Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attends ceremony to present prizes to outstanding students, schools, townships in passing rate of matriculation exam in Shan State (South)

YANGON, 23 Oct — A ceremony to present prizes to outstanding students, schools and townships in the matriculation exam for 2004-05 academic year, organized by Shan State (South) Peace and Development Council, was held at the city hall in Taunggyi on 21 October morning, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence.

(See page 5)

Tatmadaw Government putting into motion its drive for transition to democracy in conformity with way of life of Myanmar society

A big power and West bloc cut off humanitarian aid

Democracy cannot be introduced overnight

YANGON, 23 Oct— The following is a translation of clarifications made by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan on matters relating to instigation made by some western countries and internal and external destructive elements with deceitful political ploys portraying Myanmar in worst shape from pessimistic point of view calling on the UN Security Council to act in Myanmar at the Press Conference No (7/2005) held today.

I would like to clarify matters relating to instigation made by some western countries and internal and external destructive elements with deceitful political ploys portraying Myanmar in worst shape from pessimistic point of view calling on the UN Security Council to act in Myanmar.

All might have known that Ex-president of Czech Republic Vaclav Havel and Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa issued a report titled “Threat to Peace: A Call for the UN Security Council to Act in Myanmar” on 20 September 2005.

In that report, allegations were made lopsidedly that Myanmar’s internal affairs should be assumed

(See page 16)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Monday, 24 October, 2005

Panhlaining bridge—a fruitful result emerged from goodwill of government

The Government of the Union of Myanmar has been paying serious attention to better transportation which plays a pivotal role in socio-economic development of the entire people. Better transportation will surely help cement unity among national brethren as well as raise the economic development of every region.

With this end in view, the government is building a network of roads and bridges the length and breadth of the nation.

In his address on 22 October, at the inauguration of Panhlaining Bridge linking Hlinethaya Township in Yangon North District and Dalla Township in Yangon South District, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein urged people to strive for national development while utilizing Panhlaining bridge and Hlinethaya-Twantay-Dalla Road for regional development and raising the economic and social life of own region.

With the length of 1,940 feet, Panhlaining bridge lies on Hlinethaya-Dalla-Twantay motor road and it is the 200th one of its kind built in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

Thanks to the opening of Panhlaining bridge, there is now easy access to Twantay, Dedaye, Pyapon, Kyatkhat, Maubin and Nyaungdon from Yangon. Moreover, the bridge creates a new route for Ayeyawady Division and thus it contributes much towards socio-economic development of not only Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions but also the entire nation.

The government, while cementing own national strength, is striving day in, day out for national development free from external influence. At the same time, projects for development of urban and rural areas and plains and hilly regions are being implemented systematically.

It is safe to say that Panhlaining bridge is a fruitful result emerged from the endeavours and goodwill of the government. With the emergence of the bridge, Dalla, Twantay and Kungyangon regions including Hlinethaya industrial town will surely develop.

Local people are urged to make concerted efforts for regional and national development utilizing good foundations created by the government.

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**Commander, Mayor inspect sanitation, beautifying tasks in Yangon City**

Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected sanitation of drain along Lower Mingaladon Road in Insein Township.— MNA

**Ayeyawady Division USDA holds annual general meeting**

**YANGON, 22 Oct —** Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, inspected beautifying tasks in Yangon City and sanitation and construction tasks for upgrading the city this morning.

They oversaw preparations for repaving Husna Road near Kyimyin dine Central Fish Market in Kyimyin dine Township. The commander and the mayor also looked into sanitation tasks for proper flow of water at drains and repaving of roads in Insein, Hlinethaya and Shwepe thiya townships.

They gave instructions on supervision to be made for durability of roads and sanitation at drains. Likewise, Tatmadawmen of Yangon Command Headquarters and Yangon Station took part in sanitation tasks at Myawady and Nawarat Yeikthas and Yangon Station Market.

MNA

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**Lecture on prevention against AIDS given**

**YANGON, 23 Oct —** The training course on prevention against the AIDS contagious disease, organized by Myanmar Women Affairs Federation, was opened at No 2 BEHS in Sanyesung Township yesterday morning, attended by the General Secretary of MWAf, heads of departments leaders of working groups committee, officials of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and the Social Welfare Department, course instructors and trainees. Leader of Social and Cultural working group of MWAf Dr Daw Sandar Aung made an opening speech.

Altogether 104 trainees from WAOs in Yangon Division are attending the training course and it will last till tomorrow. — MNA
UN suspends Britain’s Compass Group as vendor

The United Nations said on Friday it was suspending British caterer Compass Group Plc as a registered vendor pending the outcome of an investigation into alleged contract bidding irregularities.

Compass, the world’s biggest caterer, announced earlier in the day in London that it was suspending the head of one of its divisions and investigating its dealings with the United Nations, sending its shares down as much as 9 percent.

The company said it was suspending Peter Harris, the chief executive officer of its UK & Ireland, Middle East and Africa division, pending the investigation.

Compass said the law firm Freshfields would look at the relationship and contract procurement procedures between its subsidiary Eurest Support Services, the United Nations and IHC, a former contractor and vendor to the UN procurement department.

UN chief spokesman Stephane Dujarric said that contract, valued at 62 million US dollars, would now be reopened for bidding, he said.

The suspension of the United Nations from its contract with the United Nations, which is worth 350 million dollars, is expected to cause hardship for the UN.

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Indian PM for a ‘new paradigm’ of security cooperation

New Delhi, 22 Oct — Observing that the world community had failed to ensure “effective, rule-based order” to address threats like terrorism and WMD proliferation, India’s Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday said India has to evolve a “new paradigm” of security cooperation relevant to the emerging multi-polar world.

Asserting that global threats like terrorism require a global response, he said globalization had “sharpened the threat posed to us by instability in both our immediate and our proximate neighbourhood”.

Addressing top Armed Forces Commanders here, the Prime Minister said India had to be “mindful” of the desire of extra-regional powers to keep it engaged in low-intensity conflicts and local problems to “weigh us down in a low-level equilibrium”.

To meet these challenges, New Delhi would have to adopt a strategy based on “three pillars” — strengthen itself economically and technologically, to acquire adequate defence capability and to seek partnership on strategic, economic and technological fronts.

“... The international community has made some progress in evolving a rule-based order for managing the economic and commercial dimensions of globalization,” he said.

He, however, noted that “the absence of an effective, rule-based order is acutely felt in addressing contemporary security threats, such as terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD)”.

While talking about threats posed by terrorism, the Prime Minister said it was in India’s security interest to ensure that its neighbours evolve in viable states with moderate and stable political and social environment and a robust economy.

US military says four contractors killed in Iraq

Baghdad, 22 Oct — Four US contractors for the US military were killed in Iraq last month, the military said on Saturday, confirming an attack that a British security contractor, one of two men murdered in front of a jeering crowd.

A military spokesman said the attack occurred on Sunday when insurgents fired rifles and rocket-propelled grenades at a convoy guarded by US troops after it made a wrong turn in Duluiya, near Balad north of Baghdad.

“Task Force Liberty soldiers responding to assist the convoy, administered first aid to two wounded contractors and evacuated the bodies of four contractors killed in the attack,” the spokesman said in a statement.

No reason was given why the military had not released information on the attack earlier.

Britain’s Daily Telegraph newspaper gave an account of the incident which recalled the slaying of four contractors killed by a crowd in Falluja in March 2004, an incident which provoked the first of two major US offensive last year against the guerrillas in the city west of Baghdad.

The Telegraph quoted a US officer in the area who had spoken to soldiers involved, said the victims were American soldiers from Haliburton unit Kellogg, Brown & Root, the biggest US military contractor in Iraq. — Internet

Drug killings surge in Mexican city on US border

Monterrey (Mexico), 22 Oct — Unidentified gunmen executed two men in Ciudad Juarez on the US border in a resurgence of drug-related violence that killed a former Interpol chief and his lawyer this week, authorities said on Friday.

Both men were shot in the back of the head late on Thursday as they sat in a car in the city, which lies south of the border from El Paso, Texas. One man died at the scene, the other shortly afterwards in hospital, prosecutors said.

A day earlier police found the bodies of a former Interpol chief and his lawyer crammed into a plastic bag.

The industrial city of 1.3 million is a notorious drug trafficking hub controlled by the so-called Juarez cartel, a loose affiliation of drug gangs from the western state of Sinaloa that are prone to bloody feuding.

US troops deaths in Iraq rise to 1996

Washington, 22 Oct — As of Saturday, 22 Oct, 2005, at least 1,996 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to a Associated Press count. At least 1,547 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five civilian Americans.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,857 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,438 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

A general view of the Esplanade arts centre, often dubbed 'the Durian' for its spiky dome, in Singapore on 21 Oct, 2005. — Internet

US Marines patrol the streets of Ramadi in western Iraq on 22 Oct, 2005. — Internet
Minkutha marionette drama contest continues

Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe enjoys competition of Yokson Amyint Thabin Troupe in Professional Level Minkutha Marionette Contest.— MNA

YANGON, 23 Oct — The professional level Minkutha marionette drama contest of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the fourth day at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township this evening. Yokson Amyint Thabin Troupe representing Mon State participated in the contest.

Present on the occasion were Member of the Panel of Patrons for Organizing the Competition Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Member of the Panel of Patrons Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, 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 subcommittees, maestros and people. Today’s marionette drama contest was supervised by leader of the panel of judges U Ye Dwe and party.

The professional level Minkutha marionette drama contest will tomorrow. MNA

13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue for tenth day

YANGON, 23 Oct — The 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the tenth day at the designated venues today.

Present on the occasions were member of the panel of patrons for organizing the competitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan and members, officials of the subcommittees, maestros and people.

At the multi-purpose hall of the National Museum, Chairperson of the Panel of Judges Assistant Director (Music) Daw Tin Tin Mya of Myanmar Radio and Television, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and members supervised the singing contest.

 Altogether 16 contestants from States and Divisions took part in the amateur level women’s religious song contest, and 13 persons in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys’ classical/modern singing contest.

A total of nine contestants practised their songs in the basic education level (aged 15-20) composed on 14 October at Kanbauza Theatre. Chairman of the panel of judges Bogale U Tint Aung and party supervised the contest.

At the National Theatre, 10 persons participated in the amateur level piano contest. In the afternoon, the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls’ piano contest continued and seven pianists participated in the contest.

At Padonma Theatre, a total of six professional competitors took part in the professional level men’s orchestra contest, 11 persons in the amateur level men’s orchestra contest.

Today’s individual orchestra contests were supervised by leader of the panel of judges Sein Hla Myaing and party. MNA

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| Ma Myat Tin Zar Kyaw of Kachin State taking part in basic education level (aged 15-20) girls’ piano contest.— MNA

Ma Tin Tin Nyo of Kayin State competes in amateur level women’s religious song contest.— MNA

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Ma Tin Tin Nyo of Kayin State competes in amateur level women’s religious song contest.— MNA
Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attends ceremony to present prizes to outstanding students, ...

(from page 1)

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint and wife, local authorities, departmental officials, school heads, teachers, students and parents.

Shan State Education Officers (Inspection) Daw Khin Pyone Win and U Htay Myint presented first, second and third prizes to Mongshu, Pindaya and Taunggyi BEHS No 4, Taunggyi BEHS No 5 and Taunggyi BEHS No 1 in the passing rate respectively.

Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint and officials gave away prizes to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination with flying colours. Similarly, wives of the commander and the deputy commander presented prizes to the other outstanding students.

Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint awarded prizes to 10 five-distinction winners.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave away prizes to five six-distinction winners.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that the Government in cooperation with the entire national people is striving for the emergence of a democratic nation. Development of the nation and its perpetuation depends on improvement of the education sector. The prize presentation in the education sector contributes towards development tasks of the State. The nurturing of outstanding new generation youths on whom the State can rely is a long-term task. Only when the people including youth will have knowledge and technology, will the task for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation be implemented in the long run.

He added that the Government as well as local authorities is realizing the national education promotion programme for development of the education sector. Departmental officials and the entire people are urged to make concerted efforts for gaining more achievements in the national education promotion programme.

In Shan State (South), prizes worth K 8.5 million was presented to 159 outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination with flying colours.

At Women's and Children's Hospital in Taunggyi, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on matters related to the hospital, and construction of the three-storey building of the hospital.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected construction tasks and gave necessary instructions.

The extension of the hospital was completed by 85 per cent.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party left Heho Airport and arrived back here in the evening.— MNA

Home Affairs Minister arrives back

YANGON, 23 Oct — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo arrived back here by air yesterday evening after attending the 2nd China—ASEAN Cooperation on Drug Control which was held from 18 to 20 October in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China.

They were welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Charge d’Affaires ai of Chinese Embassy Mr Yu Boren, heads of department under the Ministry of Home Affairs and family members of the delegation.

Deputy Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win, Head of CCDAC and Drug Elimination Department Police Col Kham Aung, Director U Maung Maung Kyaw of Bureau of Special Investigation and Director U Nyi Nyi of Progress of Border Area and National Races Department also arrived back here on the same flight. — MNA

Freed Irish journalist wants to work on in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Oct— Irish journalist Rory Carroll, freed on Thursday after 36 hours in the hands of Baghdad kidnappers, said he wanted to go on reporting on Iraq. "The next move is unclear but I would like to report on Iraq in the future," the 33-year-old correspondent for London’s Guardian told by telephone shortly after his release.

He said he did not know who was responsible for snatching him on Wednesday; Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Chalabi was present when he was released after a day and a half in darkness. "I don't know who took me," Carroll said. "I was released about an hour ago. I'm fine. I was treated reasonably well," he added. "I spent the last 36 hours in the dark. I was released into the hands of Dr Chalabi." The Guardian had said Carroll, who has been in Baghdad since January, was seized as he left the home of a Shi'ite Muslim family who had suffered under Saddam Hussein and were watching the first day of his trial on television.

United Nations Information Centre, Yangon.

Message from the Secretary-General on the United Nations Day

YANGON, 24 Oct— The following is the message from the Secretary-General on the United Nations Day.

Today, as we celebrate sixty years of our United Nations, we must recognize that the world today is very different from that of our founders.

The United Nations must reflect this new age, and respond to its challenges— including, first and foremost, the knowledge that hundreds of millions of people are left defenceless against hunger, disease and environmental degradation, even though the world has the means to rescue them.

Last month, world leaders met in New York to try and forge a common response to these challenges.

Leaders of both rich and poor countries committed themselves to detailed policies which, if fully implemented, could reduce hunger and poverty by 50 per cent in the next ten years.

They decided to create new UN bodies for promoting human rights and building lasting peace in war-torn countries.

They promised to fight terrorism in all its forms, and to take collective action, when needed, to save populations from genocide and other heinous crimes.

They decided on important reforms of the UN Secretariat.

But on climate change and Security Council reform they could make only weak statements. And on nuclear proliferation and disarmament they could not agree at all.

They have left us a great deal of work to do.

Today, as we mark the 60th anniversary of our indispensable institution, I promise you that I will do my part. And I trust that you, as global citizens, will do yours.

United Nations Information Centre, Yangon.
May 2005. Further information regarding the case led to the arrest of Mr Weerapan Seeya, a Thai national, at Queen’s Park Hotel, where he was putting up. Upon interrogation, it is learnt that heroin has been produced in a jungle area on China-Myanmar border with the use of mobile huts. Hence, bordering nations as well as with those of Interpol for the exchange of information and coordination in the fight against drugs. As Myanmar and China share a long border there broke out transnational crimes committed by drug smugglers. The two nations realized that mutual cooperation in the fight against drugs is imperative. Therefore, the two nations signed Memorandum of Understanding on control of narcotic drugs on 21 January 2001. Under the MoU, the two nations hold bilateral meetings at different levels and exchanged information systematically. The two nations are making relentless efforts. With those efforts, 102.05 kilos of ICE have been made being monitored and systematic steps have been taken for the exchange of information. The MPF has been in close contact with its counterparts of the neighbouring nations as well as with those of Interpol for the exchange of information and coordination in the fight against drugs. Greater success has been achieved in the exchange of information and cooperation since the two nations were in close contact in a friendly atmosphere. Of the achievements, the “Case 496” is of most significance.

A three-member Myanmar delegation led by a high-ranking police officer were dispatched to Kunming, the People’s Republic of China on 26 August to collect the information systematically. The Myanmar delegation met with the leader of the combined team comprising three Myanmar police officers and four Chinese authorities, on information, entered Myanmar and conducted close monitoring at Kengtung.

Local authorities and congenial organizations fully supported the Myanmar-Chinese combined team that is to totally eradicate narcotic drugs. To be able to seize drugs to be smuggled transnationally, local Tatmadaw and MPF members in collaboration with the Special Anti-Drug Squad were taking systematic measures. Keeping pace with changes, the information received was sent to the MPF Headquarters to be confirmed, and the combined team was laying in wait to arrest the culprit.

On 9 September, the combined team made a raid between Mongpyin and Nawngkho and seized 992 blocks of heroin weighing 496 kilos, 0.5 kilo of raw opium, seven vehicles, two walkie-talkies, 4,100,200 bahts and 156,000 kyats. Upon interrogation, the owner of the heroin blocks was Hang Yu Wen (a) Ah Yon (a) Khaing Soe who is holding a fake Myanmar NRC card.

Drug lord Hang Yu Wen was born of U Han

The street value of heroin seized in the case 496 is worth K 39.68 billion equivalent to over 62 million US dollars.
992 blocks of heroin weighing 496 kilos...

(from page 6)

992 blocks of heroin weighing 496 kilos...

In July 2000, Hang Yu Wen smuggled blocks of heroin owned by Tang Xiao Lim into the PRC. In that incident, Hang Yu Wen concealed the drugs in the water tank of a ten-wheel truck mingled with other items and asked Lauk Yang, a Chinese national, to supervise it along Shweli-Kunming-Guangxi road. The truck was intercepted at Guangxi Province by Chinese police force who arrested Lauk Yang. Lauk Yang was given the death sentence by Chinese authorities who issued a warrant for the arrest of Hang Yu Wen. Since then, culprit Hang Yu Wen had been on the run along Lao-Myanmar border.

After Monhsala in Monkoe region had been arrested by Myanmar government, drug lord Tang Xiao Lim was left unprotected. Hence, he was arrested by Muse Special Anti-Drug Squad in April 2001 and handed over to Lao Customs Department.

After Tang Xiao Lim had been arrested, Hang Yu Wen continued running drug trafficking with those who were in close contact with Tang Xiao Lim in China-Myanmar border. He became prosperous by means of smuggling drugs into Thailand and China many times. For drug trafficking, he used innocent national races at China-Myanmar border.

As soon as Hang Yu Wen learnt that the combined team had seized the heroin blocks, he came to Tachilek from Myanmar-Thailand border on 11 September and to Wanpon port and he fled to Hwasai, Laos.

He reached Lanplaban and Shinkuang from Hwasai. He hid in Sannal close to Vietnam and planned to enter Vietnam. The Myanmar-China investigation team received information about him and made contact with Lao Police Force and Of-MPF, they were handed over to China on 2 October under the bilateral goodwill relations. Action was taken against other culprits who were involved in the case in accord with the procedures and the existing laws and deterrent prison terms were given to them.

The street value of heroin seized in the case 496 is worth K 39.68 billion equivalent to over 62 million US dollars.

Active cooperation of Myanmar and China and anti-government organizations often speak ill of narcotic drug issue without any evidence. The government does not ignore the issue of drug control and it has been carrying out the drug control programme as a national task in cooperation with the people in the country as well as neighbouring countries and international organizations. — NNA
The entire people do not totally accept the three-pronged attack of destructive elements and they join hands with the Government

(from page 16)

After perusal, it can be found that the report was based on false information, fabrications and exaggerations collectively made by some western countries, their lackeys opposing Myanmar government and expatriates.

In addition, the report copied lopsided allegations and norms against Myanmar mentioned in annual reports of a big nation with a view to deceiving international community to misunderstand Myanmar’s affairs.

Thus, it can be seen that Havel-Tutu report is not an authentic research paper compiled with sincerity. Yet it is almost absolutely the same as “The Crisis in Burma: An Agenda for the UN Security Council?” submitted to the UNSC on 4-10-2003 by fugitive terrorist Sein Win’s NCGUB (so-called National Coalition Government of Union of Burma) and the Burma Fund. As that attempt of Sein Win’s group failed, they tried again to revive the old scheme. Havel and Tutu were used to draw the attention of UN member countries and international communities. All were conspiracies of expatriates and their western masters.

Those papers are also put on display for you journalists to view.

As the Tutu-Havel report is full of allegations and fabrications to tarnish the image of Myanmar and it is not contributing towards Myanmar’s transition to democracy, the Government declared on 29-9-2005 that it did not accept the report absolutely and it strongly rejected it.

Myanmar is not copying the western democracy. It has been launching the transition to discipline-flourishing democracy which is in conformity with the nation’s prevailing conditions. At a time when considerable progress has been made in this drive, internal and external destructive elements have been making underground attack, aboveground attack and expatriate attack simultaneously to hinder the momentum of the progress. I have already clarified these points at the previous press conferences.

The entire people do not totally accept the three-pronged attack of destructive elements and they join hands with the Government. When their three-pronged attacks were foiled, some western nations and internal and external destructive elements in collusion with BBC made fabricated news on the nation and the Head of State in order to frighten the public, to raise commodity prices exorbitantly and to destabilize the country.

Then, they made allegations to the effect that Myanmar was weak in cooperating with UN agencies. In this way, the destructive elements drove out GFATM (Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria) from Myanmar. Next, they put blame on Myanmar Government that Global Fund left the country due to misdeeds of the Government.

Soon after the Global Fund left Myanmar, the new generation group of 1988 Incident tried to take a place by issuing a statement that education and health situations in Myanmar were in very poor state; international humanitarian aids were required; and NGOs including itself would supervise the distribution of the aids to the public. In fact, it was aimed at attacking the Government by the internal and external destructive elements in synchronization as if they were eager to serve the public interests.

Consequently, Czech ex-president Havel and South African bishop Desmond Tutu exaggerated Myanmar’s affairs to fuel the call for the UN Security Council to act in Myanmar. Then, internal and external destructive elements immediately made declarations to support the Tutu-Havel report, call for the UN Security Council’s action and ask for veto-power wielding nations not to use veto in this case.

Meanwhile some foreign broadcasting stations broadcast instigations and fabrications in various forms and ways profusely. False accusations were made to the effect that there was deforestation in Myanmar due to illegal timber trade at border areas. Since independence there had been some illegal timber trade in border areas due to lack of the rule of law and due to armed
Tatmadaw which provided a leading role in the struggle for independence has always been standing steadfastly by people

(from page 8)

insurgencies. But the Tatmadaw Government achieved peace with national race armed groups and earnest efforts can be made for regional development. As much as border areas and national races development plans are implemented, the illegal felling of trees decreased remarkably at Sino-Myanmar border. In some places, there are now no illegal felling of trees. While allegations and demands were made by external destructive elements, rumours and fabricated news were spread by internal destructive elements in order to frighten the public and cause the rise in commodity prices.

Rumours spread by unscrupulous persons were afloat. Some groundless rumours said rice godowns in Twantay Township were smashed and rice was looted; etc. Information was received that terrorist acts could be committed at the same time. We have learnt that Than Myint Aung (alias) Ye Thway of expatriate student group left Daungkhwin camp of ABSDF headquarters on 11 October for KNU brigade-7 area in Thaton-Bilin; three terrorists led by Maung Win (alias) Kyaukkhe of VBSW left for KNU brigade-6 area via Wayla village south of Maesot; that two teams were to blast bombs at the National Convention at Hmawby Nyaunghnapin and other vi-

Rumours mentioned in the report are absolutely contrary to actual conditions and situations in Myanmar. In some cases, they used double-standard norms. In the Tutu-Havel report, one-sided allegations were made under the title “Overthrow of democratically-elected government”. These allegations are absolutely contrary to Myanmar’s historical events and incidents. Myanmar is a sovereign Union where over 100 national races have been residing together since over 2000 years ago. In the 19th century, it fell under colonial servitude after experiencing several aggressive wars by the colonialists.

Myanmar was suppressed for over 100 years under the colonial rule and suffered the ill effects of the divide-and-rule tactics of the colonialists. However, it regained independence in 1948. Due to discord and dissension sown by the colonialists among the national brethren for over 100 years, the national unity deteriorated and the nation had to encounter the internal armed insurgencies for about 40 years. As a result, the nation lagged behind in development. The Tatmadaw which provided a leading role in the struggle for independence has always been standing steadfastly by the people whenever the nation faces emergency.

Since the nation’s independence in 1948, the Tatmadaw had to deal with various armed insurgencies. At that time, some foreign media dubbed the-then government as Yangon Government. The nation was on the verge of disintegration. The Tatmadaw (See page 10)
The Government is taking systematic steps for the emergence of a new democratic nation in accordance with the seven-point Road Map. In fact, the seven-point Road Map is being implemented in conformity with the democratic basic practices.
Tatmadaw which provided a leading…

(from page 10)

aimed at disintegrating the national unity, creating misunderstanding towards the Tatmadaw members and disturbing the Tatmadaw not to make operations in border areas where armed insurgents are taking refuge. These accusations were made by a handful of terrorist insurgents taking shelter in border areas. Similarly, the Tatmadaw is being built into a modern and strong one for the future of the nation. The destructive elements cannot bear to see it and they accused that children were recruited forcefully by the Tatmadaw. The allegations were the outcome of the interview by expatriates with Tatmadaw members and SSA (South) insurgents abroad. It has been elucidated that children were forcefully recruited by the SSA (South) who had returned to the legal fold, it is learnt that SSA practised the method of killing parents for preventing new recruits from going back home. His parents were killed by SSA in their village. SSA suffered losses in every battle and its members were always intending to run away and return to the legal fold. At the SSA (South) headquarters, there were some 60 new recruits who were mobilized forcefully. Of them, about 20 ran away. But those who were rearrested by SSA were beheaded before the new recruits. Shouting the prou- perity for Shan State, SSA Ywet Sit group is concentrating on the interests of their own families. The local national people do not want to join SSA Ywet Sit group and therefore they fled with their families. SSA invaded villages suddenly and demanded rice and extortion money. Every paddy grower had to pay four baskets of paddy (from 8000 kyats) in cash. Every rice mill owner had to pay 20,000 kyats. 50,000 for each stealwasher G was paid. If such events in Myanmar are not known by those from far regions, Tutu Havel and their accomplices should have known the forced recruitment of child soldiers by God Army and SSA (South) insurgent terrorist groups by reading Times and Newsweek magazines featured as cover stories.

The fourth allegation was about the migra- tion of refugees. It falsely mentioned in the report that a large number of refugees have poured out of Myanmar in recent years as a result of grave conditions created by the Government. The report also falsely ac- cused that the Government is responsible for a decline in the economic situation so alarming that Myanmar in 1988 was merely 7 per cent. It shows how the human right of longevity prevails well in Myanmar. According to Human Development Indicators (HDI) of UN, Myanmar’s HDI value is 0.5. It is above average Myanmar’s HDI rank stands at position 132 showing the considerable place. The government has built more institutions of higher learning and basic education schools in every part of the nation to enhance learning opportunities. In addition, it has extended teachers training colleges and education universities and degree courses to produce a large number of qualified teachers. The nation now has 156 universities and colleges and 40,525 schools, up from 32 and 33,747 respectively in 1988. Of them, there are 4 technological universities, two computer universities, 26 technical colleges and 24 computer colleges. These universities, insti- tutes and colleges are opened all over the coun- try.

In comparison with international data as re- gards per capita income, economic growth, ratio of rich and poor, and adult literacy rate, Myanmar is in seventh position. Average welfare indicators showing food sufficiency, poverty and literacy witnessed that Myanmar is in seventh position among 24 Asian na- tions. As regards poverty indicator, Myanmar stands at No. 9. As regards adult literacy rate, Myanmar is in twelfth position. Average welfare indicators showing food sufficiency, poverty and literacy witnessed that Myanmar is in seventh position among 24 Asian na- tions.

In comparison with international data as re- gards per capita income, economic growth, ratio of rich and poor, and adult literacy rate, Myanmar is in the mid-position. In the Human De- velopment Report 2001 a new indicator of the UN, the un- dernourished people percentage of total popula- tion was 21 per cent in the Philippines; 25 per cent in Sri Lanka; 11 per cent in China, 22 per cent in Viet- nam, 21 per cent in India, 7 per cent in Myanmar, 33 per cent in Cambodia, 20 per cent in Pakistan, 38 per cent in Bangladesh, 28 per cent in Nepal and 29 per cent in Laos. It can be seen that the undernourished people percentage of total population in Myanmar was merely 7 per cent. It shows how the human right of longevity prevails well in Myanmar. According to Human Development Indicators (HDI) of UN, Myanmar’s HDI value is 0.5. It is above average Myanmar’s HDI rank stands at position 132 showing the considerable place. The government has built more institutions of higher learning and basic education schools in every part of the nation to enhance learning opportunities. In addition, it has extended teachers training colleges and education universities and degree courses to produce a large number of qualified teachers. The nation now has 156 universities and colleges and 40,525 schools, up from 32 and 33,747 respectively in 1988. Of them, there are 4 technological universities, two computer universities, 26 technical colleges and 24 computer colleges. These universities, insti- tutes and colleges are opened all over the coun- try.

There were over 138,000 university students and 5,240,000 basic educa- tion students totalling over 5,380,000 in Myanmar in 1988. There are now 748,000 university students and 7,790,000 basic educa- tion students totalling 8,540,000. In 1988, Myanmar had over 6,500 university teachers and about 174,000 basic educa- tion teachers totalling over 180,000, and now the na- tion’s teacher population reaches 260,000 — over 18,000 university teachers and over 240,000 basic educa- tion teachers. On average, Myanmar has one school in every one and a half mile perimeter. About 89 per cent of the schools are in rural areas, and according to 2004-2005 aca- demic year record, 93 per cent of primary school teachers have completed their teachership course. The primary school teacher-student ratio is 1:32. Enrolment rate of five-year old children is increasing annually in the whole nation from 91 per cent in 1999-2000 aca- demic year to 97.5 per cent in 2005-2006 academic year. Adult literacy rate reached 94.1 per cent in 2005, up from 83 per cent in 1996.

The health sector is trying to realize the aim of ensuring health and longevity for all the people. Myanmar has the highest vitamin-A feeding cover- age rate. It can significantly reduce the mortality rate of children under five. In 1990, 130 out of 1000 newly born babies died, and in 2003 the number was reduced to 66.6. The target for 2015 is 38.3. Mortality rate of in- fants under one year was reduced to 49.7 in 2003 from 98 in 1990. Efforts are being made to decrease the number to 28.3 in 2015.

The nation now has 824 hospitals, up from 631 in 1988. The number of doctors has risen to nearly 19,000 at present from 13,000 in 1988. In the past the nation’s health sector had only four univer- sities, one institute and 26 schools. Now it has 14 universities, one institute and 43 schools. One of the successes of the health sec- tor is the decrease in the maternal death rate. In 1988, the rate was 9.9 every 1000 in rural areas and 8.9 every 1000 in urban areas. In 2003, it was 6.5 every 1000 in the rural area, and 5.6 every 1000 in the urban areas. Myanmar has totally wiped out polio, small pox and malaria since 1988. Of other diseases have also decreased. As a result, life expectancy rate in Myanmar has increased. Life expectancy in rural areas were 56.2 years (men) and 60.4 (women) in 1988. The rates increased to 61.3 years (men) and 63.8 years (women) in 2002. The life expectancy rate in urban area were 59 years (men) and 63.2 (women) in 1988 and the numbers in- creased to 61.8 years (men) and 66.1 years (women) in 2002. The endeavours to supply adequate health care for the people, open more learning opportunities, and to extend health care serv- ices to remote areas of the nation in reality are creating perpetual human rights for the nationalities.

To fulfill the rising electricity demand, 30 hydro power stations, four gas-fired power stations, one coal- fired power station and four steam-turbine power stations have been built after 1988. They are generating 1596 more megawatts. These are the results of the Tatmadaw government’s tireless efforts. It has been 16 years since the nation has been implementing border area development project. Moreover the nation has been implementing the five rural development tasks for five years. The border ar- eas development drive benefits 10 per cent of the na- tion’s population and the rural area, 70 per cent of the population. The essence of the project and the tasks is same as the global pov- erty elimination drive. Thus the so-called refugees are not the persons living in the embrace of the nation. As mentioned above, they are
Pressure mounts on EU to break WTO deadlock

GENEVA, 22 Oct — Leading developing and farm exporting countries piled the pressure on the European Union on Friday to break a deadlock in world trade talks by agreeing to deeper tariff cuts.

The EU has been blamed by other World Trade Organization (WTO) powers for stalling progress in the talks, an official trade pact by a December deadline by digging in its heels over imports.

“A substantial effort by the EC (European Commission) on market access is essential to unblock the (trade) round... (it) must be tabled by next week,” the G-20 group of developing countries said in a statement. The 17-country Cairns Group of farm exporters also said the EU had to come up with a new offer.

“Without this the Hong Kong ministerial conference is at risk,” it said, referring to a meeting in less than two months when the WTO must approve a detailed blueprint for a new trade treaty. The chairman of the WTO farm negotiations, New Zealand envoy Crawford, told delegates at the EU to hold an information-sharing session that “we are already out of time” to produce a detailed farm deal in Hong Kong.

Irish Arts Minister supports artists’ tax breaks

KILLARNEY (Ireland), 22 Oct — Ireland’s Arts Minister said on Friday scrapping a tax break that has attracted many struggling writers and musicians to the country’s shores could drive artists abroad.

The scheme, in place since 1969 and unique to Ireland, is among a raft of tax incentives being reviewed by the Finance Ministry ahead of December’s budget.

“Critics say the shelter unfairly helps high earners like rock group U2 get richer.

“It is my firm belief that elimination of the exemption would inevitably and significantly reduce the level of professional arts activity in the state,” John O’Donoghue said in the text of a speech for a political party conference.

“I also believe strongly that capping this exemption would send out a misleading signal that we do not encourage success in the arts... We will force our young talent to go abroad as soon as they become successful. This is wrong.”

Earthquake in Afghanistan kills five

KABUL, 23 Oct — An earthquake hit southeastern Afghanistan on Sunday, killing five people and affecting six villages in the province of Paktika, a defence ministry official said.

“The quakle, according to local officials, hit Shinkai district at around 5 o’clock in the morning (00:50 GMT),” said Ahmad Zahir Murad, a Press official at the ministry.

“The initial report says that five dead bodies have been recovered from the rubble, six people have been wounded and six villages have been affected,” he added.

An assessment team has been dispatched to the area to get more details, he said.

War-torn Afghans does not have a seismological centre and further details were not immediately available.

Meanwhile, officials in adjacent Zabadan province said five people may have been killed by the quake there on Friday.

The reports were sketchy and more details were awaited, they said.

The reports of the tremors come two weeks after a stronger 7.6-magnitude earthquake that hit near the Iran border.

Three US soldiers wounded in car bomb blast in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 Oct — A car bomb detonated near a US military convoy in eastern Baghdad on Sunday, wounding three soldiers aboard and damaging a US Humvee.

“The source told Xinhua. US troops cordoned off the area and prevented Iraqi police and civilians from approaching the scene, he said.

Earlier, a US officer was wounded when a roadside bomb struck his patrol near al-Mustansiriya super market in eastern Baghdad.

The US military had no immediate word on the two incidents.

Croatia finds bird flu virus in dead swans

ZAGREB, 22 Oct — Croatian scientists have detected a bird flu virus in wild swans found dead at a fish pond, the Agriculture Ministry said on Friday. Croatia has immediately banned hunting and transport of wild fowl and poultry.

“We have sent samples to Britain for further checks. There were six dead swans found in Orahovica fish pond in eastern Croatia,” ministry spokesman Mladen Pavic told Reuters.

A government statement issued by Prime Minister Ivo Sanader said the results of those checks were expected in two days but added there was no cause for alarm: We are taking all necessary measures to prevent the virus from spreading. We don’t think there is any danger for people.”

The Croatian Government had assured the Commission that no live poultry and poultry products would be dispatched from the former Yugoslavia republic to the European Union, the Commission added.

The Croatian Agriculture Ministry banned hunting of wild fowl and transport of poultry and told farmers to keep poultry indoors.

Experts say Asia offers valuable bird flu lessons

HONG KONG, 22 Oct — Disease experts gave a critical assessment on Friday of how parts of Asia have handled the deadly bird flu virus, but stressed there are valuable lessons for other continents that will help control a human pandemic.

After making the first known jump to humans in Hong Kong in 1997, the H5N1 virus has spread up in Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia, killing more than 60 people out of 118 known cases since 2003.

The virus began killing wild migratory birds in central China in April and has since been found in flocks as far west as European Russia and Romania. Experts now fear the virus will mutate further into a strain that is easily transmissible among people, setting off a pandemic in which millions could die.

“If there is concerted effort, we could control it at this stage, ie, outbreaks in poultry (through culling). Some countries are putting effort in this, but not all can or are able to,” Chan said. He added that mass cullings are needed to stop the virus in its tracks have simply not been carried out.

While Guan and Chan declined to name errant countries, there is no question how difficult it is to control the virus in Asia, where there are large poultry industries and many households keep chickens and ducks in their backyards.

Left to roam freely, these domestic flocks mingle with wild birds, sharing the same water sources which also happen to be repositories of contamination.

A model displays one of the world’s most magnificent natural pearls at a Christie’s preview in Hong Kong on 22 Oct, 2005. —INTERNET
Facts and figures showing the reduction of opium cultivation and production were not gathered by the government of Myanmar, but UNODC in cooperation with local police forces and anti-drug squads

Information Committee of State Peace and Development Council holds Press Conference No 7/2005

Yangon, 23 Oct—The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held the Press Conference No 7/2005 on clarifications of matters relating to instigation and allegations with deceitful political pols and opium portraying Myanmar in worst shape from pessimistic point of view calling on the Security Council to act in Myanmar and matters related to the case-496 in which Myanmar Police Force and the National Narcotics Control Commission of the People’s Republic of China seized 992 blocks of heroin weighing 496 kilos at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information on 22 October.

It was attended by Chairman of the Information Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence, deputy ministers, Director General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, members of the information committee, heads of department, officials of Myanmar Writers and Journalists, U Sein Win of Kyodo News Agency, Patron U Hla Hwe, President U Sao Kai Hpa and members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, editors of domestic magazines and journals and specially invited guests.

First, Brig-Gen Khin Yi clarified matters pertaining to the case-496 in which Myanmar Police Force and the National Narcotics Control Commission of the People’s Republic of China seized 992 blocks of heroin weighing 496 kilos.

(Th e clarification of Brig-Gen Khin Yi is reported separately.)

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan clarified matters relating to instigation and allegations with deceitful political pols and opium portraying Myanmar in worst shape from pessimistic point of view calling on the Security Council to act in Myanmar and matters related to the case-496 in which Myanmar Police Force and the National Narcotics Control Commission of the People’s Republic of China seized 992 blocks of heroin weighing 496 kilos.

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According to the programme, UNODC issued a global report that the opium cultivation fell by 29 percent and heroin production by 54 percent from 2002 to 2004. Similarly, according to the data gathered by satellites and sophisticated gadgets, the Crime and Narcotic Centre that was established in 1993 in America reported that the cultivation of opium in Myanmar fell to 81 percent when compared with that year (1993). CNN also reported on the 84 percent reduction of opium production. Brig-Gen Khin Yi said as the above-mentioned reports were issued offic ially and put on record of World Drug Report, it is sure that the seizures of about half a ton of heroin in September 2005 should be taken into account regarding the decrease in opium cultivation.

According to formu las, 10 tons of opium is required to produce one ton of heroin. Thus, if 10 kilos of opium can produce only one kilo of heroin, that is why, he said, the seizure of 496 kilos of heroin accounts for 4960 kilos of opium. As 4.4 kilos of heroin can be produced through the cultivation of one acre of opium, 496 kilos accounts for the cultivation of 1127.27 acres of opium. According to the UNODC, it is estimated that there are 67959 acres of opium cultivation in Myanmar. Thus, 1,000 acres is very few when compared with the number of acres mentioned above. Another fact is that the 1,000 acres of opium might be cultivated collectively in a single place or sparsely in many places.

In addition, the seized heroin might be produced in this opium season or other previous seasons. It is questionable whether the amount of seized heroin is large. Brig-Gen Khin Yi said that assessing all the facts, the cultivation and production of opium have actually been reduced to a certain degree.

Concerning how to address the future challenge, he said, the nation as well as the entire world has regarded amphetamine-type stimulant tablets as a future challenge after crushing the danger of narcotics and heroin.

In Myanmar also, after fighting the threat of heroin, the danger of stimulant tablets is coming to a head. He added that the chemicals control committee led by the deputy director general of MPP had been formed. In developing countries like Myanmar, amphetamine-type stimulant tablets cannot be produced because of lack of precursor chemicals. The country has prescribed 25 kinds of controlled chemicals such as Ephedrine and caffeine.

As the nation cannot produce precursor chemicals, no stimulant pills can be produced whatsoever. It is only the duty of the country to prevent inflows of the tablets from neighboring nations. The chemicals control committee comprising representatives of the ministries concerned was formed.

The board supervises the imported chemicals in order not to divert them from proper use. The anti-drug squads in collaboration with the public. The question about the seizure of about half a ton of heroin in September 2005 should be taken into account regarding the decrease in opium cultivation.

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The board supervises the imported chemicals in order not to divert them from proper use. The needed production of stimulant tablets came from neighboring countries. Control tasks were carried out in order to prevent smuggling of precursor chemicals into the country under the bilateral agreements among Myanmar, China, India and Thailand. Myanmar and China signed MoU on precursor chemical control on 21 September 2001. The government regarded the issue as a future challenge and is undertaking the control tasks.

U Phet Khang of Myanmar Times journal asked how many persons related to seizure of heroin had been arrested. He continued to ask if the seizure of heroin was the largest single seizure in Myanmar, and what was their final destination.

(See page 14)
Tatmadaw which provided a leading... (from page 11) remnant insurgents, and the persons who have connections with the remnant insurgents. The fifth accusation of the paper concerning the drugs is totally wrong. The Information Committee has already explained for many times that the government has designated the drug elimination drive as a national task, and that it has been implementing the long-term anti-narcotics plan with three-five year projects beginning 1999-2000. They made a drama out of the drug-related case of Myanmar. The report exaggerates the number of Myanmar’s drug addicts as about 500,000. It accounts for one in each 100 people is a drug addict in the nation. Such an exaggerated statement is designed to dissuade international community from providing aid for Myanmar that has been taking all possible measures with might and main for elimination of drugs in the nation.

In addition, it fabricates a false story that Myanmar is a nation that plays a major role in spreading HIV/AIDS in ASEAN region. Myanmar produces and distributes heroin in the region, so the HIV virus is spreading to neighbouring countries through the route used to smuggle heroin out of the country. In fact, it is just a carbon copy of a false statement presented in the publication “HIV and National Security. Where are the Links?” that came out in the early 2005. In this regard, the Ministry of Health, WHO and UN AIDS Programme have rejected it through a joint declaration. Likewise, head of UNODC office in Myanmar Ms Talar Manyu stated that the accusation to the effect that an HIV/AIDS strain originated in Myanmar and spread to neighbouring countries was untrue. She also explained that Myanmar’s anti-drug endeavours are achieving remarkable success.

Now, the Tatmadaw Government has been putting into motion its drive for transition to democracy that is in conformity with way of life of Myanmar society. So, a big power and members of the West bloc have cut off humanitarian aid; imposed economic sanctions, and put pressure on the nation politically. They have a bias in favour of their lackeys without analysing the acts of the latter. They should have been convinced that it is undemocratic that they putting pressure variously on Myanmar to directly copy the western democracy; ignoring the specific characteristics of the nation. It is common knowledge all over the world that democracy cannot be introduced overnight.

Despite witnessing that Myanmar is translating the State’s seven-point Road Map for democratic transition, the big power and associates are interfering in the internal affairs with the intention of diverting and delaying Myanmar’s drive. Therefore, I would say it is nothing but just a political game intended to fuel internal disputes and destabilize the region. Despite the UN Principle that says UN Charter does not permit any interference in the affairs which are within the local jurisdiction, they have submitted Myanmar’s internal affairs to the UN Security Council with a call on the UNSC to put one-sided pressure on the nation. So, the entire national people are now strongly protesting against such an unfair act.

Likewise, media persons in Myanmar are also responding to the false accusations of Tutu-Havel report. They write rebuttals with sound evidence to show there are deceitful political pollys behind the Tutu-Havel report. Similarly, a certain power is creating a situation that ASEAN will become its follower by means of calling on ASEAN members to isolate and put pressure on Myanmar. However, the ASEAN uphold the principle that says no interference in internal affairs of other members, equally and mutual interests. The ASEAN countries will never give up ASEAN spirit. Thanks to the correct leadership of the Tatmadaw and cooperation of the people with correct national outlook, the nation is overcoming sanctions and pressure imposed by many nations and is on the path towards stability, peace and development.

Facts and figures showing the reduction of opium cultivation and... (from page 13) Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi replied that there were altogether 84 culprits of Myanmar. Two culprits were handed over to the People’s Republic of China. As a result of further information, the largest amount of heroin was seized. The amount of the seizure was over 592 kilos of heroin worth about K 47 billion or US$ 74.5 million. The present seizure of the heroin was valued at US$ 62 million.

Local and foreign journalists study documentary photos displayed at the press conference. — NLM

The largest single seizure was in Ye Township, Mon State, in 2004. At that time, a constable of the police station in Kawtu Village in Ye Township inspected a suspicious person in the road. As a result of the further information, the largest amount of heroin was seized. The amount of the seizure was over 592 kilos of heroin worth about K 47 billion or US$ 74.5 million. The present seizure of the heroin was valued at US$ 62 million.

The press conference ended at 3.15 pm. Later, the reporters and journalists studied documentary photos displayed at the press conference featuring those who escaped from the forced new recruitment of SSA’s Ywet So很方便ly and murders of innocent villagers, organizational tasks and destruction carried out by the SSA, seizure of 496 kilos of heroin and the State’s efforts for development of national races and human resources.

The building of the political, economic and social infrastructures is nearing completion in Myanmar that is on the threshold of development. It is implementing the seven-point Road Map for transforming the nation into a democratic one, which is the common goal of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

Being a member of the UN, Myanmar always firmly practises the objectives and principles of UN Charter. Myanmar has prescribed cooperation with the UN as its foreign policy with the belief that UN is capable of restoring international peace and security and helping develop all its members.

At the same time, Myanmar has been cooperating with UN agencies such as UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, WHO, UNODC and UNHCR to help serve the interests of the world people including Myanmar nationals. On the whole, Myanmar is doing its utmost not just in cooperating actively with international and regional organizations but in further strengthening friendship and relations with world’s nations, neighbouring friendly nations and regional countries. With respect to international relations, Myanmar practise independent and active foreign policy and cementing friendship with international community, while constantly following the principles of the UN Charter. Myanmar is always in support of world peace and disarmament, participates in the international affairs with positive attitude, and maintains friendly relations with regional nations and world nations.

In conclusion, I would say Myanmar complies with the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence needed in international relations. Myanmar continues to crush with constant vigilance various forms of pressure and sanctions imposed by neo-colonialists and internal and external destructive elements and to steadfastly move forward along the path towards national development.

Nowadays, internal and external destructive elements under the pretext of human rights and democracy are entertain rumours, manufacturing fabricated news stories, committing acts that harm security and peace of the people, and interfering in internal affairs of the nation from abroad intentionally and systematically. Thus, the onus is on the government, the people and the Tatmadaw to make combined efforts to surmount such unjust acts.

Today, the State is taking all necessary measures for public security. The people on their part are to beware of terrorists who are mingling with the public.

The people are to inform security persons immediately if there are any suspicious-looking persons or materials. Rumours are usually floating around and the people are not to believe rumours and fabrications.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that as a saying goes “The strength of a nation lies within”, the combined force of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw will overcome all hardships and obstacles successfully.
Hurricane “Wilma” pounds Mexican resorts, killing three

CANCUN (Mexico), 23 Oct — Hurricane Wilma blasted through Mexico’s Caribbean resorts on Saturday, smashing homes and killing three people in a slow-moving rampage that put it on course to hit Florida next.

Howling hurricane winds tore off roofs and uprooted trees for a third day running across the Yucatan Peninsula. Thousands of glum tourists faced another night in sweltering shelters with no light or running water, eating food rations. The long spit of white sand that draws plane loads of sun seekers to Cancun was under water. Luxury hotels were flooded up to knee-level and littered with debris after the normally tranquil sea roared inland.

As the rains and winds eased a little on Saturday evening, tourists and locals ventured out in search of food and some took advantage of the chaos to loot. Dozens waded out of smashed stores with plasma TVs, fridges and bundles of clothes on hangers. Police fired shots into the water to try and scatter them.

“It’s a complete disaster. The city is totally destroyed,” said restaurant worker Pablo Resendiz, picking his way through flooded streets that were cut off to cars by tangles of fallen power cables and other debris.

Rescue workers paddled to flooded neighbourhoods and plucked families from houses where the muddy water was chest-high.

In one area, locals had spent a terrifying night, afraid that crocodiles from a nearby swamp would swim in with the water rushing into their homes. “It was a hellish nightmare. We thought the water was going to reach the second floor,” said lawyer Oscar Trevino as his wife and four children were helped to safety.

In a nearby house, a 4-year-old girl sat shivering and hungry on a soggy mattress perched on a kitchen counter and table where her bedraggled family spent the night.

Models present creations at the Singapore Fashion Week (SFW) in Singapore on 21 Oct, 2005. The SFW, started in 1977, is an annual event that features a comprehensive series of exhibitions and showcases. — KAGUM

WEATHER

Sunday, 23 October, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division, scattered in Rakhine State and lower Sagaing Division, isolated in Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Homalin and Katha (1.10) inches each, Bhamo (0.94) inch, Mawlaik (0.90) inch, Machanbaw (0.83) inch, Kyauktaw (0.79) inch, Shwebo (0.44) inch and Pyinmama (0.20) inch.

Maximum temperature on 22-10-2005 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 23-10-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity on 09:30 hrs MST on 23-10-2005 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 22-10-2005 was (9:0) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 23-10-2005 were nil at Mindalagad, Kabo-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-11-2005 were (97.40) inches at Mindalagad, (97.44) inches at Kabo-Aye and (101.85) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kabo-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at (10:55) hours MST on 22-10-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-10-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of rain or thundershowers in the Upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-10-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-10-2005: Partly cloudy.
It is safe to say that Panhlaing bridge is a fruitful result emerged from the endeavours and goodwill of the government. With the emergence of the bridge, Dalla, Twantay and Kungyangon regions including Hlinethaya industrial town will surely develop.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explains matters relating to instigation made by some western countries at the press conference. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Oct — The following is a translation of the clarification by Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi on seizure of 992 blocks of heroin weighing 496 kilos.

The director-general said that 992 blocks of heroin weighing 496 kilos were seized in September 2005 under collaboration between members of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and the National Narcotic Control Commission (NNCC). The incident was titled “Case 496” and it can be attributed to a great success of the CCDAC and the NNCC. The government has laid down and is implementing the 15-year plan covering from 1999 to 2014 with added momentum in the fight against drug, accepting it as a national duty. The present period is the first year of the second 5-year of the plan. The UNODC’s reports stated that poppy cultivation decreased by 29 per cent and heroin production by 54 per cent while CNC (USA)’s reports stated that poppy cultivation decreased by 81 per cent and heroin production by 88 per cent when compared with those of 2002. It can be said that the endeavours in the fight against drugs are meeting with success. In this regard, members of MPF, members of local MPFs and Special Anti-Drug Squad (See page 6)