Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Soe Win who will attend 2nd China-ASEAN Expo, 2nd China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit to be held in Nanning, PRC

YANGON, 17 Oct— At the invitation of the Government of the People’s Republic of China, Myanmar delegation led by General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, left here this morning for Nanning, the capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People’s Republic of China to attend the 2nd China-ASEAN Expo and the 2nd China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit.

The Prime Minister and party were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, Ministers, senior military officers, Charge d’Affairs of Chinese Embassy Mr Yu Boren and officials of the embassy, heads of department and officials.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads.—MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For greater success of rural development tasks

The Union of Myanmar being an agricultural country, the agriculture sector is a basic industry that not only provides food but also contributes to rural development and socio-economic development of the entire national people.

Therefore, only with the development of agribusiness, will rural development, including rural education and economy, be possible.

About seventy per cent of the total population of Myanmar, more than 54 million, engage in farming and livestock breeding. Therefore, it is necessary to place special emphasis on sustainable development of the agriculture, the meat and fish and the forestry sectors.

A ceremony to mark the World Food Day 2005 was held at the International Business Centre in Yangon on 16 October and it was attended by Prime Minister General Soe Win. In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that the entire nation was enjoying self-sufficiency in food, health, education and social standards of rural areas were becoming higher year after year and favourable conditions were being created for the coming generations as the government had been making consistent and systematic efforts on all fronts on self-reliance basis.

The government has been implementing the five rural development tasks for five years. The five rural development tasks are interrelated and they need harmonious implementation. Now, due to concerted efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw, the rural and urban divide has become narrower.

Placing special emphasis on the development of rural areas, home to majority of the nation’s population, is the right choice, economically as well as politically and carrying out the five rural development tasks is serving the interests of the people.

Therefore, these rural development tasks are meeting with considerable success.

We would like to call on all those concerned to make continued efforts in order to bring greater success to the implementation of rural development tasks that can contribute the socio-economic development of the entire national people.

Shwethinational observed to Buddha Image of Hsutaungpyi Nagayon Pagoda

YANGON, 17 Oct — A ceremony to offer Shwethinational (golden robes), fruits, flowers, ‘soon’, water, lights, scented sticks to the Buddha Image at Hsutaungpyi Pagoda in the compound of No 1 Transit Centre (Bayintnaung) by participants of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions led by Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan took place on the pre-cinct of the pagoda at 5 am today.

First, participants from states and divisions led by Manager U Maung Maung Thein of Kachin State offered Shwethinational to the Buddha Image. Next, those present on the occasion offered fruits, flowers, ‘soon’, water, lights, scented sticks to the Buddha Image.—MNA

Artistes offer robe to the Buddha Image at No 1 Transit Centre (Bayintnaung).—MNA

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Abhidhamma Day observed

YANGON, 17 Oct — Ministry of Religious Affairs observed the Abhidhamma Day (the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut) at Kaba Aye here this morning. Present on the occasion were Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññasami (Magadi Thazi), Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thara Aung Ko, Director-General of Religious Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw, officials and others.

The congregation offered water, flowers and lights to the Buddha Image. The congregation then supplicated on religious matters, discussed the Abhidhamma, recited religious verses and share merits. The sponsors of the ceremony were Daw Myint Myint Than and Daw San San May (Maha Myaung family) of Phonegyi Street and Dr Myat Htut and Daw Thida Shein and family of Parami Yeiktha.

Abhidhamma Day observances at Kaba Aye. — MNA

Abhidhamma Day observed

The championship was divided into four categories and altogether 136 boxers participated in the events.

Gen Hla Htay Win made an opening speech.

No 11 LID Commander’s Shield Boxing Championship kicks off

YANGON, 17 Oct — No 11 Light Infantry Division Commander’s Shield Boxing Championship for 2005 was opened yesterday at the command.

Commander Brig-
China, Germany cooperate in computational biology research

S H A N G H A I , 1 6 O C T — The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Max Planck Society (MPS) of Germany have set up a partnership research institute on computational biology in Shanghai.

Named the Computational Biology Institute, which will be administered under the Shanghai Municipal Academy of Life Sciences, the joint-project was inaugurated in Shanghai on Thursday.

Computational science is an amalgamation of biology, mathematics and computer science which studies the life sciences by application of theoretical matrix and numerical calculations.

Using computational biology to collect and analyze data in life sciences research helps scientists to better understand biological patterns and complexity and push forward research, said Chen Zhu, vice-chairman of CAS.

The Shanghai computational institute is aimed at advancing computational biology research and cultivating young scientists in his field in China. CAS will perform the highest level of research in China. The MPS is the biggest research institute in Germany and is funded by the German Government.

“The establishment of the Sino-German partnership for computational biology research has ushered in a new form of operation of institutes for new sciences research,” said Lu Yongxiang, CAS president.

UN food envoy says coalition breaking law in Iraq

G E N E V A , 1 6 O C T — A United Nations human rights investigator on Friday accused US and British forces in Iraq of breaching international law by depriving civilians of food and water in besieged cities as they try to flush out militants.

But the US military denied the charge and said that while supplies were sometimes disrupted by combat, food was never deliberately withheld.

Jean Ziegler, a former Swiss sociology professor who is UN special rapporteur on the right to food, said the Geneva Conventions banned military forces from using “starvation of civilians as a method of warfare”.

But he said that in Fallujah, Tal Afar and Samarra, Iraqi and US-led forces had cut off or restricted food and water to encourage residents to flee before assaults on entrenched Sunni guerrillas over the past year.

“A drama is taking place in total silence in Iraq, where the coalition’s occupying forces are using hunger and deprivation of water as a weapon of war against the civilian population,” Ziegler told a news briefing.

Two 1977 protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions prohibit the use of water as a weapon of war. They also prohibit destruction of food stocks or interruption of supply of food supply lines.

Ziegler said he understood the military rationale of the coalition forces, which lay down rules of conduct in armed conflicts, banning deprivation of food or water as a weapon of war. They also prohibit destruction of food stocks or interruption of supply of food supply lines.

But he said their actions were nevertheless a “flagrant violation of international humanitarian law”.

Ziegler said he hoped the General Assembly would “condemn this strategy of the coalition forces” when he presents his report on the right to food in New York on 27 October. —MNA/Reuters

Death toll from earthquake in Pakistan jumps to 38,000

I S L A M A B A D , 1 6 O C T — The official death toll from the powerful earthquake in Pakistan last Saturday jumped to 38,000 so far, according to a military spokesman Maj-Gen Shaukat Sultan.

“The death toll from the earthquake is now 38,000 and 62,000 people are injured,” Sultan told the private Geo television. The previous death toll confirmed officially from the quake was 25,000.

He said that relief work was continuing around the clock. “We are trying to open blocked roads, and troops are reaching to far-flung areas in Kashmir and other parts of Pakistan,” he said, adding the relief operation was in full swing.

In India, the 8 October quake also killed some 1,400 people.—MNA/Reuters

Rice fails to gain Russia support on Iran

M O S C O W , 1 6 O C T — US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice devoted Russian support on Saturday for the US hardline over Iran’s nuclear programme, but there was no public sign if it continues to reject talks with European powers and keeps up sensitive nuclear-related activities, diplomats said.

The top US diplomat’s visit was announced late on Thursday and squeezed into a planned trip to France and Britain in a gesture that plays to Russia’s sense of pride and reflects an increasing US awareness it needs Moscow’s help on Iran.

“We and Russia have found common cause in our attempts to help the Europeans and other countries to get the Iranians to first of all remove the many questions... about their programmes,” Rice told reporters after talks with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Lavrov on Saturday argued for more time, saying the IAEA should be allowed longer to inspect Iran’s nuclear sites. “We think the current situation allows us to actively work with Iran through the IAEA,” he said. “We do not see grounds for passing this (issue) to other organs.”—MNA/Reuters

Bombs kill four in S-W Iran, dozens wounded

T H E R H O , 1 6 O C T — Two bombs set off minutes apart killed four people and wounded dozens of others in the southwestern Iranian city of Ahvaz, local officials said on Saturday. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombings, which were the latest in a string of attacks and violence this year in Khuzestan Province, the heartland of Iran’s oil industry.

Officials said the two blasts, five minutes apart, occurred on Saturday afternoon close to a shopping centre in central Ahvaz. “The bombs were in two garbage cans, 50 metres (yards) apart,” said Deputy Ahvaz Governor Rahim Farzilpour. “Four people were killed and more than 70 were injured,” he told the official IRNA news agency. Ahvaz Governor told state television. Officials have blamed the violence on exile-based separatist groups and have suggested that some of the perpetrators may have received British training. London denies the charge.—MNA/Reuters
Iran vows not to concede nuclear right

TEHERAN, 16 Oct — A top Iranian cleric reiterated on Friday that Iran will never abandon its right to nuclear technology, belittling the West’s condition of concessions. "Having full access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes is a natural right of the Islamic Republic of Iran and millions of Iranians," Mohammad Emami-Kashani, interim Friday Prayer Leader, was quoted as saying at a political-religious ritual.

Kashani warned that giving concessions regarding the nuclear right would result in "heavy consequences" in the future and that would be "too heavy a responsibility to shoul- der". "The Islamic Re-

public of Iran can not abandon that right and will materialize it in ac-

cordance with interests without giving slightest bit of concessions," Kashani stressed. Kashani’s remarks came three days after Iran’s Foreign Ministry officially announced Teheran’s readiness to restart nuclear negotiations with the European Union (EU) without any predictions.

The ministry said Teheran would seek to observe 'a balanced approach to rights and commitments' and wel-

come the negotiations 'under the current cir-

cumstances'.

This was viewed as a positive move aimed at breaking the current deadlock on the country’s nuclear issue lasting for more than two months.

Iran resumed ur-

enium conversion activi-

ties in August, a prepara-
tory step for uranium en-

richment, prompting the International Atomic Energy Agency adopted a EU-sponsored resolu-

tion in September.

The UN nuclear watchdog urged Iran in the resolution to suspend all activities related to uranium enrichment before November, otherwise its nuclear case will be referred to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

The United States accuses Iran of develop-

ing nuclear weapons un-

der the disguise of civil-

ian programmes. Tehe-

ran categorically denies the charge, saying its nuclear programme is completely peaceful.

MNA/Xinhua

China completes railway to roof of the world

BEIJING, 16 Oct — China announced on Saturday the completion of the world's highest railway, a line that runs to its Tibet autonomous region.

The pan-Himalayan line, not yet in operation, climbs 5,072 metres (16,640 feet) above sea level and runs across Tibet's snow-covered plateau, known as the roof of the world.

The official Xinhua news agency said three billion US dollars had so far been spent on the challenging 1,142-kilometre (710-mile) final section whose construction across mountain ranges began four years ago.

"About 550 kilometres of the tracks run on frozen earth, the longest in any of the world’s plateau railways," Xinhua said.

Engineering feats included boring tunnels through ice as construction crews breathed bottled oxygen. But even bigger challenges may lie ahead. The National Climate Centre said in June that rising temperatures would affect operation of the railway by 2050.

China says the line will promote the development of impoverished Tibet.

MNA/Reuters
**Thai Finance Ministry offers 6.5% return on new bond issue**

**BANGKOK, 15 Oct—** Thai Finance Ministry on Friday offered an annual interest rate of 6.4 per cent, which is worth 2 billion baht (50 million US dollars), for its seven-year saving bonds for the 2006 fiscal year.

There has been a big interest in the new bond. One of the main reasons is the bank account was opened within 10 minutes of subscribing opening nationwide, according to the Thai News Agency.

Kasikornbank executive vice president Tongchai Charoenisit said the bonds were very attractive to the public because the rate of return was so high. He expected the next lot of the government bonds would be equally popular. Pannee Sathavarodom, director of the Public Debt Management Office, was quoted by the agency as saying that the ministry had issued two lots of saving bonds worth five billion baht (125 million US dollars) each for fiscal 2005.

One of them was issued in August and had a maturity of seven years and an annual interest rate of 5.4 per cent, while the other had a maturity of five years and was issued in September at 5.25 per cent.

Higher inflation would necessarily mean higher interest rates. But she said interest rates would not be raised too high because it would affect lending for new investment.

MNA/Xinhua

**Mortars hit Baghdad’s Green Zone**

**BAGHDAD, 16 Oct —** Two mortar rounds have been fired at the Iraqi capital’s heavily fortified Green Zone, where Iraq’s parliament and the US Embassy are located.

It was not immediately known whether the loud explosions caused any damage or casualties.

The mortars were fired at about 7.15 am from nearby Dora, one of the most violent areas of Baghdad, said police 1st Lieutenant Thair Mahmud.

Two large plumes of smoke could be seen rising over separate areas of the Green Zone, one white and one grey.

The blasts occurred one day after Iraq’s historical constitutional referendum, and about an hour after officials had lifted one of the many security restrictions that had been enforced across the country during Saturday’s vote: a ban on all civilian traffic.

A US military spokesman said he had heard and felt the explosions in the Green Zone but had no official information on them.

On 10 October, a car bomb exploded near a US-Iraqi checkpoint leading into the Green Zone, killing a US soldier, three Iraqi policemen and three civilians, officials said.— Internet

**Indian men buy vegetables in a market in Kolkata. The world has enough resources to feed its growing population if political leaders can get past ‘short-term interests’, the head of the UN’s food agency said at ceremonies marking World Food Day.**

**INTERNET**

**Zimbabwe says wandering US envoy lucky to be alive**

**HARARE, 16 Oct —** Zimbabwe’s Government defended its decision to briefly detain the US ambassador, saying on Friday the envoy was lucky to be alive after straying into a secure zone near President Robert Mugabe’s residence.

Zimbabwe state television reported on Thursday that US Ambassador Christopher Dell was held by the Presidential Guard on Monday after entering a restricted area at the National Botanical Gardens near Mugabe’s official residence.

“The ambassador must consider himself very lucky that he is dealing with a professional Army that the Zimbabwe National Army is,” Mugabe’s spokesman George Charambwa said in a statement published by state media on Friday.

“Elsewhere, and definitely in America, he would have been a dead man. His adventure is really dangerous.”

The Zimbabwean Foreign Ministry said it sent a letter of protest to the US Embassy over what it called “a calculated disregard of the rules governing relationships between states ... clearly intended to provoke an unwarranted diplomatic incident”.

Dell was not available for comment but the US Embassy said in a statement he had been held for over an hour.

“During an 10 October tourist visit to National Botanical Gardens in Harare Ambassador Dell inadvertently wandered into a poorly marked military area located in the middle of the park,” it said.

Dell had accepted apologies from two senior Zimbabwean Foreign Affairs officials over his brief detention, including an explanation that the guards who had held him did not know how to deal with issues involving diplomats, the statement said.

The ambassador was surprised that Harare had written a protest note and gone to the media with the issue days after the incident, it said, adding: “We consider the incident closed.” — MNA/Reuters

**Quaker® Relief work faces difficulty in reaching outlying areas**

The coordinator also reported on Thursday difficulties and problems in reaching remote areas, and more aid was needed right now if political leaders can get past ‘short-term interests’, the head of the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland said on Friday.

“In the pipeline we have 10,000 tents and 100,000 blankets, but it takes time to get them into these areas, and more aid is still on the way,” Egeland told the UN information service.

“The biggest problem at the moment is to reach people in outlying areas. It’s heartbroken to see flattened small villages. This devastation is just a complete nightmare, 70 per cent of this city has been completely destroyed,” Egeland added.

The coordinator also issued an urgent appeal for more helicopters — the only way to ferry aid to the many settlements cut off, saying many more were needed right now if thousands of lives are to be saved.

The devastating 7.6 magnitude earthquake that shook the northern part of Pakistan last Saturday has claimed more than 25,000 lives in the country. It has also destroyed more than 80 per cent of the structures and buildings there, and strong aftershocks are still threatening buildings already damaged by the initial earthquake. Now five days on, relief workers are still battling to give assistance to needy people in thousands of isolated communities. “We are most concerned for the people stuck in small villages. It’s a race against the clock,” Egeland said.— MNA/Xinhua

**A soldier stands guard on a rooftop in Mosul, Iraq, on 15 Oct, 2005.**

**INTERNET**

**Woman ticked off by British police for “fat” comment**

**LONDON, 15 Oct —** A woman struck by a hit and run car driver in northern England said she was told off by a police officer for using the F-word to describe the driver — “fat”.

Mary Magilton, 54, suffered cuts and bruises after being hit by the car which mounted the pavement while she was chatting to friends in Oldham and then drove off, newspapers reported on Friday.

She reported the incident but was ticked off by a police officer when she said the driver of the car was a “fat” woman.

“I was given a frosty look and told I couldn’t say that. I could have said lardy, porky or plump. But I wouldn’t dare use those words,” the Daily Mirror quoted her as saying.— MNA/Reuters

**In the pipeline we have 10,000 tents and 100,000 blankets, but it takes time to get them into these areas, and more aid is still on the way,” Egeland told the UN information service.**

**INTERNET**

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**INTERNET**
**Hu Jintao talks with “Shenzhou-6” taikonauts**

**BEIJING, 17 Oct** — Chinese President Hu Jintao talked with two taikonauts aboard China's second manned spacecraft Shenzhou-6 at the Beijing Aerospace Command and Control Centre on Saturday afternoon.

The spacecraft is flying on a circular orbit 343 kilometres above the Earth at a speed of 7.8 kilometres per second. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Taleban kill three Afghans on spying for US**

**KARUL, 17 Oct** — Taleban guerrillas on Sunday killed three Afghan men for spying for US troops in Afghanistan, a spokesman for the Islamic militant group said.

Lal Mohammad, Mohammad Hassan and Abdul Samad had their throats slit in the central province of Uruzgan, Qari Mohammad Youssaf, said, adding: "They were spying against the Mujahideen (holy warriors) and we slaughtered them."

Speaking by satellite phone, Youssaf told Reuters that Taleban guerrillas killed four Afghan troops in a pre-dawn raid in neighbouring Kandahar Province. No provincial officials could be immediately reached for comment on either of the incidents.

The reported incidents came amid rising Taleban violence in which more than two dozen Afghan troops, five aid workers and at least two US soldiers have been killed in the past fortnight.

Ousted from power in 2001, the Taleban and their Islamic allies are mostly active in southern and eastern parts of Afghanistan close to the border with Pakistan. Some 20,000 US-led forces are hunting the Taleban and their Islamic allies such as the al-Qaeda network of Osama bin Laden. **MNA/Reuters**

**Earthquake jolts sea waters northeast of Taiwan**

**HONG KONG, 17 Oct** — An earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale jolted sea waters northeast of Taiwan at 11:53 pm (15:58 GMT) late Saturday.

According to a Press release by the Hong Kong Observatory on Sunday morning, the epicentre was initially determined to be 25.3 North Latitude and 123.3 East Longitude, about 180 kilometres east of Taipei. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Roadside bomb kills three Iraqi troops**

**BAQUBA (Iraq), 17 Oct** — Three Iraqi soldiers were killed and three wounded when a roadside bomb blasted their convoy near the Iranian border early on Saturday, police said. The incident, 50 miles east of Baquba, came several hours before polls opened in a constitutional referendum. **MNA/Reuters**

**Putin says Russia views Thailand as promising partner**

**MOSCOW, 17 Oct** — Russia regards Thailand as its "promising partner" as trade and economic relations between the two countries grow closer, President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday.

"We consider Thailand our promising partner. This year trade turnover between our countries may reach 1.7 billion US dollars," Putin noted that economic growth between Russia and Thailand "is very modest", the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Thaksin recalled that during his previous visit to Russia two and a half years ago trade volume between the two countries was about one billion US dollars.

"I hope that it will amount to two billion US dollars by the end of the year," the Thai Prime Minister added, stating that the aim of this visit "is to strengthen relations in all fields, especially in the economy."

Speaking on Russia's participation in the ASEAN summit held in Malaysia in December, Thaksin told Putin "I'm glad to welcome Russia as a member of Asia's dialogue and cooperation."

The Thai Prime Minister also expressed condolences to Russia on the terrorist incident in Nalchik, the other day, which claimed 36 lives, including 12 civilians and 24 policemen.

Moscow was the last leg of Thaksin's European tour which had taken him to France, Belgium and Finland. **MNA/Xinhua**

**New Orleans Mayor says city finances still bleak**

**NEW ORLEANS, 17 Oct** — New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said on Saturday the city's financial condition remains bleak and that he is still looking for funds that will prevent further layoffs of municipal workers.

"I'm trying to figure out exactly how much financial support we still have left," Nagin said when asked if the city would be forced to cut more jobs. "Our financial condition has really not improved that substantially and we are going to try to limp along just as long as we can."

Last week, Nagin cut 3,000 city jobs, or about 40 per cent of its staff, because he said the hurricane-devastated city no longer had enough tax revenue to pay them. On Saturday, he said he did not know if there would be more layoffs.

Dressed in a white "Bring Back New Orleans" T-shirt and baseball cap, Nagin spoke to reporters at a city-sponsored cleanup of Magazine Street. Several hundred volunteers picked up debris and leaves along the busy commercial street, where businesses like restaurants and clothing stores are slowly beginning to reopen.

"You just want to get it back to normal, even if it's a new normal," said Jennifer Bernard, a 24-year-old accountant.

Nagin also pitched in, and thanked Debbly Poitevent, 59, the owner of the women's shoe store Feet First, when she said she was determined to reopen in the Uptown district.

"We're not leaving," she told Nagin.

While Uptown residents slowly got back to their day-to-day lives, Nagin said the city's last closed-off neighbourhood may reopen to residents next week.

Half of the poor, mostly Black Lower Ninth Ward that was flooded after Hurricane Katrina struck on 29 August reopened this week to residents during daylight hours. Half of the area is still under water, but large amounts of debris remain strewn all over the streets.

"They tell me it's dry, and I'm going to try and drive through there before the weekend is out," Nagin said. "Once I see it we may be on our normal schedule which is normally we open up a new area on Wednesday."

**MNA/Reuters**

**The death toll from South Asia's earthquake soared past 53,000 in Pakistan and could rise still far higher as relief workers struggle to reach survivors, Pakistani Kashmir leader Sikandar Hayat Khan has said.**

—INTERNET
Nowadays, certain groups are relying too much on external elements, holding negative views, and turning a blind eye to the constructive changes in Myanmar that is striving for democracy transition through the practice of the market-oriented economic system. Instead of encouraging Myanmar to be able to boost positive relations with international community and to introduce democracy in conformity with the way of life of national people, they are resorting to various means to isolate the nation from the international community and attempting to directly copy the western democracy. They are also dissuading world nations from providing humanitarian aid for the nation rather than calling for humanitarian aid from world nations for the nation. They are calling for economic sanctions against the nation to make her get in economic straits, while disregarding the social science that says progress of economic productive forces is of the touchstone at the highest level for the advancement of human society. They are inciting mass demonstrations designed to disrupt community peace and prevalence of law and order instead of contributing towards the drive for restoration of community peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order. In addition, they under the complete alien domination are seeking wicked means to break up national solidarity instead of strengthening cohesion among national brethren. They are indeed like constructive efforts and destructive acts or essential nutrients and poisons. Almost all the nations are facing such undesirable processes. So, the entire Myanmar people on their part are to contribute towards constructive efforts, while crushing destructive elements. In the process, they should not take poisons for essential nutrients, and destructive acts for constructive endeavours.

At the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade held on 27 March 2005, Head of State Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said, “Under a democratic system, only high education standards can ensure discipline and a clear perception of right from wrong. Similarly, without the dynamism of patriotic spirit, it is impossible to face the challenges from abroad that come from all directions. "Inferior education standards lead to a reduced capacity to discern right from wrong and make for gullibility and unprincipled poor choices based on various biases. This would open the door to the kind of chaos and disorder that prevailed during the post-independence parliamentary democracy period, which may eventually lead to the collapse of the democratic system. For this reason, endeavours are being made to develop human resources simultaneously all over the country". If a nation is transformed into a democratic one without necessary infrastructures, it will be like the words of British writer George Bernard Shaw “Democracy is the election, by the ignorance for the corrupted few”.

Political researchers said that democracy process is easier said than done. It is easy to say but hard to practise it. When asked what democracy is, it is easy to answer that democracy is the government elected by the public. But, to emerge a democratic government, it may take as long as a few generations or a certain period according to situations of respective nations. Genuine democracy can flourish only when each and every citizen possesses reasoning power and is able to vote for delegates without four forms of partiality.

Now, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the Government has been implementing the seven-point political programme (Road Map) phase by phase to transform the nation into a democratic one. The seven-point Road Map is being translated through four basic principles as follows:

1. The National Convention representing the entire national people is holding discussions to lay down basic principles and detailed principles to be included in the framing of a State Constitution.

2. Based on the basic principles and detailed basic principles, the State Constitution (draft) will be drawn. When the draft has been completed, approval of the public will be sought through a referendum.

3. A fair election will be held in accord with the new State Constitution for forming Hluttaws (legislative bodies).

4. The State leaders elected and the government and administrative bodies formed by Hluttaws will build a democratic nation.

Here, it is beyond my understanding that why the groups, who are repeatedly claiming that they pay a serious attention to the wishes of the majority of the people and desire democracy, are opposed to the processes. As to whether a democratic nation is to be built or not, what does emphasis need to be placed on — policy (principle) or individuals?

In fact, emphasis is to be set on policy (principle) and how the policy (principle) will be practised, but not on the fact of whether the persons that will come into power are their lackeys or not. They should contribute towards construction of foundations necessary for democratic transition such as the improvement of economic productive forces, raising the standard of living of the people, and promotion of the education standard of the nation if they are really willing to serve the interests of Myanmar and its people. Yet, the US and certain members of Western bloc are diverting the nation far from democracy with the imposition of economic sanctions against it. At the same time, they are inciting situations to harm peace and stability and interfering in the internal affairs of the nation, thereby resulting in adverse effects on national reconciliation. Moreover, exaggerating the Myanmar’s situation, they are calling on the UN Security Council to take action against the nation.

In particular, since 1988 when the Tatmadaw assumed State responsibilities as there were no individuals or internal groups capable of tackling the unrest, the US has cut off all forms of aid for Myanmar. And it has called for the handing over of State power. Furthermore, it is putting pressure on the nation to honour the results of the 1990 elections. It made one-sided demand for the handing over of State power without a State Constitution. In 1997, the US Congress approved the law to ban all the US investments in Myanmar. In 2003, the US Congress prohibited all the imports from Myanmar, and President Bush issued an order to freeze all Myanmar’s assets deposited in foreign countries.

At a time when the National Convention representing the entire people is being held in a peaceful way to adopt basic principles in line with the seven-point Road Map for the emergence of a democratic nation, former Czech president Vaclav Havel and South African Bishop Desmond Tutu are calling on the UN Security Council to take action against Myanmar through exaggerations. In reality, the attempts of the two men are subsequent to the intrigues and scandals of the Western masters. Thus, the unreasonable demands are just poisons, but not essential nutrients to the Myanmar people.

In fact, emphasis is to be set on policy (principle) and how the policy (principle) will be practised, but not on the fact of whether the persons that will come into power are their lackeys or not.
On arrival at the briefing hall of Twantay bridge construction project, project in-charge Deputy Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Naing briefed Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party on facts of the bridge, its progress of work, stockpile of the materials, arrangements to be made for timely completion of the bridge, and Yangon Division Superintending Engineer U Soe Tint on supplementary reports.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein instructed to the officials concerned saying that Twantay bridge is located on Hlinethaya-Dalla-Twantay motorway, which will contribute not only to regional development but also to socio-economic life of the locals. The officials concerned are to systematically supervise the construction tasks meeting the set standards and minimizing the loss and wastage.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party oversaw bole piling tasks and progress in building of approach bridge in Twantay and Hlinethaya sides and made arrangements to fulfill the requirements. Total length of Twantay bridge is 3570 feet, whose main bridge is 840 feet long and its approach bridge, 2,730 feet long. Its motorway is 28 feet in width, whose each pedestrian, four feet long and its clearance, 45 feet high and 700 feet wide. It can withstand 60-ton loads.

The bridge construction project was initiated on 24 December, 2003. If completed, Panhlaing and Twantay bridges will offer travellers to go to townships in Yangon North and South Districts and ones in Ayeyawady Division.
Pagodas packed with devotees doing meritorious deeds

YANGON, 17 Oct — Today is Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut as well as Abhidhamma Day. Wellwishers and devotees performed meritorious deeds such as offering lights, fruits, flowers and joss sticks to pagodas and reciting religious verses all across the Yangon City.

The famous Shwedagon Pagoda was packed with the public including devotees and Wut associations offering ‘soon’ to the pagoda and members of Sangha, observing Abhidhamma Day and keeping Sabbath. In addition, wellwishers contributed Satuditha (free meals) including cold drinks and bottles of mineral water to the visitors.

The pagoda was illuminated in the evening with thousands of lights offered by the devotees.

Similarly, at the Sule Pagoda members of the pagoda board of trustees observed Abhidhamma Day and Wut association members and devotees recited religious verses and offered ‘soon’, fruits, flowers, water and joss sticks to the pagoda. In the

Abhidhamma Day was observed at the Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Pagoda that was crowded with visitors doing meritorious deeds. The pagoda was illuminated with lights in the evening.

Organized by pagoda board of trustees, the 13th ‘soon’ offering ceremony took place at the Maha Wizaya Pagoda. Wut associations are reciting religious verses form 6 am to 6 pm daily from 16 to 18 October.

Similarly, at the well-known Shwedagon Pagoda, recitation of Tipitaka Dhara Dhamma Bandagarika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sirinda Bhivamsa (Yaw Sayadaw) delivered a sermon. Likewise, Warada Datu Setiya Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) kept on Dhamapala Hill in Mayangon Township held the 8th Abhidhamma Day was held this morning. Wut associations recited religious verses and in the evening wut teams offered 1,500 lights.

Kyaikkasan Pagoda At Kyaikkasan Pagoda in Thingangyun Township, ‘soon’ was offered to the pagoda. Abhidhamma Day was observed at the dhamma-yon at the pagoda platform under the supervision of the pagoda board of trustees. Member of the pagoda board of trustees U Aye Pe explained facts on Abhidhamma Day.

The congregation received the Nine Precepts from Ovadacariya Sayadaw of the pagoda Bhaddanta Sumana. Fourteen social organizations offered 1,000 lights and 1,000 flowers to the pagoda.

Lawkachantha Abhayalabha Muni Buddha Image At Lawkachantha Abhayalabha Muni Buddha Image on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township. In the evening the Buddha Image was crowded with devotees who offered flowers, lights, water and...
YANGON, 17 Oct — The 13th ‘soon’ offering ceremony of Maha Wizaya Pagoda and opening of the bridge across the turtle lake and its archway were held at the pagoda this morning.

Present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by Joint Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee President Nayaka Sayadaw of Kalaywa Tawya monastery Agga Maha Pandita Dvitakadutta. — MNA

POEM

Marionette—duty of new generation

At start of performing arts era, it was gold
As something novel, it entered the court
With great imagination, it was created
Sculpted with wood, and stringed
To be just as capable as human,
In the royal chamber, regal it appears
The marionette stage
Magnificently, it appears
Myanma culture, ancient tradition
Able to carry Myanmar, world renown
Full of wisdom, we owe our gratitude
To our ancestors for our heritage
We supplicate for its posterity

**Tis the duty of the new generation.

* The start of performing arts
* Auspicious, started by marionettes
* Had its beginning in ancient times
* Ancient city and royal palace strange
* Grand and stylish, became regal stage
* City and town liked the “Royal” statues
* It began to fade in later age
* The honour of Myanmar variety
* To repay these days, sculpting anew

raise it to a high level through competitions

For a new and strange high stage
Raise it to a high level through competitions
Let us do it grand new honour
For only if we maintain Myanmar tradition
Will Myanmar beauty be known worldwide.

Pylinmya Myint Hlaing (Trs)

( Honouring the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions)
28th Pavarana ceremony held at Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda

YANGON, 17 Oct— The 28th Pavarana ceremony of Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township was held at the new Dhammayon of the pagoda this afternoon.

Chairman of the Committee for All-round Renovation of the Pagoda, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the ceremony and presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by Secretaries of Central Working Committee for the Sangha, Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the Pagoda, heads of departments under the Ministry of Information and officials, the secretary of the Township Union Solidarity and Development Association, the chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, officials and well-wishers.

First, the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Ovadacariya Sayadaw of the Pagoda Bhaddanta Vayama.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented offertories and cash to members of the Sangha.

Later, members of the Sangha recited the parittas.

Ovadacariya

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and the congregation receiving the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vayama at the Shwepone Pwint Pagoda. — MNA

Pakistan FM thanks world community for quake relief

ISLAMABAD, 17 Oct— Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri on Saturday thanked the international community for its swift response and help to the earthquake-stricken areas.

"It was unprecedented that the world community was mobilized within hours after the earthquake," he said while speaking in the National Assembly, or Lower House of Parliament.

Kasuri said that nearly 50 foreign ministers of various countries rang him up and assured their governments’ all possible help to Pakistan.

He said that the King of Jordan also came to Pakistan to extend support and share the sufferings of the affected people.

Kasuri noted heads of state and prime ministers from all over the world have sent messages of sympathies to Pakistan, for which the government was very grateful.

He said there was a long list of the countries who helped Pakistan in the relief operations and their volunteers were still working in the quake-stricken areas.

Kasuri thanked the United Nations for making “flash appeal” for aid to Pakistan and said the UN Under-Secretary General Jan Egeland has assured the world body will not leave alone Pakistan at this critical time.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan quake relief helicopter crashes, 6 dead

ISLAMABAD, 17 Oct — A Pakistan Army helicopter crashed in Pakistani Kashmir during a relief operation for the earthquake-shattered region, killing six soldiers, a military aviation official said on Sunday.

"The Mi-17 helicopter crashed near Bagh on Saturday evening while it was on its way back to Islamabad after dropping relief goods," said the official, who requested anonymity.

"Six Pakistan Army soldiers were martyred in the incident," he said, but could not say whether there were any survivors.

A fleet of helicopters, including some provided by US forces based in neighbouring Afghanistan, has been ferrying emergency food supplies and shelter into the worst-hit areas of Kashmir and adjoining North West Frontier Province. However, the flights were severely disrupted on Saturday by heavy rains and clouded weather.— MNA/Reuters

Pakistan quake relief helicopter crashes, 6 dead

(from page 9)

Pilgrims light candles on the platform of the Botataung Kyaikdeup Pagoda.— NLM

Sayadaw of the Pagoda Bhaddanta Vayama delivered a sermon, followed by sharing merits gained.

The ceremony ended with the recitation of Buddha Sasana Ciramittithu.

After the ceremony, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and party and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees inspected working being carried out for all-round renovation of the pagoda.

Pagodas packed with devotees doing meritorious deeds...

Abhidhaja Maha Rathaguru Bhaddanta Sobhana and members of the Sangha delivered Ovadakatha.

The audience recited religious verses and presented offertories to the members of the Sangha. In the evening, government offices and houses were illuminated with colourfullights.

MNA

Pagodas packed with devotees doing meritorious deeds...
Over hundred plants in Angolan threatened

**LUANDA, 16 Oct—** More than a hundred species of plants of the Angolan flora are threatened with extinction due to their excessive use, according to data from a study on conservation of vegetation biodiversity carried out by the Luanda Herbarium.

Angolan official news agency reported on Friday that the information was released by Luanda Herbarium director, Esperanza Costa, who said the main concern is related to the mangrove biodiversity that is being severely degraded on the sea coast of Cabinda and Luanda.

The mangroves, according to the biologist, protect the mangrove biodiversity that is being severely degraded on the sea coast of Cabinda and Luanda.

**The sound of shots or explosions was heard in The Hague, the seat of the Dutch Government, during raids there but it was not clear what caused it or whether anyone was hurt.**

**The national anti-terrorism coordinator, Tjibbe Joustra, said people suspected of “terrorist activities” were arrested and police beefed up security at government buildings, including the offices of Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende in The Hague.**

**The Public Prosecutor’s Office and the AIVD security service confirmed the arrests but declined to say what individuals or buildings those detained had planned to attack. “Suspects were arrested in Almere, Amsterdam, and The Hague.”*—MNA/Xinhua

**WHO calls for more int'l commitment to combat bird flu**

**MANILA, 16 Oct—** The worst scenario brought by bird flu can be avoided if the international society make more commitment in terms of attention, resource, finance and technology, World Health Organization (WHO) regional head said on Friday.

In an address before foreign correspondents here, Dr. Shigeru Omi, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, sent an alarm against the bird flu, or avian influenza, the fatal virus that has claimed at least 59 lives and sickened 115 others in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos and Indonesia.

In addition, thousands of infected chicken and other poultry have been slaughtered in the four affected countries, resulting huge economic loss. However, Dr Omi warned that more disastrous scenario could be possible if no immediate and efficient measures put under way to fight against the “very unstable, changeable and versatile virus”.

What worries the medical experts most is the possibility that the virus, which is currently transmitted through animal-to-animal and animal-to-human, can spread human-to-human and infect millions of people in a short time like SARS, he said.

Apart from Asia, the virus has been detected in more than 100 countries world-wide, have been jointly engaged in oil exploration in the last seven years followed by 20-year production term for any commercial discovery.

Canoro and Geopetrol, both subsidiaries of the French Geofinance Group that operates in about 80 countries worldwide, have been jointly engaged in oil exploration in northeast India in the last decade.—MNA/Xinhua

**Dutch police arrest seven in anti-terror swoop**

**THE HAGUE, 16 Oct —** Dutch police arrested seven people in anti-terror raids on Friday on suspicion of plotting attacks against politicians and government buildings.

The sound of shots or explosions was heard in The Hague, the seat of the Dutch Government, during raids there but it was not clear what caused it or whether anyone was hurt. The national anti-terrorism coordinator, Tjibbe Joustra, said people suspected of “terrorist activities” were arrested and police beefed up security at government buildings, including the offices of Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende in The Hague.

The Public Prosecutor's Office and the AIVD security service confirmed the arrests but declined to say what individuals or buildings those detained had planned to attack. “Suspects were arrested in Almere, Amsterdam, and The Hague.”*—MNA/Xinhua

**Over hundred plants in Angolan threatened**

**NEW DELHI, 16 Oct—** Three companies from France, Canada and India will begin exploring oil and natural gas in northeast India, Indo-Asian News Service reported on Saturday.

An Indian Petroleum Ministry official said the central government had granted exploration rights of the 295 square-kilometre onshore block in the northeast border with China and three companies.

The consortium includes Operator Geopetrol International Incorporate of France and Canoro Resources Ltd. of Canada, besides the National Thermal Power Corp (NTPC) of India,* the official said. The exploration right will last seven years followed by 20-year production term for any commercial discovery.

Canoro and Geopetrol, both subsidiaries of the French Geofinance Group that operates in about 80 countries worldwide, have been jointly engaged in oil exploration in northeast India in the last decade.—MNA/Xinhua

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Scientists find avian flu virus resistant to drug Tamiflu

LOUISIANA, 16 Oct — Scientists reported on Friday that an avian influenza virus isolated from a Vietnamese girl has been determined to be resistant to the drug Tamiflu.

Scientists at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, working with colleagues in Vietnam and Japan, reported that a young girl developed a strain of the virus that was highly resistant to the drug after taking a prophylactic dose of the drug.

The drug, produced by pharmaceutical firm Roche Inc and also known as oseltamivir, has been expected as the front line of defence for a feared influenza pandemic. Countries are stockpiling millions of doses of Tamiflu with billions of dollars to forestall a global outbreak of influenza. But the new findings, appearing in next week's edition of the journal Nature, suggest that health officials should also consider other options, according to Yoshihiro Kawaoka, an international authority on influenza and the senior author of the paper.

"This is the first line of defence," said Kawaoka, a professor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "It is the drug many countries are stockpiling, and the plan is to rely heavily on it."

The team found several types in a mixture of H5N1 viruses, an international authority on influenza and the senior author of the paper. "Although our findings are based on a virus from only a single patient, they raise the possibility that it might be useful to stockpile zanamivir as well as oseltamivir in the event of an H5N1 influenza pandemic," the researchers wrote in the paper.

Indian mobile phone users top 65 million

NEW DELHI, 16 Oct — The number of mobile phone users in India totalled 65.05 million by the end of September, Sanjeev Sharma, Managing Director Nokia India, said at the Mobile Expo 2005 news conference on Friday.

During the first six months of the current fiscal (1 April—30 September), 12.83 million new subscribers joined the mobile phone network in India, Sanjeev Sharma said, adding that the total investment in the sector stood over 500 billion rupees (11.36 billion US dollars). The growth of mobile phone users has outperformed that of landline category with the growth of 1.92 million subscribers, he said.

The second Mobile Expo 2005 will take place from 21 to 24 October and will display the latest technologies and services on the mobile phone market, according to Sanjeev Sharma.

Attending the expo will be such companies as Airtel, America Online, Imate, LG Electronics, Motorola, Nokia, Reliance Infocom, Sagem, Sony Ericsson and Tata Indicom. — MNA/Xinhua

New Scientist says new human pandemic “inevitable”

HANOI (Vietnam), 16 Oct — The next human pandemic is “inevitable” and the world must prepare now against bird flu and other potentially deadly viruses, a top US Government scientist said on Saturday.

"It’s been over 30 years since we’ve had a pandemic, so inevitably we are going to have a pandemic within a reasonable period of time," said Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"It’s not a matter of when or if," he told reporters in Vietnam, where 41 people have died from the H5N1 virus that has now spread to Europe.

Fauci, part of a US mission to Southeast Asian nations worst hit by the virus — which has killed more than 60 people in Asia since 2003 — said H5N1 was becoming more worrisome.

Two earthquake shake western Turkey

IZMIR, Turkey, 17 Oct — A magnitude 5.9 earthquake shook Turkey’s Aegean coast on Monday, hours after a 5.7 quake rattled the same region, Istanbul’s Kandilli seismic research institute said. There were no immediate reports of any injuries, but the state Anatolian news agency said the roofs of two houses in the town of Urla south of Izmir collapsed after the first quake.

Witnesses in Izmir, Turkey’s third largest city, said they felt both quakes, which the US Geographical survey measured at 5.2 and then later 5.7.

People gathered on pavements and in parks after leaving their homes and work places. Local authorities gave parents permission to take their children out of school for the day.

People in the town of Seferhisar, also south of Izmir, set up a tent in the street in anticipation of aftershocks. The first quake was also felt in neighbour- ing Greece. Turkey is cross-located by seismic fault lines and small or moderate earthquakes are an almost daily occurrence here. A powerful quake measuring 7.4 devastated areas of northwestern Turkey near Istanbul in 1999, killing more than 17,000 people.

Turkey sent rescue teams to Pakistan last week to help victims of an earthquake that killed tens of thou- sands. — MNA/Reuters

Ancient temple unearthed in Peru

LIMA, 16 Oct — A circular temple was recently uncovered at the Sechin Bajo complex by Peruvian and German archaeologists, which will add support to the belief that the Peruvian past, said archaeologists on Friday. Archaeologists found a 40-metre-long plastered stone wall in the central building and the frontal part of the Sechin Bajo complex during the excavations, which started in 2003. The plastered wall shows designs that are part of a complex iconography, the meaning and potential importance of which is currently under study.

A Thai jockey loses his balance while racing in the annual traditional water buffalo race in Chonburi Province, 70 kilometres (44 miles) south of Bangkok, Thailand, on Monday, 17 Oct. 2005. — Internet

A view of the Dan Nan Wind Farm in Nan’ao, Guangdong Province, China, on 17 October, 2005. — Internet
LONDON, 17 Oct— Manchester City maintained their flying start to the Premier League season with an effervescent 2-1 home win over West Ham United on Sunday.

Andy Cole got both goals the day after his 34th birthday as City moved to fourth in the standings on 17 points behind Manchester United on goal difference.

Champions Chelsea lead the way on 27, ahead of Tottenham Hotspur with 18.

City have played some entertaining football this season under coach Stuart Pearce and it is paying off. Promoted West Ham arrived in Manchester having lost only once this season but were second-best against a home side who created a host of chances.

Cole opened the scoring after 18 minutes with an expertly-taken goal as he curled the ball around keeper Roy Carroll with his right foot from wide on the left of the area.

City had two other efforts cleared off the line in the first period as they tackled at every opportunity.

Both teams had chances early in the second half with West Ham's Matthew Etherington missing the best of them when he shot straight at goalkeeper David James after breaking clear.

City got their deserved second in the 56th minute after a Kiki Musampa shot was parried by Carroll but only into the path of Cole who drove it into an empty net.— MNA/Reuters

Boca stay top after ‘horrible’ 0-0 draw with River

BUENOS AIRES, 17 Oct— Boca Juniors remained top of the Argentine championship after drawing 0-0 with arch-rivals River Plate on Sunday in a match that coach Alfio Basile described as ‘‘horrible’’.

The bitter rivals could muster only a handful of decent scoring chances, frustrating a 60,000 crowd at the River Plate stadium.

“It was a bad game, a horrible game,” said former Argentina coach Basile afterwards.

“We couldn’t get past their marking and we didn’t create any chances.”

River are a modest 12th place while Boca, who have 24 points from 11 games, saw their lead cut to one point over defending champions Velez Sarsfield, who won 1-0 at Arsenal with an injury-time goal from Leandro Gracian.

Argentinos Juniors (21 points) dropped to third after a shock 2-1 home defeat by Gimnasia-Jujuy, who had won only one previous game.— MNA/Reuters

Flamengo suffer six-goal hammering in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 Oct— Flamengo, Brazil’s most popular club, slid closer to the relegation zone after being thrashed 6-1 at home by Sao Paulo on Sunday in one of the most humiliating days in their history.

The two teams were reduced to 10 men after an ugly clash in midfield led to Flamengo midfielder Renato and Sao Paulo fullback Junior being dismissed in the 20th minute.

The sendings-off followed a scuffle involving most of the players which started when Sao Paulo striker Amoroso appeared to elbow an opponent.

Edercios outjumped the Flamengo defence to head Sao Paulo in front on three minutes and, after Josafa equalised, put the visitors ahead again with a replica effort in the 25th minute.

The South American champions increased their lead two minutes before halftime when Richardsson crossed from the left, defender Renato Silva miscued his clearance and Amoroso took advantage to score easily.

Mineiro, Tiago and Souza were also on target in the last five minutes as Flamengo disintegrated.

“I feel ashamed and I think the rest of the team feels the same way,” said Flamengo defender Junior Baiano, an ever-present in Brazil’s 1998 World Cup side.— MNA/Reuters

Inter extend unbeaten run, Marseille beat PSG

PARIS, 17 Oct— Leaders Olympique Lyon stretched their unbeaten run in Ligue 1 with an exciting 3-2 home win over struggling AC Ajaccio on Sunday.

At the Stade Velodrome, Paris, St Germain coach Laurent Fourment was caught up in an ammonia incident and left his side’s dressing room coughing before the 1-0 defeat at Olympique Marseille, TV footage showed.

“Actually, both Paris and Marseille’s dressing rooms have been cleaned with the same product,” said the home team’s chairman Pape Diouf. “We just arrived in the dressing room before the Parisians and had time to ventilate it. However, we went down to the Parisian’s dressing room with the chief of police and had it sealed off in case the police want to search it tomorrow.”

Canal Plus said ammonia was present in PSG’s dressing room before their arrival and Fournier, who felt dizzy, later had his blood pressure checked.

Four-times champions Lyon, who have not lost a match this season, took their points total to 27 from 11 games after squeezing past Ajaccio.

They have opened a seven-point gap over second-placed PSG whose late poacher's goal by defender Luciano Zauri to snatch all three points against Fiorentina.

While Inter cruised through the last half hour of their match, Lazio needed a late poacher’s goal by defender Luciano Zauri to snatch all three points against Fiorentina.

Inter have 15 points from seven matches, six points behind champions Juventus, who maintained their 100 per cent winning start to the season with a 1-0 win over Messina on Saturday.

Lazio and Fiorentina are on 13 points after their match at Rome’s Olympic Stadium, which Lazio won 1-0.

Even without first-choice strikers Adrianio and Obafemi Martins, both of whom were rested ahead of the Champions League match against Porto, Inter had few difficulties making it four wins out of four at their home ground.

Livorno’s top striker Cristiano Lucarelli was suspended, but their real problems were all in defence as became clear after 11 minutes when Inter defender Marco Materazzi took advantage of a failure to clear a corner to volley his side ahead.

Inter doubled their lead eight minutes later, when a low cross by Giuseppe Favalli threaded through a group of players to present Julio Cruz with an easy finish. The uphill task facing Livorno assumed mountainous proportions when midfielder Francesco Coco was sent off for a foul on Ze Maria two minutes after the restart.

Inter struck twice in four minutes as their opponent struggled to re-organize.

Argentine international Esteban Cambiasso fired in from the edge of the area after another poor clearance rolled invitingly into his path. Ivan Cordoba was then left unmarked at the far post to nudge in a Materazzi header.

Striker Alvaro Recoba strolled through a pack of defenders to complete the rout in the 61st minute.

While Inter cruised through the last half hour of their match, Lazio needed a late poacher’s goal by defender Luciano Zauri to snatch all three points against Fiorentina.

After an evenly-balanced first half Lazio started to apply the pressure, but were repeatedly denied by Fiorentina keeper Sebastien Frey.

The Frenchman came off best in one-on-ones against strikers Tommaso Rocchi and Goran Pandev, but when Christian Manfredini's shot spilled from his hands in the 81st minute Zauri pounced to put Lazio ahead.— MNA/Reuters

Inter thrash Livorno 5-0 to go second in Serie A

ROSE, 17 Oct— Inter Milan moved up to second place in Serie A with a 5-0 demolition of Livorno at the San Siro Stadium on Sunday.

Inter have 15 points from seven matches, six points behind champions Juventus, who maintained their 100 per cent winning start to the season with a 1-0 win over Messina on Saturday.

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WHO sends epidemic assessment team to N Pakistan city

BALACOT (Pakistan), 17 Oct—The World Health Organization (WHO) has sent its first team to the northern Pakistan city of Balacot to assess epidemic situation in the area after the earthquake on 8 October. WHO short-term consultant Dr Sammillah, told Xinhua on Sunday that a two-member WHO team arrived in Balacot on Saturday and 10 more experts would join them in a week. So far according to Dr Sammillah, the WHO has not received reports of confirmed epidemic cases in the Balacot area, adding that their information resources had been the multinational relief teams and the local administration.

CASH DONATION—Wellwishers U Hla Myint-Daw Sein Sein Yin and their son Maung Kaung Myat recently donate K 100,000 to Hninziagon Home for the Aged to mark the birthday of U Hla Myint. Joint Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi accepts the cash donation. — H

WEATHER

Monday, 17 October, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan State and upper Sagaing, Mandalay Districts and isolated in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kengtung (2.52) inches, Pinaung (1.18) inches, PyinOoLwin (1.03) inches, Toungoo (0.75) inch, Katha (0.67) inch, Shwegyin and Payapon (0.55) inch each, Mekhtila (0.20) inch and Pyinmana (0.19) inch.

Maximum temperature on 16-10-2005 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 17-10-2005 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 17-10-2005 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 16-10-2005 was (6.9) hours approx. Rainfalls on 17-10-2005 were nil at Mingalardon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.16) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (96.77) inches at Mingalardon, (96.85) inches at Kaba-Aye and (100.83) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from North at (15:30) hours MST on 16-10-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18-10-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayah and Kayin States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing Division and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-10-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-10-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.
Panhlaing bridge linking Hlinethaya and Dalla Townships to be opened soon

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects Panhlaing and Twantay bridge construction projects

YANGON, 17 Oct — Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials concerned, Chairman of Supervisory Committee for Smooth and Secure Transport Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein went on an inspection tour of Twantay bridge spanning Twantay canal near Phaya Ngoatto village in Twantay Township and Panhlaing bridge linking Hlinethaya and Dalla and gave necessary instructions to officials concerned this morning.

At the briefing hall of Panhlaing bridge, Yangon Division Superintending Engineer U Soe Tint briefed Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party on salient points of the bridge and Assistant Senior Engineer U Khin Maung Swe on construction of the bridge phase by phase. Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party looked into progress in building of the bridge. Panhlaing bridge linking Hlinethaya and Dalla townships, located on Hlinethaya-Dalla-Twantay motorway, will soon be opened. At the same time, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party inspected Hlinethaya-Dalla-Twantay road section, which is 11 miles and one furlong long. (See page 8)

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Upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the Government has been implementing the seven-point political programme (Road Map) phase by phase to transform the nation into a democratic one. The seven-point Road Map is being translated into reality through four basic principles.

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