Established 1914

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Czech Republic

YANGON, 28 Oct — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Czech Republic, which falls on 28 October 2005. — MNA

Prizes presented to outstanding farmers in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 27 Oct — A ceremony to present prizes for the outstanding performance in the crops production in 2004-2005, was held at the town hall of Pathein yesterday morning, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence. Also present on the occasion were Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe and wife, senior military officials, (See page 8)

Kyauknaga Dam in Myaung Township inaugurated

YANGON, 27 Oct — As part of an effort to supply irrigation and drinking water to a rural areas in Myaung Township, Kyauknaga Dam in Myaung Township, Sagaing Division, was inaugurated on 24 October with the opening addresses by Member of the panel of patrons of USDA Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Central Executive Committee Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint. Kyauknaga Dam was constructed on Hsinphyu Creek in Myaung Township. It is 765 ft long and 25 ft high and will supply irrigation water and drinking water. In his opening speech, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye thanked USDA members for their contributions (See page 9)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**PERSPECTIVES**  
**Friday, 28 October, 2005**

**Make best use of irrigation facilities**

Myanmar is an agricultural country and so the agriculture sector plays a pivotal role in providing food for people, enhancing their socio-economic life and contributing to rural development.

Sufficient water supply is one of the crucial factors in development of agriculture. This being the case, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has often emphasized this point and urged the construction of irrigation facilities. In accordance with his guidance, the government has been building one dam after another since its assumption of State responsibilities.

As a result, there has been a total of 379 irrigation facilities all over the nation. The last one that was inaugurated on 25 October was Wanpon dam in Namsang Township, Loilem District, Shan State (South). Thanks to the government’s successful implementation of projects for dams and river water pumping stations, up to 2,430,000 acres of farmland can now be irrigated. In 1988, the cultivated acreage in the whole nation was only 23.8 million but now it stands at 43.1 million. Now Wanpon dam will enable local farmers to grow more paddy, corn, beans and pulses and vegetables. It will ensure sufficient supply of potable water for local people. In addition, it will contribute to increased agricultural production and promote agricultural produce trading. Thus, socio-economic life of the people will become higher.

In 1988, there were 16 large dams and 42 small dams in Shan State (South) but now there is a total of 22 large dams and 119 small dams. As a result, more than 300,000 acres of farmland can be irrigated now.

With the intention of serving the long-term interests of people, the government has been building dams, lakes and embankments. Therefore, we would like to urge the people, including the staff of irrigation department, to make the best use of irrigation facilities so that agricultural production can become higher and to maintain them so that posterity can also enjoy the benefit of dams, lakes and embankments.
WASHINGTON, 26 Oct—Bracing for indictments against top aides, the White House on Tuesday rallied behind Vice-President Dick Cheney but refused to answer questions about whether he told his chief of staff about the CIA officer at the heart of a two-year leak investigation.


President George W Bush ignored a shouted question about Cheney's role amid growing signs that federal prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald will seek charges against his chief of staff, Lewis Libby, in a leak investigation.

In addition to Libby, Bush's top political advisers, Karl Rove, could be indicted, as well as others, lawyers close to the case said.

Plame's identity as covert operative was leaked after her diplomat husband, Joseph Wilson, accused the Administration of twisting prewar intelligence on Iraq. Wilson based the criticism in part on a CIA-sponsored mission he made to Africa in 2002 to check out an intelligence report that Iraq sought uranium from Niger. The Times report about the previously undisclosed conversation put a spotlight on Cheney and raised questions about assertions the Vice-President made in a September 2003 television interview that he did not know Wilson or who sent him on the trip to Niger.

Administration officials had sought to cast Wilson's trip to Niger as a boondoggle arranged by his wife, and in so doing, revealed her identity, people close to the case said. Wilson said the CIA sent him on the mission after Cheney's office sought more information about the uranium deal. — MNA/Reuters

Three nabbed with 66.5 kilos of hashish in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 26 Oct—Nepali police apprehended three drug peddlers in possession of 66.5 kilos of hashish in Kathmandu on Tuesday. The Narcotics and Drugs Control Unit (NDCU) said.

The police detained the drug peddlers with the international contraband from a place adjacent to Shahanshah Hotel located at Dhapasi of Kathmandu. NDCU Chief Hemant Malla told reporters.

The contraband of 50 kilos was hidden inside a sack. Malla noted, adding, an additional 6.4 kilos was found in the apartment of the peddlers.

Earlier, one of the peddlers had been arrested by Hong Kong police for peddling 600 grammes of white heroin and had returned to Nepal after spending five years in jail.— MNA/Xinhua

Protesters mark 2,000th US fatality in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 26 Oct—Protesters across the United States took part in hundreds of vigils and rallies on Wednesday to mark the 2,000th US military death in Iraq, hoping to increase pressure on President George W Bush to start bringing troops home.

Anti-war activists said their movement was rapidly growing in strength and now spoke for a majority of Americans who now thought Bush's decision to invade Iraq in 2003 was a mistake.

"We're seeing rapid changes in public opinion in favour of ending the war and bringing back the troops and it's beginning to be reflected in Congress," said Phyllis Bennis of the anti-war Institute for Policy Studies.

"The anti-war position is no longer held exclusively for activists. It is beginning to give voice to the majority in this country," she said. The death on Saturday of a soldier wounded in combat in Samarra, Iraq, on 17 October pushed the toll to 2,000. More than 15,000 US troops have also been wounded in combat in the war that began March 2003.— Internet

India's Kalam meets with HIV-affected children

NEW DELHI, 26 Oct—Indian President A P J Abdul Kalam on Tuesday interacted with 19 children from school and whether they faced any discrimination.

Children and HIV/AIDS.

Three exploded near law courts in four Spanish towns

MADRID, 26 Oct—Bombs exploded near magistrates courts in four Spanish towns on Tuesday and police said they suspected the armed Basque separatist group ETA was to blame.

The explosions damaged buildings but no one was injured, officials said.

The bombs exploded as ETA released a statement saying it was willing to take steps towards a negotiated solution of the Basque conflict. But it said nothing about the government's condition that it lay down its arms before talks could begin.

Basque police said a caller claiming to represent ETA warned the newspaper Gara shortly before one bomb exploded in a rubbish bin in the Basque town of Guernica. Witnesses at the scene said the bomb twisted a railing outside a school near the court.

Heavy rains hit south India, death toll crosses 100

CHENNAI, India, 27 Oct — Heavy rain and storms paralyzed life in southern India on Thursday, flooding roads, snapping power and phone lines and disrupting flights as the death toll due to the bad weather this month crossed 100.

Tamil Nadu state was the worst hit by the latest downpour as many areas in the capital Chennai were inundated and cut off. Police and vehicles waded through waist-high water in some parts of the city, witnesses said.

Strong winds uprooted trees and snapped power and phone links in some parts of the city. Chennai city had received 27 cm (11 inches) of rain until early Thursday, said .

Chenai and Andhra Pradesh have struggled to cope with torrential rain this month. More than 100 people have been killed in the three states, mostly in house collapses or due to electrocution.

At least 60 of those deaths occurred in Tamil Nadu, with four new deaths being reported over the last 24 hours, said R Sivakumar, a senior government official.

Police in Karnataka said that seven people had died in the state capital Bangalore. India's technology hub, in accidents triggered by heavy rain and winds this week.

In Andhra Pradesh, the airport in the eastern port city of Visakhapatnam remained closed for the second week as the airport runway was under water, officials said. At least 35 people have been killed in storms in the state over the past two weeks, they said.

Weather officials predicted more rains in the region over the next two days as a severe depression over the Bay of Bengal moved close to the Andhra Pradesh coast. — MNA/Reuters

A surfer carves a bottom turn on a wave at a city beach in New York on Tuesday, 25 Oct 2005. Large waves pounded the northeast on Tuesday, as the remnants of Hurricane Wilma churned offshore. — INTERNET

US soldiers secure the area in front of Palestine Hotel in Baghdad, on 25 Oct, 2005, a day after three suicide car bombs went off at the compound. At least 17 people were killed when triple car bomb blasts slammed heavily-protected hotels used by foreigners in the centre of the Iraqi capital. — INTERNET
Suspected bird flu patients quarantined in Thai hospital

They are all from the same district where the country’s 13th avian influenza victim contracted the disease.

“The three patients have fevers, coughs and flu symptoms but they initially tested negative for the H5N1 virus but we’re now awaiting more lab results from the Medical Science Department in Bangkok,” local newspaper The Nation online news quoted Dr Sayan Booranawanit, director of the Phahol Polphayuhasena Hospital in Kanchanaburi as saying.

All three patients, including two girls aged four and nine and one 48-year-old woman, have been given Tamiflu, the only known remedy for H5N1.

The Health Ministry has instructed hospitals nationwide to immediately quarantine patients showing bird flu symptoms in “red zones”, and to provide them with Tamiflu even if they have not yet tested positive for avian influenza, said Sayan.

Avian influenza has spread to more than half of Thailand, with 39 provinces reporting confirmed or suspected cases of fresh bird flu infections.

MNA/Xinhua

Sales of LCD TVs in Singapore rise in first eight months

SINGAPORE, 27 Oct — The sales of LCD television sets increased in the first eight months of this year, according to the Channel NewsAsia reports on Tuesday night.

During the first eight months of this year, about 35,000 units were sold, more than double the average monthly sales last year. Sharp Aquos, one of the leading brands in the city state, reported a rise of 27 per cent in sales during the same period of this year.

To increase its local market share to 30 per cent in terms of sales quantity, Sharp also launched the world’s largest 65-inch LCD television in Singapore.

— MNA/Xinhua

2,001 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 26 Oct—As of Wednesday, 26 Oct, 2005, at least 2,001 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 1,557 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, 1,861 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,448 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

Democrats rap Bush’s pick for state department job

Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said the resume of Ellen Sauerbrey, twice a candidate for Maryland governor and chair of President George W Bush’s 2000 campaign in that state, was heavier on Republican politics than on dealing with refugee crises.

They also said Sauerbrey’s anti-abortion views would detract from efforts to get international help for refugees.

Twelve women’s advocacy groups wrote a letter to Bush urging him to withdraw the nomination. They said Sauerbrey has “shown outright hostility toward women’s rights and toward international family planning and related programmes” in four years as US representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Sauerbrey told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee she had the management experience and the heart to become the assistant secretary of state in charge of the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.

“Think most important, you need to have the compassion and caring for helping to protect vulnerable people,” Sauerbrey said. She cited her experience in women’s rights issues which she said are central to helping refugees who are largely women and children.

Senator Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat, said she was troubled by Bush’s choice to head the agency with a 700-million-US-dollar annual budget.

“I question the wisdom of putting someone in that position who I believe has shown zealousity on the issue of reproductive health, including family planning,” Boxer said. “What it says to me is that there’s this focus on anti-choice that I’m afraid is going to be a diversion.”

Democrats said people in that post before had extensive backgrounds working with international refugee issues.

“You’re having to labour in the shadow of Michael Brown is what I think is happening here,” said Senator Paul Sarbanes, a Maryland Democrat, referring to the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency who resigned last month under fire after FEMA’s sluggish response to Hurricane Katrina and after it was disclosed he had minimal experience dealing with disasters.

MNA/Reuters

Poll shows Americans view government more negatively

WASHINGTON, 26 Oct—Americans express increasingly negative views of a wide range of major institutions, including the federal government, a new poll released on Tuesday showed.

Favorable ratings for the federal government in Washington fell to 45 per cent from 59 per cent in February last year, according to the poll by the Pew Research Centre for the People and the Press. The public’s impressions of the Congress were similar to those of the federal government with 45 per cent favorable and 45 per cent unfavorable.

President George W Bush’s job approval rating was at 40 percent, just above its all-time low of 38 percent earlier this month. Favouorable opinions of the President stood at their lowest point — 46 percent — since he took office in 2001.

MNA/Xinhua

All 18 climbers dead in western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 26 Oct—All 18 climbers, including seven French mountaineers and their 11 Nepali staff, have died in an avalanche in western Nepal last week, the state-run Radio Nepal said Tuesday.

The radio quoted Western Regional Police Office as saying that bodies of all seven French climbers have been identified. Bodies of Nepali support staff is yet to be identified.

Meanwhile, President of Himalayan Rescue Association Bikram Neupane, who returned to Kathmandu on Tuesday after visiting northern Manang District, said a search team in the region has just informed the association of seeing a body.

It was not known whether the body was of a French national or a Nepali. Neupane said it would take at least three to four hours for the members of search team to reach the place where the body is located.

The search team is equipped with satellite phone and the government will send a helicopter to bring bodies down as soon as they hear from the search team, Neupane added.

—MNA/Xinhua

People cross a flooded street in Key West, after Hurricane Wilma hits Florida’s southern west coast, on 24 Oct, 2005.—INTERNET
**Global campaign launched to protect children against HIV/AIDS**

**BANGKOK,** 26 Oct — Children and young people have increasingly been infected by HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, which could cause severe consequences, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) warned here on Tuesday.

At the launch of the global campaign “Unite for Children, Unite for AIDS”, the UN agencies urged enhanced care and protection for children and young people, the most vulnerable group among people infected by HIV/AIDS.

The campaign aims to drastically reduce new infections among children and young people, scale up service to prevent mother-to-child transmission and make paediatric drugs available.

"The face of HIV/AIDS is becoming younger. Not only children are dying, their lives are being damaged in so many ways," said Anupama Rao Singh, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Director. By 2004, an estimated 120,700 children were living with HIV/AIDS in the Asia and Pacific Region.

Some were infected at birth, others were through injecting drug or unsafe sex. In Thailand, 50-60 per cent of new infections each year are children and young people below 24. In Vietnam, 63 per cent of AIDS patients are under 30. —MNA/Xinhua

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**Thousands of families suffer Amazon drought repercussions**

**RIO DE JANEIRO**, 26 Oct — The extended and intense drought, which is affecting the Brazilian Amazon, has cut the tens of thousands of families and turned rivers into mere puddles, the Amazon states government said on Tuesday.

Rivers have started to recover slightly at their source, but they are continuing to shrink in the downstream areas, said Jose Melo, governor of Amazonas State. The official count of the drought-affected population has risen to 72,000 from 33,000, he added.

Melo said that 900 tons of food and 36 tons of medicines had been sent to the affected areas.

The drought has been so severe that it has cut transport links within the state. The regional government estimated that more than 900 communities had been cut off, Melo said.

Some scientists have said that the drought is a cyclical phenomenon, but environmental group Greenpeace argued that the drought is caused by the deforestation of the Amazon, where tree cover has reduced by 17 per cent in the last 30 years.

—MNA/Xinhua

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**Suicide car bomber kills one soldier in Indian Kashmir**

**SRINAGAR** (India), 27 Oct — A suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden car into a bus carrying troops in Indian Kashmir on Wednesday, killing one soldier and wounding 15, a security spokesman said.

The attack on the bus carrying Border Security Force (BSF) troops took place on a highway on the outskirts of Srinagar, Kashmir’s main city, a BSF spokesman said.

"The powerful explosion damaged the BSF vehicle completely," said K Srinivasan, a senior BSF officer. Witnesses said the blast also damaged houses in the area.

Separatist violence has continued in Kashmir despite the region being struck by an earthquake this month that killed 54,000 people, mostly across the frontier in Pakistani Kashmir.

—MNA/Reuters

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**Singapore urged to go for vaccinations**

**SINGAPORE,** 26 Oct — Singapore’s Ministry of Health on Tuesday urged people to go for flu vaccinations as the seasonal flu outbreak approaches in the northern hemisphere.

Issuing a public advisory on the current flu outbreak, the ministry advised the elderly aged 65 years and above, as well as those with chronic heart and lung diseases, and diabetics or renal diseases to get themselves vaccinated.

Young women in their second or third trimester, and children and teenagers aged six months to 18 years, who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy, are also encouraged to be vaccinated.

Those travelling to colder climates are also advised to obtain the latest flu vaccine at least one to two weeks before departure.

Meanwhile, the ministry also urged the public not to stock up on anti-viral drugs because such drugs could be less effective at treating bird flu if they are used indiscriminately.

It is not necessary for people travelling to countries with bird flu outbreaks to stock up on the anti-viral drugs, because human infections are still rare at this time, the ministry said.

It advised people not to contact with poultry and wild birds, and to stay away from farms and markets selling live birds.

Singapore, which began preparing for a flu pandemic earlier this year, has a colour-coded warning system in place. It is now on green alert as the disease is overseas and limited to birds and some humans who were in close contact with them. —MNA/Xinhua

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**Vietnam agrees province-to-province ties with China**

**HANOI,** 26 Oct — The Vietnamese Government has just agreed in principle to allow northern Lao Cai Province to expand cooperation ties with China’s Yunnan Province, the Lao Cai People’s Committee told Xinhua Tuesday.

Prime Minister Phan Van Khai has assigned the ministries of Trade, Foreign Affairs, Planning and Investment, Finance, Industry, Transport, Defence, and Public Security to exchange views with the committee about a scheme on building an economic cooperation area involving Lao Cai and Yunnan’s Honghe prefecture.

Lao Cai and Honghe jointly built the scheme last month in a move to modernize the Lao Cai international border gate, turning it into a major transit point for goods and services in the economic corridor of Kunming-Lao Cai-Ha Noi-Phong and the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area, the committee said, noting that the ministries of Trade and Foreign Affairs have already supported the scheme.

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A man walks past cars piled upon each other by Hurricane Wilma in Sunny Isles, Florida on 24 October, 2005. Hurricane Wilma crashed ashore in southwest Florida and roared across the peninsula, pounding Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach on Monday after slamming Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula and killing 17 people in the Caribbean. —INTERNET

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**Kerry urges US to start withdrawal from Iraq**

**WASHINGTON,** 26 Oct — Sen John F Kerry (D-Mass) yesterday called for the withdrawal of 20,000 troops from Iraq by year’s end as the first step in a proposal that would significantly reduce US military forces in the region over the next 15 months.

Kerry offered a middle ground between those advocating an immediate drawdown of the more than 150,000 US troops stationed in Iraq and the Bush administration, which has declined to set a timetable for a decreased US military presence.

In an address at Georgetown University, Sen John F Kerry linked his proposal for the withdrawal of US troops to negotiations for a political settlement in Iraq.

"The way forward in Iraq is not to pull out precipitously or merely promise to stay 'as long as it takes,'" Kerry said during an address at Georgetown University. "We must instead simultaneously pursue both a political settlement and the withdrawal of American combat forces."

Kerry, the Democratic presidential nominee in 2004, is the highest-profile figure in either party to back a timetable for withdrawal in Iraq. —Internet
There exist in Myanmar some crawlers relying on aliens and holding negative views, and committing perpetration to cause unrest and hardships in the country. The cause of internal unrest is caused by the US, and its Western Allies. As their occupation has gone according to plan in the Iraq venture, America is paying a high price including a lot of blood of its people for its failed venture.

At present, the entire world is criticizing the US. The Middle East countries are comparing the US with the past British colonialists. Observers say that the invasion reveals the fact that the US has no clear nuclear non-proliferation policy; and that its double-standard policy on Iraq will only cause confusion.

The confused and pitiful foreign policy records of the US include the military-related economic opportunities. The US defence budget is rising extremely high. The allotted budgets for Defence Department and Homeland Security Department of the US exceed the total budgets of many other nations. The rising defence budget has made US the largest debtor nation in the world.

Political analysts said that even the countries that had accepted the US their friend in the past were now criticizing it; that nations of East Asia, Europe and Latin America were forming their own regional bodies or were finding means to form such organizations; that the significant thing was that those countries left out the US in forming the organizations; and that the act of those countries to distance themselves from America considering geopolitics was a worsen situation for the US.

The international community has come to realize that the US involvement in a particular region has become a global concern. The random acts of Bush are giving the US pretty trouble. Bush’s policy ignores both history and the present-day objective situations. In his recent interview with Newsweek, Venezuela President Hugo Chavez said that the Bush administration invaded Iraq; that according to the late Pope John Paul II, Bush’s war was illegal and insincere and stuck to the policy of terrorism; that in Venezuela too, Bush administration tried to plot a coup under the CIA control in 2002; that not long ago, Senator Pat Robertson suggested a plan to assassinate him; that according to international law, Robertson’s act was an act of terrorism; that the media were broadcasting daily the interview on the issue of assassinating him; and that all those acts were none other than terrorism.

These days, a western power and its followers are trying to deceive the UNSC, with exaggerated fabrications to tarnish Myanmar’s image to the worst, just to tie in Myanmar that in reality is in the process of peaceful transition to market economy and democracy. They are launching the attack on Myanmar using the report compiled by Havel and Tutu as an excuse.

At the press meet (7/2005) of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held on 23 October, the Committee Chairman, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said as follows concerning the report: “After perpetration, 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.”

Moreover, the minister refuted the report fact by fact, with nothing but the truth. The perpetration to put a country under one’s domain, with slanders and pressures, is an act endangering not only Myanmar but also all the global nations. Thus, it has become an urgent need all the nations to join hands to ward off such conspiracies.

(Translation: TMT)
Nowadays, education dominates all sectors of development. The Government has adopted the task for uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation as a national objective and implementing it in all seriousness for ensuring long-term development of the nation and to enable the country to keep abreast of international community.

As a result, today’s education sector has witnessed a lot of developments and changes for the better. Learning goes beyond the limit of classrooms till linking with environmental, regional and national development.

In striving for promotion and uplift of the education standard of the entire nation, arrangements are being made harmoniously for enabling all citizens to have basic literacy skills and for ensuring the emergence of a constant learning Myanmar society in the long run, in addition to flourishing of modern science and technologies that contributes towards the development of the State, and turning out a large number of highly-qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia in the education sector.

As the Government is carrying out educational tasks for enabling every citizen to have the opportunity to get access to basic education for uplift of the education standard of the entire nation and ensuring literacy. At present the tasks are bearing sound results.

The Government is implementing plans to extend primary schools, upgrading post-primary schools and building middle schools to open opportunities for all school-age children to pursue primary education. The next step is for the students to pursue middle and high school education.

With public participation, the government is launching programmes that enable all children of school-going age attend classes and reduce the drop-out rate. Furthermore, the project also covers the adult literacy campaign that is being systematically launched.

Special non-formal education programmes and mobile teaching programmes are being made for school-age and over school-age children who have difficulties to get access to formal education. The Government is realizing formal education programmes for the disabled children, who are not able to attend the schools due to various reasons.

Priority is being given to the education promotion programmes and special tasks across the nation. Please study the following education indicators to know more about the actual developments of the basic education sector:

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Prizes presented to …

departmental heads, members of Ayeyawady Division PDC and their wives, officials, social organizations, nurses, entrepreneurs, award-winners and farmers.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung made a speech. Next, SPDC Member Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered an address, saying that there are many good natural resources for crops production and livestock sector in Ayeyawady Division and it is necessary to fully utilize all these conditions for implementation with the help of modern techniques. The government has not been only building dams including river pumping projects in order to provide irrigation water needed for agriculture but also giving lecture on technologies. Out of the target of 15.04 million acres of monsoon paddy in 2005-2006, the 3.6 million acres of crops has been cultivated in the division and 24 percent of the target has been completed. For cultivation of summer paddy, it is also needed to strive for cultivating 1.7 million acres which is 48 percent of the State’s target. 3.44 million acres of summer paddy. Similarly, measures are to be taken to exceed the target for other crops, he added.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than continued that, in accordance with the division that the State mainly relies on it for crops production, the officials and people in Ayeyawady Division made efforts to the best of their abilities for cultivation and as a result, it is worth to celebrate this prize-presenting ceremony. In conclusion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged all to make continuous efforts for more development of economic, social, agricultural and livestock breeding tasks with the use of natural resources existed and infrastructures built.

Next, prize-presenting ceremony continued and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than awarded the outstanding performance prizes to the winners at the district and township levels through the winning district and PDC chairman. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung presented the prizes for exceeding the target of monsoon paddy to the winners through the winning township PDC chairman.

Next, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin Swe presented first prize for highest performance in cultivating crops to PDC chairman of Zalun Township, second to Laymyethna Township and third to Hinthada Township. Next, General Manager of Myanma Agriculture Service (Land Utilization Department Branch) U Kyaw Yi presented per acre yield prizes.

Mawlamyinekyun Township

With better transport, Maungthaung…

(form page 16)

They held a meeting with rural people in the village. U Amin Maung of the village presented a report, saying that Maungthaung model village has enjoyed the fruitful result of development thanks to the rural development project initiated by the government. Now, the six miles and six furlongs long village-to-village gravel road linking Budalwin and Maungthaung village has been constructed with the cash contributed by Division PDC, Division Development Affairs Committee and local people. With the better transport, the village is developing in all sectors. He expressed gratitude to the government for its assistance for the unprecedented development of the village.

Sagaing Division MCWA Supervisory committee Chairperson donates K 50,000 and a set of tailoring machine for the village — MNA

A local Daw Myint Myint San also gave an account of the development in the education and health sectors, saying that 234 high school students, 568 middle school students and 384 primary school students are pursuing education under 41 teachers at the BEHS in Maunghtaung. School infrastructure is 96.8 percent. The school has been served with multimedia teaching aids.

The commander delivered a speech, saying that it was encouraging to witness the development of the village. He urged local people to do their bit in the drive to achieve the State’s goal, emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation and to main the already-achieved momentum.

The minister called on the local people to exert the unified strength of the people in wiping out the dangers of internal and external destructive elements. Afterwards, the commander presented a computer to the school through the principal, and the minister, sports gear to the village and exercise books and pencils to the school. After the meeting, the commander and the minister cordially greeted the rural people.

Patron of Sagaing Division Women’s Affairs Organization Chairperson of Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Wai Wai Khaing and members of division/district/township WAOs and MCW supervisory committees visited the team of specialists led by Dr U Nu Saw giving free treatments to local people. They attended educational talk and roundtable discussions held by Division MCW. Daw Wai Wai Khaing presented K 50,000 to the village WAO, and K 50,000 and a sewing machine to the village MCWA.

Heads of departments of Division WAO and members of division/district/township MCW supervisory committees and work groups explained the objectives and work programmes of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, disease control for women, disease control and nurturing of children, facts about AIDS, trafficking in persons, and prevention of violence against women. They replied to the questions raised by the rural women.

The model village, eight miles north-west of Budalwin, Monywa District, is constituted with 1,076 households, 5,728 people. — MNA

Prizes were given to PDC chairmen of Maubin, Myaungmya and Kyaukse Townships. Prizes were given to PDC chairmen of Maubin, Myaungmya, Pathein and Pyapon Districts. Afterwards, Director of Division Planning Department U Win Maung and Director of Division Forest Department U Win Myint presented prizes to PDC chairmen of Maubin, Nyaungkon, Myaungmya, Pathein and Hinthada Townships and officials. On behalf of the prize winners, U Aung Myint Tun expressed his thanks. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Than cordially greeted those present.

Locals urged to make continuous efforts for more development of economic, social, agricultural and livestock breeding tasks to the combination of using the natural resources existed and infrastructures built.

With better transport, Maungthaung…

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Commander Maj-Gen Thura Aye Myint inspect rural auto exchange in the village, Budalin Township. — MNA

Li-Gen Khin Maung Than awards a prize to an official for performance of economic development at district level. — MNA
Remarkable progress witnessed…

(from page 16)

At the learning centre, they viewed production of the newspapers through data broadcasting system, computerized media section, the library, domestic science room, stationery donated by the Ministry of Education, sports equipment, and exercise books and periodicals donated by Yangon South District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee. He gave instructions to officials.

At the hall, the commander, the mayor, and the deputy ministers met with the headmaster, teachers and officials. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min presented gifts and cash assistance to the teachers and staff through Headmaster U Kyaw Myint.

They proceeded to Cocokyun Township Hospital (16-bed). They inspected the hospital and provided cash assistance for the patients. They enjoyed skill demonstration of children at the pre-Primary School in the township and gave refreshment to them.

Next, they viewed the round-table discussions of Yangon Division WAO, Yangon Division MCWSC and officials and Township WAO members at the school.

The commander oversaw storage of water at the 12,000-gallon-capacity reinforced concrete water tank and Cocokyun Dam that can store 49 million gallons of water.

The commander and party met with departmental personnel, local people and social organizations at the Township PDC Office.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that though Cocokyun Township is a most distant township from Yangon City, remarkable progress has been made in the township due to concerted efforts of the government and local people.

At present, development in transport, health, education, social and economic sectors of the region can be seen obviously. All are urged to cultivate vegetables as well as paddy on a manageable scale. Departmental personnel are to make efforts for regional development. Similarly, local people are to take part in the development tasks of the region.

The mayor and the deputy ministers gave necessary instructions. Vice-Chairman of the Cocokyun Township All-round Development Committee Lt-Col Nay Win and Township PDC Chairman U Khin Maung Than reported on development of the region, matters related to the township, sanitation and beautifying tasks and prevalence of peace and stability.

All are urged to put the land under vegetable including paddy on a manageable scale. Departmental personnel are to make efforts for regional development. Similarly, local people are to take part in the development tasks of the region.

The commander and party arrived at Township Engineer’s Office of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise and inspected 120-kva and 160-kva generators. Later, they oversaw development of the township by car. – MNA

Kyauknaga Dam in Myaung Township…

(from page 1)

contributions for timely completion of the dam.

Chairman of Sagaing District PDC Lt-Col Soe Naing, Head of the Irrigation Department U Yan Naing and Secretary of Sagaing Division USDA U Hlay Aung formally opened the dam.

On 24 October, a village-to-village road in Myaung Township was also opened in the presence of the commander and the minister.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint went to Nabat Model Village in the township and inspected development tasks being implemented by members of USDA and social organizations joining hands with residents.

The commander and minister attended the opening ceremony of the village’s library and donated journals to the library through an official.

Afterwards, they comforted villagers who received medical treatment by a medical team comprising general practitioners and specialists.

(See page 10)
From page 9

Next, they attended the opening of Nabet village rural development hall. Nabet Village PDC Chairman U Than Aung and Village USDA Organizer U Myo Win formally opened the hall. The commander, the minister and party visited the hall.

They inspected the rural health care centre of the village. They met with rural folks and members of social organizations at the school assembly hall. Two village elders gave an account of the development momentum. The minister also delivered a speech. The commander presented 100 bags of cement to the school and publications to those present. They inspected the multimedia teaching rooms of the school. Patron of Division Women’s Affairs Organization gave talks on objectives and work programmes of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

Chairperson of Sagaing Division MCWSC Daw Wai Wai Khaing presents K 50,000 to Nabet Model Village WAO through an official. — MNA

Chairperson of Sagaing Division MCWSC Daw Wai Wai Khaing meets with local WAO members at the round-table discussions in Nabet Model Village. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye speaking at a meeting with local people at BEHS in Nabet Model Village of Myaung Township. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint stroll on a village-to-village road in Myaung Township. — MNA

Effectively carrying out the five rural development tasks, Nabet Model Village is enjoying fruitful results of development in various sectors. — MNA

USDA CEC member Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents sports equipment to the headmistress of Nabet BEHS. — MNA

They visited a team of medical specialists led by the head of Division Health Department giving medical treatments to the people in the village.

They met with the volunteers for health development at the centre and called for participation in the drive for disseminating knowledge about health care and tasks for raising health standard of rural people.

Nabet model village on Myaung-Pareinma Road, eight miles from Myaung, is constituted with 736 houses of 787 households of 4,025 people.

In this regard, the government, the Tatmadaw and the people are to carry out nation-building tasks in unison by doing their bit in order to speed up the raising health standard of rural people.

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13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

YANGON, 27 Oct — The 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued 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, officials of the sub-committees, maestros, doyen artistes and people.

Altogether 16 contestants from States and Divisions took part in the amateur level men’s religious song contest, categories and held today at Kanbawza Theatre here. Contestants took part in the professional level men’s religious song contest and four troupes in the higher education level boys’ contest.

The music contest was divided into seven

Educative talks given to girl students

YANGON, 27 Oct — Under the aegis of the Information Department of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, the educative talks to the girl students took place at No 1 BEHS in Kamayut Township this morning.

First, Head of the Information Department of MWAF Daw Kyi Kyi Win extended greetings.

Member of the information department of MWAF National Literacy Award winner Writer Ma Sander gave a lecture to the girl students.

Next, Headmistress Daw Khin Kyon expressed thanks. Altogether 200 students including teachers and the headmistress attended the ceremony of giving talks. — MNA

MWAF organizes educative talks

YANGON, 27 Oct — Organized Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, an educative talk was held at Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township this morning, attended by Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Khin Thet Huy, heads of department of the federation and officials, MWAF member staff of the Ministry of Education.

Leader of the Social and Cultural Affairs Working Group wife of the Minister for Education Dr Daw Sanda Aung extended greetings.

Deputy Director of Transnational Crime Department of Myanmar Police Force Lt-Col Ra Lyan Mon gave the lecture on human trafficking, seizure of those who committed human trafficking, organization of the Central Committee for Prevention against Trafficking in Persons, the national plan for prevention against human trafficking, and endeavours for prevention against human trafficking and others. Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Khin Thet Huy handed over MWAF membership cards and brochures to the Ministry of Education through Dr Daw Sanda Aung. — MNA

Bangladesh beat China youth 3-1, Myanmar trounce India 11-0

GRAND ROYAL ’05 CHALLENGE CUP COMMENCES

YANGON, 27 Oct — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint enjoyed the Grand Royal ‘05 Challenge Cup at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) this evening.

It was also attended by officials concerned of the Ministry of Sports, Minister for Youth and Sports Mr Md Fazlur Rahman of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Chairperson of the Central Committee of Myanmar Women’s Sport Federation Daw Aye Aye and members, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw and executives, guests and football fans.

MPF General Secretary U Benny Tin Aung greeted the footballers from Chinese and Bangladesh football teams.

Chinese football team beaten 3-1 by Bangladeshi team in the first match. Ariful Kabir Farhad of Bangladeshi team won Man of the Match award.

The second match followed at 6 pm. MPF President U Zaw Zaw greeted the footballers of Myanmar and Indian teams.

In the match, Myanmar football team whitewashed Indian football team 11-0. Yan Puang (9) fetched Man of the match award. — MNA

Myanmar and Indian footballers fighting for the ball in Grand Royal ’05 Challenge Cup on 27-10-2005. — NLM
Malta bird flu helpline gets 200 calls an hour

VALLETTA, 26 Oct— A bird flu emergency helpline set up by Malta’s Rural Affairs Ministry is attracting 200 phone calls an hour as people report every dead bird they see, Maltese newspapers reported on Tuesday.

“While it is important that the public remains cautious, there is absolutely no reason for excessive alarm,” a ministry spokesman said.

Malta, an island with a population of about 370,000, has had no confirmed bird flu cases but people have been urged to report dead birds or suspicions of bird flu.

The ministry said most of the calls involved the deaths of individual birds.

MNA/Reuters

ADB to help provide safe water supply for Cambodian provinces

MANILA, 26 Oct— The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Monday said that it will help more than one million people in five provinces of Cambodia have access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities through a grant of 18 million US dollars.

The Manila-based ADB said in a statement that the grant will fund a project around the Tonle Sap River basin where about 1,760 villages lie in Cambodia, which is aimed at promoting rural water supply and sanitation facilities to the residents as well as improving the government’s facilitation, regulation, and planning of basic water and sanitation services.

According to the ADB, the five Cambodian provinces—Battambang, Kampong, Chhnang, Kampong Thom, Pursat, and Siem Reap—still suffer insufficient water supply and sanitation coverage, high incidences of poverty, and frequent waterborne diseases although the country has made some progress in providing water and sanitation services to its people.

ADB said a study conducted on the country’s high infant mortality rate which is ranked the No. 2 in Asia, and high rates of waterborne and water-related diseases, said the Bank.

MNA/Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENTS

Nothing is left of Holly Beach, La, on Wednesday, 26 Oct, 2005, after the resort town was hit by Hurricane Rita. Members of the Louisiana Recovery Authority flew over Holly Beach as they visited communities hit by Hurricane Rita. Internet

Egypt’s fish output continues to decline due to pollution

CAIRO, 26 Oct— Egypt’s fish output will continue to decline in 10 years due to serious water pollution, the Egyptian Gazette reported on Tuesday.

The pollution, caused mainly by sewage, industrial and drainage waste with fertilizers dumped into rivers and canals, is particularly serious in the River Nile and the northern lakes, said a study conducted on the problems facing the country’s fish wealth.

Moreover, many of the lakes that are main source for our fish have been partly filled with earth, so that investors can build tourist villages there, especially near the North Coast,” said Ahmed Abdel-Fattah, an expert in fish wealth.

According to official statistics from the Fish Wealth Authority, Egypt produces an estimated 407,000 tons of fish annually, imports around 193,000 tons with a cost of 400 million US dollars, but only exports 700 tons valuing 45 million dollars.

Egypt’s fish output accounts for only 15% of its total animal production with revenues of 6 billion Egyptian Pounds (about 1.03 billion dollars), it added.

He also warned against brutal fishing by some fisherman using nets with very fine mesh, which means small fry cannot get away and grow into fish of a reasonable size.

He stressed that Egypt need a law banning fishing during the mating season from March to May.

To achieve this, the use of pesticides must fall dramatically, as they seriously pollute the water resource, while the penalties for illegal fishing and poaching must be stiffened, said Abdel-Fattah.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippine power, oil sectors to be hit most by new tax law

MANILA, 26 Oct— The electricity costs will be raised by 8% once the expanded value added tax (EVAT) law takes effect next month, a senator warned on Monday.

Senator Mar Roxas, chairman of the Senate committees on trade and commerce and economic affairs which is investigating the impact of EVAT on prices, said in a statement that the EVAT law would hit hardest the power and oil sectors, despite the mitigating measures adopted by the government to soften the harsh effects of the new law.

Apart from the electricity consumers, oil users would also have to deal with a 7% increase in the prices of fuel and other petroleum products, Roxas said.

The Department of Energy and at least one private oil firm have forecast a global rollback in oil prices in November, a move that would cushion the full impact of the implementation of the EVAT.

Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya said at the Senate hearing that prices of crude oil in the world market has stabilized because of lesser demands.

Oil magnates in the country, Petron, also told the Senate that the company would start its rolling back of the prices in diesel and unleaded gas before the end of October.

MNA/Xinhua

People check on the electricity bills in Manila, Philippines.
New drug reduces post-operation vomiting

Aprepitant, made by Merck Research Laboratories, reduces the rate of vomiting during the first 48 hours after open abdominal surgery, according to a trial reported this week at the meeting of the American Society of Anesthesiologists in Atlanta.

The drug is already approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for treatment of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, and this therapy-induced nausea and vomiting is 60 per cent to 70 per cent, ” Gan pointed out. “This is the first time in 10 years that a new class of drug is coming to market and it seems to work better at preventing vomiting than existing drugs.”

Aprepitant has minimal side effects, it is added, and it seems to work better than existing drugs. — MNA/Reuters

Yoga gains popularity in China

BEIJING, 26 Oct— Amid China’s fast-paced economic development, Yoga is making huge inroads into the country, especially among the youth in major Chinese cities where Indian yoga practitioners are in great demand.

“Traditional yoga, which originated in India is much suited to today’s fast-paced life in major Chinese cities where people would like to take out time to have mental and physical relaxation from job pressures,” Founder and Director of China YogiYoga Centre, Yin Yan said.

Yin, who spent a couple of weeks in Rishikesh in 2003, was en-
ticed by the benefits of yoga, now a highly successful woman who has introduced traditional yoga to China.

Currently she runs three centres in Beijing, another in southern China’s Guangzhou and more than 10 branch centres all over China.

Yin, who has teamed up with Yogi Mohan to start YogiYoga Centre, said the Chinese people appreciate her contribution in introducing yoga to China which has encouraged them to lead a better and healthy life amid the hurly-burly life.

Yin, who quit a high-paying media job to start yoga centres in China, says her three centres in Beijing itself have some 1,000 members. Further, the centres have trained some 300 Chinese to impart yoga in other parts of the vast country.

Yoga is fast emerging as a passion for Chinese people, especially the youngsters increasingly enthusiastic to practice yoga, as a means to keep fit amid the economic boom, Yogi Mohan, who now acts as the Vice General Manager and Chief Teacher at YogiYoga, says.

MNA/PTI

Over 1,000 people sick from contaminated water in Thailand

BANGKOK, 27 Oct— More than 1,000 people in Thailand’s two southern provinces of Chumphon and Prachuap Khiri Khan have fallen sick because of contaminated water brought by floods, and 10,000 others adversely affected.

Seven out of eight districts have been hit by flooding, and more than 32 square kilometres of farmland and plantations across four districts have been damaged, chief of the provincial relief-operations centre Thanakorn Trabampuek said. He put the cost at 200 million bahts (five million US dollars).

Around 1,000 people have sought hospital treatment for diseases brought by floods but none were in serious condition, That newspaper The Nation reported.

Drinking water is badly needed as a total of 85 wells in Lang Suan, Lamae and Thang Tako districts have been contaminated by floodwater.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese beauty criteria come out; super girl Li Yuchun on beauty list

BEIJING, 15 Oct.— What makes a woman beautiful in a Chinese person’s eyes? Now we have criteria to follow.

The Beijing based Mirror newspaper reports that the ongoing International Cosmetics and Fashion Week has just established a Chinese Beauty Criteria.

Eighteen chapters, covering different parts of the body, are devoted to elucidating the Chinese aesthetic.

According to the standard, a Chinese beauty must have an oval face, willow-leaf shaped eye-brows and a mouth that curves upwards at the corners.

The length of a woman’s eyes should be 24 to 28 millimeters, with a distance of 35 millimetres between the two eyes.

—Internet

Kenya calls for more support to combat desertification

NAIROBI, 26 Oct—Kenya President Mwai Kibaki has called on the international community to increase more financial and technological support in combating the effects of desertification.

He noted that desertification affects over one billion people worldwide, adding that in Africa it affects 39 percent of total area of the continent and threatens the livelihoods of millions of people.

“For us in Kenya, there is a clear linkage between environmental problems and poverty. In this regard there is need to enhance targeted research on land degradation and poverty eradication,” Kibaki said.

—MNA/Xinhua

Flood death toll in central, southern Vietnam rises to 57

HO CHI MINH, 27 Oct— The floods in Vietnam’s central region and southern Mekong Delta have killed 57 local people, Vietnam News Agency reported Tuesday.

Theelta has suffered the heighest human loss with 29 from An Giang Province, 13 from Long An Province and 11 from Dong Thap Province, since the beginning of the flooding season in mid-August.

Floods caused by torrential rain, which started last weekend in central Binh Dinh Province, have killed 1208 (1008 GMT) with 80 passengers on board after receiving a bomb threat. —MNA/Reuters

Turkish plane leaves Budapest after bomb threat

BUDAPEST, 26 Oct — A Turkish Airline plane continued its journey to Istanbul from Zurich after a bomb threat forced it down in the Hungarian capital, a Budapest airport spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

“The plane was checked and no bomb was found,” the official said. “It took off to Istanbul at 1625 local time (1425 GMT).”

The Airbus 321 made an emergency landing at
Juventus win sets new record for Serie A start

MILAN, 27 Oct — Juve set a new record for the best start to a Serie A season when they beat Sampdoria 2-0 on Wednesday to earn their ninth successive win of the campaign.

Goals from David Trezeguet and Adrian Mutu maintained Juve’s 100-per-cent start and took them past the previous record held by the Juventus teams of 1930/31 and 1985/86.

The win also maintains Juve’s five point lead over AC Milan, who came from behind for a 3-1 win at Empoli with two goals from Alberto Gilardino and Christian Vieri’s first strike for the club.

Inter Milan suffered a surprise 3-2 defeat by AS Roma — they trailed 3-0 after two goals from Francesco Totti, the first brilliant free-kick, before Adriano pulled back two.

Totti and Inter’s Argentine Juan Sebastian Veron were both sent off after clashing in injury time.

Fiorentina move above Inter into third place after a 2-0 win at Siena — both goals coming from Serie A’s top scorer, Italy international Luca Toni who now has 11 goals. — MNA/Reuters

Hansa Rostock knock Stuttgart out of German Cup

FRANKFURT, 27 Oct — Second Division Hansa Rostock came from behind to beat VfB Stuttgart 3-2 in the second round of the German Cup and pile further pressure on Giovanni Trapattoni on Wednesday.

Thomas Hitzlsperger fired Stuttgart into an early lead but Rostock scored three before the end of the first half to set up a victory that sees them through to the last 16.

The result leaves Stuttgar
t’s Italian coach Trapattoni in deep trouble with his side struggling in ninth place in the Bundesliga, already 13 points behind leaders Bayern Munich.

MSV Duisburg also slipped out in the second round on Wednesday, losing 3-2 away to Second Division TSV 1860 Munich.

Hamburg SV and Hertha Berlin prevailed in Wednesday’s two all-First Division ties.

Hamburg won 3-2 at home to Bayer Leverkusen with goals from Daniel van Buyten, Sergej Barbarez and Raphael Wicky, while Hertha beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 3-0.

Eintracht Frankfurt pulled off an incredible 6-0 win at home to Schalke 04, last season’s beaten finalists, in one of eight ties on Tues
day.

Holders Bayern were playing away at Second Division Erzgebirge Aue in a later game on Wednesday. — MNA/Reuters

Late own goal gives Bordeaux 1-0 win over Marseille

PARIS, 27 Oct — An own goal five minutes from time by defender Abdoulaye Meite gave Girondins Bordeaux a 1-0 home victory over Olymique Marseille in the first round of the French League Cup on Wednesday.

Meite deflected a cross into his own net past goalkeeper Fabien Barthez in a match the hosts largely dominated.

It was a disappointing outcome for Marseille captain Barthez who had produced an outstanding performance in keeping his side in the game and en route for extra time.

The France keeper did well to save a close-range header and a 15-metre shot by Bordeaux number nine Jean-Claude Darcheville in the first half.

Marseille came close when midfielder Sabri Lamouchi had his volley saved by Bordeaux keeper Ulrich Rame with his foot on the hour.

It was Marseille’s second defeat in four days after they lost 2-1 at St Etienne in Ligue 1 on Sunday.

On Tuesday, league champions Olymique Lyon lost for the first time this season when they were eliminated by Nantes 4-3 on penalties following a 1-1 draw after extra-time.

Al Ittihad on course to retain Champions League title

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 Oct — A penalty by Mohammed Kallon nine minutes from time gave Saudi Arabia’s Al Ittihad a 1-1 draw away to Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates in the first leg of the AFC Champions League final on Wednesday.

Al Ain, the 2003 champions, took the lead in the 50th minute through Ali Msarri, the defender converting in the second attempt after Al Ittihad goalkeeper Zaid Mabrouk had saved his initial header.

Defending champions Al Ittihad pressed for an equalizer and were rewarded in the 81st minute when Kallon put his spot kick past Ali Msarri, the defender converting in the second attempt after Al Ittihad goalkeeper Zaid Mabrouk had saved his initial header.

Former Cameroon international Joseph-Desire Job was ineffective for the Saudi side, missing two good chances and eventually being replaced by Hamzah Idris in the 67th minute. — MNA/Reuters

FIFA, Puma settle one-piece kit dispute out of court

ZURICH, 26 Oct — World soccer’s governing body FIFA and German sports goods maker Puma have settled their long-running dispute over Cameroon’s one-piece playing kit.

FIFA said in a statement on Tuesday that the two parties had agreed not to disclose the terms of the settlement, but had reached an out of court agreement “in the interests of international football”.

The dispute centered on a one-piece kit that Cameroon wore in the 2004 African Nations Cup.

Cameron wore the strip, in their traditional colours of green and red, in three group matches and a quarter-final, but FIFA fined the country’s football association 200,000 Swiss francs ($140,000 US dollars) and initially docked them six World Cup qualifying points.

Thomas Hitzlsperger fired Stuttgart into an early lead but Rostock scored three before the end of the first half to set up a victory that sees them through to the last 16.

The result leaves Stuttgart’s Italian coach Trapattoni in deep trouble with his side struggling in ninth place in the Bundesliga, already 13 points behind leaders Bayern Munich.

Msv Duisburg also slipped out in the second round on Wednesday, losing 3-2 away to Second Division Tsv 1860 Munich.

Hamburg SV and Hertha Berlin prevailed in Wednesday’s two all-First Division ties.

Hamburg won 3-2 at home to Bayer Leverkusen with goals from Daniel van Buyten, Sergej Barbarez and Raphael Wicky, while Hertha beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 3-0.

Eintracht Frankfurt pulled off an incredible 6-0 win at home to Schalke 04, last season’s beaten finalists, in one of eight ties on Tuesday.

Holders Bayern were playing away at Second Division Erzgebirge Aue in a later game on Wednesday. — MNA/Reuters

Inter Milan’s Ivan Ramiro Cordoba (l) challenges Francesco Totti of AS Roma during their Serie A soccer match at the San Siro Stadium in Milan, on 26 October, 2005. AS Roma won the match 3-2. — MNA/ Reuters
Physicists sign petition against change of US nuclear policy

LOS ANGELES, 27 Oct — More than 470 physicists have signed a petition to oppose a new US Defence Department proposal that allows the United States to launch nuclear attack against non-nuclear countries.

Two initiators on Tuesday criticized the emerging US policy that will destroy the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Two prominent physicists will deliver the petition to members of US Congress, scientific professional societies and the news media.

"The new policy allows the US to use nuclear weapons against states that do not have nuclear weapons and for host of new reasons, including rapid termination of a conflict on US terms or to ensure success of the US forces," said Jorge Hirsch, physics professor at the University of California, San Diego, who started this petition.

"The US use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states will destroy the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and give strong incentive for other countries to develop and use nuclear weapons, thus making nuclear war more likely," said Professor Kim Gries, another initiator of the petition.

"This new US policy dramatically increases the risk of nuclear proliferation and, ultimately, the risk that regional conflicts will explode into all-out nuclear war, with the potential to destroy our civilization," he noted.

"As physicists we feel we need to bring this to the attention of policy makers and the public, in order to engender discussion, debate, and hopefully repudiation of the new policy."

The two physicists began their petition last month following reports in The New York Times and Washington Post that the US Government was in the final process of adopting a new policy that would permit the use of nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear adversary under certain circumstances.

Hirsch and Gries felt they had an obligation to speak out about the nuclear policy change because their profession brought nuclear weapons into the world 60 years ago.

Besides seven Nobel laureates, the petition was also signed by a past president and the president-elect of the American Physical Society, a Fields Medal winner and two Wolf Prize laureates.

Hirsch and Gries said they will urge more physicists to sign on to the petition.

To mark the 61st birthday, U Tun Oo of Mayangon Township presents K 150,000 to the fund of Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint Secretary U Thein Aung of Administrative Board of the Home.

WEATHER

Thursday, 27 October, 2005

Summer: of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST; During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin State and lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayin State, Mandalay and upper Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and Magway Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yangon (Central) (1.85) inches, Shweygin (1.77) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (1.73) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (1.38) inches, Mibbu (0.43) inch, Aunglan (0.39) inch and Magway (0.16) inch.

Maximum temperature on 26-10-2005 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 27-10-2005 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 27-10-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 26-10-2005 was (2.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 27-10-2005 were (1.73) inches at Mingaladon, (1.38) inches at Kaba-Aye and (1.85) inches at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (99.13) inches at Mingaladon, (98.82) inches at Kaba-Aye and (103.70) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southeast at (12:15) hours MST on 26-10-2005.

Bay influence: According to the satellite meteorological observations at (09:30) hours MST today, yesterday’s tropical depression over Southwest Bay and adjoining West Central Bay has centred at about (150) miles east of Chennai, India and it is forecast to move North-westwards. Weather is cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 28-10-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Shan, Kayah States, Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State and Yangon Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in the coastal Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-10-2005: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-10-2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Storm News

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 27-10-2005)

According to the satellite meteorological observations at (09:30) hours MST today, yesterday’s tropical depression over Southwest Bay and adjoining West Central Bay has centred at about (150) miles east of Chennai, India and it is forecast to move North-westwards.

8:45 am 10. English for Everyday Use
4:00 pm 1. Martial song
4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
3:30 pm 3. Musical programme
4:45 pm 4. 
5:00 pm 5. Song of national races
5:15 pm 6.
5:25 pm 7. Musical programme
5:35 pm 8. "Aur Soi (Bago)"
5:45 pm 9. Song of yesteryears
6:00 pm 10. English for Everyday Use
6:30 pm 11. Evening News
7:00 pm 12. Weather report
7:05 pm 13. "Aur Soi (Yangon)"
7:35 pm 14.
7:45 pm 15.
8:00 pm 16.
8:10 am 17. International news
8:30 am 18. Weather report
8:35 am 19.
20. "Aur Soi (Mandalay)"
21. The next day’s programme
Four political objectives

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Prime Minister sends message of felicitations to Czech Republic

YANGON, 28 Oct — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Jiri Paroubek, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Czech Republic, which falls on 28 October 2005. — MNA

Remarkable progress witnessed in Cocokyun Township

YANGON, 27 Oct — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and officials, inspected development tasks in Cocokyun Township this morning.

The commander and party paid homage to Zinamarazein Pagoda in Cocokyun Township. At Sasana Mandaing Monastery, they paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Koviçaqara and made donations.

The commander oversaw completion of Saddhammavamsa Ordination Hall. Next, they inspected Cocokyun Township Police Station and gave gifts to members of Myanmar Police Force and their family members.

At Communication Station, they viewed tasks of auto-telephone system and attended to the need. On arrival at Cocokyun BEHS, the commander looked into reproduction of daily newspapers through data broadcasting system, and documentary photos of education promotion tasks, and cordially greeted teachers.

With better transport, Maunghtauung model village in Budalin Township developing in all aspects

YANGON, 27 Oct — Member of the Panel of Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and CEC Member Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint on 23 October made an inspection tour of Maunghtauung model village in Budalin Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Division.

They attended the opening of Seinta Kyaw Thu library in the village. Officials formally opened the library. Patron of the library Sayadaw of Mandalay Aye Yeiktha Myaing Monastery Bhaddanta Lasan donated K2,000,000 and 2,000 publications to the library and U Thaung Myint-Daw Khin Aye, K 5,000.

The minister attended the inauguration of rural auto-exchange carrier board in the village. Officials opened the facility. Next, the commander unveiled the signboard of the auto-exchange. The commander, the minister and party members visited the facility. They inspected the multimedia classrooms in Basic Education High School in the village.