake seals and five cars.

Quake rocks Indonesia’s Aceh

Jakarta, 9 Oct — A strong quake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale rocked Aceh Singkil District, Aceh Province of Indonesia, at about 11:30 am local time on Saturday.

The tremor was also felt in Gunung Sitoli, Nias and Subagha, North Sumatra, and said officials said the epicentre of the quake was laid at 2.2 degrees North Latitude and 97.7 degrees Eastern Longitude. A strong tectonic quake measuring 8.7 on the Richter Scale, which triggered lethal tidal waves devastated coastal areas of Aceh on December 26, 2004, killing over 200,000 people.

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Countering criticism against Myanmar

Kyaw Myint Naing

On the 13th of last month, BBC and VOA aired that US State Secretary Condolezza Rice criticized the Myanmar Foreign Affairs Minister, saying that Myanmar was following the wrong road concerning democracy and human rights. According to the two radio stations, she made the criticism when she met ASEAN foreign ministers on the sidelines of the 60th UN conference.

Her criticism is nothing strange to us. The West group led by the US government is trying to reverse the process of Myanmar’s democracy transition, saying what is right is as wrong, and what is wrong as right. The group always mentions the endeavours of the Myanmar government as wrong deeds, while unconditionally supporting all the acts of anti-government elements opposing and attacking the Tatmadaw government describing them to be correct deeds to crush dictatorship and realize democracy.

In accord with its view, the group is unjustly supporting political and economic sanctions with the intention of causing economic hardships that will be followed by confrontations, defiance, commotion and anarchy in the nation. Moreover, its unjust actions are aimed at disrupting national peace and stability and national reconsolidation.

The Tatmadaw government has to take actions against the persons who hold talks or publish letters opposing the state as their acts are endangering national peace and stability and national reconsolidation, and are against the existing laws. But the anti-government elements have accused the government’s actions as violation of democracy and human rights.

Based on the view, the west group and the elements are demanding the transfer of power according to the 1990 election results, in the absence of a constitution, organizing the whole world to justify their acts.

Myanmar fell victim to colonialist rule, manipulation and exploitation for 123 years. The country was reduced to near ashes due to World War II that spilled into the nation, and Fascist occupation in three years, during which the people were in poverty. As the nation faced over 40 years of internal insurgency, it fell back into backwardness as an agricultural country. In 1962, it adopted the centralized economic system and single party system.

As the nation was in a state of decline in 1988, the Tatmadaw government took over the State duties in that year, and since then it has opened the way for the flourishing of market economy and multiparty democracy in the nation. It also laid down the economic objective — Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well — and is making utmost efforts for development of farming and industries.

Thanks to the endeavours of the Tatmadaw government during the 17-year period, the nation now put 2.8 million more acres under monsoon paddy and 1.94 million more acres under summer paddy, and her total paddy output reached over one billion baskets in 2005, up from 653 million baskets in 1988.

The nation now cultivates 6,556,320 acres of beans and pulses, 353,854 acres of cotton, 227,644 acres of sugarcane, 66,625 acres of jute, 363,159 acres of maize, 10,406 acres of buckwheat, 298,257 acres of rubber, 119,390 acres of oil palm, 49,575 acres of tea, 58,677 acres of pepper, 6,882 acres of coffee, and 1,905,795 acres of edible oil crops including acres of groundnut, sesame, sunflower, mustard, and niger. Its farming sector has raised 408,000 buffaloes, 1,828,000 cattle, 726,000 goats and sheep, 41,000 mythun, 167,603 acres of fish and 207,606 acres of prawn.

The nation has set up 1,222,343 acres of forest plantations, 112,405 acres of special teak plantations, 451,042 acres of economic plantations, 270,224 acres of village fire wood plantations, 112,405 acres of trees for industrial use, 248,672 acres of watershed plantations and 19,250 acres of thatitseint.

Concerning the industrial sector, the nation has seen the establishment of 18 industrial zones, 8,463 industries, 15,830 private industries, 8,500 cottage industries, and 192 State-owned industries.

Three offshore oil fields are producing 229,847 barrels of oil and 329,048.3 cubic-feet of natural gas. A total of 74,335 more million gallons of crude oil is being refined.

Myanmar has built 4,736 new post-primary schools, 892 new middle schools, 1,220 new high schools, 76 institutions of higher learning, two new technological universities, 25 technological colleges, two computer universities, 24 computer colleges, one Aerospace Engineering University, 10 technical institutions and three new technical high schools.

The health sector has seen 188 new hospitals, specialist hospitals, two teaching hospitals, four 300-bed hospitals, 14 200-bed hospitals, five 100-bed hospitals, 21 50-bed hospitals, 60 25-bed hospitals, 150 station hospitals, 135 rural health care centres, 12 traditional medicine hospitals, 148 traditional medicine clinics.

Myanmar is now totally free from small pox and polio and is in the process of totally wiping out leprosy. Rural mortality rate decreased to 7.1 from 9.9 per 1000, and urban mortality rate to 6.2 from 8.9 per 1000.

In rural areas, life expectancy for man increased from 56.2 years to 60.82 and woman from 60.4 to 62.32, and in urban areas life expectancy for man rose from 59 to 61.5 and woman from 63.2 to 65.6. The government also opened ten more universities in the medical field and 17 new nurses training schools.

The government permitted the formation of political parties in Myanmar in 1988 for flourishing of democracy. It held an election in 1990. As there was opposition to the government’s efforts to draft a constitution to realize the election results, it held the National Convention in 1993. As there was opposition to the National Convention, the election results became nullified as 17 years had already passed.

The government announced the seven-point Road Map on 30 August 2003. The National Convention was reconvened on 17 May 2004 and 12 February 2005. Thanks to the Tatmadaw’s endeavours, the nation now is in the process of transition to democracy.

The Tatmadaw made peace with the 17 armed groups and restored national consolidation, peace and stability. And these peace endeavours are also included in the government’s practical efforts for enabling 54 million people to enjoy social needs, longevity, peace, human rights and democracy.

The criticism of Rice, saying that Myanmar was following the wrong path in connection with human rights and democracy issues in reality is against the objective conditions. The aim of the neo-colonialists of the West group is the transfer of power to the NLD, to demand the Tatmadaw to return to the barracks, and to topple the Tatmadaw government while naming it a dictatorship.

On the other hand they are viewing the perpetration of their lackeys as human rights and democracy activities. Thus their accusations in reality are lopsided slanders against the Tatmadaw government.

(Translation: TMT)
Kyemon:9-10-2005
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends donation ceremony for six monasteries...

(Maj-Gen Mya Win of the Ministry of Defence and officials accepted donations from wellwishers. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narindhabhivamsa delivered a sermon, and the Secretary-1 and party shared merits gained. Today’s donations for six monasteries in Pazunthaung and Botataung Townships were as follows; 310 bags of rice, 64 viss of edible oil, 115 viss of gram, 641 viss of dispersed salt, 128 tubes of tooth paste, 8,550 bottles of traditional medicines, 641 bars of soap, 641 cakes of soft soap, 420 viss of dry fish, 1,080 packets of chilli powder, 36 dozens of exercise books and 15 bottles of fish sauce. MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts cash donation from a wellwisher at the ceremony of provisions and cash to Sayadaws in Botataung Township. — MNA

Objectives of 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— To vitalize patriotism and nationalism;
— To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage;
— To perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts;
— To preserve Myanmar national character;
— To nurture spiritual development of the youths;
— To prevent influence of alien culture; and
— To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit.

Deputy Minister inspects installation of natural gas pipeline in Pyay Taungtan Oilfield

YANGON, 9 Oct — Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay gave instructions on boosting production of oil and natural gas to officials at Pyay Taungtan Oilfield yesterday afternoon.

Next, the deputy minister inspected installation of Kwayma-Seiktha natural gas pipeline crossing Ayeyawady River.

Officials reported on matters related to the pipeline and flow of water in the river. The deputy minister instructed them to carry out timely completion of the tasks and attended to their needs.

CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay attended the annual general meeting of Thayawady District USDA at its office. He presented prizes to the outstanding students in the matriculation exam for 2004-05 academic year. The secretary of the District USDA accepted cash donations for public welfare tasks from the wellwishers.

Next, the CEC member accepted 9,030 membership applications presented by the Monyo Township USDA Secretary. Later, the District USDA Annual General Meeting followed. MNA

Commander inspects construction of new Goktwin bridge in Nawnghkio


The commander instructed officials to maintain the old bridge during the construction tasks of the new one. Engineer in-charge U Chit Tun of Asia World Co Ltd reported to the commander on construction tasks and requirements. The commander attended to the needs and oversaw steel road guards. The new bridge will be 170 feet by 42 feet including three feet wide pedestrian ways on either side. The bridge can withstand 60-ton loads.

Next, the commander inspected thriving field of seven acres paddy field of Nawnghkio Township General Administration Department, 15 acres paddy field of local farmer U Aik Lu in Hamsai Village and 50 acres of paddy and sticky rice fields of the local battalion. — MNA

Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Vice-Adjutant General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and Colonel General Staff (Air) Col Nary Win offer cash and provisions to a Sayadaw. — MNA

CEC Member Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay addresses the annual general meeting of Thayawady District USDA. — EINONY
Tatmadaw families, wellwishers offer alms to three monasteries, Thanatana Dhammapalaka Hindu Organization in Pabedan, Seikkan Townships

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and the congregation receive Five Precepts from members of Sangha from three monasteries in Pabedan and Seikkan Townships. — mna

YANGON, 9 Oct — Families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated alms and cash to three monasteries in Pabedan and Seikkan Townships and Thanatana Dhammapalaka Hindu Organization in Pabedan Township this afternoon.

The ceremony held at Maha Ordination Hall in Pabedan Township was attended by President Nayaka of Thanatana Dhammapalaka Hindu Organization Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kumara and Sayadaws of Mon Pariyatti and Ponnyathukha Monastery in Seikkan Township members of the Sangha, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, deputy ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, departmental heads and local authorities, social organizations and wellwishers. The congregation took the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. The commander offered robes and alms to the Sayadaw. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, the deputy ministers and senior military officers donated alms to members of the Sangha.

On behalf of the Maha Theindawgyi Monastery, next, the commander donated alms of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council to the Sayadaw. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials offered donations of their respective ministries and departments to members of the Sangha. Likewise, wellwishers presented offertories to the Sayadaw. Afterwards, the commander, the minister, the deputy ministers and senior military officers accepted donations from wellwishers. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

Today’s donations amounted to 103 bags of rice, 167 viss of edible oil, 140 viss of gram, 641 viss of iodized salt, 100 tubes of tooth paste, 10,824 bottles of traditional medicines, 75 litres of fish sauce, 1,080 viss of chilli powder, 60 packets of dry noodle, 20 viss of durian jam, 446 bars of soap, one bag of wheat, 15 viss of brown slat-sugar, 10 viss of turmeric, 30 pictures of Kyaikhtiyoe pagoda, various kinds of steel wares, and K 7,746,369.

Prize-distribution ceremony of the Performing Arts Competitions of Yangon Division held

YANGON, 9 Oct — The prize-distribution ceremony of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions of Yangon Division in conjunction with handing over the flag to ensure the success of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions took place at Saya San Hall in the Kyaikkasan Sports Ground here this morning. It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe handed over flag to Secretary of Committee for ensuring success in the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Major Thein Zaw.

The commander made a speech saying that the participants celebrate the central level competitions were to maintain the past success of the division in conformity with rules and regulations of the competitions.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe then presented prizes to the winners of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions of Yangon Division and bestowed the prizes on the judges. Next, Chairman of the Committee Lt-Col Nay Myo accepted cash donated by the wellwishers. The participants entertained those present with music and dance. There are 442 artistes from Yangon Division who are going to participate in the performing arts competitions — 153 in professional level, 73 in amateur level, 41 in higher education level and 175 in basic education level. — mna

Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and Colonel General Staff (Air) (Mechanical) Col Chan Maung offered provisions to a Sayadaw. — mna

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepts cash donated by a wellwisher. — mna

Mak—Gen Myint Swe and the congregation receive Five Precepts from members of Sangha from three monasteries in Pabedan and Seikkan Townships. — mna

Mak—Gen Myint Swe presents offertories to a Sayadaw. — mna

Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Vice-Adjutant General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and Colonel General Staff (Air) (Mechanical) Col Chan Maung offer provisions to a Sayadaw. — mna

Tatmadaw families, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and Colonel General Staff (Air) (Mechanical) Col Chan Maung presented prizes to the judging Nayaka Sayadaw of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — mna

Mak—Gen Myint Swe presents offertories to a Sayadaw. — mna
Earthquake claims at least one in Afghanistan

KABUL, 9 October — A child was killed as a strong earthquake rattled parts of Afghanistan Saturday morning, authorities confirmed.

"An 11-year-old girl has lost her life as a roof caved in on her in Surkhroad district of eastern Nangarhar Province in the tremor," a senior official in provincial police department Ghafoor Khan told Xinhua.

He also added that a number of mud houses collapsed in the neighbouring Kama district but left no casualties. The tremble, strongly shook eastern parts of Afghanistan, was also felt in the north and northeast Balkh, Kunduz, Baghlan, Badakhshan and Takhar provinces but caused no loss on life.

"Every thing is in order and we have not received any report of casualties so far," Interior Ministry spokesman Yusuf Stanizai told Xinhua.

Backing his information, authorities in the north and northeast provinces have confirmed zero casualties except minor damage to mud houses in these areas.

According to Hong Kong Observatory, the epicenter was initially determined to be 34.4 north Latitude and 73.5 east Longitude, about 100 kilometres northeast of Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan.

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First World Hospice Palliative Care Day commemorated

YANGON, 9 Oct — The First World Hospice Palliative Care Day was commemorated in conjunction with the seventh founding anniversary of the Hospice of U Hla Tun Mitta Yeikmon (Cancer) Foundation.

Representative's office, chairman and secretary of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, President Maj-Gen Sein Htwa; chairman of U Hla Tun Foundation, doctors, nurses, guests and nurses and staff of the foundation.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa spoke on the occasion and U Hla Tun expressed the purpose of the celebration. Ms Ingela Johansson also gave a speech.

Next, U Hla Tun briefed those present on background history and objectives of the foundation and functions of the hospice with the aid of power point.

Then followed a cash donation ceremony for the foundation. Donations included K 10 million by Dr Daw Khin Khin Yi and family; K 500,000 by the Union Solidarity and Development Association; K 500,000 by Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and wife Daw Ni Ni Win and son cadet Thein Zaw Nyo; K 100,000 by Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and family; K 1 million by Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Aye Myat Nwe of Bagam Hotel; K 300,000 by Crist Lite Myanmar Ltd; K 500,000 by U Hla Tun; K 200,000 by Major Tin Aung (Red) of Dr Daw Cho Lay Mar; K 1 million plus 800 FECs by Myanmar Daewoo Ltd; K 200,000 each by MRH Development Co and Myanmar Atlantics Co; K 100,000 each by U Nyan Soe Moe, U Soe Aung Kyaw, U Tun Aye, Col Aung Win (Red) and staff of U Hla Tun Group; K 50,000 each by Myanmar Carbonix Co and Daw Thandar Khaung, K 40,000 each by staff of the hospice and patients; 300 FECs by Myanmar L-Gafahtinsa Service; and 100 US$ by Mr Philip Dues. The donors were presented with certificates of honour.

Editor U Myint Aung Tun of MNA (External) and Head of Branch (News) U Aung Myint Maung of NPE seen at the airport before departure for China on Sunday.

World Postal Day observed

YANGON, 9 Oct — A ceremony to mark the World Postal Day which falls on 9 October 2005 took place at Telecommunications and Postal Training Centre in Pazundaung Township this afternoon. Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw presented awards to outstanding students in the International Youth Letter Writing Contest (Local Level).

Present at the ceremony were Vice-Chairman U Aung Myint of National Task Force, officials from Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and Ministry of Education, members of the panel of judges, guests and students.

Director-General U Tin Htwe of Directorate of Telecommunications extended greetings.

Staff Officer U Than Tun Aung read out the message sent by the Director-General of Universal Postal Union.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw presented award to Maung Kaung Sithu (Yankin BEHS No 2) who stood first in the 34th U-15 International Youth Letter Writing Contest (Local Level) entitled "A Letter to My Favourite Fairytale Character", Ma Zun Oo Hlaing (Nyaunglebin BEMS) second, and Ma Eint Honey Tun (Bogale BEHS No 1) third.

Director-General U Tin Htwe of Directorate of Telecommunications and Director-General U Bo Win of Department of Education Planning and Training presented consolation prizes and awards to outstanding students.

Officer on Special Duty Col Win Maung and officials presented gifts to members of the panel of judges. Honorary Prof U Than Htut of the Ministry of Education explained matters of scrutinization for the contest.

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Spain offers emergency aid to hurricane-hit Guatemala, El Salvador

MADRID, 9 Oct — Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos said on Friday that Spain will provide humanitarian relief to Guatemala and El Salvador which have been hit hard by Hurricane Stan.

The Foreign Ministry issued a communiqué on Friday, saying Moratinos held on Thursday separate telephone conversations with his Guatemalan and Salvadoran counterparts Jorge Briz and Francisco Lainez, extending them “the solidarity and sympathy” of his government and the people of Spain.

The embassies of Spain in Guatemala and El Salvador did not have reports about any casualties among Spanish citizens, the communiqué added.

According to other reports, Spanish non-governmental organizations (NGO) have started to gather assistance for the victims of Hurricane Stan in Central America. The Red Cross has already sent 28,800 US dollars to be equally distributed in the two countries for purchasing emergency materials.

In Guatemala, the Spanish International Co-operation Agency (AECI) under the Foreign Ministry will acquire through its technical cooperation office in that country necessary materials valued at 50,000 euros (60,000 dollars) to help meet the basic needs of the Stan victims. The AECI also sent about a 100,000-euro (120,000-US-dollar) disbursement to the Salvadoran Red Cross to buy cooking gear, sanitary kits and food for families in need.

Coordinator of “Hands United in Central America” Project Waldo Fernandez told the media that the general situation did not seem to be as critical as in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina or Mitch, but in some cases was even worse as mudslides and floods caused as much as in the aftermath of Hurricane Stan.

“In Guatemala, the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) under the Foreign Ministry will acquire through its technical cooperation office in that country necessary materials valued at 50,000 euros (60,000 dollars),” he said.

Moratinos held on Thursday separate telephone conversations with his Guatemalan and Salvadoran counterparts Jorge Briz and Francisco Lainez, extending them “the solidarity and sympathy” of his government and the people of Spain.

 безотказная работа

Three charged over break-in at Tiffany’s in London

LONDON, 9 Oct — British police charged three men on Friday with trying to ram raid Tiffany’s jewellers in central London in a failed heist which left one suspected thief dead when he was run over by detectives during a high speed chase.

The gang are accused of trying to drive a 4x4 vehicle through one of the windows of the exclusive Sloane Square store on Thursday.

The raid was thwarted as plain-clothes police officers had been lying in wait outside after a tip-off following a series of smash and grab raids in the area. One of the suspected robbers was killed and another left critically ill after they were struck by an unmarked police car when they fell from a moped in an ensuing chase. Three other suspects were later apprehended by detectives. The men, James Nicholson, 19, Anthony Bates, 48, and Nicola Walters, 20, have been charged with aggravated burglary, police said on Friday. — MNA/Reuters

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint attends sales of gems lots at 2005 Mid-Year Myanma Gems Emporium.
(News on page 16) — MNA

Strong earthquake jolts El Salvador

MEXICO CITY, 9 October — An earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter Scale rocked El Salvador on Friday at local time 11:42 am (1742 GMT), according to an official source from the Central American country.

The epicentre of the quake, with a depth of 28 kilometres, was 34 miles (51 kilometres) from the coastal city Barra Salada which is 36-4 miles (55 kilometres) southwest of the capital San Salvador, Director of Territorial Studies National Service Antonio Arenas said.

The quake was felt in San Salvador, with an intensity of four degrees on the modified Mercalli scale.

Volkano, Meteorology, Hydrology Institute said the epicentre was detected in the Pacific Ocean.

MNA/Xinhua

Death toll from “Stan” rises to 353 in Guatemala

MEXICO CITY, 9 Oct — Death toll from Hurricane Stan has reached 353 in Guatemala, the country’s disaster reduction body said late Friday in the capital Guatemala City.

The Guatemalan National Disaster Reduction Coordination said 200 more bodies were found in the mud in a village of San Marcos Province near the border with Mexico, raising the total death toll to 353.

Guatemalan President Oscar Berger has cancelled a trip to Spain for the 14th Ibero-American Summit because of the disaster.

The President said on Friday after inspecting the devastated areas that more than 4,400 houses had been flooded and up to 178,000 people had fallen victim to the hurricane.

Guatemala declared a state of “public disaster” on Wednesday after huge damage caused by Stan, which reached Category One on the 5-category Saffir-Simpson scale. Guatemala is the worst-hit country by Hurricane Stan, which has killed 453 people in southern Mexico and Central America.

MNA/Reuters

Donate

Blood

British police arrest 10 in terrorist probe

LONDON, 9 Oct — British police arrested 10 men in three different parts of the country on Saturday as part of an investigation into suspected international terrorism, a police statement said.

“Three men were arrested in the Croydon area of south London, four in Wolverhampton and three in Derby,” London’s Scotland Yard police service said. It said the investigation was separate from the probe into July’s London bomb attacks.

“At approximately 4 am (0300 GMT) today police executed warrants at three residential addresses, making a total of 10 arrests, all on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism under the Terrorism Act 2000,” police said.

“The arrests were made as the result of an intelligence led investigation involving police and the Security Service (more commonly known as MI5),” the statement said. It did not say what sort of group the police were investigating. Police were still searching the three locations raided, the statement said.

MNA/Reuters
EU says surprised by US stance on Airbus aid

BRUSSELS, 8 Oct—The European Commission has expressed surprise at the US Government’s swift rejection of a move that Europe said could ease a transatlantic dispute over state subsidies for aircraft makers.

Planelainer Airbus on Thursday said it would delay using European-state loans to help fund a new jet liner, the A350. The plane is designed to compete with the 787 Dreamliner of US manufacturer Boeing.

But a spokeswoman for the US Trade Representative’s office in Washington said it would take “no comfort from any offer to postpone the actual payment of the launch aid” and the financing costs of Airbus would be reduced by the commitment of European governments to the project.

In a reply to that statement, issued late on Thursday, a spokesman for European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said the position of Airbus and the Commission was that European government funding of Air- bus would be adapted to comply with any agreement reached on aid between the United States and the EU.

“In these circumstances, and given the continuing subsidies available to Boeing for the launch of the 787, the statement of the USTR is surprising,” spokesman Peter Power said in the statement. “We will make contact in order to find out what exactly lies behind the USTR statement.” Mandelson is due to meet US Trade Representative Rob Portman on Monday in Switzerland for talks, also involving trade officials from around the world, on progress towards a global trade deal at the WTO in December.

Airbus, owned by aerospace group EADS and Britain’s BAE Sys- tems, has applied for a third of the A350’s 4.3-billion-euro (5.2-billion- US-dollar) development budget in government loans, in a move which says accord with 1992 transatlantic agreement on aerospace industry aid.

But Washington says the loans would give it an unfair edge against Boeing which it denies is subsi- dized too.

Both sides made first moves this year in what could become the World Trade Organization’s biggest ever trade dispute.

MNA/Reuters

India always “helpful” towards Iran

NEW DELHI, 8 Oct—Maintaining that India has always taken a “helpful” stand on issues concerning Iran, External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh on Friday said both countries have a responsibility to play a role in ensuring peace and prosperity in the region and in the world.

“It has been India’s endeavour to forge mutually beneficial links with Iran in a manner consistent without national interests,” Singh said after releasing a book titled “Iran Today: Twenty-Five Years after the Islamic Revolution”, edited by veteran diplomat M H Ansari here.

The minister’s remarks came close on the heels of India’s annual “aid” and the financing costs of Airbus would be reduced by the commitment of European govern- ments to the project.

In a reply to that statement, issued late on Thursday, a spokesman for European Trade Commission Peter Mandelson said the position of Air- bus and the Commission was that European government funding of Air- bus would be adapted to comply with any agreement reached on aid between the United States and the EU.

“There is no merit in this,” he said, adding that both countries had import a strategic dimension to their relation- ship covering cooperation against international terrorism.

Both countries, Singh said, have also cooperated in trade and commerce, hydrocarbons, information technology, education and training, science and technology and in development of transit routes.

He traced the roots of Indian-Iranian ties to a millennium, citing linguistic evidence that both the com- munities belonged to one single family before the beginning of the Indo- Aryan civilization.

... and (they) lived together with a common lan- guage for many centuries,” the minister said.

MNA/PTI

Colombian mudslide sweeps away homes, kills 26

BOGOTA (Colombia), 8 Oct—An avalanche of mud and water killed at least 26 people and left 30 unaccounted for when a river broke its banks and washed away mountainside homes near the Colom- bian town of Bello, authorities said on Friday.

Civil defense and Red Cross rescue workers were trying to find survivors and bodies in the mud-choked wreckages of 15 homes, said the mayor’s office in the Antioquia Province.

The dead from the Thursday night mudslide in- cluded an unspecified number of children. At least 20 people were injured. A schoolhouse used as an emer- gency hostel where they gathered with their few remain- ing possessions. —MNA/Reuters

Express giant expands HK investment

HONG KONG, 8 Oct—DHL, the world’s leading express and logistics company, on Thursday an- nounced an additional 110-million-US-dollar in- vestment to expand its express cargo facility at Hong Kong International.

The money will be used to upgrade operational capability and double the size of DHL’s Central Asia Hub to meet the business growth in the region, espe- cially in China, sources with the company said.

It aims at providing the fastest, most reliable and safest service strategically positioned for us to meet the growth in intra-Asia as well as inter-regional trade. It also plays a critical role as a gateway to the Pearl River Delta, which accounts for 40 per cent of China’s ex- ports. The company said that over 70 per cent of DHL’s China-in-out-bound shipments are through the Hub in Hong Kong.

In 2004, the Hub handled over 22 million ship- ments, over 60 per cent of which were intra-Asia ship- ments. In 2005, the Hub will handle more than 30 million shipments.

DHL promised that when the expansion is com- pleted, the Hub will be the first large scale automated express hub in Asia Pacific, and in the process further reduce sorting time and improve sorting quality.

MNA/Xinhua

Ten Ugandan soldiers die in traffic accident

KAMPALA, 8 Oct—About 10 soldiers from the Ugandan Army’s Second Division died and more than 40 others were in- jured on Thursday morn- ning when their vehicle overturned, Radio Uganda reported.

The state radio quoted military sources as saying that the soldiers were leaving the barracks for Inde- pendence Day parade practice at Kakyeka Sta- dium in the southern city of Mbarara when the driver lost control over- turning the truck on the main road. The Army’s Second Division is based in Mbarara. Uganda’s In- dependence Day falls on 9 October. —MNA/Xinhua

Donations

DONATE

BLOOD
The painkillers, known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDS, halved the odds of cardiovascular disease. People who took the drugs died of cardiovascular disease, compared with 7 per cent in the group that did not use NSAIDS. Sudbo said oral cancer prevention studies will which shed light on the risks and benefits of the drugs are planned or under way.

In the United States alone, nearly 30,000 people are diagnosed with cancer of the mouth, lips or part of the throat or back of the mouth, according to the National Cancer Institute. Smoking cigarettes, cigar or pipes and chewing tobacco account for most oral cancers. People who drink alcohol also have a higher risk of the disease then those who don’t.

“Over the next few years, these trails will determine whether NSAIDS can reduce the devastating effect of oral cancer on patients, their families and public health,” he added. — MNA/Reuters

### French bid to cool trade row as “A350” nears launch

PARIS, 8 Oct — Planemaker Airbus looked set on Thursday to win shareholder backing to start building its new A350 as France said controversial European state loans opposed by Washington had been approved in principle but put on hold.

Industry sources said proposals to take the new jet off the drawing board and build it at a cost of 4.3 billion euros (5.18 billion US dollars) were on the agenda for board talks on Thursday at European aerospace group EADS, which owns 80 per cent of Airbus. BAE Systems owns the rest.

The decision is seen as crucial for stormy trade relations between the European and the United States, which have clashed at the World Trade Organization over mutual allegations that Airbus and its arch-rival Boeing are unfairly subsidized.

The A350 is at the centre of the threats to become a record trade dispute since Airbus has applied for 1.3 billion euros in loans for 1.3 billion euros in loans come a record trade dispute of what threatens to be a row. “Over the next few years, these trails will determine whether NSAIDS can reduce the devastating effect of oral cancer on patients, their families and public health,” he added. — MNA/Reuters
**SPORTS**

**Italy qualify with 1-0 win over Slovenia**

PALERMO (Sicily), 9 Oct—Italy qualified for next year’s World Cup finals after substitute Cristian Zaccardo grabbed a 79th minute winner to beat Slovenia 1-0 in Group Five on Saturday.

The result leaves third-placed Slovenia with no chance of making the play-offs via the runners-up slot as they have a worse head-to-head record against Norway who are three points ahead of them with one match remaining. Italy had created a series of chances throughout a combative game but Slovenian keeper Borut Mavric was in inspired form.

The winner brought double delight for the Sicilian crowd as it was two Palermo players who combined — Fabio Grosso crossing from the left and Zaccardo’s diving heading beating Mavric for his first goal for the Azzurri.

Italy striker Luca Toni, who left Palermo for Fiorentina during the close-season, was booted and whistled by the home fans but despite such treatment the tall striker proved a handful for the Slovenian defence all night.

Torres goals give Spain 2-0 win over Belgium

BRUSSELS, 9 Oct—Two goals in two minutes from Fernando Torres kept Spain firmly in the hunt for a place in the 2006 World Cup with a 2-0 victory over Belgium on Saturday. Victory for Spain against San Marino on Wednesday in their final European zone Group Six qualifier will guarantee them at least a home fans but despite such treatment the tall striker proved a handful for the Slovenian defence all night.

His strike partner Alberto Gilardino had the first chance when he raced through on goal but Mavric robbed the Italy striker as he tried to round him. Toni then linked-up with Gilardino in the 18th minute with a smart header down to his partner and then providing a touch on Gilardino’s shot but Mavric again reacted smartly.

There were some crunching tackles and intense battles in midfield but Italy were creating all the opportunities with Francesco Totti going close with a low 20 metre drive after a sharp turn and run.

During the interval a group of Slovenian fans climbed down on to a corrugated roof separating the first and second tiers but police moved in to stop a potentially dangerous situation escalating.

—MNA/Reuters

**Giggs ends Wales drought in 3-2 win over N Ireland**

Belfast, 9 Oct—Wales secured their first competitive win in more than two years with a 3-2 victory over Northern Ireland in their Group Six World Cup qualifying match at Windsor Park on Saturday.

Manchester United winger Ryan Giggs netted the decisive goal with a superb free kick after the home side had fought back from two goals down at the break.

Wales took control with Everton’s Simon Davies scoring from 12 metres in the 27th minute and Sunderland midfielder Carl Robinson doubling the lead with a volley 10 minutes later.

Robinson’s first international goal was neatly set up by Giggs who outran two Northern Ireland players before delivering a left-wing cross that found Robinson eight metres out.—MNA/Reuters

**Mutu winner keeps Romania’s World Cup hopes alive**

HELSENL, 9 Oct—Romania captain Adrian Mutu kept his side’s World Cup qualifying hopes alive with a first-half winner against Finland on Saturday.

The Juventus striker netted with a 41st-minute penalty to give Romania a 1-0 victory in Group One. Mutu sent Jussi Jaaskelainen the wrong way from the spot after the keeper had fouled Ionut Maziu.

Romania, who have completed their programme, leapfrogged the Czech Republic into second place with 7 points from 12 matches.

Romania will finish as runners-up ahead of the Czech Republic if the Czechs gain a point or less from their final two games. The Czechs take on leaders the Netherlands in Prague later on Saturday.—MNA/Reuters

**England beat Austria despite Beckham red card**

MANCHESTER (England), 9 Oct—Ten-man England ground out a precious 1-0 World Cup qualifying win over Austria on Saturday despite a red card for captain David Beckham.

Frank Lampard converted a 25th minute penalty to put England’s Group Six campaign back on track after last month’s humiliating 1-0 defeat by Northern Ireland, but there was controversy on the hour mark.

Beckham, famously red-carded at the 1998 World Cup against Argentina, became the first England player to be sent off twice with a second yellow low at Old Trafford after what looked like a dive by Andreas Bertscher following a booking for elbowing the same Austrian midfielder minutes earlier.

England held on for a victory which means they can top the group by beating leaders Poland in Wednesday’s final qualifier.

Though Beckham’s absence through suspension on Wednesday will be a blow, England will have striker Wayne Rooney back from suspension and can count on Shaun Wright-Phillips as a livewire midfield replacement.

—MNA/Reuters

**Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle**

B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z


**Referee Luis Medina Cantalejo shows England captain David Beckham, left, the red card as he sends him off for a second bookable offence during the Group 6 World Cup Qualifying soccer match against Austria at Old Trafford, Manchester, England, on 8 Oct, 2005.**—INTERNET
Bangladesh floods kill 16, damage crops

DHAKA, 9 Oct — Floods in northern Bangladesh have killed 16 people, damaged crops and infrastructure and marooned more than 1.5 million people over the past four days, government officials said on Saturday.

The victims died crushed in collapsed houses or from drowning or snake bites as rivers burst their banks following torrential rains.

“The torrents washed away some 100,000 mud-walled houses, making at least half a million homeless in the region,” a disaster management official told Reuters.

One-third of the homeless had taken refuge in government shelters or on high ground, he said.

The flooding damaged rice and vegetable crops over at least 200,000 hectares (500,000 acres) and a road network stretching nearly 1,000 kilometres (600 miles), according to preliminary estimates.

One relief official said that rivers flowing into Bangladesh from India were still in spate and the situation might worsen if the rains continued.

But the Bangladesh meteorological department said on Saturday the floods were likely to recede soon.

“The rains will stop in a few days because the monsoon is on the wane,” one official said.

Monsoon floods regularly sweep most parts of Bangladesh, and eastern states of India, killing hundreds of people every year.

**WEATHER**

**Monday, 10 October**

**Tune in today:**

- **8:30 am** Brief news
- **8:35 am** Music: “Love fool...Cardigans Perspectives”
- **8:40 am** Music: “(Bop!)...Babylon”
- **8:45 am** Music: “Let’s dance...Five”
- **9:00 am** National news & Slogan
- **9:10 am** (Dance) “Club 7”
- **1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- **1:40 pm** Lunch time music: “Say goodbye...Madonna”

**Monday, 10 October**

**View on today**

- **4:00 pm** Martial song
- **4:15 pm** Song to uphold National Spirit
- **4:30 pm** Demonstration Exercises for Correct Pronunciation.
- **4:45 pm**
  - 4. (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)
- **5:00 pm**
  - 5. Enhance road
- **5:15 pm**
  - 6. Dance variety
- **5:35 pm**
  - 7. Let’s dance...
- **5:45 pm**
  - 8. Enhance plane, take me my wings
- **5:55 pm**
  - 9. Song and dance of national races

**State of the sea:**

**Sunday, 9 October, 2005**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin and Mon States and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin States and Magway Division and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (1.15) inches, Yamein (1.02) inches, Hinthada (0.90) inches, Tharawady (0.90) inch, Pyapon (0.83) inch, Monywa (0.79) inch and Chauk (0.47) inch.

Maximum temperature on 8-10-2005 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 9-10-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 9-10-2005 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 8-10-2005 was (8.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 9-10-2005 were nil at Mongaladon and Kaba-Aye (0.35 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (95.20) inches at Mongaladon, (96.34) inches at Kaba-Aye and (100.55) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from North-west at (00:30) hours MST on 9-10-2005.

**Bay interference:** According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, a low pressure area has formed in South Andaman Sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal. Weather is fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Special features:** Yesterday’s low pressure area moving west over Thailand at (06:30) hours MST today moved into South Andaman Sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 10-10-2005: Weather is partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Shan and Kayah States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Rain or thundershowers are likely in Lower Myanamar areas.

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

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-10-2005:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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Officials urged to organize locals to participate in regional development drive

Lt-Gen Maung Bo meets departmental officials, social organizations, Tatmadawmen in Myeik

YANGON, 9 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Defence Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence held a meeting with departmental officials and members of social organizations at Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Office in Myeik on 7 October morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and officials.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe reported on cultivation of paddy in the division, allotment of lands to oil palm cultivation companies and growing of oil palms, construction of crude palm oil mills, completion of cultivation of rubber in 2004-05 and pepper in 2005-06, and per capita income.

Officials of Irrigation Department, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Settlement and Land Records Department, Department of Development Affairs, Public Works and others submitted their respective reports.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that Taninthayi Division will achieve progress in the future. Development of a region depends on officials who are assigned duties in the region. It is necessary to organize the local people to take part in all aspects for development of the division. As Taninthayi Division has significant natural resources, efforts are to be made to cooperate with other regions in the economic sector.

At Taing Yan Aung Hall of the command headquarters, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with Tatmadawmen and family members of Myeik Station. It was attended by Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hon Ngai and senior military officers.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo explained matters on organization to ensure the participation of the people in public welfare tasks, realization of the seven-point Road Map and carrying out the agriculture and livestock breeding tasks on a manageable scale. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo left Myeik and arrived back here later in the morning.—MNA

As Taninthayi Division has significant natural resources, efforts are to be made to cooperate with other regions in the economic sector.

Local and foreign gem merchants conduct an observation of jade lots on display at Mid-Year Myanma Gem Emporium for 2005.

MNA

Sales at 2005 Mid-year Gem Emporium continue

YANGON, 9 Oct — Patron of Central Committee for Gem Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Committee Chairman Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein arrived at the 2005 Mid-year Gem Emporium at Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning.

The minister and the deputy minister viewed round the shops at the mart and cordially greeted gem merchants from home and abroad. Afterwards, they inspected the sale of gem lots through the competitive bidding.

A total of 45 gem lots were sold through competitive bidding today.

Altogether 1,961 local and foreign gem merchants viewed round jade lots.

The jade lots will be put on sale on 11 October.

MNA

Untimely Rainfall Warning

YANGON, 9 Oct — Yesterday’s low pressure area over Thailand moving west, at (06:30) hour MST observations today occur into South Andaman Sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal.

Under the influence of the low pressure area, scattered to widespread rain or thundershowers are likely in the Southern part of Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions during the next 48 hours commencing this morning.

MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(9-10-2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Myeik</td>
<td>1.15 inches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yamethin</td>
<td>1.02 inches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hinthada</td>
<td>0.98 inch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thayawady</td>
<td>0.90 inch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pyapon</td>
<td>0.83 inch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monywa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chauk</td>
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MNA