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

Strong national economy fundamental requirement for emergence of peaceful, modern democratic nation with flourishing discipline

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects agricultural and livestock breeding farms in Shan State

Programmes have been laid down for running of commercial scale farms so as to penetrate into foreign markets, and that will raise the State’s economy.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win cordially converses with agricultural supervisory committee members and local farmers in Shwenyaung Village-tract in Taunggyi Township. MN

YANGON, 19 Oct—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence left here by air and arrived at Heho Airport in Shan State (South) yesterday afternoon.

He was welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Brig-Gen Mya Win of Kalaw Station, senior military officers, departmental heads, and social organizations.

Together with Maj-Gen Ye Myint and departmental officials, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected road sections and shade trees along Heho-Shwenyaung Road and Shwenyaung-Yaksawk Road. They proceeded to Kyaukni integrated farm jointly undertaken by Eastern Command and the departments near Yaypu village, Kunlon village-tract, on Shwenyaung-Yaksawk Road in Taunggyi Township.

Lt-Col Nyunt Lin of Eastern Command reported on facts about the farm, cultivation of perennial, seasonal and kitchen crops, livestock breeding tasks, damming of Byaing Creek for water supply, and gaining agricultural methods from experts.

Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint presented a report, saying that the farm is reclaiming land, while growing long-term, short-term and seasonal crops. So far, the reclaimed land has been put under Seintalon strain mango. This year, growing of (See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Thursday, 20 October, 2005**

**Strive for development of fish and meat sector**

The agriculture, the meat and fish and the forestry sectors are the fundamental industries of the people as well as the main economic pillars of the nation. Therefore, consistent efforts are being made for boosting production of these three sectors and only then will the national economy become stronger and proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system be possible.

Now, thanks to the united efforts of the government and the national entrepreneurs, new markets are emerging. Fish and poultry farming is being extended in all states and divisions and meat and fish markets and fishery development zones are being established.

A ceremony to open the Ngwepinle Fishes and Crustaceans Trading Zone was opened in Hilinethaya Township, Yangon North District, on 18 October and this will surely pave the way for development of the meat and fish sector. The purpose of establishing the Fishes and Crustaceans Trading Zone is to boost the production and export of quality marine products. The government has fulfilled all the requirements for the zone such as concrete roads, electricity and communication facilities.

Due to the emergence of the Fishes and Crustaceans Trading Zone, all those engaged in fisheries will gain wide experience in local as well as overseas trading of marine products, enjoy economic opportunities and be able to distribute fresh and wholesome marine products.

We would like to call on the national entrepreneurs to make the best use of the opportunity created by the government for stronger national economic life, proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system and increased production and export of marine products.

**Kyaiktiyo Pagoda consecrated**

**YANGON, 19 Oct — Consecration of Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Kyaiktio, Mon State, was held on 17 October at the pagoda. Members of the Sangha led by State Ovada Cariya Sayadaw of Yadananaung Monastery in Kyaiktio Bhaddanta Jotika consecrated the pagoda. Before the consecration ceremony, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and officials cleansed the pagoda with scented water. At the ceremony, the congregation led by the commander took the Nine Precepts from the Sayadaw and presented offertories to members of the Sangha.**

**Billboard of Magway Division USDA AGM erected**

**YANGON, 19 Oct — A ceremony to put up the billboard of Magway Division USDA Solidarity and Development Association Annual General Meeting 2005, was held at the corner of Bogyoke Road and Pyaydawha Road in Magway on 15 October, attended by Magway Division Peace and Development Council Secretory Lt-Col Zaw Thein and members, departmental officials, Magway Division USDA Secretary U Khin Maung Swe and executives, social organizations, district/township USDA secretaries and executives, teachers and students. Magway Division PDC Secretory Lt-Col Zaw Thein formally opened the billboard. At the annual general meeting, Lt-Col Zaw Thein made a speech and Magway Division USDA Secretary U Khin Maung Swe presented prizes to those who passed matriculation examination with flying colours. Division USDA Secretary U Khin Maung Swe presented gifts to Magway Township USDA that could organize the new members at most, and departments concerned, BEHSS and social organizations that contributed to tasks of the association.**

**New models of Canon cameras and printers introduced**

**YANGON, 19 Oct — A ceremony to introduce new model Canon cameras and Canon Ink Jet Printers imported by Accel International Co Ltd and Canon (Singapore) Pte Ltd was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, here, this afternoon. Managing Director Mr Alvin Law of Accel International Co Ltd extended greetings. Vice-President of Canon (Singapore) Pte Ltd Mr Melvyn Ho gave the concluding remarks and the meeting ended with chanting of the slogans.**

**CASH DONATED TO HOME: U Kyaw**

Nyunt-Daw Khan Mi Mi Aung of No 972-B, Shwebaunzi Road at 9th Mile in Mayangon Town-ship donated K 100,000 for construction of Three-Storey Hospital for the Aged recently. Joint-Secretary of Hunzigon Home for the Aged U Tin Maung Win accepts cash donation. — **it**

**U Nay Win accredited to Norway, Sweden**

**YANGON, 20 Oct — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Nay Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Norway. The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has also appointed U Nay Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Sweden. — **MNA**

**Managing Director Mr Alvin Law of Accel International Co Ltd extends greetings at the ceremony to introduce new model Canon cameras and new models of Canon Ink Jet Printer. — **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
WASHINGTON, 18 Oct — As of Tuesday, 18 Oct, 2005, at least 1,980 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 1,533 died as a result of hostile action, which hit the region in August and September. On Friday, 67 per cent of the US gulf’s 1.5 million barrels per day of oil output was still shut in following the storms.

Oil prices rose over one dollar on concern that the storm may yet again batter the US Gulf oil infrastructure. US light crude futures were up 1.39 US dollars at 64.02 US dollars a barrel at 0833 GMT. The storm was forecast to move toward the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico on Thursday before reaching the Gulf on Friday. The pattern of the storm was likely to be erratic for the next day or two, the NHC said on its web site (http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/)

The US gulf coast is still reeling from Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, which hit the region in August and September.

Monday, 18 Oct — Many rebuilding projects for Iraq will be dropped as security costs drain resources and with the growing awareness that more money must be spent to sustain Iraq’s existing infrastructure, the top US auditor for Iraq’s reconstruction said on Tuesday.

In the coming year money needed to operate Iraq’s existing health, water, oil and electrical infrastructure and to complete planned reconstruction projects “will outstrip the available revenue,” said Stuart Bowen, the US special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction.

“Though the causes may be numerous and valid, the existence of the gap simply means that the completion of the US-funded portion of Iraq’s reconstruction will leave many planned projects on the drawing board,” Bowen told a House Government Reform subcommittee.

He said international donors should be pressed to make good on their pledges, and Iraq must crack down on corruption and tighten its budget to try to narrow this difference.

Bowen also said there did not appear to be adequate planning for Iraq’s long-term maintenance of its new facilities. It will cost from $650 million to $750 million annually to run the new plants and equipment built largely with US funds, and more for security, salaries and fuel, he said.

“Wilma” forms in Caribbean

LONDON, 18 Oct — Tropical Storm Wilma formed in the Caribbean Sea on Monday and could move into the oil-rich Gulf of Mexico by the end of the week, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

Wilma is the twenty-first named storm of the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season, making this the equal most active year on record, the NHC said.

The last time so many named storms formed in one season was in 1995.

US military deaths in Iraq climb to 1,980

WASHINGTON, 18 Oct — As of Tuesday, 18 Oct, 2005, at least 1,980 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 1,533 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,841 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,431 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

Mugabe compares Bush, Blair to Hitler at UN event

ROMA, 18 Oct — Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe on Monday railed against US President George W Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, calling them “international terrorists” bent on world domination like Adolf Hitler.

Mugabe departed from his text at a ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to accuse Bush and Blair of illegally invading Iraq and looking to unseat governments elsewhere.

“Must we allow these men, the two unholy men of our millennium, who in the same way as Hitler and Mussolini formed (an) unholy alliance, formed an alliance to attack an innocent country?” he said.

“The voice of Mr Bush and the voice of Mr Blair can’t decide who shall rule in Zimbabwe, who shall rule in Africa, who shall rule in Asia, who shall rule in Venezuela, who shall rule in Iran, who shall rule in Iraq,” he said.

Mugabe accuses Britain and the United States of working to unseat him over his redistribution of White-owned commercial farms among Blacks.

“Is this the world we desire? The world of giants and international terrorists who use their state muscle in order to intimidate us? We become the midgets,” he said.

Some of the delegates applauded his fiery anti-Western speech several times.

Mugabe attacked US envoy Tony Hall as an “agent of imperialism” and then thanked FAO’s Secretary-General, Jacques Diouf, for inviting him despite the US protest.

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“We are grateful to the international community for their response. It reinforces our faith in human family,” she said.

US official says many Iraq projects may be dropped

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UN to host donor meeting onquake-hit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 18 Oct — A conference of rich countries will take place in Geneva next week to assess Pakistan’s needs for rebuilding its earthquake-devastated north, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said on Monday.

The conference called by the United Nations would be held on 24 October, she told a weekly news conference.

“We are grateful to the international community for their response. It reinforces our faith in human family,” she said.

Assessment of the damage caused by 8 October earthquake that devastated vast areas in Pakistani Kashmir and the neighbouring parts of the North West Frontier Province was still underway.

But Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said this week the quake caused damage of around 5 billion US dollars. The official death toll is nearly 40,000 and is expected to rise substantially as more remote areas are reached.

The UN’s chief emergency relief coordinator, Jan Egeland, said this week several hundreds of millions of dollars were needed for “just saving lives and keeping people alive” with the bitter winter approaching in mountainous Kashmir.

So far more than 500 million US dollars has been pledged from around the world, but development officials said they have started planning for a much larger long-term appeal.

Oil prices rose over one dollar on concern that the storm may yet again batter the US Gulf oil infrastructure. US light crude futures were up 1.39 US dollars at 64.02 US dollars a barrel at 0833 GMT. The storm was forecast to move toward the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico on Thursday before reaching the Gulf on Friday. The pattern of the storm was likely to be erratic for the next day or two, the NHC said on its web site (http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/).

The US gulf coast is still reeling from Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, which hit the region in August and September.

On Friday, 67 per cent of the US gulf’s 1.5 million barrels per day of oil output was still shut in following the storms.
India can take on China in manufacturing sector

LONDON, 18 Oct—India is the only country in the world which can take on China in the manufacturing sector, provided its government and industry change their priorities and mindset, NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul has said.

Even though the manufacturing sector has been ignored for many years, “there is a change now and there is a big realization that if any country in the world can take on China in the manufacturing sector, it is India,” Lord Paul, who is also British Ambassador for Overseas Business, told a BBC Hindi Programme Saturday night.

“A developed manufacturing sector is the strength of any country’s progress as it is the only sector which provides regular jobs for the workforce,” he said.

Lord Paul said “All other sectors including the IT do not provide stable and permanent jobs. The example of China is there for all to see how a strong manufacturing sector has taken the country on the path of solid progress.

In India, he said, “the manufacturing sector is beginning to get attention now.”

Quake death toll in Jammu and Kashmir mounts to 1,205

SRINAGAR, 18 Oct—The death toll in the devastating earthquake, that rocked northern Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir on 8 October, has gone up to 1,205 with the recovery of six more bodies Monday, police said here.

The six bodies were recovered in the worst quake-hit areas of Uri and Tangdhar sectors of North Kashmir, a police spokesman said.

Of the total deaths, 1,188 people died in Kashmir Region and 17 in Jammu Region. A total of 6,152 people were injured in Kashmir and 148 in Jammu.

The total number of structures damaged in the state stood at 37,219 with 36,693 in Kashmir and 526 in Jammu, the spokesman said.

Relief materials for the earthquake victims continued to pour in from all parts of the country, he said.

The state government received from Delhi through various flights with effect from 10 October till Sunday 118,218 blankets, 4,622 tents, 1,467 tarpaulins, 76 packs of poly sheets and other materials, he said.

Angry Iranian mourners blame Britain for bombings

TEHERAN, 18 Oct—Thousands of Iranian mourners directed their anger at Britain on Monday at the funerals of six people killed in weekend bombings which Iran’s President has blamed on London.

State television images showed mourners chanting “Death to Britain” as they carried the coffins of those killed in Saturday’s twin blasts through the streets of the southwestern city of Ahvaz, where the attacks occurred.

Iran’s President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who won June elections pledging a tougher foreign policy and crackdown on corruption, said on Sunday Iran was “very suspicious about the role of British forces” in the bombings.

Relations between Teheran and London have deteriorated sharply in recent weeks over Britain’s support for US moves to refer Iran’s nuclear case to the UN Security Council and accusations that Iran was linked to guerrillas attacks on British troops in Iraq.

Teheran denies seeking nuclear weapons or meddling in Iraq “Crisis in Iran-Britain relations, the path of solid progress. All other sectors including the IT do not provide stable and permanent jobs. The example of China is there for all to see how a strong manufacturing sector has taken the country on the path of solid progress.

In India, he said, “the manufacturing sector is beginning to get attention now.”

Two US Marines killed in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 Oct—Two US Marines were killed in fighting in western Iraq near the Jordanian border, the military said Tuesday.

The Marines died Monday when they were hit by small-arms fire as US forces fought guerrillas near the town of Rutba, 230 miles west of Baghdad, the military said. Four militants were killed and a small supply of their arms seized, the statement said.

The Marines were assigned to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward). The names of the deceased were being withheld pending notification of their relatives. At least 1,978 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.—Internet

Pakistan raises known quake toll to 48,000

ISLAMABAD 19 Oct, 2005—Pakistan raised by around 6,000 to nearly 48,000 on Wednesday its confirmed death toll in the 8 October earthquake which ravaged its northern mountains.

Major-General Farooq Ahmed Khan, the federal relief commissioner who is in overall charge of the relief effort, told a news conference 47,723 people were known to have died in Pakistan. Another 1,300 were killed in Indian Kashmir.

Three from Maryland killed in Iraq accident

WASHINGTON, 17 Oct—Three soldiers from a Baltimore-based Maryland National Guard unit were killed Friday in Iraq when an 18-wheeler struck the back of their armoured vehicle, sparking a fire and detonating ammunition.

The Defence Department yesterday identified the three soldiers as Sgt Brian R Conner, 36, of Baltimore, Spec. Samuel M Boswell, 20, of Fulton in Howard County, and Spec Bernard L Ceo, 23, of Baltimore. Baltimore officials said that Conner also had been a lieutenant with the Baltimore City Fire Department.

They were the first members of the Maryland National Guard killed overseas in the line of duty since World War II, said Maj Charles S Kohler, a spokesman for the Maryland National Guard. Guard officials and family members alike spoke of the severity of the loss.

The guardsmen were assigned to the 243rd Engineer Company, a 169-member unit that has been in the region since August to transport supplies, Kohler said.—Internet

An Iraqi National Guard looks at the damages after a car bomb attack in Haifa Street, central Baghdad, on 18 October, 2005.—Internet

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Pakistan appeals for more orthopaedics, paramedics and tents

Islamabad, 18 Oct—Amid reports of relief workers battling to prevent gangrene causing more fatalities among over 70,000 injured in the killer earthquake, Pakistan on Monday appealed to the international community to rush more medical teams with orthopaedics and para medics besides large quantities of tents and blankets.

Pakistan’s Federal Relief Commissioner Major General Farooq Ahmed Khan told reporters here on Monday that medical and trauma teams with orthopaedic surgeons, volunteer doctors and para medic staff along with X-rays, CT Scan and other related equipment were urgently required.

He said the government has identified all areas affected by the 7.6 intensity earthquake on 8 October but it was difficult to say when relief could reach all the inaccessible areas.

His appeal came as reports here said more and more injured persons who were being ferried to hospitals from remote areas showed signs of gangrene setting in their broken limbs, leaving little option to the doctors to surgically remove the affected limbs.

Also a large number of local and foreign medical teams taking part in the relief operations wanted more and more para medics to provide post operational care without which surgeries would not be of much help.—MNA/PTI

Oil leaps as new storm menaces Gulf of Mexico

London, 18 Oct—Oil jumped nearly 3 per cent on Monday as another tropical storm gathered strength in the Caribbean, menacing US rigs and refineries already rocked by the most active hurricane season in decades.

Tropical Storm Wilma, the 21st named storm this year, could become a hurricane on Tuesday and could move into the southern end of the the oil-rich Gulf of Mexico by Saturday, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

The last time there were so many named storms was 1933. Vulnerable oil platforms and refineries along the inaccessible areas.

US criticized for not sharing Hambali data with Asian nations

Putrajaya (Malaysia), 18 Oct—The United States insisted on Monday it was sharing details of its interrogation of Indonesian terrorism suspect Hambali with Asian nations that say a lack of access is hindering their fight against terrorism.

Hambali, an Indonesian-born preacher authorities believe was Osama bin Laden’s key link to Southeast Asia, has been in US custody since his arrest in Thailand in 2002.

Indonesia has long sought direct access to Hambali, both to question him and to try him over bomb attacks, including the 2002 blasts on the resort island of Bali that killed 202 people. Indonesian police say Hambali was the mastermind of that attack.

“To my knowledge, we are sharing information across the board on counterterrorism,” Henry Crumpton, the US State Department’s coordinator for counterterrorism, told a news conference, in reply to a question about cooperation on Hambali.

“To have information in the counter-terrorism field and not to share it is really counterproductive,” said Crumpton, who is visiting Southeast Asia after taking up his job in August.

Hambali has grown since 1 October blasts at Bali restaurants that killed 20 people and three suicide bombers. Suspicion for those attacks fell on Jemaah Islamia, a shadowy network of which Hambali was operations chief before his capture.

Although the United States has allowed Indonesian authorities to submit written questions that were put to the preacher west Java, it has not given them direct access.

Some legal experts have said Indonesia’s prosecution of Abu Bakar Bashir, the alleged spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamia (JI), as well as other terrorism suspects, has been hampered by lack of access to Hambali.

Asked if Indonesia had sought access to Hambali, Crumpton said he could not comment. But information from him was being shared with Southeast Asian nations, he said.

Hambali was crucial to understanding how JI was funded, a Southeast Asian security source said last week. “We were not given access by the US authorities so it some- what hinders our intelli- gence work,” said the source, who declined to be identified.

In Southeast Asia, we feel there is a great need to interview Hambali and it seems we have been re- fused,” he added.

Massachusetts evacuates 2,000 people as dam buckles

Boston, 18 Oct—Police urged about 2,000 people to evacuate their homes in southern Massachusetts on Monday after a dam strained by record rainfall began to buckle and threatened to flood low-lying neighbourhoods.

Massachusetts emergency management officials said the Whittendon Pond Dam in Taunton about 33 miles south of Boston could fail after record rainfall submerged rivers and ponds across northeastern United States last week.

“Downstream from the river there are about 100 homes as well as downtown Taunton,” said Peter Judge, spokesman for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, referring to the city of 49,800 people.—MNA/Reuters

World scientists are aiming to spell out in graphic detail the threat of flooding faced by millions of people from America to Asia as global warming melts the polar ice caps.—INTERNET

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters
India’s export growth slips to single digit in September

NEW DELHI, 18 Oct—After clocking over 20 per cent growth since April, India’s export slipped for the first time this fiscal to a single digit growth 7.51 per cent in September.

But owing to the good showing in the previous five months, the overall export growth of first half (April-September, 2005-06) continued to be buoyant at 20.52 per cent recording 43.22 billion dollars as against 35.66 billion in the year-ago period.

Trade deficit for April-September 2005-06 is estimated at 20.32 billion dollars as against 11.8 billion dollars in April-September 2004-05, as per the official trade data released here on Monday.

Exports during September rose by 7.51 per cent to 7.2 billion dollars as against 6.7 billion dollars in September 2004-05. Imports grew by 17.25 per cent to 10.48 billion dollars as against 9.89 billion dollars in September 2004. Imports during April-September increased by 33.09 per cent to 63.55 billion dollars as against 47.74 billion dollars in 2004-05.

Od imports during the first half of the fiscal were 42.92 per cent higher at 20.833 billion dollars as against 14.577 billion dollars in the corresponding period last year.

Imports during April-September 2005-06 are estimated at 42.7 billion dollars, 28.77 per cent higher than the level of 33.17 billion dollars in April-September 2004-05.

MNA/PTI

Singapore ready to tackle bird flu pandemic

SINGAPORE, 18 Oct — Singapore is preparing isolation wards in hospitals and stockpiling medicines to tackle a possible outbreak of bird flu in the densely populated city-state, Health Minister Khaw Boon Wan said on Monday.

He said the government had stepped up preparations by planning possible outbreak scenarios and response exercises, as well as increasing stocks of antiviral medication.

“We started early so that was quite helpful. As the first mover, I think we have some advantage and we’ve built up quite a significant stock of antiviral drugs, Khaw said in Parliament.

He said Singapore, with a population of 4.2 million, would probably have achieved its target of having enough medicines to treat one quarter of the population by sometime next year.

“A major disease outbreak such as a flu pandemic will be very costly in terms of human lives as well as economic losses.”

The detection of the deadly strain of the bird flu virus in Turkey and Romania has compounded fears that the avian flu was spreading from Asia to Europe, triggering a surge in global demand for antiviral medication such as Tamiflu and Relenza.

Tami flu is manufactured by Swiss giant Roche Holdings AG and relenza was developed by Australia’s Biota Holdings and marketed by GlaxoSmithKline Plc.

MNA/Reuters

France arrests key witness in Hariri probe

PARIS, 18 Oct— French police have arrested a key Syrian witness in a UN inquiry into the murder of Lebanese former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri.

Judicial sources said Mohammad Zuhair al-Siddiq was detained on an international warrant on Sunday at Chatou, in the Yvelines region west of Paris where he lives.

Beirat has 30 days to provide the necessary documents for the extradition request. Lebanese public prosecutor Saeed Mirza confirmed that he asked for Siddiq to be detained.

“The case should be settled relatively quickly,” magistrate Henri Genin told Reuters. Lebanese judicial sources said they had asked for Siddiq’s detention because they believed he had misled the international inquiry into the February 14 assassination of Hariri and 20 others, which is headed by UN investigator Detlev Mehlis. Lebanese political sources say Siddiq was one of the leading suspects in the probe, having said he had attended a meetings at which Hariri’s killing was discussed.

But Syrian officials have privately said Siddiq was unreliable and wanted in his own country on charges of fraud and desertion.—MNA/Reuters

Australia’s tough new security laws in doubt

SYDNEY, 18 Oct—Australia’s tough new security laws plans after the July London bombings may be watered down after a number of key political leaders called on Monday for more debate, worried the measures are being rushed.

Last month, Australia’s six states and two territories agreed to pass conservative Prime Minister John Howard’s new security laws even though one state leader described them as “draconian”. Under the laws, suspects can be held in prison without charge, electronic tracking devices would be used to keep tabs on suspects supporting guerrillas in countries like Iraq would carry a seven-year jail sentence.

But two weeks before the legislation goes to Parliament, the leaders of Australia’s two territories said they might not support the bill after seeing draft legislation.

“Last of this significance made in this haste can’t be good law,” Jon Stanhope, chief minister of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), told local radio. The chief minister of the outback Northern Territory, Clare Martin, also said she would not be rushed into passing the laws, expressing concern about legal safeguards for Australians.

The states were very concerned what the appropriate safeguards were in what was tough legislation ... that anyone picked up under the legislation had a right to legal representation and there was a sunset clause,” Martin told local radio.

“I think every state leader... will be very concerned that those principles... are reflected in that draft legislation.”

Howard said on Monday he would not water down the new laws, but needed all Australia’s states and territories to pass the legislation in order to meet constitutional requirements.

MNA/Reuters

Under the plan, staff at the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO) will rise to 1,860 from the current 980 by fiscal year 2010/2011, Howard told reporters in Sydney.

He said the funding boost was aimed in part at tackling home-grown terrorism. He said the London bombings in July were conducted by people who were British-born or long-term residents who had not otherwise come to the attention of either British authorities or the communities in which they lived.

“London drove home, more than any other terrorist attack, drove it home to us that it could happen here,” Howard said.

He said the recruitment and training of the extra intelligence staff would involve a massive increase in ASIO’s budget that would be fully detailed at the next budget.

Howard’s Liberal National government is proposing controversial new anti-terrorism laws which include the right to preventive detention, effectively locking up people thought to be involved or to have knowledge of a terrorist act.

Copies of the sweeping new laws were leaked on Friday and have sparked concerns among legal experts.

MNA/Reuters

Australia to double size of intelligence agency

SYDNEY, 18 Oct—Australia will double the size of its intelligence agency by 2010 to deal with the growing risk of home-grown terror attacks, Prime Minister John Howard said on Sunday.

He said the recruitment and training of the extra intelligence staff would involve a massive increase in ASIO’s budget that would be fully detailed at the next budget.

Howard’s Liberal National government is proposing controversial new anti-terrorism laws which include the right to preventive detention, effectively locking up people thought to be involved or to have knowledge of a terrorist act.

Copies of the sweeping new laws were leaked on Friday and have sparked concerns among legal experts.

The New Light of Myanmar
Ensuring national reconsolidation, bounden duty of Tatmadaw Government

Aung Moe San

Social scientists say that judgments shall be made in conformity with practical principles (physical performance). The Tatmadaw Government which unavoidably assumed State duties in 1988 has been making efforts unremittingly for national development through the 12 political, economic and social objectives.

It is obvious that the Tatmadaw Government has achieved unprecedented success in implementing the four political objectives — stability of the State, community peace and tranquil- lity, prevalence of law and order, national reconsolidation, emergence of a new State Constitution, building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution. Similarly, it has made a good headway with economic and social objectives.

Nowadays, certain internal and external groups are fabricating false news as though the Tatmadaw Government were opposed to the drive for national reconsolidation. In reality, ensuring national reconsolidation is the inborn duty of the Tatmadaw. The following points bear witness to how the Tatmadaw Government has been constantly striving for national reconsolidation.

1. Seventeen national race armed groups, that rose against successive previous governments for several decades, returned to the legal fold, some of whom have unconditionally handed over their arms and are participating in the development tasks. As a result, peace, stability and progress prevail in the entire nation including border areas.

2. It has allowed political parties to exist legally, and has been taking all possible measures for building a new developed nation in harmony with those parties.

3. It held the multi-party general election in 1990 with the aim of enabling the entire national people could make efforts in concert for building and cooperation.

4. The Tatmadaw held tripartite talks of political parties whose representatives were elected in 1990 election, parties of national races whose representatives were elected, and representatives of intellectuals and intelligentsia, representatives of national races, representatives from all walks of life and national races, and held discussions with remnant armed groups.

5. The National Convention commenced in 1993 together with various national races, people from all strata of life, intellectuals and intelligentsia, representatives of national races, elected representatives and other invited persons, and it laid down 104 basic principles.

6. The articles by Maung Yin Hmaing in the issues of the newspapers in 2003 carried:

(a) The documentary photo of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Suu Kyi exchanging clear smiles and shaking trustful hands,

(b) The documentary photo that shows frank and cordial exchange of views can lead to consolidated national political future of the nation,

(c) The documentary photo showing a family dinner of State Peace and Development Council members headed by Chairman Senior General Than Shwe and NLD Party leadership, and

(d) The documentary photo showing frequent discussions between NLD CEC members led by Daw Suu Kyi and the Government delegation led by a minister were frank, cordial trustful ones. Those photos represented the cooperation for national reconsolidation.

7. The Government held discussions with NLD to join hands for carrying out nation-building tasks. On 6 May 2002 the restrictions imposed on Daw Suu Kyi were lifted. Then, the Tatmadaw Government and NLD had been able to build mutual trust. Daw Suu Kyi had been allowed to travel to anywhere and take organizational measures freely. At the beginning of the trips, Daw Suu Kyi was treated as a very important person to view Duyingabo River Water Pumping Project near Aunglan, Yanpe Creek Project near Taungdwingyi, Ayeyawady River crossing Bridge (Magway) Project, Paunglaung Hydropower Project, Thanlwin River crossing Bridge (Mawlamyine) Project, Winphanon Dam Project, Thaytabin Agricultural Project near Minhla, South Nawin Dam Project near Paikhaung, Nyaungkai Dam Project near Padaung, and Nathaw River Water Pumping Project near Pyay. However, the growing trust was interrupted by alien instigation and influence, thereby leading to Dabyin conflict on 30 May 2003 that put an end to trust-building and cooperation.

8. In 2003, the Tatmadaw Government declared the State’s seven-point Road Map in order that the entire national people could make efforts in cohesion for building a democratic nation. The temporarily adjourned National Convention was reconvened in accord with the seven-point Road Map; and the Government invited all the delegates including those of the political parties that had attended the National Convention, plus elected representatives. In addition, it invited representatives from all walks of life and national races, and held discussions with remnant armed groups.

9. The reconvening of the National Convention, the first stage of the State’s seven-point Road Map, with eight groups of representatives such as representatives of national races, representatives from all walks of life, representatives of intellectuals and intelligentsia, representatives of political parties, elected representatives, and other invited persons.

It is apparent that the above-mentioned facts are convincing evidences of the earnest efforts the Tatmadaw Government has been exerting to gain national reconsolidation and to enable the entire national people to build democratic nation in concert.

The Tatmadaw Government exerted its utmost efforts based on mutual trust. But, the other side failed to reciprocate. The drive for national reconsolidation is thus still far away from the goal due to the fact that some parties and groups cling to negative views towards the Tatmadaw Government while they think themselves otherwise, and rely too much on external elements. To make matters worse, certain big nations are inciting them.

The article “A New Approach Towards Burma Just Might Work” by David Oldfield in the 25-6-2003 issue of The Nation newspaper asked why an approach towards national reconsolidation needs to be based on political realities. In reviewing the present approaches, it is found that West European countries and others are favouring NLD and regarding it as a standard democracy movement group while setting conditions on the State Peace and Development Council to give concessions to the former. Such approaches mean that the government has to concede to NLD. Indeed, that is just a disregard to the nation’s prevailing political reality.

The ruling government is a national force. So, if they really want national reconsolidation, they should maintain relations as a good friend. It is the building of mutual trust. Instead of getting down to practical work making one-sided demands will achieve nothing. The writer is a doctorate as well as the chairman of Broker Policy Research Co Ltd.

Political researchers say that high level of intelligence is just the ability to remedy the mistakes one has made as soon as possible but not the ability to avoid making mistakes. Social scientists say that the best way to understand ideology is the way from which one constantly takes lessons from one’s mistakes through bitter experiences.

As national reconsolidation means making peace and unity among internal groups, the disputes among national groups must be solved in the frame of national interests. So, national reconsolidation in the interests of the nation is bounden duty of the Tatmadaw Government.
Strong national economy...

(from page 1)

rubber will be introduced, and rubber will be planted on a wider scale if the pilot growing sees success. Efforts will be made with added momentum to gain greater success. He gave a supplementary report on land allotment department-wise.

In response, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that strong national economic is a fundamental requirement for the emergence of a peaceful, modern democratic nation with flourishing discipline. Development of the agricultural sector plays a pivotal role in the drive.

150,000 fingerlings put into the Byaing Creek dam.

He expressed his pleasure to see the farm is making progress thanks to the guidance of the Head of State, close supervision of Eastern Command and active participation of the departments.

Measures are to be taken for the farm to become model plantations and livestock camps for nearby villages.

Programmes have been laid down for running on a commercial scale farm so as to penetrate into foreign markets, and that will raise the State’s economy. He called for participation of respective departments and local people under the close supervision of the Eastern Command for greater success of the farm.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the commander and party inspected Kyaukni integrated agricultural farm. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win also inspected Kyaukwunyan spillways built across Byaing Creek flowing into the farm. He gave instructions on use of water for cultivation purposes and generating of power.

He inspected Byaing Creek Dam. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the commander and party put 150,000 fingerlings into the dam.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected growing of mango and pigeon peas. He told officials concerned to cultivate marketable crops in vacant and fallow lands. In the farm, 59,137 plants of various kinds are grown on 5,000 acres of lands of Eastern Command, departments, Myanma Farms Enterprise and Special Region-4.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party went to the 100-acre model farm near Konhaing Village of Shwenyaung Village Tract. Manager U Kyaw Myint of Myanma Agriculture Service in Taunggyi reported on cultivation of paddy and Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint on extended cultivation of Shwenyaung paddy.

Officials urged to cultivate marketable crops in vacant and fallow lands.

In meeting with farmers, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said local farmers are to utilize quality strains and correct cultivation methods and organic and inorganic fertilizers. Socio-economic life of the farmers will improve with the boosting of production and increase of per acre yield, he said. He spoke of the need to make efforts for extended cultivation of garlic and other crops. He cordially greeted the farmers. He inspected thriving Shwenyaung paddy of farmer U Lawli. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party spent the night in Taunggyi.

Coord meeting to host Grand Royal Cup held

YANGON, 19 Oct — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the coordination meeting to host the Grand Royal ‘05 Challenge Cup and the ITF Junior World Ranking Championship, at Padamya Hall of the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thawunna this afternoon.

The minister delivered an address. Myanmar Football Federation President and Myanmar Tennis Federation President U Zaw Zaw reported on preparations for the two competitions, and departmental officials on their respective sectors. Next, the minister gave the concluding remarks.

The minister also attended the final matches and the ceremony to present prizes to winners in the 37th Inter-State/Division Badminton Tournament at the National Badminton Gymnasium in Lanmadaw Township. — MNA

Home Affairs Minister leaves for Beijing

YANGON, 19 Oct — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo left here yesterday evening for Beijing, the People’s Republic of China, to attend the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Drug Control between ASEAN and China to be held from 18 to 20 October.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Charge d’affaires ai Mr Yu Boren of the Chinese Embassy, departmental officials and family members.

The Home Affairs Minister was accompanied by Director U Maung Maung Kyaw of Bureau of Special Investigation.

Director-General calls for establishment of libraries in villages

YANGON, 19 Oct — Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing touring Pakokku District, NyaungU District and Chauk Township from 16 to 18 October and donated books to self-reliance libraries.

During his tour, the director-general met with officials of IPRD and gave instructions on establishment of libraries on self-reliance basic at villages in the regions. He also discussed opening of multiplier course on librarianship and collection of books for libraries.

On 16 October evening, Director-General U Chit Naing also gave educative talks at Pakokku Education College and faculty members and students attended it. — MNA

Home Affairs Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo seen at the airport on his departure for China to participate in 2nd ministerial meeting on drug control between China and ASEAN.

Home Affairs Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo left here in a grand ceremony.

Progress of Order Areas and National Races Department left here in advance on 16 October for Beijing to attend the 2nd Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Control.

Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win, Head of CCDAC and Drug Elimination Department Police Col Kham Aung and Director U Nyi Nyi of Border Areas and National Races Department left here in advance on 16 October for Beijing to attend the 2nd Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Control.

MNA
WHO officials call on CEC member of MMCWA

YANGON, 19 Oct — Mr Pricha Petlueng and Dr Sunil Kaul of External Review of National Malaria Control Programme of the World Health Organization called on CEC members of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association at the multi-purpose building of MMCWA yesterday afternoon. They discussed participation of MMCWA in malaria control programme. — MNA

Secretary of MMCWA and executives meeting with officials of WHO. — MMCWA

Thandwe Districts USDA holds its Annual General Meeting for 2005

YANGON, 19 Oct — Thandwe Districts Union Solidarity and Development Association held its Annual General Meeting for 2005 at the hall of the association on 14 October. Present on the occasion were Chairman of Thandwe District Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Hla Tint, local authorities, executive of Rakine State USDA U Tin Wai and secretaries and executives of districts and townships USDA and members.

First, the ceremony was opened with Zartman and Pyiymarnar songs presented by students of No 1 and No 2 Basic Education High Schools in Thandwe Township. Next, secretary of Thandwe District USDA U Kyi Shwin read out a report on functions in one year. After presenting prizes to outstanding students, alms were donated to Pariyatti Sarthintaks in the townships. Afterwards, the meeting focused on performance as to four main sectors and rural development tasks.

Minister attends coord meeting on upgrading of development work

YANGON, 19 Oct — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended a coordination meeting on upgrading of development work at the hall of Development Affairs Department at No 245 in Botataung Township this morning and made a speech on the occasion.

After 1988, Development Affairs Department upgraded 15,724 miles of roads — 3,181 miles in urban areas and 12,543 miles in rural areas.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Than Tun and Col Tin Ngwe, directors-general, managing directors, deputy directors-general, directors, deputy superintending engineers, township executive officers and engineers in-charge.

First, the director of Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee, the director of Magway Division Development Affairs Committee, the director of Bago Division Development Affairs Committee and the director of Bago Division Development Affairs Committee briefed the minister on arrangements to be made for construction of district-to-district and area-to-area water supply tasks for three arid regions. Afterwards, Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe dealt with strong and weak points in carrying out the projects.

After that, the minister made a concluding speech on the occasion, saying that the development affairs committees were to perform rural water supply project in arid regions Sagaing, Mandala- and Magway Divisions, rural housing project in time, upgrading tasks for beautifying townships. Moreover, they were to carry out the development tasks in time meeting the set standard and maintain finished tasks for a long run. The officials were to try to do their assigned tasks with relentless efforts to hit the target.

At the same time, the ministers of Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, Bago, Bago (West), Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions DAC briefed the minister on arrangements to be made for rural housing project and progress of work.

At the same time, the ministers of Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions DAC briefed the minister on work progress of water supply tasks for three arid regions. After- wards, also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, the leaders and members of the Trevor Phyo (Yangon) accept the best player award for the 37th State Division Badminton Contest on 19-10-2005. NLM

Flying Training Base Team wins volleyball championship shield

YANGON, 19 Oct — The final match of Commander-in-Chief’s (Air) Shield Volleyball Championship for 2005 took place yesterday at the stadium in Meiktila and Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the Flying Training Base Team at the FlyingTraining Base Team won a championship shield.

Commander-in-Chief’s (Air), Commander of the Flying Training Base Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tin presented the championship shield to the winner.

— MNA
Vidhura Drama Contest continues for fifth and final day

Culture Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and officials enjoy Vidhura Drama contest at the National Theatre. — MNA

YANGON, 19 Oct — Taingchit Tin Ngwe and troupe representing Magway Division took part in the Vidhura Drama Contest of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions for the fifth and final day at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street this evening.

It was attended by member of the panel of patrons of the Organizing Committee for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htaw, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan, members of the work committee and sub-committees, maestros and enthusiasts.

Leader of the panel of judges U Chit Oo Nyo and party supervised the contest.

Tomorrow evening, the Ayeyarhline marionette troupe representing Ayeyawady Division will take part in the Minkutha Drama at the professional level marionette contest.

MNA

Performing Arts Competitions...

(from page 16)

judges. Tomorrow the basic education level (aged 5-10) boys’ and girls’ harp contest and the amateur level men’s and women’s harp contest will be held at the theatre.

The music contest continued at Kandawgyi Theatre. Seven persons of States and Divisions participated in the professional level men’s violin contest, one woman in the professional level women’s violin contest, three contestants in the basic education level (aged 5-10) boys’ violin contest and five students in the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls’ violin contest. The competitions were supervised by Chairman of the panel of judges Gitalulin U Ko Ko and party.

MNA

Ma Pan Ei Phyo of Tanintharyi Division participating in the girls’ (aged 10-15) classical song contest. — MNA

Maung Thein Tan Oo of Sagaing Division taking part in the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys’ solo orchestra contest.

MNA

Work committee, subcommittees and team managers of State/Division meet

YANGON, 19 Oct — The work coordination meeting of the Chairman of the Work Committee for Organizing the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions and committee members, subcommittee members and team managers from States and Divisions was held at the meeting hall of No 1 Transit Centre (Bayintnaung) this evening, with an address by Chairman of Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan.

Next, the work committee, subcommittees and team managers discussed competitions sector-wise, and the Chairman of the Work Committee attended to the needs.

MNA

Donate blood
Experts urges to help world’s children and fight bird flu

WASHINGTON, 19 Oct — Moving swiftly against age-old child killers such as diarrhea and pneumonia could help the world get ready to combat a bird flu pandemic, health experts said on Tuesday.

“We can’t do anything about stopping avian flu if it comes in the next two years. But we can save 6 million child lives and we can do something about pandemic flu if it comes in the next five to 10 years,” said Dr Nils Daulaire, president and chief executive officer of the Global Health Council.

This, in turn, could help create the capacity to cope with outbreaks of new diseases such as H5N1 avian flu. The key lies in building up the so-called public health system, the experts said.

H5N1 avian influenza has moved across several Asian countries, decimating flocks of poultry, and now has been found in Europe, in Romania and possibly in Greece. So far it does not infect people easily but it has sickened at least 117 in four countries and killed 60 of them.

If it becomes a human disease, it has the potential to kill millions or tens of millions of people within a few months.

It will take at least six months to make a vaccine against it. Only two drugs reduce its effects and they are in short supply. Quarantines are unlikely to help much and influenza spreads quickly.

In other words, the world will be helpless to stop H5N1 if it comes before vaccine and drug production can be ramped up, virtually all experts agree. And hospitals, clinics and other health systems are already stretched to capacity, so a pandemic will be difficult to cope with.

But ramping up the capacity to make and distribute vaccines and drugs will have immediate benefits on other, equally deadly but less acute diseases, global health specialists said.

“Every three seconds a child dies,” Daulaire told a briefing sponsored by the National Press Foundation.

“They die from pneumonia. They die from diarrhea. They are dying from neonatal causes. They are dying from malaria.”

MENA/Reuters

Israeli envoy beaten in St Petersburg

MOSCOW, 19 Oct — An Israeli diplomat was beaten up on the street in St Petersburg, Russia’s second city, a spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry confirmed on Tuesday.

Interfax had reported earlier that the director of the Israeli Cultural Centre in St Petersburg was beaten unconscious on Monday by several attackers as he walked home from work, citing a source in the Israeli Embassy.

“I can confirm an Israeli diplomat in St Petersburg was unfortunately the target of what appeared to be an act of crime,” said a spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

“His wallet was stolen and he was slightly injured and received medical treatment. The incident is behind us. The Russian authorities have been informed.”

Attacks on foreigners are common in Russia.

Peruvian student was beaten to death earlier this month in central Russia while in Moscow two Polish Embassy employees and a Polish journalist were beaten up in August.

British Ambassador Anthony Brenton was robbed on St Petersburg’s main street last June.

The Israeli Embassy in Moscow and the consulate in St Petersburg did not answer calls while local police declined to comment. — MNA/Reuters

MENA/Reuters

Speedy Bali executions could spark terrorism

DENPASAR (Indonesia), 19 Oct — Speeding up the execution of three Indonesian militants on death row for the 2002 Bali blasts could provoke a backlash and trigger more attacks, the police officer who probed the bombings, said on Tuesday.

Residents on the resort island, incensed at the latest suicide bombings on 1 October that killed 20 people, have staged nearly daily protests in the past week demanding the three be executed immediately before their appeals have run out.

Last week, hundreds of protesters stormed a jail where many of those convicted over the 2002 attacks are serving time.

But Bali police chief Made Mangku Pastika said protesters should think twice about the possible consequences of putting Imam Samudra, Amrozi and Ali Gufiron, alias Mukhlas, in front of the firing squad too soon.

“I understand the demands of the Balinese to have a speedy execution of Amrozi and his friends. But have they thought about the repercussions?” Pastika, himself a Balinese, told reporters in the island’s capital Denpasar.

“Terrorism could increase. This is what we need to consider and are we ready to face it?” said Pastika, who led the 2002 bombing probe and was later installed as Bali’s top policeman.

The three have been on death row for around two years after courts convicted them of playing leading roles in the nightclub bombings that killed 202 people, most of them tourists.

Some political analysts have said their execution could make them martyrs in the eyes of Indonesia’s militant fringe and a tool for recruitment.

Citing security concerns, authorities moved the three militants from Bali’s jail just a day before it was attacked by protesters last week. They are now on a prison island off Java. Their appeals have almost been exhausted.

Asked about a lack of success in cracking the 1 October blasts, Pastika said there had been little public input in identifying three suicide bombers whose sketches have been distributed across the world’s most populous Muslim nation.

Pastika said the men who shot into three restaurants wearing backpacks laden with explosives were believed to be Indonesian. Police have not identified them.

MENA/Reuters

Expert meets with 300 children in Egypt

CAIRO, 19 Oct — At least 300 children were entertained in a social and cultural evening at the National Press Foundation (NPF) in the capital Cairo.

Hanna Nasr, a UNICEF official, told a press conference that the evening, which was aimed at providing support for children, was an extension of the active role that the organisation was playing in their support.

NPF President and executive director, Dr Maha Al-Aiki, said the organisation had unleashed its own initiatives in various rural areas in support of the children.

In order to save the lives of children suffering from different diseases and complications, the organisation has set up mobile medical units, she added.

In this respect, NPF has established mobile units to follow up on the children, where a nurse, a medical doctor and other needed professionals work.

Among the projects being implemented, Al-Aiki said, is the establishment of a children’s hospital in the Sharkia governorate.

Al-Aiki said the NPF had already distributed a million books to children in Egyptian libraries.

MENA/Reuters

WMO says Antarctica ozone hole may have peaked

GENEVA, 19 Oct — Depletion of the ozone layer above Antarctica, caused by emissions of industrial chemicals, seems to have peaked, indicating that global environmental pacts were working, UN scientists said on Tuesday.

The seasonal hole above the South Pole and Antarctica is now shrinking after falling short of the record years of 2003 and 2000, the United Nations’ World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in its latest bulletin.

It peaked at 26.9 million square kilometres on 19 September, it said, against 29 million square kilometres in September 2003, which most scientists say was the record.

“It is the third largest ever, more or less as one would expect from present levels of chlorine and bromine in the atmosphere,” Geir Braathen, WMO’s top ozone expert, told a news briefing.

“It doesn’t look as if the ozone hole is going to get any bigger (in coming years). It seems like we have reached a plateau...” he added.

Chlorofluorcarbons (CFCs) containing chlorine and bromine are blamed for thinning the earth’s protective layer — which filters harmful ultraviolet radiation that can cause skin cancer and cataracts.

They were banned 20 years ago under the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol of 1987.

“As the amount of chlorine and bromine will continue to decline over the next decades, but very slowly, one expects the ozone hole to get smaller and smaller,” Braathen said. — MNA/Reuters

MENA/Reuters
GREENSPAN says oil prices to hurt, but not like 1970s

Tokyo, 18 Oct—Skyrocketing energy prices will weigh on global growth but will likely exact a much smaller toll than surging oil prices did in the 1970s, US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said on Tuesday.

Despite an inevitable near-term impact on growth, oil prices remain below their inflation-adjusted peak of 1981, even as the world’s economy has grown more energy-efficient in recent decades, Greenspan said in a speech to Japanese business leaders.

“This is the effect of the current surge in oil prices, though noticeable, is likely to prove significantly less consequential to economic growth and inflation than the surge in the 1970s.”

Greenspan, making his first visit to Tokyo in five years and probably the last before his term is due to end in January, did not address the outlook for US monetary policy and did not take any questions.

His relatively optimistic long-term outlook supported the US Treasury market, sending the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note down by two basis points to around 4.48 per cent in early Asian trade.

The dollar was little moved, hovering near two-year highs around 115.30 yen set earlier in the day.

Greenspan’s remarks, the text of which had been made available to the media in advance, were accorded with reports of the Twentieth Century Fund, a think tank.

The UN International Maritime Organisation (IMO) said the treaty, adopted by 126 countries representing 82 per cent of the world’s fleet, was thrashed out at a conference in London last week and needs to be ratified.

In a statement on Monday, IMO Secretary-General Ettihmus Mitropoulos urged governments to ratify the treaty quickly to send “a strong message that the maritime community is eager and willing to protect the international shipping framework surrounding international shipping made maritime traffic vulnerable to terrorist attack and the community is eager and willing to protect the international shipping framework surrounding international shipping made maritime traffic vulnerable to terrorist attack and to prevent attacks on ships.”

Nations bolster sea treaty to prevent attacks

London, 18 Oct — A new treaty makes it illegal for ships to carry weapons of mass destruction and allows states to search in international waters vessels suspected of being used as floating bomb factories, the UN’s maritime body said on Monday.

The law also makes it an offence for merchant ships to be used to transport equipment and individuals involved in carrying out terrorist acts and provides a legal basis for the arrest and extradition of suspects.

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Born in death zone, Pakistani baby delivered during quake

Mansehra (Pakistan), 18 Oct—Delivering a baby at the moment of Pakistan’s earthquake, killing at least 40,000 people, Dr Nargis Jehan remembers the mother’s screams and her own delight at having the child in the hospital building.

“The boy, who has not yet been named, came into the world on October 8th for a birthday that will be mourned across the whole of Pakistan’s North West Frontier Province and Kashmir for years to come.”

“I was the witness of God that this baby should be born at that exact moment, so many people were being killed by the earthquake,” said Jehan, recalling how she had to overcome her own fears as she delivered the child in the open courtyard of her hospital building.

Hospital records show that the mother came from Balakot, the worst-hit town in North West Frontier Province.

14 killed in combat in Colombia’s violence

Bogota, 18 Oct—Seven Colombian soldiers and seven rebels were killed in combat near the Panama border, the Army said on Sunday, part of a pre-election wave of violence that last week put the military on high alert.

More than 60 hours of combat in northwest Colombia, during which Marxist guerrillas tried to capture about 200 soldiers, ended on Sunday when the insurgents were chased away by helicopter gunships. “Unfortunately, we lost men but we did not allow them to demand the bandits and, most importantly, we were able to protect the civilian population,” Armed Forces commander Carlos Alberto Ospina told reporters.

The Army went on alert Wednesday against rebel attacks after soldiers seized 155 pounds (70 kilos) of explosives near the capital. Bogota, a day after mortars were found pointed at the Presidential Palace and two days after a key Senate ally of President Alvaro Uribe survived a car bomb.

The spike in violence comes days before the Constitutional Court is expected to decide whether to allow Uribe, popular among most Colombians but detested by the rebels, to run in next May’s presidential election.

Gangs raid, rob potato farms in Zimbabwe

Harare, 18 Oct—Gangs of township thieves, armed with spears and clubs and axes, have been robbing two farms near Harare of potatoes for months as Zimbabwe struggles with hunger and a crumbling economy.

The thieves, moving in bands of between 60 and 80 people, have conducted night raids of the farms over the last three months, dividing themselves into groups to attack security guards and their dogs and to dig up the potatoes, Zimbabwe’s state-controlled Herald newspaper reported on Monday.

The daily quoted a police spokesman as saying the latest raid took place on Saturday. Farm guards were injured and five dogs killed during the robberies by bands armed with spears, knives, metal rods, axes and knuckledusters. Police were not immediately available for comment. But the Herald said police have deployed plainclothes officers into the farms, which in one raid lost 1,000 bags of potatoes and have suffered losses estimated at 3,800 US dollars.

Police had urged people not to disturb Zimbabwe’s key farming sector, whose recovery is crucial to tackling a severe economic crisis.—MNA/Reuters
**Acclaimed Chinese novelist Ba Jin dies at age 100**

Beijing, 18 Oct — One of China’s most acclaimed novelists, died in Shanghai on Monday. He was 100.

Ba Jin, the sole survivor of the first generation of writers to use the vernacular rather than formal Chinese, died in hospital after a career which span more than 70 years. Symbolizing the tortuous quest for identity of Chinese intellectuals in the 20th century, Ba Jin’s works were translated into more than 30 foreign languages.

“We have lost one of the most sensitive hearts of our time and one of the most important and widely read Chinese writers of the 20th century,” the China Daily quoted Chen Sihe, dean of Chinese literature at Shanghai’s Fudan University, as saying.

The name Ba Jin was the pen name of Li Feigian, who was born into a family of well-to-do officials in the southwestern city of Chengdu in 1904. The name Ba Jin was made up of the Chinese rendition of the first and last syllables of the Russian anarchists, Bakunin and Kropotkin, reflecting the impressionable young man’s fascination with the themes of universal love and revolution.

In 1923, he moved to Shanghai and plunged into the iconoclastic cultural movement following the May Fourth Incident, a mass protest against the Treaty of Versailles marking the end of the World War I which Chinese regarded as unfair.

He lived in Paris from 1927-28, but distanced himself from leftist Chinese students and remained apolitical.

A prolific writer, Ba Jin had a dozen novels and four collections of short stories to his credit by 1937.

His autobiographic trilogy — *Family in 1937, Spring in 1938 and Autumn in 1940* — became classics for their moving descriptions of the tribulations of young members of a large family who struggled to break away from their elders, only to court stubborn opposition and tragic outcomes.

#### Sugababes make it three weeks atop British pop charts

**London, 18 Oct** — All-girl trio the Sugababes made it three weeks at number one in the British pop charts, keeping Robbie Williams at bay for the second week in succession, the official UK Charts Company said on Sunday.

In a week of little change, the threesome’s “Push The Button” remained on top with Williams in second with “Tripping”, taken from his first album in two years. The Pussycat Dolls’ “Don’t Cha”, featuring New York rapper Busta Rhymes, was also unchanged in third.

Irish rock group U2 were the highest new entry in fourth with “All Because Of You”, the fourth single from the band’s “How To Dissemble An Atomic Bomb” album.

One dead after express train hits tractor

**London, 19 Oct, 2005** — An express train ploughed into a tractor on a rural crossing in eastern England on Wednesday morning, killing one person, British Transport Police said.

The London King’s Cross express to King’s Lynn in Norfolk collided with the tractor on a level crossing between Littleport and Downham Market shortly after midday, a BTP spokeswoman said.

The driver was shaken, but unhurt. The one fatality is believed to be the tractor driver, she said.

The train was not derailed and one rail passenger suffered minor injuries.

There were no details as to what may have caused the accident or whether the crossing was unmanned, as is often the case in rural locations.

#### Dutch arrest 45 Hell’s Angels members

**Amsterdam, 18 Oct** — Dutch police searched dozens of homes and arrested 45 members of the Hell’s Angels biker group on suspicion of violence, intimidation, extortion and trade in weapons and drugs, police said on Monday.

Tom Driessen, head of a national police unit investigating organized crime, told a news conference that police had found a grenade launcher, a flame thrower, two hand grenades and a number of guns in overnight raids that involved 1,000 officers.

Prosecutor Bart Nieuwenhoven said six Hell’s Angels club houses and 64 private homes had been searched, as well as two locations in Belgium.

#### Watch which Monroe said to have given JFK fetching $120,000

**Boston, 18 Oct** — A gold Rolex watch believed to have been given by Marilyn Monroe to the late president John F. Kennedy, inscribed “Jack with love as always Marilyn 29th May 1962”, has been sold for 120,000 US dollars, the auction house said on Monday.

The watch was sold with a poem entitled “A heartfelt plea on your birthday”, typed in black on a paper disk placed at the bottom of the gold case containing the watch. The two are rumoured to have had an affair about that time.

Bill Panagopulos, founder of Connecticut-based auctioneer Alexander Autographs, said on Monday an American collector outbid a European for the watch and case.

The gift was dated about the same time as Monroe’s seductive cooing of “Happy Birthday, Mr. President” to Kennedy at his 1962 Madison Square Garden party in New York. A beaded dress she wore at that occasion sold for 1,257,500 US dollars in 1999. Panagopulos said the watch was kept secret for decades. He said documentation shown it was handed down through the family of Kennedy’s late presidential aide, Kenneth O’Donnell, and the then president appeared uncomfortable with the gift.

#### US actor Charles Rocket commits suicide

**Boston, 18 Oct** — Actor Charles Rocket, whose unscripted profanity on “Saturday Night Live” in 1981 cost him his network television job, has committed suicide by cutting his throat, police said on Monday.

Rocket, 56, was found dead behind his Connecticut residence on October 7 with his throat slashed, said Connecticut State Police Sergeant J Paul Vance.

“There was no criminal aspect to this case. The post-mortem showed he had committed suicide by cutting his throat with a knife,” Vance said.

Rocket, whose real name was Charles Claverie, was a cast member of NBC’s late-night comedy show, “Saturday Night Live,” during the 1980-81 season. He lost his job after he appeared in a parody of the US television show “Dallas” and its famous “Who Shot J.R.?” episode. After Rocket’s character was shot, he uttered the obscenity while saying he would like to know who did it. Viewers complained and NBC issued an apology.
**SPORTS**

**Bayern take command with 2-1 win over Juventus**

**MUNICH, 19 OCT**—Bayern Munich survived a late scare to beat Juventus 2-1 and take a stranglehold in Champions League Group A on Tuesday with maximum points from three games.

Bayern, attacking ferociously in the first half, fell behind in the 32nd minute when Sebastian Deisler's shot struck keeper Christian Abbiati's thigh and flew in.

Seven minutes later, Martin Demichelis headed in a Deisler winner for a deserved second goal.

Bastian Schweinsteiger gave away a needless corner in the final minute and Juve striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic took advantage to blast in a flick-on from Emerson. Oliver Nordey's follow-up then had to punch away a Pavel Nedved free kick to safeguard victory.

Juventus had won their opening seven matches in Serie A and both their Champions League fixtures but never looked like extending that record against a Bayern side wildly on by a 6,600 full house at their new World Cup Stadium.

Despite the defeat, Juve remain well placed to qualify for the knockout phase with six points, three points behind Bayern but three ahead of Club Bruges who won 1-0 at Rapid Vienna.

Bayern, beaten home and away by Juventus in last season's group stage, had promised a more attacking approach this time and they buzzed with menace throughout the first half, pinning the Italian side to the back wall for long periods.

Christian Ballack had a free kick pushed away by Abbiati in the ninth minute after forcing a foul by Lilian Thuram on the edge of the area.

Fifteen minutes later Thuram earned a yellow card for giving away another free kick almost in the 37th minute when this time the keeper stopped a low drive by Bayern striker Roy Makaay before saving from Demichelis on the follow-up. Bayern took the advantage of a second chance of luck to take the lead.

The ball struck referee Kyros Vassaras as Juventus played their way out of defence and a grateful Willy Sagnol played in Deisler on the right.

The German winger beat Gianluca Zambrotta on the way into the area before firing in a shot that seemed to take Abbiati completely by surprise.

The entire Juventus defence were caught out seven minutes later when Demichelis outjumped the lot of them and nodded Deisler's corner down and in. Juventus switched to a three-man forward line in the second half, with Alessandro Del Piero coming on to make his 100th appearance in European club competition, and the Italians caused Bayern more problems as a result.

David Trezeguet found the side-netting with a fierce shot from an acute angle and Kalu punched a Del Piero effort clear. But Bayern continued to threaten throughout the second half, with Makaay shooting across goal and narrowly wide and later forcing a brilliant point-blank save from Abbiati.

**Late Di Natale strike for Udinese foils Werder**

**UNISANO (Italy), 19 OCT**— Substitute Antonio Di Natale grabbed an 86th-minute equaliser to earn Udinese a 1-1 draw with Werder Bremen in Champions League Group C on Tuesday.

Werder, who went into the game without a point from their opening two matches, looked set for victory after an own goal by Udinese's Brazilian defender Felipe.

But Di Natale's late strike left Werder bottom of the group with one point.

Udinese are joint second with Panathinaikos on four points, three adrift of leaders Barcelona.

Both teams were at the bottom of Group A on no points before the match and have so far been unable to trouble European giants Juventus and Bayern Munich.

The first half began as an evenly matched affair but Rapid took control as it progressed.

They missed a series of chances and then progressively lost their grip on the game in the second half. Rapid broke the deadlock with a badly miscued volley that slid beneath Rapid keeper Helge Payer.

Slovak midfielder Peter Hlinka thought he had scored for Rapid shortly before halftime. His header was blocked by Bruges keeper Tomislav Butina's chest as he fell back over the line.

Television replays were inconclusive but Rapid said it was clearly a goal.

Rapid's Czech striker Marek Knicol also hit the crossbar early in the second half. — MNA/Reuters

**Scholes sent off as Man United held by Lille**

**MANCHESTER (England), 19 OCT**—Manchester United, reduced to 10 men after the sending-off of Paul Scholes, were held to a frustrating 0-0 draw in Champions League Group D on Tuesday.

The English side dominated possession but lacked the creativity to break down a well-organised defence and Lille looked the more likely winners after Scholes's 63rd-minute dismissal.

The former England midfielder was sent off for two late tackles and United, without suspended striker Wayne Rooney, ran out of ideas as they tired in the closing stages.

United remained top of the group with five points from three games, a point ahead of Benfica, two clear of Villarreal and three better than French side Lille.

Ferguson's team enjoyed the better of the first half but failed to create many clearcut chances. Scholes had a fierce volley well saved by goalkeeper Tony Sylva and winger Ryan Giggs, making his 100th European appearance for United, curled a free kick narrowly wide.

Lille offered little in attack but nearly equalised the scoring against the run of play before halftime when midfielder Milenko Acimovic sent a 30-metre free kick over the crossbar and the Slovenian then went close with an opportunistic long shot.

The second half was disrupted by a number of bookings as the sides resorted to niggly fouls as well as Rooney's attacking skills, replaced Giggs with Park Ji-sung.

The Korean injected energy with his pacy dribbling although, for once, striker Ruud van Nistelrooy failed to come up with a late goal as he did in the 2-1 victory over Benfica three weeks ago.

Lille coach Claude Puel was satiated with a point but said his side could have taken all three.

Ferguson suffered a further blow when it was confirmed that Giggs suffered a fractured cheek bone to add to United's mounting injury list, ruling the Welshman out of the return game against Lille in two weeks. — MNA/Reuters

**Balaban strike earns Club Bruges 1-0 win**

**VIENNA, 19 OCT**—Club Bruges earned their first Champions League victory of the season on Tuesday, beating Rapid Vienna away 1-0 thanks to a stoppage-time Bosko Balaban goal in a match often dominated by the Viennese.

Both teams were at the bottom of Group A on no points before the match and have so far been unable to trouble European giants Juventus and Bayern Munich.

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Television replays were inconclusive but Rapid said it was clearly a goal.

Rapid's Czech striker Marek Knicol also hit the crossbar early in the second half. — MNA/Reuters

**Henry steers Arsenal to victory**

**PRAGUE, 19 OCT**—Arsenal captain Thierry Henry celebrated his return from injury by scoring both goals in a 2-0 Champions League victory over Sparta Prague and setting a club record on Tuesday.

Henry, out for nearly six weeks with a groin injury, fired home in the 21st and 74th minutes to give Arsenal nine points from three games and make them almost certain to reach the knockout stage from Group B.

Arsenal have a commanding lead over Ajax Amsterdam, who have four points after a 2-0 win over Swiss side Thun, who stay on three. Sparta are bottom of the group with one point.

The brace also made Henry the top scorer in Arsenal's history with 186 points after a 2-0 win over Swiss side Thun, who stay on three. Sparta are bottom of the group with one point.

The brace also made Henry the top scorer in Arsenal's history with 186 goals, one more than the previous record set by Ian Wright in the 1990s.

Arsene Wenger, who had been on the touchline after his 100th appearance for the club, praised Henry in the 74th minute: "He was brilliant...and we showed character."

Despite his long absence, Henry immediately hit strike, firing a volley in the 18th minute that just missed the target.

Three minutes later Henry was more precise, collecting a long ball from Kolo Toure with the side of his foot before spinning round to curl a shot just inside the post. With Miroslav Slepicka as their lone attacker, Sparta found their chances few and far between as the Arsenal defence easily handled the lack of pace from the Czech defenders.

Zenek Peszech twice missed chances from close in after receiving deep left side crosses as the Czech champions failed once again to score in Europe after losing 1-0 to Thun. — MNA/Reuters

**Gong Wei from Guangxi's celebrates after he won the men's 100-metre event during the 10th Chinese National Games in Nanjing, China, on 16 Oct, 2005. Gong clocked 10.24 seconds for the title. —INTERNET**
Indonesia plans third nationwide polio drive

JOAKARTA, 19 Oct — Indonesia will hold a third nationwide polio immunization drive in November to try to stamp out the crippling disease, Health Minister Siti Fadillah Supari said on Tuesday. She said that eradication from the world’s fourth most populous country a decade ago.

In the two earlier rounds, Indonesia reached 97.4 per cent of its targeted 24 million children across the sprawling archipelago, Supari said.

However, two more provinces, Aceh and Riau, both on Sumatra Island, have been affected by the disease, she told a news conference.

“The polio virus that hit Indonesia has been proven to have a high rate of attack,” Supari said.

David Higprave, chief for health and nutrition at the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Indonesia, said the emergence of new cases meant the third round was important.

“Overall, we have had good success in the two rounds, but still there are some new cases of polio being diagnosed, and new provinces have been affected,” said Higprave.

Bardan Jung Rana, polio group leader for the World Health Organization in Jakarta, said Indonesia was on the right track to stamp out the water-borne disease that can cause irreversible paralysis within hours.

The global battle against polio has faced setbacks in the past two years since Nigeria’s northern state of Kano banned immunization out of fear it could cause sterility or spread HIV/AIDS. Vaccinations resumed after a 10-month ban.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Wednesday, 19 October, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Taninthayi Division, scattered in Chin and Kayah States and upper Sagaing Division, isolated in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, Bago, lower Sagaing, Manda-
lay, Magway and Yangon Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Bago Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The notewor-
thy amounts of rainfall recorded were Shwegyin (3.27) inches, An (1.38) inches, Hakkha and Falam (1.14) inches each, Kyaukse (0.79) inch, Magway (0.55) inch and Mogok (0.52) inch.

Maximum temperature on 18-10-2005 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 19-10-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 19-10-2005 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 18-10-2005 was (6.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 19-10-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon, Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (97.40) inches at Mingaladon, (97.44) inches at Kaba-Aye and (100.83) inches at cen-
tral Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from North at (11:45) hours MST on 18-10-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, a low pressure area has formed over the Southwest Bay and adjoining West Central Bay. 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 20-10-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions 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 the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-10-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thun-
kershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-10-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thun-
kershowers. Degree of certainty is 40%.

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YANGON, 19 Oct — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Union Solidarity and Development Association (Yangon Division In-charge) Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and USDA CEC member Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials inspected tasks being carried out by employees of YCDC and Ministry of Health for prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever in Shwepyitha Township this morning.

They met with the joint secretary of YCDC, officials, local authorities and social organization members at the Office of the Executive Officer of Shwepyitha Township on Bayintnaung Road in Ward 6. Departmental officials reported on activities of prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever and organizational tasks.

Chairman of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Li-Col Myat Min briefed them on prevention, treatment and control tasks for dengue hemorrhagic fever in Yangon North District and Shwepyitha Township. The commander and party gave necessary instructions to them.

Next, Commander Li-Gen Myint Swe and party viewed sanitation tasks and activities for prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever being carried out by departmental personnel, members of USDA, MWAF, MCWA and social organizations at the drains along Thazi, NyaungU and Yebyu Roads in Ward 10 of Shwepyitha Township.

The commander and party visited the talks on prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever to the local people, jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and YCDC, at the Dhammayon in Ward 10. — MNA

Performing Arts Competitions continue for sixth day at designated places on grand scale

Ma Pan Pan Shwe Soe of Mandalay Division taking part in basic education level (aged 5-10) girls’ violin contest. — MNA

YANGON, 19 Oct — The 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the designated places on grand scale today. Present on the occasions were member of the panel of patrons for organizing the competitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Competitions Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tin Hsan and officials, maestros and people, students and teachers from Shangon BEMS of Hmawby Town-ship and tourists.

At the National Theatre, the singing contest was supervised by Assistant Director (Music) Daw Tin Tin Mya of Myanmar Radio and Television, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and members.

A total of 11 students took part in the higher education level men’s Maha Gita contest and 14 contestants in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ Maha Gita contest. Tomorrow morning, the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ classical/modern song contest will be held at the museum.

At the National Theatre, 14 persons participated in the higher education level women’s dancing contest, and 15 students in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys’ dancing contest. Chairman of the panel of judges Win Maung Hnin U Sein Aung Min and members supervised the contest. The amateur level marionette contest will be held at the same venue tomorrow.

Similarly, contestants practised their works in the song composing contest at the basic education level (aged 15-20) and at the higher education level at State school of Fine Arts.

At Padonma Theatre, eight persons took part in the professional level men’s solo orchestra contest, and 10 persons in the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys’ solo orchestra contest. The competitions of the contestants were supervised by U Sein Hla Myaing and party of the panel of judges.

(See page 10)

INSIDE

Seventeen national race armed groups, that rose against successive previous governments for several decades, returned to the legal fold, some of whom have unconditionally handed over their arms and are participating in the development tasks. As a result, peace, stability and progress prevail in the entire nation including border areas.

PAGE 7 AUNG MOE SAN

Mi Than Than Aye of Kayin State participates in higher education level women’s dancing contest. — MNA