True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets contestants from States and Divisions to 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

YANGON, 12 Oct — Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony to welcome those from the States and Divisions who will take part in the Performing Arts Competitions at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township at 5 pm today.

(See page 16)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strive for success of traditional performing arts competitions

The Union of Myanmar has stood in the world with its own culture and arts for thousands of years. And the Myanmar people have valued their cultural heritage as the livelihood of their own nation and race. In order to revitalize and preserve the invaluable heritage of national culture, Myanmar traditional performing arts competitions are held every year.

The 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions commence today and the objectives this year are:
- 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.

In accordance with these objectives, maestros are systematically supervising the competitions and respective committees are also exerting coordinated efforts to make them a complete success.

It is also necessary for the participants from various states and divisions, who have been outstanding at the state- and division-level competitions and have had a lot of practice, to preserve the national cultural heritage by showing their skills to the best of their abilities. Enthusiastic participation of amateur and professional musicians in the competitions with the intention of preserving national culture and character is a way of safeguarding patriotism and national prestige and integrity.

Therefore, we would like to call on all those responsible as well as the participants to try their best to make the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions a complete success in accordance with the seven objectives.

Kyimyindine BEHS No 1 to pay respects to teachers on 27 Nov

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

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

U Ye Win presents credentials to King of Thailand

YANGON, 13 Oct — U Ye Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Thailand, presented his credentials to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand, on 29 September, at Klaiangwon Palace in Hua Hin. — MNA

Sanitation work inspected in city

YANGON, 11 Oct — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected the unblocking of ditches in front of Hline Yadana Market and Win Thuza Shop in Hline Township this morning collectively carried out by members of township PDC, departmental staff, social organization members and town dwellers numbering about 200. The mayor also looked into the dredging of ditches and sanitation tasks along Yankin Road and the maleinys of Mandalay.
Oxfam slams US trade proposal

ZURICH, 11 Oct.—Aid agency Oxfam on Monday slammed a US proposal to slash subsidies and phase out farm tariffs in a bid to help unblock world trade talks, saying it was “smoke and mirrors” and could hurt poor countries.

“What looks on the surface like a genuine attempt to move the talks forward is in fact a very clever piece of manoeuvring by the US,” the international development organization said.

US trade chief Rob Portman said earlier his country was willing to accept “some pain” to win a deal opening the way to a new pact that analysts say could pump billions of dollars into the global economy and help lift millions out of poverty.

The plan, detailed by Portman at a Zurich news conference, was to put to a meeting of trade ministers in the Swiss business capital on Monday, kicking off a busy week of talks that aim to iron out differences ahead of a key December trade summit in Hong Kong.

But Oxfam said the blueprint meant the United States would have to make “only negligible cuts”, just 2 per cent of all its subsidy expenditure, and that not until the end of the time set in a Doha Round accord for agreements to go into force.

While the United States said it would reduce the ceiling on trade-distorting support to its farmers by 60 per cent, Oxfam said that this would leave actual spending untouched, so poor farmers in developing countries would not benefit.

Specifically, Oxfam charged that the US proposal to end export subsidies in 2010 was bogus as hardly any of US payments are classified in this way.

“This proposal would allow them to get away with doing next to nothing in return for some very painful concessions from developing countries,” Oxfam said.

“It’s a case of smoke and mirrors.”

MNA/Reuters

1,960 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 11 Oct.—As of Tuesday, 11 Oct. 2005, at least 1,960 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 1,224 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is 10 higher than the Defense Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EDT Tuesday. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,821 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,415 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.—Internet

US soldier killed by Baghdad’s suicide car bomb

BAGHDAD, 11 Oct.—A US soldier was killed in a suicide car bomb near a checkpoint outside the Green Zone in central Baghdad, the US military said on Monday.

“A soldier, assigned to Task Force Baghdad, was killed when a suicide bomber blew up a car bomb outside a checkpoint near the Green Zone on 10 October,” the military said in a statement.

The name of the killed soldier was being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement said.— MNA/Xinhua

Food, water airdropped in Kashmir Valley, toll nears 1,000

SRINAGAR, 11 Oct.—Speeding up relief efforts in quake-hit northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, food and water were on Monday airdropped in remote villages nestled in difficult mountain terrains as the death toll in the temblor was poised to soar past the one thousand mark.

On day three of Operation “Imdad” (Help), IAF helicopters dropped food packets and water bottles in the worst-affected Kupwara and Baramulla districts, state chief secretary Vijay Bakaya said here.

Over 1,900 tents have been set up in Uri and Tangdhar sectors where the damage in terms of people killed, injured or property was immense as it was closest to the epicentre of the quake in Pakistani-occupied Kashmir capital of Muzaffarabad.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will undertake a tour of quake-hit areas in Kashmir Valley on Tuesday.

Admitting that water supply to affected areas was a problem because of acute shortage of tankers, Bakaya said all-out efforts were being made to approach hitherto unreached areas and Air Force would regularly air drop food and water from Monday.

However, he said air supply was a problem in the affected villages as there were only six water tankers in the area for catering to the survivors in the wake of damage to water supply schemes.

While two truckloads of food packets and water bottles donated by NGOs had been kept for the victims and 4,400 blankets were distributed among the affected people in Baramulla District and another 2,500 in Kupwara District.— MNA/PTI

Blast kills four Afghans in restive south

KANDAHAR (Afghanistan), 11 Oct.—At least four Afghans were killed by a strong explosion that shook the volatile southern city of Kandahar on Monday, police said.

Among the victims were a former senior fiscal commander, Agha Shah, Kandahar police chief Colonel Mohammad Hakim said.

Body fles of the victims was strewn on the dusty road where the blast went off, outside Shah’s house in a crowded area of the Kandahar, during the morning rush hour.

It came a day after four British nationals, who were on visit to help customs regulations in the province, were wounded in a suicide attack close to the city centre. Kandahar was the bastion of the Taliban who were ousted from power in 2001.

“I can say now that at least four people, including Agha Shah, have lost their lives in the explosion,” Hakim said.

Police did not blame anyone and there was no immediate claim of responsibility.
Iraq attacks kill scores

BAGHDAD, 11 Oct — The attacks came days after Iraq's vote on the draft charter Baghdad. Up to 50 people have been killed and dozens wounded in a series of attacks in Iraq, including a car bomb that ripped apart a crowded market in a town near the Syrian border.

The deadliest attack in Iraq in nearly two weeks, an car bomb exploded at about 11 am (0800 GMT) on Tuesday in a crowded open market in the northern-western town of Tal Afar, killing 30 Iraqis and wounding 45, said Brigadier Najm Abdullah, Tal Afar's police chief. He said all the victims appeared to be civilians since no Iraqi or US forces were in the centre of Tal Afar, which is 420km northwest of Baghdad.

Attackers also used two car bombs, tacked British armoured vehicles with petrol bombs.

At least 30 killed by suicide bomber in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Oct — At least 30 people were killed and 35 others wounded on Wednesday in a suicide bomb attack in the northern Iraqi town of Tal Afar near the Syrian border, police said.

The attack occurred as a suicide bomber strapped with explosives blew himself up among a group of army recruits in the town, some 390km north of Baghdad and 100km from Syria, the police said. The attack came one day after an explosion killed some 30 people in a busy market in the same town, which has witnessed amateur military offensive aimed at ridding the region of foreign fighters.

Violence has surged in the run-up to the Oct. 15 referendum on a draft constitution, which has torn the war-ravaged country further apart along sectarian lines. Meanwhile, Iraqi leaders said they have reached a deal to amend the draft charter and a vote on the amendments will take place later Wednesday.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese traders embrace win-win mindset in expanding business

HANGZHOU, 11 Oct — A delegation of entrepreneurs from Wenzhou, in east China's Zhejiang Province, were organized in July to visit Elche, a city in the southeastern Spain with a sole aim to improve understanding between shoemakers in both countries.

In September last year, shoe warehouses in Elche, with financing from entrepreneurs of Wenzhou, who used tactics such as prolonged business hours and monopolized the production chain — from shoe production in China, exports to Spain, imports in Spain, as well as marketing in Spain — in order to realize exorbitant profits, were set on fire by angry demonstrators.

Xie Rongfang, secretary-general of the Footwear and Leatherware Association of Lucheng District, Wenzhou City, said, “The fire in Elche a year ago has awakened us to be aware of the importance of achieving a win-win deal for all partners concerned.

Also during the trip, the Chinese business mission voiced its readiness to help Spanish shoe-making firms expand the Chinese market by supporting them in starting up new workshops in Wenzhou, and making famous Spanish shoe brands complementary to Chinese rich resources for production.

Liu Guangzhong, head of the association of shoemakers of Chinese origin in Spain, said many Chinese investors in Spanish enterprises had adjusted their ways of doing business, including hiring locals to work with Chinese businesses and eliminating competition using lowered prices or prolonged business hours.

MNA/Xinhua

Three Iraqi police killed in Baghdad's two suicide car bombings

BAGHDAD, 11 Oct — Two separate suicide car bombs exploded in Baghdad on Monday, killing three police commandos and wounding nine people, an Interior Ministry source said.

“A suicide car bomber blew himself up near a police patrol at an intersection close to Hay al-Amil police station in southern Baghdad, wounding four policemen,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippine Govt to send humanitarian team to Pakistan

MANILA, 10 Oct — The Philippine Government on Monday said it will send a humanitarian team to Pakistan to help with the relief and efforts after a strong earthquake struck South Asia.

“The usual assistance we extend to countries who experience this kind of tragedy is the sending of a humanitarian team,” Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said at a news briefing without giving any detail.

Bunye reiterated the Philippines’ condolences to those who lost their people in the disaster. “We would like to extend our sympathies to nations and peoples affected by this sudden tragedy. The entire nation is one in prayer for their speedy recovery from this unfortunate event.”

Tens of thousands of people are believed to have died in the Saturday earthquake, measuring 7.6 on the Richter Scale, that hit parts of Pakistan, India and Afghanistan. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo earlier said in a statement that the Philippines “shared the fortunes and adversities” of the victimized countries after the catastrophic event.

The Philippine humanitarian teams were also sent to the southern city of Basra that exposed worsening humanitarian conditions such as prolonged business hours and monopolized the production chain — from shoe production in China, exports to Spain, imports in Spain, as well as marketing in Spain — in order to realize exorbitant profits, were set on fire by angry demonstrators.

Xie Rongfang, secretary-general of the Footwear and Leatherware Association of Lucheng District, Wenzhou City, said, “The fire in Elche a year ago has awakened us to be aware of the importance of achieving a win-win deal for all partners concerned.

The benefit-sharing mindset is conducive to removing barriers in international trade.” In that vein, the business people of Wenzhou were informed of Spanish folkways and culture, as well as the ethics of doing business in Spain. Their Spanish counterparts were briefed on the market operation of Chinese private businesses.

MNA/Xinhua

British shaves Iraq troop numbers in ‘routine’ rotation

LONDON, 11 Oct — Britain said on Monday it would cut troop numbers in Iraq by 500 but stressed its capability in the south of the country would be unaffected.

The announcement came three weeks after a riot in the southern city of Basra that exposed worsening tensions between British forces and Shiite militia there.

Some British opposition politicians said it was time to consider pulling out when angry crowds attacked British armoured vehicles with petrol bombs.

The troops had moved to free two undercover soldiers they said were held by militia members.

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MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
**Bali gears up for anniversary of 2002 blasts**

**Jakarta, 11 Oct—** Indonesian police will launch a major security operation on Wednesday to commemorate the 12 October, 2002 bombings on the beautiful resort island of Bali, which killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists, the Jakarta Post reported on Monday.

Bali provincial police spokesman AS Reniban said the operation would involve some 3,000 security officers, including Army men and Balinese local security guards called pecalang.

“We will deploy some 1,500 police officers, assisted by pecalang and Army men. So in total they will be around 3,000 personnel,” Reniban said.

The police are tightening security in every entrance point to Bali, including seaports and international airport, he said.

According to National Police spokesman Brigadier General Soenarko, the police are also stepping up security in a number of tourist spots such as Kuta, Jimbaran, Nusa Dua and Sanur in Bali.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, top national and foreign figures are expected to attend a commemoration ceremony to be held early Wednesday at the scene of the blasts in Legian, Kuta, Reniban said.

On 1 October, three bomb blasts hit two residential areas in Bali again, killing 23 people and injuring more than 120 others.—MNA/Xinhua

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**Six relief soldiers die of landslide in India-controlled Kashmir**

**Srinagar, India-controlled Kashmir, 12 Oct—** Six soldiers of Indian Army died of a landslide while distributing relief ration to earthquake-hit villagers in India-controlled Kashmir Wednesday, according to local army source.

The soldiers encountered a landslide on their way to distribute relief material to victims in worst-hit Tangdhar of India-controlled Kashmir, the source said.

Heavy rain and strong wind hit the region since Tuesday evening once stopping the relief work and the army reopened rescue work on Wednesday morning. —MNA/Xinhua

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**Japan dispatches relief team to quake-hit areas in Pakistan**

**Tokyo, 11 Oct—** The Japanese Government on Monday dispatched a disaster relief team to carry out rescue work in Pakistan, which was struck by a major earthquake last Saturday. The 21-member medical team, including doctors, nurses and pharmacists, will operate in devastated areas for about two weeks.

“We have been informed that hospitals were completely destroyed. We must be prepared for some tough work,” Tatsuro Kai, head of the team, said prior to departure. On Sunday, Japan sent a 49-member emergency rescue team formed by rescue experts from firefighting, police and Coast Guard organisations. Meanwhile, the Japan Red Cross Society separately dispatched an advance medical team to Islamabad, and has decided to extend 15 million yen (136,000 US dollars) in aid to Pakistan.—MNA/Xinhua

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**Vietnam to spend more on development next year**

**Hanoi, 11 Oct—** Vietnam plans to mobilize some 370 trillion Vietnamese dong (23.4 billion US dollars) for development investment next year, up 17.8 per cent over this year’s estimate, according to the Ministry of Planning and Investment on Monday.

Seventy per cent of the fund will be poured into economic development. It will be used mainly for upgrading roads leading to key economic zones, and developing telecommunications infrastructure.

To mobilize the fund, the government will centre on improving the environment, facilitating foreign investment, improving the country’s investment environment, facilitating international economic integration, and increasing the national economy’s competitiveness.

Specifically, it will improve the local markets regarding finance, realty, labour market, science and technology, Vietnam, which recorded gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 8.1 per cent in the first nine months of this year, has targeted to post an economic growth of 8.5 per cent this year, up from 7.7 per cent last year, according to the General Statistics Office.—MNA/Xinhua

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**India, Fiji sign four accords for cooperation in tourism**

**New Delhi, 11 Oct—** Giving a major impetus to bilateral ties, India and Fiji on Monday signed four accords for stepping up cooperation in tourism, information technology, trade and health.

The agreements were inked in the presence of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his visiting counterpart from Fiji, Laisenia Qarase after the two leaders held wide-ranging discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations and exchanged views on important regional and international developments.

The accords include a Memorandum of Understanding on establishment of a Joint Trade Committee and another in the field of health and medicines.

Seeking further expansion of bilateral trade relations, Fiji has invited Indian investment in its core industrial sectors and said it would set up an India-Fiji Business Council to strengthen bilateral trade.

The country, whose population comprises more than 46 per cent people of Indian origin, will officially open its High Commission here on Tuesday.

The EXIM Bank of India has extended a loan of 86 million dollars to Fiji for the modernization and upgradation of its sugar plants.—MNA/PTI

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**Overseas Chinese business leaders vow for common development**

**Seoul, 11 Oct—** Major overseas Chinese business leaders stressed here on Monday that all the Chinese entrepreneurs around the world should unite in order to achieve common and further development of the Chinese business communities.

At a joint Press conference held on the sidelines of the 8th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCCE), Chairman of Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Indonesia Chen Dazang said Indonesia has the largest overseas Chinese population of about 10 million and Chinese entrepreneurs have played an important role in facilitating the country’s economic development.

He also urged Chinese businesspeople all over the world to work together for common prosperity and a peaceful world.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Singapore Cai Tianbao said the move toward globalization is creating a borderless world economy, urging Chinese businesspeople to seize business opportunities and build up competitive advantages to achieve further development. —MNA/Reuters
Malaysia’s to patrol Malacca Strait

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Oct — A new integrated maritime enforcement agency of Malaysia is expected to begin its operation in the Strait of Malacca on 30 November this year, Malaysia’s Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said on Monday.

The agency, named Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), would be primarily responsible for maritime enforcement, search and rescue, surveillance of the waters, and providing support services to other related agencies, Najib said at Malaysia’s administrative centre Putrajaya as he unveiled the agency.

Najib said that MMEA would take over 72 boats and ships from the existing enforcement agencies, including the Royal Malaysia Navy, the Royal Malaysia Police, the Fisheries Department and the Customs Department. The agency will consist of more than 4,000 people, but for the first phase, only 500 people would be employed and trained, he said.

Najib, who is also the Defence Minister, said that the agency will be officially launched by Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi some time later.

On 21 August, 2002, the Malaysian Government decided to set up MMEA as an integrated maritime enforcement body through the merger of existing maritime enforcement agencies.

Najib said that at the early stage, the new enforcement agency’s duties would focus on the Malacca Strait. When fully operational, its enforcement will cover 250 nautical miles from the country’s coastline.

MMEA will discuss with the Malaysian Navy, Police, Customs and other agencies to identify the areas along the Malacca Strait which need attention, he said, adding that the existing enforcement agencies would operate in other areas as usual.

MMEA would share its base with the Malaysian Navy or other enforcement agencies, he said.

Prices of essential commodities increase by 12% in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 11 Oct — Prices of essential commodities in the first week of the current fasting month rose by 12 per cent and were expected to rise further as a result of fuel oil price hikes, Indonesian Trade Minister Mari Pangestu said here on Monday.

“Prices of several essential commodities have increased as a result of the increase in transportation fare, not of shortage of stocks,” the minister was quoted by state owned Antara news agency as saying.

The reason behind these price increases was the oil price hike, she said.

Pangestu said that essential commodity stocks in the market were sufficient and there was no scarcity at the producers’ level, though prices were on the rise.

The minister said that sugar prices had risen three to four weeks before fuel oil prices were raised on 1 October.

“Redish sugar is sold at 5,500 rupiah (about 50 US cents) per kilos while the white one can be sold at a higher price up to 7,000 rupiah (some 70 US cents) per kilos,” she said.

The Indonesian Government increased the oil price by 126.6 per cent on October 1 due to the rise of global oil price.

Another person infected with bird flu in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 11 Oct — Another man has been confirmed by the World Health Organization’s (WHO) laboratory test in Hong Kong as infected with bird flu, while his nephew, a four-year-old boy was also tested positive by local laboratory as having the virus, an official said here on Monday.

Director General of Disease Control and Environmental Health of the Indonesian Health Ministry I Nyoman Kandun told Xinhua that the case brought the total persons confirmed by the organization of having the H5N1 virus to five in Indonesia. The first four have died in tandem.

The man with initial of H of 21 years old from Lampung Province had been treated in Abdul Moeluk Hospital in the province.

Later, the health officials sent his blood sample to the WHO laboratory in Hong Kong, said Kandun.

“H was confirmed as positive by Hong Kong laboratory test,” he said.

“Now, we are waiting for the result of the boy’s blood sample from Hong Kong. Normally, if local test said positive, Hong Kong laboratory will say the same. If it is positive, it will add to the list of persons confirmed by the WHO,” the director said.

Kandun said that so far over 98 bird flu cases with bird flu symptoms had been found across the country.
For me to teach my friends history lessons. In my mind, I wished to tell them about the Year of Independence, and that he should discard his out-of-date views. My friend told me that my country had already regained independence. But it would not be appropriate for me to teach my friends history lessons.

I continued to pinpoint the places which yielded gems, jade and pearl, saying that there would be a large number of hotels when I arrived back home. Still, there were many places rich in natural resources, which I forgot to tell them about.

Now we have already parted, and live in places far away from one another. Although I am getting older, I still remember my friend Zoya. When I heard about the evacuation of the people when an arsenal in Kamchatka exploded, I was worried about my friend. When the time to part one another was just around the corner, we were talking about a reunion. My German friend pointed the Inlay Lake on the map, and expressed his wish to have a reunion with me there. I told him that there would be many hotels when he visited Myanmar, and that he could study the traditions and culture and costumes of the nationalities. Inlay region also produced silk, I added. My Uzbek friend said that the designs of silk her country produced were similar to the ones produced in Myanmar, and asked whether the one that I was wearing was produced in Myanmar. I eagerly told her it was right.

But I wrote this article for Myanmar youths. Let’s talk about our nation starting with our rivers. Natural watercourses rise in the Kakaborazi in the northern tip of Myanmar forming Maykha and Malikha rivers. The two rivers join to form the mighty Ayeyawady. We cannot say which part of the Ayeyawady is formed with the waters of Maykha or Malikha. The waters of the Ayeyawady are indivisible. Chindwin River that flows through the northwest part of Myanmar empties into the Ayeyawady. Dohtawady, with strong current flows into the Ayeyawady after rising from the Shan plateau. The Ayeyawady is 1,238 miles long. In addition to the Ayeyawady, Sittoung and Thanlwin rivers are also the major sources of fresh water for the nation. Like the water that cannot be divided, the nationalities that are existing with their own culture should not make any discriminations in serving the Union’s interest. Because the Union will develop and become stronger if all the people of the Union work well in unity. When a number of natural watercourses join together, there emerges a major river. Likewise, the united strength of the national races will bring progress to the nation. First villages evolved into towns, then into city states till forming the Union of Myanmar. It was a process that began long long ago. Thanks to our forefathers, Myanmar has territory, sovereignty and independence. Moreover, Myanmar is located in a place that is almost free from natural disasters.
The year was 1987
Eighteen years ago
Bagan Period Performing Arts
Treatise was written
The Cultural Department
Under auspices of Ministry of Culture
And read at the House of Literature
There was this get-together of literati
Which assembled and heard
As I remember.

As time passed
A step was made toward Innwa, Nyaungyan
Right up to the threshold of Konbaung
Attempts were made and notes taken
But the presentation was yet impossible
However it was not made
The ideas were just in the making.

What is rough said to be written
Is that during King Nyaung Yan’s time
In December 1600
Keinara play, Manaw play
Kumara play, Antara Devi play
Were performed on stage
It is found in the chronicles.

During King Thalun’s time
Close to the march on Moewun District
Myanmar performance, Mon performance
Shan performance, Kasei performance
Zinmei performance
And performance including Chinese and Indian
Were said to have been staged
According to old chronicles

Danu, Rakhine, Shan, Mon, Bamar
Including Mrumajyi or senior Myanmar Khazi, Thet, Yun, Yodaya
Chinese and Indian performances were involved
Mon music, Bamar music in variety
In January 1654,
King Thalun’s own son
King Pintale
Had led a huge performance
While the incomparable monastery was being built
And there was much rejoicing
Which was over 350 years ago
As found in the chronicles

Though the performances could be
Recalled only up to Nyaungyan Period
In this treatise only
If you went past Nyaungyan
One could run into events past
Right up to Konbaung
When the national groups
Could get together and participate
There were so many performing arts
However ...

There was Nga Aung Min, master of the star decorated gong
Famous during King Badon’s reign
There was also puppeteer Saya Nga Kyaw of Pyawbwe
He was also of King Badon’s reign.
Count also the dancer Mi Shwe Nyet
The musician was Shwedaung Nge Kyaw
That was King Bagyidaw’s time.
Epic Ramayana and Maha Barata
Which were performed in King Mindon’s reign.
There were comedians in the plays
Nga Naw Za, Nga Swa and Nga Khwa Nyo
Who were famous during King Thibaw’s time
However ...

It is time that
There were no performing arts festivals
As during our time, truly.
And that there have emerged only in our time
Is the great artistic auspicious occasion
Of the Union.

— 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.

The Great Cultural Performing Arts of the Union
(Article in Verse)
Machine spare parts exhibition held

YANGON, 12 Oct — The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation organized home made machine spare parts exhibition at the head office of Myanma Farm Enterprise at 9th mile on Pyay Road, here, on 10 October morning. It was attended by Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Li-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, departmental heads and officials under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society, technicians, and entrepreneurs of industrial zones.

First, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint gave an address. Those present viewed round 603 machine parts manufactured from the factories of Irrigation Department, Agricultural Mechanization Department, Water Resources Utilization Department, Myanmar Jute Enterprise and Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise and those imported from abroad. They gave suggestions concerning production of the machine parts. The exhibition will be kept open up to 16 October. — MNA

Archaeological Training School (Pyay) to be launched 7 November

YANGON, 12 Oct — The Archaeology Department under the Ministry of Culture is building the Archaeological Training School (Pyay) in Srekestra ancient city in Hmauza Village-tract, Pyay Township, Bago Division (West). Now, lecture halls and administrative buildings have been constructed, so the Post Graduate Diploma course in Applied Archaeology (PGDAA) will be inaugurated on 7 November 2005 as scheduled. The Archaeology Department and the University of Culture (Yangon) will jointly conduct the one-year course at the school for 2005-2006 academic year.

Myanmar Obstetrics and Gynaecologists Conference on 15-16 Oct

YANGON, 12 Oct — Myanmar Medical Association will hold the 7th Myanmar Obstetrics and Gynaecologists Conference at MMA (Mandalay) on 15 and 16 October. The gynaecologists and enthusiasts may attend the conference. — MNA

Sales at 2005 Mid-Year Gems Emporium continue

YANGON, 12 Oct — Patron of Central Committee of Gem Emporium Minister for Mines Brrg-Gen Ohn Myint and Committee Chairman Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein arrived at the 2005 Mid-year Gems Emporium at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this evening and viewed the sales of jade lots through competitive bidding. A total of 830 jade lots were sold through competitive bidding yesterday. Altogether 278 jade lots were sold this morning through tender system and competitive bidding.

Altogether 2,049 local and foreign gem merchants viewed the jade lots.

The sales of jade lots continue tomorrow for the third day. — MNA

Work coordination meeting for performing arts competitions held

YANGON, 12 Oct — Chairman of Work Committee for organizing the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Work Committee, subcommittees and state/division teams held work coordination meeting.

Military Region Commander Col Tin Hsan.

Committee members and managers of state/division teams reported on the facts about competitions. After hearing reports, the committee chairman attended to the needs and made the concluding remarks. — MNA

YANGON Mayor’s Cup Walking Race for blind on 15 Oct

YANGON, 12 Oct — To mark the International White Cane Day, the 14th YANGON Mayor’s Cup Walking Race for the blind will be held on 15 October.

The routes for the race are Pyay Road, Phonegyi Road and Maha Bandoolla Road, and the contestants will finish the race in front of the City Hall. During the race, traffic will be closed from 5 am to 8 am along the route. — MNA
CEC members of MMCWA meet with officials of Japanese Foundation

YANGON, 12 Oct — CEC members of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, a sale of national races traditional foods took place at the hall of the federation on Thanlwin Street, Bahan Township from 10 am to 2 pm today. Present at the sale were member of the panel of patrons of MWAFA Daw Khin Lay Thet and members, President of MWAFA Daw Than Than Nwe, President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win, the vice-President of MWAFA, the general secretary, the joint-general secretary, secretariat members, heads of departments, work group leaders, regional organizers, service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, executives of MMCWA, the patron, chairperson and secretary of Yangon Division WAO. During the sales, officials dealt with salient points of national races traditional foods and process of preparing food and their nutritional values. — MNA

Mandalay Division WAO Chairperson tours villages in Myittha Township

YANGON, 12 Oct — Chairperson of Mandalay Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Than Than Nyunt and party made a field trip to Khantitay, Khantigyi, Kokkosu and Thalun Model Villages in Myittha Township of Kyaukse District on 4 October. They paid respects to older persons there and presented stationery worth K 105,900 to 72 students. At the meetings with local people, Chairperson of Mandalay Division WAO Daw Than Than Nyunt gave lectures on facts about Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, In-charge of Organizational Department Daw Thanda Phone Win on health matters, members of Organizational Department Daw Tin Tin San and Daw Sein Sein Win on tasks of women’s affairs, and IP Thida Shem on prevention against human trafficking. At the discussions, local women presented membership applications.

The chairperson and party paid homage to members of the Sangha of monasteries in the villages and made donations. — MNA

Sale of National Races Traditional Foods held

YANGON, 12 Oct — Organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, a sale of national races traditional foods took place at the hall of the federation on Thanlwin Street, Bahan Township from 10 am to 2 pm today. Present at the sale were member of the panel of patrons of MWAFA Daw Khin Lay Thet and members, President of MWAFA Daw Than Than Nwe, President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win, the vice-President of MWAFA, the general secretary, the joint-general secretary, secretariat members, heads of departments, work group leaders, regional organizers, service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, executives of MMCWA, the patron, chairperson and secretary of Yangon Division WAO. During the sales, officials dealt with salient points of national races traditional foods and process of preparing food and their nutritional values. — MNA

Job opportunities for women created in Dagon Myothit (South)

YANGON, 12 Oct — Jointly-organized by Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, a ceremony to create job opportunities for women took place at the townhall of Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon East District this morning, with an address by Patron of Yangon Division WAO Chairperson of Supervisory Committee for MCWA Daw Khin Thet Huy. Next, Staff Officer U Han Win Aung of Labour Department in Dagon Myothit (South) Township explained creation of job opportunities for women. On behalf of job holders, Ma Thet Thet Swe from Poe Nu Garment Factory expressed her gratitude on the occasion.

Next, Chairperson of Yangon East District Supervisory Committee for MCWA Daw Nan Shwe Yin gave away 300 permanent membership certificates to Secretary of Yangon Division MCWA Dr Hla Myint and Chairperson of Yangon East District WAO Daw Mar Mar Thein, 300 membership certificates to Chairperson of Yangon Division WAO Daw Khin Khin Win, 300 membership certificates to Chairperson of Yangon Division WAO Daw Khin Thi Myo Thu. Afterwards, U Than Tun (Gangaw Shwepyi) donated 150 books on matriculation examination special for Maternal and Child Welfare Association of Myanmar Command and 42 ones for Yangon East District MCWA. Chairperson of Yangon Command MCWA Daw Swe Swe Oo and Secretary of Yangon East District MCWA Dr Daw Mu Mu Nyo accepted the book donations. With the purpose of ensuring promotion of women’s living standard and their income, Yangon Division MCWA is creating job opportunities for women. During the ceremony, a total of 300 women could be appointed in four garment factories and one dyeing and printing works factory. During 2005, 1,120 women got jobs. — MNA

Volcanic Eruption News

YANGON, 12 Oct — According to the information released by the Madras Meteorological Department, India, a volcanic eruption occurred at (21) hrs, (15) min MST on 11 October, 2005 near the Barren Island located at (55) miles eastwards of Andaman Island (110) miles east-southeast of Coco Island. The volcanic ash clouds from the volcanic eruption is observed at a height of 10,000 ft above the ground. The ash clouds are moving to the northwest with a speed of (15) mph. — MNA

Earthquake Report

YANGON, 11 Oct — An earthquake of moderate intensity (6.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter over the sea outside of Myanmar about (870) miles south of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory, (50-miles South-South West of Banda Aceh, Sumatra, Indonesia) was recorded at (21) hrs (38) min (30) sec MST on 11 October 2005. — MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

Second best time is now.
It was late 1910. The venue was at the petit cinema hall named Cinema de Paris in Yangon (now, it was at the eastern wing of Bogyoke Aung San Market, beside a Christian Chapel). It was always crowded as there were some food stalls in front of the cinema.

While it was screening foreign movies at that cinema hall, there was a Myanmar gentleman, wrapping pink silky Myanmar turban to his topknot, smartly wearing silky sarong and over jacket with shoes, having snack and watching from the teashop in front of the cinema hall. His name was U OHN MAUNG.

U Ohn Maung, a still photographer of D.A. Ahuja Photoshop, was so interested in making movie that Myanmar could not produce yet and he was eager to show local made movie. That is why, not only he planned seriously, they had series of challenges in practical life: the availability of the camera was limited, only for 50 feet and it made them to change camera roll frequently and the lens lost grip several times. He found out that the after developed quality was not turned up to be screened. Therefore, he tried to find another camera and bought two, one New Man Sinclair and one MOY from the tourist group. In 1918, there occurred a National uprising when the British announced the Craddock Administration. The three National leaders, U PU, U BA PE and U HTUN SHEIN went to London to discuss the said subject. When they got back to Myanmar, U Htun Shein passed away and U Ohn Maung recorded the funeral process made on 4 July 1920, by following it on a motorcycle uncomfortably. When that documentary was screened at Cinema de Paris, the huge Myanmar audience turned up and we could assume that Myanmar movie industry was launched with the aspiration with National spirit.

Mitta & Thuyar, with subtitles in Myanmar and English, was screened at the Cinema de Paris after shooting with that camera and it gained the big applause from the audience. The first ever Myanmar made silent movie was launched on 13 October 1920 and movie industry recognizes that date as the “Myanmar Movie Day.”

Myanmar Motion Picture Asiyon planned to organize this year’s event distinctively, getting along with paying homage with presenting cash and kind including medicine to those seniors from the industry who are over 70. It is also planned to organize the charity fair with food stalls in the premises of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiyen. Actors, film and video producers, owners of cinema halls and some business firms on merit base, will sponsor those various food stalls.

Some influential personalities in the movie world made comments that regardless of the weaknesses of the technical part, Myanmar movies were attractive in appearance towards artistic part. It may be said that Myanmar Movie Day event may inspire those who are trying hard to penetrate the International mainstream including the responsive persons from Departments and Motion Picture Asiyen, artists and technicians. It is no doubt that it is a launching activity for organizing the International Myanmar Movie Festival that has never happened in Myanmar, in previous time.

As Myanmar movie is always getting along with the audience and the Myanmar people, now, all the artistes would be getting along with their audience at those film shows that will commemorate the Myanmar Movie Day.
UNICEF appeals for $20m donation

NEW YORK, 11 Oct — UNICEF has appealed to the international donors to immediately provide 20 million dollars so that the agency could provide relief to as many as 10 million Afghans hit by the earthquake that shook the Indian subcontinent.

The appeal by UNICEF, the UN agency for children, came as its first trucks began rolling towards the northern Pakistan town of Mansehra. The trucks were loaded with blankets, clothing for children, water containers and plastic tarpaulins.

Another convoy en route from Karachi with water purification equipment, nutritional food for children, soap, shelter supplies and children’s boots and sweaters — all designed to help children in the wake of the disaster.

UNICEF's Executive Director Ann M Veneman said that the priority in the wake of the disaster is to ensure that people are well provided with children’s lives, all designed to help children in the wake of the disaster. UNICEF Executive Director Ann M Veneman said that the priority in the wake of the disaster is to ensure that people are well provided with children's lives, all designed to help children in the wake of the disaster.

Morocco flies migrants to Senegal, Mali

OUJDA (Morocco), 11 Oct — Morocco began flying detained Africans to Senegal and Mali on Monday, government officials said.

"We have already flown 140 illegal migrants back home to Senegal this morning," a senior official told Reuters. Moroccan officials said 365 Senegalese would be deported by plane on Monday and over the next few days as well as 600 people from Mali.

"Another group of 140 Senegalese will be flown back later this night from Ouajda," said an official hours after Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos landed in Rabat.

Moratinos made no comment to reporters but diplomats said he was due to discuss with Moroccan Government officials ways to fight illegal immigration while respecting the migrants’ rights.

Moroccan Junior Foreign Minister Taieb Fihri met Senegal’s minister in charge of expatriates Abdou Malal Diop and his Malian counterpart Dicko Omar Hamadoun on Monday to discuss migrant deportations, the state news agency MAP said.

Fihri said, in remarks carried by MAP, Rabat "will not tolerate the illegal presence on its territory" of migrants.

Ouajda lies 337 miles east of Rabat and is an entry point for illegal migrants from Algeria.

Ouajda has agreements with Mali and Senegal allowing Rabat to deport illegal migrants to these two countries, said a senior government official, who did not want to be identified.

City group growth accelerates China’s western eco development

CHONGQING, 11 Oct — About two thirds of the population in western China’s Chongqing municipality lived in countryside eight years ago, but the ratio has reduced to 55 per cent, implying that at least 3.6 million people completed their rural-urban migration.

Since the detaching, “rise of Chongqing’s cities is not the only success. In other western China regions, cities growing around Chengdu and Xi’an have tried to change its old image as a big city together with a large-scale countryside, and cities have emerged in groups at the speed of 20 to 25 square kilometres of enlargement per year. In China’s West Development strategy, the
**Russian-US crew, space tourist return to Earth**

**Moscow, 11 Oct—** A Russian Soyuz capsule touched down in Kazakhstan on Tuesday, bringing a Russian cosmonaut, a US astronaut and an American space tourist back to Earth, mission control said.

The two-man crew returned home after half a year in orbit on the International Space Station. Millionaire scientist and entrepreneur Gregory Olsen spent just over a week with them in space, paying a reported 20 million US dollars for the trip.

“The Soyuz completed a soft landing,” a flight controller at mission control outside Moscow said. “The crew is feeling well.”

The world’s third space tourist, undocked from the Space Station at around 5:49 p.m. EDT (2149 GMT) for the return flight.

“Thank you very much to those who worked with us,” said Krikalev, who turned command of the station to his replacement, NASA astronaut William McArthur. "We’re done with our tasks on the expedition.” — MNA/Reuters

**Cyprus may ground Helios jet after flight scares**

**Nicosia, 11 Oct—** Aviation authorities in Cyprus may indefinitely ground a Boeing passenger jet run by private operator Helios Airways after two flights were turned back in recent days, officials said on Monday.

The aborted flights to Britain on Friday and Sunday come after a Helios Boeing 737 slammed into a hillside near Athens on 14 Aug, killing all 121 on board.

“The Communications Ministry will look at the situation today. It is not a matter of revoking (Helios’s) licence, but to take a decision on that one particular aircraft involved in the two incidents,” a senior Communications Ministry official told Reuters.

A Helios spokesman described the problem as minor, but said the aircraft was undergoing checks by Boeing engineers and would not enter service until rectified.

“Safety was, is and will continue to be our first and only priority,” said marketing and sales manager Nicos Anastasiades.

In separate comments to Politis newspaper, Transport Minister Harris Thrassou said authorities would “ground the Helios fleet if required”. The carrier operates two Boeing 737s and a leased Airbus.

A problem with a valve distributing air from an engine of a Boeing 737-800 forced the London Heathrow bound aircraft to return to Larnaca on Friday with 139 people on board. A similar scenario was repeated on the same aircraft on Sunday, when a Glasgow flight with 184 people turned back.

“This has nothing to do with decompression, or air supply to the cabin.” — MNA/Reuters

**Experts say vaccines, drugs no answer to bird flu**

**Washington, 11 Oct—** Many governments around the world are stockpiling antiviral drugs and some companies are trying to speed up vaccine production but these measures give a false sense of security and will do little to counter a flu pandemic, an expert cautioned on Monday.

Michael Osterholm, an infectious disease expert who has been studying the risk of pandemic flu for decades and is a US Government adviser, said governments should be preparing to cope with the pandemic instead of relying entirely on the hope of using vaccines and drugs to control it.

If the H5N1 avian flu begins to easily infect humans, it will move too quickly for drugs and vaccines to be of much use, Osterholm said.

“It doesn’t matter if we have a vaccine now or not. We can’t make it,” Osterholm said in a telephone interview. The H5N1 bird flu virus has killed at least 65 people in four Asian nations since late 2003, and has killed or forced the destruction of tens of millions of poultry.

Experts say it is mutating steadily and fear it will eventually acquire the changes it needs to spread easily from person to person.

If it does, it will sweep around the world in months or even weeks and could kill millions of people — as many as 150 million, according to the most dire forecast by the World Health Organization.

When avian flu infects people it looks like any other flu with respiratory symptoms, fever and other common effects but it will kill many more than the 500,000 people who die of ordinary flu each year around the world.

People have known about the risk of an influenza pandemic for a very long time, said Osterholm, an infectious disease specialist at the University of Minnesota who advises the federal government on such issues. “We have had a pandemic flu plan as a planning process since 1976,” said Osterholm. “Nobody has completed it. It was one of the last-long-standing incompletely processes in Washington. Nobody wants to believe that modern medical science can’t handle something.”

But it cannot, said Osterholm, who has seen the current US flu plan. The plan has not been published yet but leaked versions suggest the country has done little to prepare for an H5N1 pandemic.

MNA/Reuters

**Israel, US economists win Nobel for “game theory”**

**Stockholm, 11 Oct —** Israel’s Robert Aumann and American Thomas Schelling won the 2005 Nobel economics prize on Monday for their “game-theory analysis”, which can help resolve conflicts in trade and business — and even avoid war.

Their studies have found uses in “security and disarmament policies, price formation on markets, as well as economic and political negotiations”, said the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarding the 10 million crown (1.30 million US dollars) prize.

Aumann, 75, was born in Germany but is an Israeli and US citizen who teaches at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Schelling, 84, teaches at the University of Maryland. “Game theory” is a science of strategy, which attempts to determine what actions different “players” — be they trading partners, employers and unions or even crime syndicates — should take to secure the best outcome for themselves.

Schelling has been applying it to global security and the arms race since the 1950s while Aumann has conducted analysis of “infinitely repeated games” to identify what outcomes can be maintained over time.

MNA/Reuters

**China launches its second manned spacecraft**

**Shenzhou-6 at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China’s Gansu Province on 9:00 am on 12 Oct, 2005. —INTERNET**

**“Hooligan” attack kills Peruvian student in Russia**

**Moscow, 11 Oct —** A foreign student has died and another two have been badly injured in what authorities described as an attack by “hooligans” in central Russia, Interfax news agency reported on Monday.

It quoted police as saying up to 15 people attacked two students from Peru and one from Spain in the town of Voronezh south of Moscow on Sunday night.

“As a result of an attack by hooligans one Peruvian died of serious injuries, the other two have been hospitalised with head injuries,” a police source told the agency.

Police sources, quoted by Interfax and other news agencies, did not give a reason for the attack.

Since Soviet days, Voronezh State University has been a major educational centre hosting hundreds of foreign students every year.

It has been among the areas affected worst by a growing wave of racially motivated attacks, and last year racists killed a student from Guinea-Bissau in the town.

MNA/Reuters

**A female turtle, believed to be able to cure rheumatism and other bodily ailments, crawls on the floor of a temple in Kandal Province, 70 kms (44 miles) southwest of Phnom Penh, on 9 Oct, 2005. —INTERNET**

**Germany’s screws on Greek PM**

**Berlin, 11 Oct —** German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned on Monday that she was ready to increase pressure on her Greek counterpart, Lucas Papademos, to do more to plug the huge budget gap that has pushed Athens to the brink.

German popular support for the bail-out of the country was at an all-time low, the chancellor said, warning that the government was ready to take measures that would further blur the division of power between the two countries.

In the wake of the economic crisis, Merkel said, the government was determined to avoid a repeat of the situation that brought the two countries to the verge of a financial crisis. “This is a question of preventing a repeat of the situation that brought us to the brink in 2009,” she said.

However, she added, Greece must take responsibility for its own future.

MNA/INTERNET
**Beckenbauer urges Klinsmann to spend more time in Germany**

FRANKFURT, 11 Oct—Franz Beckenbauer has urged Juergen Klinsmann to spend more time in Germany and accept more help from his fellow coaches to head off a row going into next year’s World Cup.

Klinsmann was sharply criticized by the German media for a 2-1 defeat by Turkey on Saturday and several Bundesliga coaches questioned the wisdom of staging tough fitness tests for the squad a few days before the match.

Beckenbauer is confident the zip will be back in the German game when they return to home soil to play China in Hamburg on Wednesday but he still believes Klinsmann can do more to ease the tension building in the home camp.

Specifically, Beckenbauer said that Klinsmann should spend less time at his home base in California.

Juergen Klinsmann must also let himself be helped,” Beckenbauer, the head of the World Cup organising committee, said in his column in Bild newspaper on Monday.

“That means he should at least give thought to a few well-meaning suggestions and correct a few points.

One is the little time he spends in his home league. In World Cup year he should spend more days in Germany than in the USA, so as not to be open to the habitual charge that he is never here.”

Bayern Munich coach Felix Magath gave his backing to Klinsmann on Monday, saying it would be unwise to read too much into Germany’s latest away defeat.

“Perhaps it’s just a normal dip in form,” Magath said. “You should not see this as being too serious.”

**England plan to make four changes**

LONDON, 11 Oct—England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson has hinted Shaun Wright-Phillips, Ledley King, Wayne Rooney and Rio Ferdinand will all start against Poland.

David Beckham (suspected), Steven Gerrard, Sol Campbell (both injured) and Peter Crouch (dropped) will be the men to make way against Poland.

Eriksson said: “Rooney is back, which is positive, so he will play up front. Shaun is a natural replacement for Beckham but we will do some tactical work and decide after that 100%.”

Owen will lead the side, having taken the captain’s armband when Beckham was sent off against Austria on Saturday.

That red card rules him out of Wednesday’s game, but the Football Association has asked Real Madrid if he can stay with the squad anyway.

Real have yet to decide but have recalled Michel Salgado and Thomas Gravesen to the club as they are serving international bans.

England have already qualified for the 2006 World Cup but will be bidding to finish top of their group by beating leaders Poland at Old Trafford.

A positive result could affect their seeding at the World Cup.

Beckham is out of the game along with injury casualties Steven Gerrard and Sol Campbell.

Liverpool midfielder Gerrard is sidelined after injuring his shin against Austria on Saturday and Arsenal defender Campbell is suffering from a hamstring problem.

It is unclear whether the game at Old Trafford has anything riding on it, with FIFA not planning to decide until December whether qualification results will be used to determine seedings.

**Lottery winner wants Ibrahimovic for local team**

STOCKHOLM, 11 Oct—A football fan who won a record 122.8 million crowns (15.99 million US dollars) on the lottery wants to buy Juventus and Sweden striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic for his local club, Swedish media said on Monday.

Ibrahimovic, 23, was valued at 16 million euros (19.46 million US dollars) when Juventus bought him from Ajax Amsterdam in August 2004.

“We discussed the possibilities of buying Zlatan for Visby club Gute,” national lottery spokesman Tommy Wahlgren said after talking to the 36-year-old winner, who was not named.

The unmarried, unemployed new millionaire is an avid fan of second division Gute, based on the Swedish island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea.

**Italy’s Nesta ruled out for a month**

MILAN, 11 Oct—Italy and AC Milan defender Alessandro Nesta has been ruled out for at least a month with a hand injury, his club said on Monday.

The unmarried, unemployed new millionaire is an avid fan of second division Gute, based on the Swedish island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea.

**Police probe causes Eremenko to be dropped by Finland**

HELSINKI, 11 Oct—Aleksi Eremenko has been excluded from Finland squad for this week’s World Cup qualifier against the Czech Republic after he became a suspect in a police investigation, the Finnish Football Association said on Monday.

The FA did not say in a statement what the Finnish police was investigating, referring only to “events on the night from Saturday to Sunday” and saying the midfielder had “violated the team’s internal rules of conduct”.

“In this situation, the Football Association and the management of the national team think that neither the team nor the player himself can focus on an important World Cup qualifying game in the necessary manner,” the association statement said.

Each player now is an individual case and it is up to him to talk about his personal problem,” the association’s secretary-general Kari Wahlberg said.

“I can only say that the midfielder was a passenger in a Mercedes that his girlfriend crashed into two stone pillars in downtown Helsinki.”

**Scolari to leave Portugal after World Cup**

LISBON, 11 Oct—Brazilian Luiz Felipe Scolari will quit as coach of Portugal’s national side after next year’s World Cup finals, the president of the Portuguese FA, Gilberto Madaill, was quoted as saying on Monday.

“If the World Cup goes badly, naturally Scolari will not continue, but if it goes well, it will also be impossible to keep him, although we wanted to keep him,” Madaill told the daily Correio de Manha on Monday.

Scolari became Portugal’s coach after leading Brazil to its fifth World Cup victory in 2002 and took Portugal to the final of Euro 2004 in Lisbon last year which they surprisingly lost to Greece.

Portugal secured their place in the 2006 World Cup finals on Sunday with a 2-1 win over Liechtenstein and complete their fixtures with a home match against Latvia on Wednesday.

They have clinched first place in Group Three with eight wins and three draws from their 11 matches, and are currently the top scorers in the European qualifying programme with 32 goals, having conceded just five.

“He will stay until the World Cup,” Madaill confirmed, “but if it was up to me, he would stay beyond that.”

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A report in the tabloid Ilta-Sanomat, quoting Helsinki police, said the Lecce midfielder was a passenger in a Mercedes that his girlfriend crashed into two stone pillars in downtown Helsinki.
Floods caused by heavy rains kill 41 in Colombia

BOGOTA, 12 Oct — Floods and mudslides caused by continuous rains since September have killed 41 people and injured 48 others, while 24 remain missing, said the Colombian Civil Defence Office on Tuesday.

The intense downpour starting in September have affected 61 municipalities in 21 of the 32 departments of the South American country, said the office’s operations director Colonel Eugenio Alarcón.

Aracataca municipality in the northern Magdalena department was hit the hardest and thousands of inhabitants were forced to seek shelters in local schools, he said. According to official data, in the past 40 days, the country has witnessed over 45 floods, three mudslides, four landslides, 21 gales and two electric storms.

MVA/Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 13 October, 2005 15

CASH DONATED TO HOME: U Kan Hla-Daw Tin Hsaing and family of No 90, Kaingtan Street, Lammaw Township, recently donated K 120,000 to the medical fund for Hninzigon Home for the Aged. Col Tin Thein Lwin (Retd), Member of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board, accepts the cash donation from the wellwishers.

WEATHER

Wednesday, 12 October, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Chin State, isolated in Rakhae State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Coco Island (0.63) inch, Kawkhong (0.28) inch, Myingyan and Gwa (0.20) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 11-10-2005 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 12-10-2005 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 12-10-2005 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 11-10-2005 was (9.4) hours approx. Rainfalls on 12-10-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (95.20) inches at Mingaladon, (96.34) inches at Kaba-Aye and (100.55) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northeast at (11:25) hours MST on 11-10-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, the low pressure area over Southwest Bay persists. Weather is generally fair in the East Central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 13-10-2005:

Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Mon, Kayin and Chin States and upper Sagaing Division, scattered in Kachin and Rakhae States, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy 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: Decrease of rain in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-10-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 40%.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets contestants from States and Divisions to 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

Also present on the occasion were members of the panel of patrons of the organizing committee, Chairman of the Leading Committee, Chairmen of the Peace and Development Councils of Yangon Division and Yangon Command, Commander of the Yangon Command, Maj-Gen Myint Swe, and members of the panel of patrons, the chairman of the Leading Committee, and members, cordially greeted the managers and contestants from the States and Divisions.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party cordially conversed with maestros of the central panel of judges and those from States and Divisions, and members of the panel of judges.

After the ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented medicines to maestros and members of the panel of judges who are 70 years old and above among maestros of the central panel of judges and those from States and Divisions, and members of the panel of judges at the hall of the National Theatre.

— MNA

**Myanmar technicians successfully invent unicode Myanmar character system with application of Myanmar character code sets recognized by ISO**

Present on the occasion were Chairman of e-National Task Force, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, the deputy ministers, heads of departments, officials and guests.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw delivered an address. He said Myanmar consonants, vowels, numbers and special symbols can be used on computer in digital form due to the cooperation of Myanmar IT technicians and Department of Myanmar Language Commission.

It is the first unicode Myanmar character and an effort to contribute towards the development of ICT in Myanmar. Myanmar technicians successfully invented unicode Myanmar character system in a short time with the application of Myanmar character code sets recognized by ISO. Myanmar alphabets can be used in computer programme. Myanmar characters are in accord with orthography with the suggestion of Department of Myanmar Language Commission. They can be used in word processing, e-mailing and writing web page in any computer system.

He called on the technicians to make better software than the present one. Myanmar Info-Tech has launched Myanmar unicode font installer software on the Internet and everyone can use it free of charge. He spoke of the need to complete the work of translation of world languages into Myanmar on computer in a short time.

President of Myanmar Computer Federation and Chairman of Working Committee for computerized Myanmar character system U Thein Oo spoke words of thanks. He presented Myanmar unicode font installer software to the Minister. Next, Director of Myanmar Computer Federation Secretary of Working Committee for computerized Myanmar character system Dr Myint Myint Than reported on unicode Myanmar character system (trial run).

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw addresses the ceremony to distribute computerized Unicode Myanmar character software of the Myanmar character research programme. — MNA