Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 10 Oct—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, President of the Republic of India on the loss of lives and property caused by devastating earthquake in India on 8 October, 2005. —MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to Pakistan

YANGON, 10 Oct—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the loss of lives and property caused by devastating earthquake in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 8 October, 2005. —MNA

Senior General Than Shwe receives Malaysian Foreign Minister

YANGON, 10 Oct—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe received Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar bin Syed Jaafar Albar and party, who are on a goodwill visit to Myanmar, at the Credentials Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road here at 4 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

The guests were accompanied by Chargé d’ Affaires of Malaysian Embassy to Myanmar Mr Rizany Irwan bin Muhammad Mazlan. —MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Further development of national economy through cultivation of suitable crops

Myanmar is a union made up of seven states and seven divisions. As all the states and divisions are blessed with fertile land priority is being given to development of agriculture. Of 14 states and divisions, Taninthayi Division is endowed with natural resources. As emphasis was placed on tapping of natural resources on a commercial scale in the past the division did not achieve self-sufficiency in rice. In the time of the Tatmadaw government, dams and reservoirs were constructed and virgin and fallow lands reclaimed. In consequence, progress has been made in agriculture and the division is now enjoying self-sufficiency in food. Rubber, oil palms and peppers are being grown on a commercial scale in the division in addition to paddy. Pepper is in high demand in western nations as it is widely consumed there. Thus, work is well under way for extended growing of pepper in villages of Taninthayi Division. In Taninthayi Division, land was allotted to rubber growers to ensure extended cultivation of rubber. As rubber is at present in high demand in the world efforts should thus be made to grow rubber both in hilly regions and in the plains.

Palm oil is a major product of Taninthayi Division. Now, concerted efforts are being made to turn the Taninthayi Division into an oil pot of the nation. Plans are under way to grow oil palm in 500,000 acres in the division during the period of five years. With the active participation of private entrepreneurs, the oil palm industry in Myanmar is making considerable progress. Today, the consumption of palm oil is on the increase in the world. Myanmar is still importing palm oil for local consumption. Thus, emphasis is being laid on growing oil palm on a larger scale to meet the local demand as well as to export the surplus.

The oil palm entrepreneurs are to provide appropriate benefits to local people and farmers for achieving greater participation in extended growing of oil palm. In Kawthoung District, the geographical conditions are in favour of oil palm growers and focus should thus be made on extended growing of oil palm. Indeed, oil palm growing is very beneficial to growers as well as to the country. Techniques and experiences are to be gained in growing oil palm in order to boost palm oil production. Therefore, harmonious and concerted efforts are to be made to ensure extended growing of oil palm for further development of national economy, making the most of favourable conditions created by the government.

Foreign Minister sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 10 Oct—His Excellency U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Mian Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India on the loss of lives and property caused by devastating earthquake in India on 8 October 2005.

Foreign Minister sends message of sympathy to Pakistan

YANGON, 10 Oct— His Excellency U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Mian Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, Minister of External Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the loss of lives and property caused by devastating earthquake in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 8 October.

Malaysian goodwill delegation arrives

YANGON, 10 Oct—At the invitation of U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, a Malaysian goodwill delegation led by HE Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar bin Syed Jaafir Albar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, arrived here by air on 9 October. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs and wife, responsible officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Rizany Irwan Bin Muhammad Mazlan, Charge d’Affaires ai and staff members of the Malaysian Embassy in Yangon.

The goodwill delegation led by Malaysian Foreign Minister comprises HE Dato Mohammad Rastam Isa, Deputy Secretary General 1 and other high ranking officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.

H & T Minister calls for tourism industry boom

YANGON, 10 Oct—Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw this morning delivered an address at the meeting with hoteliers and tour operators at Karaweik Palace Hotel here and called for booming of the tourism industry. It was also attended by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kya and departmental officials and officials of Myanmar Hoteliers’ Association and Myanmar Tourism Operators’ Association. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the number of tourists increased from 40,000 in 1992 and over 900,000 in 2004. This year is also witnessing a growing number of tourists compared to last year, he added. He also urged hoteliers and tour operators to abide by the rules and regulations of the ministry and to strive for the booming of the tourism industry.
China sets rules on securitization of loans, money brokers

BEIJING, 9 Oct — China’s banking industry watchdog said on Saturday it had approved in principle two specific regulations on the trial securitization of credit assets and money brokerage.

The China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) also studied measures to strengthen the management of the qualifications of directors and senior managerial personnel banks and financial institutions at its 38th presidents’ meeting.

The new regulations set clear requirements for market regulation, including market access, business rules, risk management and capital supervision and control.

MNA/Xinhua

Tropical Storm “Vince” forms near Portugal

MAISAM, 10 Oct — The 20th named tropical storm of an uncommonly active Atlantic hurricane season formed on Sunday in an unusual location, near Portugal’s Madeira Islands.

Tropical Storm Vince was about 140 miles north-west of the Madeira Islands at 11 am EDT (1500 GMT) with winds of 50 miles per hour, and was moving toward the northeast at 5 miles per hour, the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami said.

Its forecast track would take the storm toward Portugal but it was not expected to strengthen into a hurricane.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia police disseminate pictures of bombing masterminds

JAKARTA, 9 Oct — Police on Saturday disseminated 5,000 photos of Dr Azahari Husin and Noordin M Top, Malaysian nationals suspected to have masterminded the 1 October terror bombings in Bali, in 34 densely populated areas in Central Java, Indonesia.

The pictures were dropped from a helicopter by order of Central Java Police Chief Inspector General Caherul Rasjid, Central Java police spokesman Commissioner Agus Mulyono was quoted by official news agency Antara as saying.

The areas over which the photos were dropped were the districts of Wonogiri, Sragen, Karanganyar, Sukoharjo, Klaten, Boyolali and Solo, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Sino-German programme on palaeontology, geosciences launched

CHANGCHEN, 9 Oct — Sino-German Joint Group of Palaeontology and Geosciences was founded officially on Saturday in Jilin University in northeast China.

This establishment of the joint group was approved by the Sino-German Centre for Research Promotion, which consists of 13 research institutions in China and Germany including Jilin University and Germany’s University of Tubingen.

The group will help Chinese and Germany scientists carry out regular academic exchanges and international cooperation in palaeontology and geosciences. It will also provide laboratory facilities and trainings, and release the latest research results on palaeontology and geosciences.

The Sino-German Centre for Research Promotion was founded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and German Research Foundation, with each covering half of the centre’s budget. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi police killed in bombing, attacks

BAGHDAD, 10 Oct — At least five Iraqi police officers have been killed and 20 others wounded after the bombing of a police checkpoint in Baghdad.

Aljazeera has learned that the blast in the capital’s al-Ghazaliya district on Sunday was so powerful that it destroyed three vehicles and killed the bomber. A US military vehicle was also destroyed when an army patrol was ambushed in the al-Amini district north of Baghdad, according to Iraqi police.

Aljazeera also reports sporadic attacks around the country, killing at least eight Iraqi police officers, contractors and civilians to the west of Baghdad and in Mosul, Baqi and Ramadi.

MNA/Reuters

Russian Army stage war game in Baltic enclave

MOSCOW, 9 Oct — The Russian Baltic Fleet on Friday began a large-scale anti-terror exercise Friday in the Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad.

During the manoeuvre, code named “Baltika 2005”, forces of the Baltic Fleet and other troops will drill skills to combat terror acts and protect Russian interests, according to the Interfax news agency.

“We’ll work through military issues regarding efficient interaction of various troops and weapons to defend Russia’s sovereignty and integrity in this region,” Yuri Baluyevsky, Chief of Staff of the Russian Army, told reporters.

These issues are extremely important for the westernmost Russian Region due to its special geographical location,” Baluyevsky stressed.

MNA/Xinhua

New Orleans police vow crackdown as crime picks up

NEW ORLEANS, 10 Oct — With many New Orleans residents returning to clean up after Hurricane Katrina, the police department said on Sunday burglary rates of abandoned homes and businesses have picked up.

A newly formed “looting” squad of about 100 officers will start patrolling throughout the city on Monday, in addition to normal patrols, said New Orleans Police Department spokesman Captain Marlon Defillo.

“We’ve stepped it up a notch,” Defillo said. “As we continue to repopulate the city we are making more arrests.”

The department was widely criticized for failing to control lawlessness after Katrina struck on 29 August. Twelve police officers are being investigated for their possible involvement in looting.

About 400 people have been arrested in New Orleans since the police department set up a make-shift jail at the city’s Amtrak station in the days after Katrina flooded the city.

New Orleans police department spokesman Captain Marlon Defillo.

MNA/Reuters

An Iraqi father trying to take his ill child to a hospital in a nearby city talks to US Marines and an Iraqi Army commander on 8 October, 2005, in Haditha, Iraq. — INTERNET
UN emergency team heads for Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Oct — A UN emergency team is now en route to Pakistan to assist in the response to the major earthquake that struck the country, a UN spokesman announced on Saturday.

In a statement issued by the spokesman, Jan Egeland, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, said “we know that every hour counts in an earthquake of this magnitude and the United Nations is ready to assist the country affected in any possible manner.”

The eight-member UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team will assist with ongoing assessment and coordination work, in response to a request made by the Government of Pakistan, the statement said, adding that the team will arrive in Islamabad on Sunday morning.

In Islamabad, the UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) met with most of the international and national non-governmental organizations working in the field of humanitarian assistance, and constituted three UN inter-agency rapid assessment teams, the statement said.

Bulgaria to pull out of Iraq after December polls

SOFIA, 9 Oct — Bulgaria will keep its troops in Iraq to help safeguard December parliamentary elections but will start withdrawing by the year-end as planned, its Defence Minister said on Friday.

Bulgaria’s new Socialist-led government, which took office in August, has stepped back from an original plan to pull out as early as possible rather than at the end of the year as planned. It said it would heed Parliament’s call to pull out of the unpopular war this year. “Parliament’s decision was to fulfil our obligations until 31 December, 2005. We cannot pull out before that,” Defence Minister Veselin Bliznakov told journalists.

“We will have to fulfil our duties at least until 15 December when there will be elections and start withdrawing after that. In this way, we will comply with Parliament’s decision,” Bulgarian military officials have said it may take several months to complete the pull out.

Bliznakov said he expected the government to decide within 10 days how to further participate in the US-led military operation, although it would not commit more combat troops. “There is no way that we can participate with similar military troops, but we are discussing possible participation in guarding or training missions,” he said. Inducted into NATO last year with support from Washington, Bulgaria is a staunch supporter of US-led operations in Iraq and has lost 13 soldiers and six civilians in the ongoing violence there. Some two-thirds of Bulgaria’s 7.8 million people disagree with the war. — MNA/Reuters

Jakarta police tighten security for foreign tourists

JAKARTA, 9 Oct — Jakarta police have deployed more police personnel, detectives and intelligence officers in residential areas where foreigners live across the city in the wake of the second Bali bombing on 1 October.

Jakarta Police Chief Inspector, General Firman Gani said on Friday that based on their analysis, terrorist groups would always target foreign interests, including foreign embassies, and places frequented by foreigners.

Firman said that he declared the city on full alert since Saturday and had readied two-thirds of its 26,000 police officers to secure the capital against a possible terrorist attack.

“We have increased our surveillance in residential areas where many foreigners live by doubling our intelligence personnel and detectives. We have conducted random checks on cars, houses and buildings in those areas,” he was quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying.

Firman said that the police would continue to be on full alert.

Three suicide bomb attacks destroyed two cafes and a restaurant in Bali resort island last Saturday, killing at least 26 people and injuring 124 others. Jakarta police announced afterwards that they had increased security measures around the capital.

The National Police declared Indonesia on full alert last on Sunday. — MNA/Xinhua

Suspected mastermind was in Bali before blasts

JAKARTA, 9 Oct — One of the most wanted men in Asia and a prime suspect in the suicide bombings on Bali was in the Indonesian resort island shortly before last weekend’s deadly blasts, a police official said on Friday.

Police narrowly missed catching Malaysian Noordin M Top during a pre-dawn raid on Friday in the central Java Village of Purwanton, Abdul Madjid, police chief in the city of Solo, told Reuters. Police and an anti-terrorist force arrived too late around 3 am in Purwanton, about a two-hour drive from Solo, Majid said. “He (Top) stayed there on 26 September, and had been to Bali and returned back.” — MNA/Reuters

Iraq rebuilding slows as US money for projects dries up

NASIRIYAH, 9 Oct — On paper, the Iraqi Army barracks was a gleaming example of the future Iraq. The plans called for a two-story, air-conditioned barracks housing 850 soldiers, a movie theatre, classrooms, basketball courts, a shooting range, even an officer’s club.

Laborers work on a massive water treatment plan near Nasiriyah, Iraq. Its cost has jumped from $80 million to $200 million. But when the $10 million project in southern Iraq is finished this month, it will fall far short of those ambitious plans. The theatre, classrooms, officer’s club, basketball courts and shooting range have all been scraped. The barracks will be one story instead of two.

The reason for scaling back the barracks? The US government is running out of money. The higher than expected cost of protecting workers against guerrilla attacks — about 25 cents of every reconstruction dollar now pays for security — has sent the cost of projects skyrocket. The result: Some projects have been eliminated and others cut back.

“American money has dried up,” says Brent Rose, chief of programme/project management for the Army Corps of Engineers in southern Iraq. And tracking the billions of dollars that flooded into a war zone in the wake of the US-led invasion has proved difficult, too. Nearly $100 million in reconstruction money is unaccounted for.

The ultimate price of a slowdown in Iraq’s reconstruction could be steep. US strategy here is based on the premise that jobs and prosperity will sap the strength of the insurgency and are as important as military successes in defeating terrorists. — Internet
China to close some paper plants as effort to protect environment

BEIJING, 10 Oct—China is expected to shut down a batch of paper plants in the coming future in a bid to reduce pollution and protect environment, according to an official with the country’s environmental watchdog.

“There still exist some outstanding problems on pollution caused by paper plants despite some initial progress we’ve made after years of endeavours to that end,” Li Xinnin, deputy head of the department of pollution control under the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) of China, said here on Saturday.

Speaking at a forum on the environment protection in the country’s paper making industry, Li said China is determined to close a batch of major polluting paper plants, especially those small paper plants which are backward both in technology and operation and fail to process waste water. Some will be merged or moved out of cities. But he did not give the exact number.

China had more than 3,500 paper making enterprises in 2004, which yielded more than 49.5 million tons of paper products, covering ten per cent of the world’s total.

However, the volume of annual discharged waste water is estimated at 318,000 tons, 16.1 per cent of the country’s total.

In 2004, the waste water discharged by China’s paper making industry was the second largest after the chemical industry.

SEPA predicts China’s market demand of paper products in 2010 will reach up to 70 to 80 million tons.

The small scale of paper plants with high consumption of energy is the major cause of the serious pollution in the paper making industry, Li said. He said strict law enforcement is indispensable for the sustainable development of the country’s paper industry.

China’s floods force nearly 300,000 to flee homes

BEIJING, 10 Oct—Floods have forced around 286,000 people to flee their homes in northwestern China, where steady rainfall since late September has strained the banks of the Hanjiang and Weihe rivers, the China Daily reported on Friday.

The rising water levels along tributaries to China’s two top rivers, the Yangtze and the Yellow River, affected over three million people in Shaanxi Province and flooding on the Weihe River is said to be the most severe since 1981, the paper reported.

Late-August floods in the same area killed six.

Summer flooding is common in China and claims thousands of lives each year, although officials say the season is now drawing to an end. The problem is compounded by deforestation as rains trigger rock slides and mud flows off bare mountainsides.

Xinhua news agency said in late August that summer floods had killed at least 1,024 people, left 293 missing and caused almost 103 billion yuan (12.7 billion US dollars) in direct losses.—MNA/Xinhua

Quake’s death toll in Afghanistan rises to two

KABUL, 10 Oct—Contrary to expectation the major tremor that jolted parts of Asia claimed two lives in the war-ravaged Afghanistan, officials said on Sunday.

“Latest reports received from across the country said only two persons including a child girl died in the quake when walls collapsed on them in eastern Nangarhar province bordering Pakistan,” Interior Ministry spokesman Yusuf Stanikzai told Xinhua.

MNA/Xinhua

Rescuers pull survivors, dead from Pakistani flats

ISLAMABAD, 10 Oct — Rescuers worked through the night in the ruins of an apartment complex in the Pakistani capital after a major earthquake brought two blocks of flats crashing down on scores of residents.

Twenty-three bodies had been found by Sunday morning but about 90 people were pulled alive from the Margala Towers blocks where expatriate workers and middle-class Pakistanis lived.

One woman was rescued overnight but her hand had to be amputated to pull her free while a Pakistani man survivor had his leg amputated, a military official involved in the rescue effort said.

He said about 50 people might still be in the ruins. Three badly mutilated bodies were recovered on Sunday morning as rescue workers tried to tunnel into a huge mound of collapsed, huge chunks of rubble off the official said.

Bosnians and two Sudanese were also injured, the official said.

Heavy diggers tugged huge chunks of rubble off a mound of collapsed, compacted apartment floors. Officials said the two blocks that collapsed had contained 75 apartments.

MNA/Reuters

Fire destroys part of world’s longest pleasure pier

LONDON, 10 Oct — Fire has destroyed part of the world’s longest pleasure pier, at Southend-on-Sea in Essex, eastern England.

The blaze broke out late on Sunday in the main entertainment area at the end of the 1.34-mile (2.2 km)-long structure. Fire crews fought the flames for 12 hours, but the blaze, the cause of which is still unknown, was the fourth to hit the pier in 50 years.

Southend Pier was opened in 1889 and extended over the following years, reaching its current length in 1929.

A vehicle belonging to British nationals is seen after a suicide attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on 9 Oct, 2005.—INTERNET

Police says Bali bombing perpetrators “new players”

JAKARTA, 9 Oct — The perpetrators of the second terror bomb blasts in Jumbaran and Kuta, Bali on 1 October, 2005, were “new players,” an Indonesian police source has said.

“They are new in the sense that they were some of the latest recruits of an international terrorist network which has been active especially in Southeast Asia,” a reliable police source in Bali was quoted Sunday by official news agency Antara as saying.

The information was linked to new intelligence findings that at least 10 graduates of terrorist schools in Mindanao, the Philippines, had been sent to other parts of the region including Indonesia, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

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The information was linked to new intelligence findings that at least 10 graduates of terrorist schools in Mindanao, the Philippines, had been sent to other parts of the region including Indonesia, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Police officers subdue a man on Conti Street near Bourbon Street in the French Quarter of New Orleans on Saturday night. At least one police officer repeatedly punched the 64-year-old Robert Davis, accused of public intoxication, and another officer assaulted an Associated Press Television News producer as a cameraman taped the confrontations. —INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua
Pakistan sets aside over $800m for quake victims

Islamabad, 10 Oct— The Pakistani Government has decided to set aside five billion rupees (about 833 million US dollars) to help the country's quake victims, according to local Press reports Sunday.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz Sunday presided over a special emergency Cabinet meeting in Islamabad to discuss the situation after the 7.6 magnitude earthquake on Saturday.

The Cabinet also decided to donate one month's salary of the ministers to the relief fund.

Cabinet members proposed several measures to meet the situation including imposition of emergency in the country but the Prime Minister declined the proposal.

The government announced a three-day mourning following the massive death and destruction caused by the earthquake.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz taking notice of massive destruction in northern areas of the country directed the relief agencies and workers to focus on these areas. He also directed for restoration of road access to the northern areas.

The Cabinet also decided to meet daily during the crisis situation. — MNA/Xinhua

Beijing spends $1.2bn yuan in 4 years to secure clean water supply

Beijing, 10 Oct— Beijing, China's national capital, spent $1.21 billion yuan (1.49 billion US dollars) over the past four years from 2000 to 2004 to curb water pollution, according to Sunday's Beijing Daily.

The municipal government built 94.2 kilometres of fencing to encircle the city's three major drinking water reservoirs, Miyun, Huairou and Beijing-Miyun aqueduct, according to the newspaper.

Nearly 15,000 local residents have been relocated and more than 2,000 hectares of woodland have been created to help preserve water.

In order to ensure the limpid groundwater in downtown areas, the city government has shut down, merged and rebuilt nearly 100 gas stations, and set up 100 kilometres of liquid sewage pipelines.

The Beijing Municipal Statistics Bureau said two months ago that average per-capita water consumption in Beijing area dropped by 14.6 per cent to 15.8 tons in the first seven months of 2005, thanks to the heightened awareness of the importance of water-saving.

MNA/Xinhua

Rocket attack in S-E Afghanistan leaves one dead

KABUL, 10 Oct — One person was killed and five others were wounded as a rocket hit Pakistan's provincial capital Gerdiz Sunday afternoon, an official said.

"The rocket fired from south direction at around 3 o'clock claimed the life of a police from highway department and wounded five civilians," senior police official in Gerdiz city Haigul Sulaimankhil told Xinhua.

Blaming anti-government militia for the attack, the official added "The rebels loyal to Taleban and former prime minister Gulbadin Hekmatyar were behind the heinous crime".

Remnants of the former fundamentalist regime, who failed to defeat the September 18 polls, have intensified their hit-and-run offensives over the past couple of weeks.

Over 12,000 people with a majority of whom, according to officials, militants and some 80 US soldiers have been killed since the beginning of this year. — MNA/Xinhua

World leaders act to aid Asian quake nations

London, 10 Oct — US President George W Bush and other world leaders sent or offered rescue teams and aid to Pakistan, India and Afghanistan on Sunday after a huge quake battered the three countries, killing more than 19,000 people.

The United States, which had to mount major domestic relief efforts in the past few weeks when hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck, said it would provide 100,000 US dollars in emergency aid funding to Pakistan and was also offering US military helicopters.

Britain, Japan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates were among other countries dispatching immediate help.

The United Nations said it was in contact with Pakistan, India and Afghanistan to help after Saturday's 7.6 magnitude earthquake, South Asia's strongest for 100 years.

The Swiss Government put an aircraft on standby to fly a UN disaster and coordination team to Pakistan, the worst hit of the three countries.

The UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) said it had begun moving blankets, clothing, tents, emergency medical supplies, food for infants and water purification tablets from a Karachi warehouse to quake-affected areas.

Prime Minister Mamnoon Singh phoned Musharraf to offer assistance with relief and rescue work, as the quake produced a further easing of tensions between the two once arch-rival nuclear armed countries.

An Indian Foreign Ministry official said Musharraf thanked Singh and would get back to him if Pakistan needed any help.

Both countries would stay in regular contact, said the official. British officials said Britain was sending search and rescue experts, sniffer dogs and aid workers to Pakistan.

A first search and rescue team left London's Heathrow Airport on Saturday.

Japan, experienced in dealing with quakes because of its location in a vulnerable region, said it was sending aid and medical workers to Pakistan after a request from the Pakistani government.

The Foreign Ministry in Tokyo said in a statement the first group of about 50 workers would leave Japan on Sunday. — MNA/Reuters

World community rushes aid relief to quake-hit South Asia

Hong Kong, 10 Oct — While Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf Sunday called for international assistance in the aftermath of a major earthquake, countries across the world rushed aid and relief to the earthquake victims in three South Asian countries.

"We do seek international assistance, we have enough manpower but we need financial support so that we may utilize in a required way to cope with the tragedy," Musharraf said.

He also said that there is a need for large supplies of medicines, tents and cargo helicopters to reach out to the people in far-flung and cut-off areas.

On Sunday, a Chinese rescue team was sent to quake-devastated Pakistan with search dogs and 17 tons of equipment.

The 49-member team also includes rescue personnel, medical staff and seismological experts.

Australia said on Sunday that Australia has provided 500,000 Australian dollars (380,000 US dollars) in immediate medical and relief assistance to the earthquake-hit South Asian countries. The money will be channelled through the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Australian Parliamentary Security for Foreign Affairs Bruce Billson said in a statement on Sunday.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry said that Tokyo had sent a 50-strong emergency relief team to the Islamic republic. The team, formed by disaster rescue experts from fire-fighting, police and Coast Guard organizations, included police, disaster management and Coast Guard specialists. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnamese performers take part in a dragon dance competition during a cultural festival in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 9 Oct, 2005. The festival was part of the 995th anniversary of the founding of Hanoi, formerly called Thang Long which means Flying Dragon. — Internet

A scale model of the Japanese designed supersonic airliner, Japan successfully tested a revolutionary design for a supersonic airliner to replace the Concorde three years after the first attempt ended in a fiery crash in the Australian desert. — Internet

Body of Chinese engineer brought to Islamabad

Islamabad, 10 Oct — The corpse of a Chinese engineer, who was killed by the devastating earthquake Saturday, was brought Sunday afternoon to the Pakistani capital of Islamabad by a Pakistani Army helicopter.

Huang Bingjun, 39, was a bug for Pakistanis when the earthquake hit. They were working at a China-sponsored power project in northern Pakistan when falling stones ran into the group, hitting Huang and three of the Pakistanis.

Huang succumbed to his fatal injuries Saturday evening and the Pakistanis survived. The only Pakistan, who was unharmed in the accident, reported the case to the project headquarters. — MNA/Xinhua
Myanmar’s successful drugs-elimination drive

Kyi Thein Oo

The US president on 15 September 2005 issued a report that one-sidedly criticized the efforts Myanmar had been making to eradicate narcotic drugs. The US government annual report (2006) on narcotic drugs states a list of 20 countries that are alleged to be illegally producing and trafficking narcotic drugs most in the world. Myanmar is one of the 20 nations together with Afghanistan, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela.

The report says Myanmar remains as the second largest poppy producer in the world and is still in the list of the countries that produce stimulant tablets most. In addition, it says Myanmar failed to stop Union of Wa State Army from producing narcotic drugs. The nation has banned the import, trade and use of 25 kinds of precursor chemicals in the nation, but the amount of seizures is not encouraging yet, it says.

The Government has paid a serious attention to the drive for elimination of narcotic drugs as a national duty. It has formed drug abuse control committees at central, state/division, district, township, village and ward levels.

Myanmar is a signatory to UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971), UN Convention Against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988).

It enacted the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law on 1 January 1993 with a view to effectively implementing the 1974 Narcotic Drugs Law prescribed in line with the provisions of the 1988 Narcotic Drugs Convention. It also enacted the law on control of black money and property on 1 June 2002.

Under this law, the Government takes punitive action against those involved in drug-related cases, and confiscates cash and assets gained from dealing narcotic drugs, in order to root out the dangers of narcotics in the nation.

The first five-year phase of the 15-year Drug Elimination Plan was over in 2003-2004. According to the World Drug Report issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Myanmar’s poppy output in 2004 declined by 73 per cent if compared with that in 1998. Similarly, the US Government Drug Strategy Report (2005) showed that Myanmar’s poppy production in 2004 was 34 per cent less than that of 2003, and poppy production fell to 294 metric tons in 2004 from 2,560 metric tons in 1996, accounting for 88 per cent. That indicated significant success in implementing the first five-year phase of the 15-year Plan.

Now, the first year of the second five-year phase is on the course to hit the targets. All available measures are being taken holding talks on narcotic drugs to poppy growers, and having them grow poppy-substitute crops. Furthermore, the government is expanding the scope of the seizure of the poppy, resulting in year-after-year increase in seized poppy showing 1,473.03 kilos in 1999, 1,528.39 kilos in 2000, 1,629.07 kilos in 2001, 1,683.27 kilos in 2002, 1,481.7 kilos in 2003 and 666.89 kilos in 2004. It attests to a salient point that poppy cultivation is on the decrease but the seizure of poppy is on the increase. Likewise, the seizures of poppy in the period from January to August 2005 showed 615.6 kilos, more than that in the previous year.

That represents considerable success Myanmar has achieved in combating drugs menace, reducing drug production, and eliminating drug abuse.

The government seized 245.35 kilos of heroin in 1999, 158.9 kilos in 2000, 96.7 kilos in 2001, 333.8 kilos in 2002, 568.08 kilos in 2003, and 973.5 kilos in 2004. Myanmar has seen less production of heroin but greater amount of seizures of heroin. In the two four-month periods of 2005, the seizure of heroin was 258.1 kilos in total, indicating speedy implementation of the drug elimination drive.

Precursor chemicals are essential for refining raw opium. Up to now, Myanmar has not been in the reach of producing precursor chemicals, which are only available in industrialized countries. So, drug producers smuggled such materials into the nation. Precursor chemicals are also used in producing methamphetamine, and are smuggled in one of the three neighboring countries. So, in the drive for elimination of narcotics in the nation, control of smuggling of precursor chemicals is as important as reduction of poppy production.


The seizures of stimulant tablets that can be produced with precursor chemicals amounted to 28.89 million tablets in 1999, 26.76 million in 2000, 32.43 million in 2001, 9.4 million in 2002, 4 million in 2003, 8.3 million in 2004, and 1.3 million in first four-month periods of 2005. The amount of stimulant tablets, Ephedrine and liquid chemicals seized in the period from 1999 to August 2005 has depicted the effectiveness in the drive for control of precursor chemicals needed to produce stimulant tablets.

Myanmar is cooperating with anti-narcotics organizations from respective nations to prevent against smuggling precursor chemicals in the nation through border lines. It is speeding up drugs elimination campaigns by exchanging information and cooperation with the nations concerned.

In a bid to ward off the menace of narcotic drugs, Myanmar is taking measures in collaboration with ASEAN members and neighbours, but not alone. With the participation of the UNODC, Myanmar has signed the Convention on control of precursor chemicals of the People’s Republic of China, Cambodia, Laos PDR, Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam so as to effectively implement the drugs control tactics at intentional, regional, and sub-regional levels in line with the resolutions passed by the special meetings on control of drugs of UN General Assembly. Since 1997, it has attended the ASEAN senior officials meeting on narcotics control annually. The ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs: ACCORD has been put into action since October 2000.


The cooperation with international community has yielded fruitful results. Thanks to the cooperation of the ONCB of Thailand and the DEA based in Vietnam, that were in the major part, was arrested together with 592.5 kilos of heroin and 240 stimulant tablets to be smuggled out of the country to a foreign country, alongside a 9mm pistol and rounds of ammunition in Ye Township, Mon State, and Chinese narcois control organization extradited three major culprits to Myanmar. Besides, under the information exchange programme between Myanmar and China, 102.5 kilos of ICE was seized in Myawgon in May 2005. The information given by the Myanmar-based DEA, 4.5 kilos of heroine hidden in three transformers was handed over from China (Taupi) at the Traders Hotel in Yangon was seized.

With the intention of driving a wedge among the nations striving in concert for narcotics elimination, the US annual report also says that China and Vietnam, that were in the major part, was arrested this year; and that those two nations do not involve in illegally transporting and producing narcotic drugs that harm the US. Stimulant tablets cannot be produced without precursor chemicals that are not produced in Myanmar. So, drug traffickers smuggled that sorts of materials into the nation from foreign nations through various routes and ways. So, Myanmar is combating smuggling of precursor chemicals into the nation in concert with respective nations through MoUs. On 1 July 2004, the Ministry of Home Affairs prescribed the Rules relating to the Supervision of Controlled Precursor Chemicals, under which drug abuse and control committees at central, state and division, and district levels are taking action against those smuggling and transporting precursor chemicals.

Myanmar is putting into action the 15-Year Drugs Elimination Plan phase-wise yearly, mobilizing the strength of the entire people as a national duty. At the same time, it is joining hands constantly with neighbours, ASEAN members and friendly nations to achieve the goal. Even though Myanmar’s efforts to eradicate narcotic drugs are coming under unreasonable comments and criticism, it will continue to implement the goal until it is achieved.
MYANMAR’S SUCCESSFUL
DRUGS-ELIMINATION …

YANGON — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attended the high-ranking officials’ meeting on energy and energy ministers of BIMSTEC member countries held in New Delhi, India, on 3 and 4 October. The meetings were attended by high-ranking officials and energy ministers of BIMSTEC member countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and they discussed matters related to energy cooperation. At the first session of the meeting, Myanmar read out the paper on energy cooperation between the member countries and participated in discussions with the member countries concerning the draft of the Declaration of First BIMSTEC Ministers’ Conference and Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation in BIMSTEC. At the energy ministers’ meeting of BIMSTEC member countries held on 4 October, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi said Myanmar became a member of BIMSTEC from its inception in 1997. As a leading member, Myanmar has made more active cooperation in energy sector. Holding the meetings on energy will contribute to further collaboration between the member countries and resolutions of future work programmes. Next, the ministers of other member countries made speeches and agreement was reached between the countries on energy cooperation.

The Myanmar delegation led by Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi arrived back here by air. They were welcomed by General Aung Min, Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, deputy ministers, officials of the Krung Thai Tractor Co Ltd, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhiraakaosal and guests.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi attends First BIMSTEC Energy Ministers’ Conference.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 10-10-2005

MINISTER BRIG-GEN LUN THI ATTENDS FIRST BIMSTEC ENERGY MINISTERS’ CONFERENCE.
USDA Secretary-General receives British Ambassador and Head of Myanmar Division

YANGON, 10 Oct — Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo received British Ambassador Ms Victoria Jane Bowman and Head of Myanmar Division of Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Britain Mr Michael Ryder at his office in Bahan Township this morning.

Present at the meeting were Joint Secretary-General U Zaw Min and secretaries of Kachin, Kaya, and Shan (North) States.

They discussed the purpose and tasks of USDA, fundamental rules, social organizations, tasks being carried out, the plans to develop the rural areas and to light urban areas with electricity.

Next, the queries of Mr Michael Ryder were answered. MNA

Participants to 13th Performing Art Competitions arrive

YANGON, 10 Oct — The 13th Competitions of Myanmar Cultural Performing Art will be held from 13 to 31 October 2005. Led by Maj Soe Win, a total of 174 participants (men; 139 and women; 35) from Sagaing Division arrived here at 9 am. They were welcomed by Police Col Thein Tin and officials. MNA

Participants of Sagaing Division seen on their arrival at Yangon Railway Station to take part in the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA

Kittara youths’ social welfare association in Pyay donates cash

YANGON, 10 Oct — The second ceremony to donate cash by Kittara youths’ social welfare association in Pyay, Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min and members, local authorities, members of social organizations, wellwishers and guests were present. Patron U Than Tun Oo of the association made a speech and Joint-Secretary U Myo Min read out the report of the association. Chairman U Kyi Aung explained the purpose of the donations of cash and buildings.

Next, the patron presented certificates of honour to blood donors. Then followed the cash donation ceremony. Chairman Brig-Gen Hla Min and officials accepted K 14,540,000 donated by wellwishers.

Later, Chairman of the association expressed thanks for the donations and the ceremony ended.—MNA

Jade lots to be sold through tender system

YANGON, 10 Oct — A total of 2,010 gems merchants — 1215 from abroad and 327 from local companies — gather here to purchase gems and jade lots at Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium here.

They visited the Myanma Gems Emporium and inspected the jade lots today.

Altogether 2,154 jade lots including a jade lot which weighs 399 kilos will be sold from 11 to 14 October through tender and competitive bidding systems.—MNA

A jade lot (No 1718) weighing 399 kilos mined in Phakant at 2005 Mid-Year Myanma Gems Emporium. — MNA

Local and foreign merchants putting proposals into tender boxes to purchase jade lots at Mid-Year Myanma Gems Emporium. — MNA

Local and foreign merchants observe pieces of jade at Mid-Year Myanma Gems Emporium. — MNA
Buddha images of Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda conveyed to Yadanaabon Monastery for public obeisance

YANGON, 10 Oct — A ceremony to convey the Buddha images of Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda to be kept in Yadanaabon Monastery in Nyaungshwe for public obeisance and Inlay traditional boat race were held at the pandal of Phaungdaw Jetty in Nyaungshwe, Shan State (South) yesterday morning. Present on the occasion were Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife, senior military officers of the command, departmental officials, guests and local populace.

When the boats carrying the Buddha images arrived at Phaungdaw Jetty, the commander, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint, Shan State PDC Secretary Lt-Col Ye Tun Sein and Head of Shan State General Administration Department U Sein Thin and officials conveyed the Buddha images to a vehicle.

Next, the commander and party watched the Inlay traditional boat race and presented prizes to winners. After that, the commander paid homage to the Buddha images when they arrived at the monastery to be kept for public obeisance. Nyaungshwe Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Agga Maha Pandita Bhuddanta Mahinda and five members of Sangha offered flowers, water, ‘soon’ and Shwe Thingan to the Buddha images.

Later, the commander and party offered flowers, water, ‘soon’ and Shwe Thingan to the Buddha images and offered alms to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

Information Minister inspects GTC Press in Insein Township

YANGON, 10 Oct — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein and officials, this afternoon after attending the 33rd UNESCO General Conference held in Paris, France.

On arrival at the sub-press, the minister and party were welcomed by Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise Col Aung Nyunt, ad

Education Minister returns back from France

YANGON, 10 Oct — A Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of Myanmar UNESCO National Commission Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyunt arrived back here by air this afternoon after attending the 33rd UNESCO General Conference held in Paris, France.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Information Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Ministers for Education U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, heads of department and officials.

Minister Dr Chan Nyunt attended the conference from 5 to 8 October and addressed the meeting on education tasks being implemented by the government.

During his stay in France, the minister also attended a round table discussion on Education for All held on 7 and 8 October.

Basic Cricket Coaching Course concludes

YANGON, 10 Oct — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint yesterday attended a closing ceremony of the Basic Cricket Coaching Course and presented the concluding certificates to the trainees. At the ceremony held at the Goal Project at Thuwunna, Representative of Asia Cricket Council Mr Roger Michael Binny presented sports gear to President of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Nyunt Win.

The coaching course was conducted by Asia Cricket Council and Myanmar Cricket Federation.

PBANRDA Minister meets Bangladesh Ambassador

YANGON, 10 Oct — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt today received Mr Mohammed Khaizuzzaman, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to the Union of Myanmar, at his office here this morning.

Also present at the call were PBANRDA Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Than Tun and Col Tin Ngwe, Director General U Than Win of Education and Training Department, Deputy Director General of the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department U Win Aung and officials.

PBANRDA Minister Col Thein Nyunt meets Bangladeshi Ambassador

Mr Mohammed Khaizuzzaman. — MNA

To attend a course on Networking to be opened in India, U Kyaw Lwin Oo, research officer of News and Periodicals Enterprise, U Htay Lwin of Printing and Publishing Enterprise and Daw Thida Swe of Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for India. — MNA

Industry-2 Minister receives Bangladeshi Ambassador

YANGON, 10 Oct — Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mohammad Khaizuzzaman this afternoon called on Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin at the latter’s office here.

Also present were officials of the Ministry of Industry-2.

Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects GTC press in Insein Township. — MNA

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Information Minister inspects GTC Press in Insein Township

YANGON, 10 Oct — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein and officials, this afternoon inspected functions of GTC Press in Insein Township and the sub-press in Dagon Township under Printing and Publishing Enterprise and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at the sub-press, the minister and party were welcomed by Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise Col Aung Nyunt, adviser Daw Mya Mya and officials.

Deputy General Manager U Kyaw Thu reported on machines of the sub-press to the minister who gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister and party proceeded to GTC Press where they were welcomed by Factory Manager U Kyaw Kyaw and officials concerned.

The minister inspected computer graphic design room, photolitho room, flapp room, binding and functions of the press and gave instructions on timely completion of printing school text books, meeting the set standard and ensuring the durability of the press.

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Kholam Village in Namsang Township, show case of all-round development

Yangon, 10 Oct — Upholding the Three Main National Causes, the Government has given priority to the development of rural and border areas that lagged behind other regions while implementing national solidarity, peace and tranquility of the State.

Furthermore, 24 special development regions and five rural development tasks initiated by the Head of State are also being realized.

As part of implementing the development of special regions and rural areas in Shan State, a ceremony to hand over new school building of Kholam Model village Basic Education High School took place at the village of Honaung village-tract, Namsang township, Loilem District.

Mr. Dr. Phyo Aung San, Deputy Minister of Education, Department of Basic Education, Ministry of Education, delivered a speech and the Township PDC made building.

Basic Education High Kholam Model village new school building of association and Women’s internal Child Welfare Association, and Development Association are taking part in the rural development tasks.

There are over 1000 members of social organizations who are taking part in the rural development tasks.

It is proved that the development of Kholam Model village is due to the genuine goodwill of the State, and the strength of rural people and social organizations.

At present, there are one 25-bed Township Hospital, one Station Hospital, 4 rural health care services, 16 rural health care services (branch) in Namsang Township. One 16-bed Station Hospital and one rural health care service have been opened in Kholam village. The staff are serving the tasks on health of the expectant mothers, children and the older persons in the village.

Health care services have improved in the region.

There is a self-reliance library set up in 2000 in the village. Chairman of Committee for supervising library U Win Tint accepted 355 variety of books, donated by Shan State USDA CEC U Saing Lon Kyaw, Leader of Cultural Working Group of WAO Daw Nan Long Ngain and District MCWSC Chairperson Daw Htwe Htwe Ha. Now, Township Information and Public Relations Department in cooperation with the social organizations are setting up self-reliance libraries in every village.

At Thiri Mingala Monastery, members of Shan State WAO and MCWSC and officials held round table discussions on development of women’s life, health, education and prevention against human trafficking with members of village USDA, MCWA, WAO and local women.

It is found that the village’s economy is based on agriculture and livestock breeding. Main crops of the region—rice, maize grain, soya bean, groundnut and sesame are grown on a large scale.

There were 40541 acres of cultivated land in Namsang Township in the past. 553431 acres of land have been extended. 40900 paddy sown acreage have also been cultivated in the township.

Kholam village has also raised breeding farms. In agricultural sector, there are 4 dams including Wampon dam, which is under construction, in Namsang Township. Naung Koy Dam, which is able to benefit 500 acres, has been built in Kholam village.

Moreover, locals of the village can draw purified drinking water from 391 wells.

The village has utilized the electricity from 12 generators. As a result, the villagers can watch MRTV and other satellite TV programmes with the help of the electricity.

Kholam Model village, located on Taunggyi-Kengtung Union Highway, has got a safe transportation.

Shan State Women’s Affairs Organization members feed nutritious food to students of Wanphi primary school in Honaung village, Namsang township, Loilem District.

Trucks running in Kholam Model village, in Honaung village-tract, Namsang township, Loilem District.

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Shan State Women’s Affairs Organization members feed nutritious food to students of Wanphi primary school in Honaung village, Namsang township, Loilem District.

mc

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Guatemalan mudslide death toll rises to 1,400

Panajachel (Guatemala), 9 Oct— Rescuers choking on the smell of death dug for bodies in a black grunge of mud, rock and trees on Saturday where a Guatemalan village had stood until Hurricane Stan spawned a mudslide that killed up to 1,400 people.

It was one of the biggest tragedies in recent years in Latin America, a region often blighted by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and hurricanes.

After days of heavy rain from Hurricane Stan, tons of earth crashed down a volcano's slopes and into the Maya Indian village of Panajachel as people slept early on Wednesday, covering it in a quagmire up to 40 feet (12 meters) deep in places. Fire department spokesman Mario Cruz said some 1,400 people had disappeared and were dead.

He said "There are no survivors here. It happened more than 48 hours ago. They are dead," Cruz told Reuters. A local official in charge of compiling death lists put the likely toll at about 1,000. Dozens of corpses have already been recovered and locals were drawing up names of the missing and dead, but with so many victims feared buried, authorities said they might abandon the search and declare the village a mass grave.

Rescue workers stuffed herbs in their nostrils to block out the sickly odor of death. Others barked orders in the Mayan Tzutujil language as hundreds of men dug through the sludge with hoes, shovels and pick axes.—MNA/Reuters

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Anti-fur group cream pies "Vogue" editor

Paris, 10 Oct— French anti-fur activists said they struck Anna Wintour, editor of the US edition of Vogue, in the face with a cream pie on Saturday to protest against her support for the use of animal fur by the fashion industry.

Wintour, dressed in a fur-trimmed black jacket, was hit in the face with a tofu cream pie as she left the Chloe fashion ready-to-wear show at the Tuileries Gardens in central Paris, members of the group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) said.

It was the second such attack this year on Wintour, an unapologetic fur supporter decried by animal rights groups as a "pelt pusher".—MNA/Reuters

Over two million die of diarrhoea annually in Nigeria

ABUJA, 9 Oct— Some 2.2 million people lost their lives to diarrhoea annually in Nigeria, a high-ranking official of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said here recently.

Theresa Pamma, water and environmental sanitation officer of UNICEF Country Office in Nigeria, said at the inauguration of a 20-million-naira (about 150,000-US-dollar) school hand-wash programme in the Nigerian capital Abuja, that every year witnessed over four million cases of diarrhoea in the west African country.

She said 10 per cent of the population in the developing world suffered intestinal infection and another six million suffered blindness as a result of trachoma.

The official said the UNICEF coordinated programme on water and environmental sanitation in schools was to reduce children's exposure to disease by providing safe water and environmental sanitation facilities.

The programme would also promote hygiene education among the school children through key hygiene practices such as hand washing and hygiene water uses, she said, adding the UNICEF was in partnership with consumer chemical maker Unilever Nigeria in the implementation of the programme.

The scheme would be implemented in 111 local areas comprising 222 schools and would involve the distribution of soaps, buckets and sanitary towels, according to the official.—MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely
Villagers “adopt” ancient tea trees in Yunnan

Pu’er (Yunnan Province), 9 Oct — Xue Jinqiang is carefully removing moss from an ancient tea tree in his courtyard.

The ancient tea trees that we are contracted to take care of are very precious. We tend and protect them cautiously,” said the 54-year-old farmer in the Pu’er Hani and Yi Autonomous County of Simao, in southwest China’s Yunnan Province.

There are 372 ancient tea trees aged several hundred years in the Mount Kunlu at Kuanhong Village of Fengyang Township, Pu’er county, where Xue Jinqiang lives. The ancient trees are distributed in fields and in front of and behind houses at villages. Most of them have been "adopted" by 14 local farmers. Xue takes care of eight trees, all in and around his courtyard.

Chen Qi, a senior official with the Fengyang township government, told Xinhua, "Along the ridge of the Mount Kunlu, there are roughly 133 hectares of ancient tea trees."

The village employs a contract system to farm out the ancient tea trees for tending and protection, according to Chen Qi.

Some farmers have "adopted" 20 trees each. Usually, the villagers take responsibility for picking tea-leaves and removing weeds. According to township rules on tree protection, tea-leave picking is restricted to a period between April and October, and no human activity is allowed to damage the growing environment for the ancient tea trees, said Chen Qi. — MNA/Xinhua

18 million-year-old fossil of pregnant rhinoceroses excavated

BEIJING, 10 Oct — Chinese experts have excavated a rare fossilized pregnant hornless rhinoceros, believed to be 18 million-year-old, in east China’s Shandong Province.

Geologists and archaeologists dug out the fossil during a recent excavation at the Shanwang Ruins of Ancient Extinct Life, 22 kilometres northeast of the Linqu County in central Shandong, the state media reported on Saturday.

The Shanwang Ruins are the sole well-preserved geological remains of the Miocene Epoch in east China. The fossilized mother rhinoceros, 2.7 metres long and 1.7 metres high, was well preserved and the foetus rhinoceros, only 0.7 metres in length—inside its mother's belly—had its teeth and skeleton almost fully developed, Xinhua news agency reported.

The foetus was believed to have died eight months before it was born, a professor with the China Geological University, Li Fenglin said. "It is rare to discover a fossilized rhinoceros with a foetus anywhere in the world," he said. — MNA/PTI

Romania reports first bird flu case in Danube Delta

BUCHAREST, 9 Oct — Romania reported its first case of avian flu on Friday, but said it had not yet established whether the virus found in domestic birds in the Danube Delta was harmful to humans.

The Danube Delta is Europe’s largest wetlands and a major migratory area for wild birds coming from Russia, Scandinavia, Poland and Germany.

"We discovered today three cases of domestic birds which were tested positive for the avian flu in the village of Cernaula de Jos in the Danube Delta," Agriculture Minister Gheorghe Flutur told reporters.

"There were three ducks in the yard of a peasant family," Flutur said tests would be carried out to determine whether the flu was the deadly H5N1 strain or a less dangerous one.— MNA/Reuters

Intel to start trials in India on Internet over power lines

BANGALORE, 9 Oct — With most of the technical problems in delivering Internet connectivity over the electric power lines addressed, Intel Corporation is planning to start the user trials of the technology in India in next few months.

"Most of the technical issues that were coming in the way of delivering Internet over power lines have been largely addressed. We will link up with our India team in the next eight weeks to begin the trials of the technology," Intel Corporation Vice-President and General Manager (Digital Home Group) Donald J MacDonald said at the Intel Developer Forum here.

He said till date the trials of the Home Plug Powerline Alliance are with Cisco, Comsat, General Electric, Sony and Sharp.

The concept of Internet over power lines has been there for over a decade but there are practical difficulties coming in the way of its implementation. Those hindrances have now been addressed to.

Earlier in his keynote on Enabling Digital Lifestyle, MacDonald outlined the business potential of the concept of digital home and said that Intel's chip designed for home entertainment segment would be available on the personal computers by the first quarter of calendar year 2006.

MacDonald said that research and development team in India was contributing in a big way on the digital home vision of Intel. The team in India is providing platform support for hardware and software. Large portion of the client software part is being done in India, he said.

Apart from providing technology that enables digital home vision possible, Intel is also working with stakeholders like owners of copyright for music and movies to make the environment suitable for adoption of this vision.

In India too, we have started talks with content and Internet service companies to make them comfortable with new technology and make them aware of the new business models it brings with it, MacDonald said.

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Cisse’s introduction at the came alive following defender Lilian Thuram. in off the head of French minute free-kick deflected Ludovic Magnin’s 79th minute strike from Liver-1-1 draw on Saturday. after holding France to a nail-biting finish to World Cup Oct— Switzerland ensured were hoping to see a goal rout against the weakest team in Group in the entire qualifying tournament. nevertheless maintains their slim hopes of a second-place finish with the Faroes fourth goal of the entire competition a minute roll across his goalmouth from a back-pass by defender Jon seconds when Faroes goalkeeper Jakup Mikkelsen let the ball into the goal. The result, in a lacklustre game with poor finishing from Israel, Ireland conceded a penalty after a clumsy challenge by Richard Dunne, but Shay Given made an outstanding save from Yiannakis Okkas’s spot-kick. The Irish team was under heavy pressure for most of the game, with the home side throwing its weight into attack, giving one of its best performances in recent years.

Swiss PEG back France to keep group wide open
October 10— Switzerland ensured an anon-biting finshto World Cup qualifying group four after holding France to a 1-1 draw on Saturday. Trailing to a 51st minute strike from Liverpool forward Djibril Cisse, the Swiss struck back with a deserved equalizer when Ludovic Magnin’s 79th minute free kick deflected in off the head of French defender Lilian Thuram. France had been outplayed for much of the opening 45 minutes, but came alive following Cisse’s introduction at the start of the second half.

Ireland keep hopes alive with 1-0 win in Cyprus
October 10— An early goal by Stephen Elliot gave the Republic of Ireland a 1-0 away win over Cyprus in their World Cup Group Four qualifier on Saturday. The result maintains Ireland’s hopes of a second-placed finish in the group and a place in the play-offs, but their fate depends on other matches in the tightest group in the entire qualifying tournament. Elliot scored his first goal for his country after six minutes after good creative work by Robbie Keane but Ireland were put under pressure by a lively home side who should have equalised after 14 minutes. Ireland conceded a penalty after a clumsy challenge by Richard Dunne, but Shay Given made an outstanding save from Yiannakis Okkas’s spot-kick. The Irish team was under heavy pressure for most of the game, with the home side throwing its weight into attack, giving one of its best performances in recent years.

Ireland keep hopes alive with 1-0 win in Cyprus
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Israel’s 2-1 win over Faroes probably not enough
October 10— Israel beat Group Four makeweights Faroe Islands 2-1 on Saturday, but the result looks unlikely to be enough to leave them with a chance of sneaking a play-off spot for the World Cup finals. The result, in a lacklustre game with poor finishing from Israel, nevertheless maintains their slim hopes of a second-place finish in the group, but their fate depends on other matches in the tightest group in the entire qualifying tournament. Israel took an early lead from Yossi Benayoun after only 50 seconds when Faroes goalkeeper Jakup Mikkelsen let the ball roll across his goalmouth from a back-pass by defender Jon Jakobsen, leaving the West Ham United midfielder with an easy finish. Substitute Michael Zandberg added Israel’s second in the first minute of injury time but Simun Samuelsen hit back with the Faroes fourth goal of the entire competition a minute later. It was a disappointing night out for the 31,500 supporters who were hoping to see a goal rout against the weakest team in Group 4 in both teams’ last group fixture.

Colombia 1-0 win over Sweden
October 10— Winger Darijo Srna converted a second-half penalty to give Croatia a 1-0 victory over Sweden on Saturday, leapfrogging their rivals into top spot in Group Eight going into the final round of World Cup qualifiers. Sweden skipper Olof Mellberg handled in the area in 56th minute and Srna kept his cool from the spot to decide a tightly contested match. Werder Bremen striker Ivan Klasnic squandered Croatia’s best chance in an uneventful first half, getting behind the Sweden defence but failing to lob keeper Andreas Isaksson from close range. Croatia top the group with 23 points and will secure a place in next year’s finals if they take a point from their final game in Hungary on Wednesday.

England’s Chris Rock performs a stunt in the air with his motorcycle during a freestyle motocross demonstration in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, on 9 October, 2005. —INTERNET

Chile rally to hold Colombia in World Cup stalemate
Barranquilla (Colombia), October 10— Chile rallied to secure a 1-1 draw with Colombia in a South American World Cup qualifying match on Saturday, a result which was of little use to either team battling for the region’s fifth-place play-off spot. The stalemate allowed Uruguay to stay ahead of the pair after their goalless draw in Ecuador, with the identity of the side to play Australia over two legs for a place at the World Cup still unknown until after the final round of matches next week. Uruguay, who are at home to Argentina on Wednesday, have 22 points from 17 games while Colombia and Chile have 21 each. Colombia are away to Paraguay in their last game on Wednesday, while Chile host Ecuador.

Chile’s Martín Pineda (right) celebrates with his teammate Juan Arangua after scoring his side’s second goal in the 43rd minute against Colombia.

Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Paraguay have already claimed South America’s four direct places. Colombia dominated the first half with some slick passing and went ahead in the 25th minute when Luis Gabriel Rey met Gerardo Bedoya’s cross with a diving header which looped over goalkeeper Claudio Bravo and into the goal. Juan Pablo Angel missed an excellent chance to increase their lead three minutes later when he failed to connect with the ball. Chile took the initiative after halftime and were rewarded in the 63rd minute when David Pizarro’s free kick found defender Ricardo Rojas, who headed the equalizer past Miguel Calero. Bravo then produced the best save of the match to turn away Martin Arzuaga’s close-range effort at the other end following a break down the right by David Ferreira. Despite the heat, the closing minutes produced some frantic end-to-end play as both sides pressed desperately for a winner which would have kept their destiny in their own hands. The visitors wasted two counter-attacks when the goal appeared to be at their mercy, while Colombia defender Mario Yepes saw his shot slide agonisingly wide of the Chile goal with the last kick of the match.
Suicide attacker kills himself, injures 2 Britons in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 10 Oct — A suicide bomber was killed and two British nationals were wounded on Sunday morning when the suspected bomber rammed his car into an automobile carrying four Britons in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar Province, the Kandahar provincial governor said.

"The suicide explosion happened at around 10 o'clock in Dorahi area of Kandahar City. The suicide attacker blew himself when his car was near the vehicle of four Britons. The attacker was blown into pieces at the moment," Kandahar Governor Assullah Khalid told Xinhua.

"Two of the four Britons, employees of Kandahar's Customs department, were injured, and are in very serious condition," he added.

Both the injured men had been taken to the US military hospital at Kandahar airbase. Kandahar, the former stronghold of Taleban, and neighbouring provinces of Zabol, Helmand and Uruzgan have been the scene of increasing militancy over the past six months.

Taleban's remnants that failed to derail the landmark 19 September parliamentary elections have vowed to continue Jihad or holy war until the US-dominated foreign troops leave Afghanistan.

Over 1,200 people with the majority of them militants, according to official sources, have been killed in the Taleban-led insurgency against some 20,000-strong US-dominated foreign troops and 30,000 fledging Afghan National Army since the beginning of this year.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Monday, 10 October, 2005
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan, Kayin, Kayah, Mon States and Bago Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Aunglan (1.18) inches, Magway (0.63) inch, Hakha and An (0.55) inch each, Pathein (0.39) inch, Monywa and Kawthong (0.28) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 9-10-2005 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 10-10-2005 was 71°F. Relative humidity on 09:30 hrs MST on 10-10-2005 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 9-10-2005 was (6.1) hours approx. Rainfalls on 10-10-2005 were nil at Mingladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (95.20) inches at Mingladon, (96.34) inches at Kaba-Aye and (100.55) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southwest at (17:30) hours MST on 9-10-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (12:00) hours MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over Southwest Bay persists. Weather is generally fair in the North Bays and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 11-10-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Division and isolated 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 in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-10-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-10-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

### Tuesday, 11 October

**Tune in today:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Brief news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:35 am</td>
<td>Music: Sweet, Sweet Smile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:40 am</td>
<td>Perspectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>Music: Bihma, ma, ma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:05 am</td>
<td>National news &amp; Slogan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:09 am</td>
<td>Music: Peace Train</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:10 am</td>
<td>International news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:14 am</td>
<td>Music: Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>News/Slogan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:40 pm</td>
<td>Lunch time music - <em>Now and forever</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 pm</td>
<td>English Speaking Course Level III Unit (14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 pm</td>
<td>Article/Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:25 pm</td>
<td>Weekly sports reel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:35 pm</td>
<td>Music for your listening pleasure - I'm all about you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 pm</td>
<td>News/Slogan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
<td>PEL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### In memory of late Daw Khin Ma Ma Lay, Lt-Col Khay Lay (Reds), son Maung Thun Ou Lay, daughter Ma Lay Thidar and son Maung Aung Zaw Lay of No (29/268), Min Lane (1) street, Shwepyithar donate K 100,000 for Hinzigon Home for the Aged to Joint-Secretary U Tin Maung Win. — H
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 10 Oct—Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of the Republic of India, on the loss of lives and property caused by devastating earthquake in India, on 8 October, 2005. —MNA

Prime Minister sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 10 Oct—General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, on the loss of lives and property caused by devastating earthquake in India, on 8 October, 2005. —MNA

Prime Minister sends message of sympathy to Pakistan

YANGON, 10 Oct—General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Shaukat Aziz, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on the loss of lives and property caused by devastating earthquake in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 8 October, 2005. —MNA

Malaysian FM calls on Prime Minister General Soe Win

YANGON, 10 Oct—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win received visiting Minister of the Foreign Affairs of Malaysia HE Datuk Seri Hamid Albar bin Syed Jaafar Albar and party at Zeyathiri Beikman at Konmyinttha here this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister U Maung Myint, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Mr Rizany Irwan Bin Muhammad Mazlan, Charge d’Affaires a i of Malaysian Embassy, and officials. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win meets Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Hamid Albar bin Syed Jaafar Albar. — MNA

Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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