Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Turkey

YANGON, 29 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 Ahmed Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October, 2005.—MNA

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

Paddy production beyond food sufficiency in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 28 Oct—Ayeyawady Division has cultivated 3,600,351 acres of monsoon paddy and harvested 52,160 acres. At present, 3,896,352 baskets of paddy has been produced. The per-acre yield was 74.70 baskets of paddy. Due to the favourable climatic conditions and the use of correct agricultural methods, the division has surplus production of paddy. Soon, tasks to harvest paddy will be completed in the division.

On his inspection tour of Ayeyawady Division on 26 October, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Member of the State Peace and Development Council, said that 3.6 million acres of land has been put under monsoon paddy in Ayeyawady Division for 2005-06, and it is necessary to harvest paddy in time to be able to grow summer paddy and cold season crops on the same plots. As the Government has provided necessary assistance, local farmers are to make concerted efforts in the cultivation tasks, he added.

While in Zayatkwin Village of Kyaunggon Township, he met with members of the Township Agricultural Development Supervisory Committee and local farmers, and heard reports on cultivation of 113,161 acres of monsoon paddy and harvesting of 10,000 acres of paddy in the township, setting up of model

(See page 8)

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivers an address at the opening ceremony of new school building of Inma Model Village BEHS in Pantanaw Township.—MNA.
People’s Desire

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

Ministry of Information offers ‘soon’

YANGON, 28 Oct—“Soon” was offered to members of the Sangha of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) by Ministry of Information at Mogok refectory on Kaba Aye Hill at 10.30 am today.

First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Rector Sayadaw Bhadanta Panditabhivamsa of the University, and Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented offerings to the Sayadaw.

Next, the minister presented K 220,000 for offering ‘soon’ through Deputy Director U Thein Do of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sangha.

Next, the minister and party shared merits gained and offered ‘soon’ to the monks. Among the congregation were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein and departmental heads under the ministry.

MNA

Second leg of Air Bagan
Myanmar Golf Tour to be held

YANGON, 28 Oct—The second leg of Air Bagan Myanmar Golf Tour for 2005-2006 to be organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly contributed by Air Bagan Ltd will be held at Yaaytagun Taung Golf Resort, Mandalay, from 3 to 6 November.

The golf tour comprises two divisions—professional level and amateur level (handicap 0-12). Those wishing to take part in the tour are to register at the office of the golf resort not later than 4 pm on 1 November.

The co-sponsors of the tour will be Myanmar Brewery Ltd, Kachin Golfer Group, Myanmar Treasure Resort, Aureum Palace Hotel Resort, Kanbawztha Bank Ltd, Strixon, Max Myanmar Co Ltd and London while the Han Event Management will take care of the tour.

The golfers who score hole-in-one will be presented prizes by U Yup Za Khaung.

MNA

Foreign Minister sends message of felicitations to Turkey

YANGON, 29 Oct—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Abdullah Gul, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.—MNA

New waterways under Bo Myat Tun Bridge (Nyaungdon)

YANGON, 28 Oct—Waterways under Bo Myat Tun Bridge (Nyaungdon) on Ayeyawady River will be changed as from 31 October.

A new waterway between piers No 11 and No 12 is for vessels sailing upstream and between piers No 12 and No 13 is for those sailing downstream. The clearance of the waterway is 110 metres in width and 17 metres in height. A triangle sign in green colour illuminated with green at night is fixed at the entrance to the waterway. The no-entry sign is a red-coloured cross and will be lighted with red bulb at night. All the vessels are not to take shortcut but to take original routes, balancing the current and flow of wind before passing the bridge. The parallel running of two vessels is to be avoided while passing the clearance of the bridge. — MNA

Myanmar badminton athletes under training

YANGON, 28 Oct—Under the cooperation programme of Myanmar Badminton Federation and the Asian Badminton Confederation (ABC), Mr Jason Wong, Coach of ABC, arrived here recently.

The Coach is providing lectures on rules and regulations of the international badminton competi tions and training Myanmar youth badminton players for ensuring uplift of the standard of Myanmar badminton event. — NLM

12th Medical Specialties
Conference from 18 to 21 Nov

YANGON, 28 Oct—The 12th Medical Specialties Conference of Myanmar Medical Association will be held from 18 to 21 November at the auditorium of the association at No 249, Theinbyu Street, Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, here.

The physicians wishing to attend the conference may register from 16 to 18 November during the office hours at the association.—MNA

Mr Jason Wong, Coach of Asian Badminton Confederation, training Myanmar badminton athletes.— NLM

Continue rural development tasks

Now is time when the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are working in concert for developing and modernizing the Union and enhancing the living standard of the entire people. In doing so, priority is being given to development of infrastructure in border areas which lagged behind in development in the past. At the same time, the 24-region special development plan and the five rural development tasks are being implemented.

In accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the tasks of ensuring smooth and easy transport in rural areas, supplying sufficient water for drinking and agricultural purposes, improving education and health standards of rural people and developing their socio-economic life.

Chin State was difficult of access in the past. But now the government is upgrading roads in the region in order that they can be negotiable in all weathers. Moreover, bridges are also being built to enable local people to travel from one place to another and to improve their education, health, social and economic status. Members of state, district and township USDs, local people and wellwishers are enthusiastically lending themselves to rural development tasks being carried out by the government in the region.

A hydroelectric power station built on self-reliance basis was inaugurated in Hanpi Village in Tiddim Township on 19 October. The construction of the station started in 2004 with the help of the Union Solidarity and Development Association.

Now the whole village is electrified. In the same way, a new water pipeline was opened in Lonpi Village in Falam Township on 20 October to supply the whole village with water sufficiently.

We believe that, regional authorities, local people and members of social organizations, following the guidance by the Head of State, will continue rural development tasks hand in hand with the government.
ASEAN urged to set up centre to handle natural disasters

JAKARTA, 27 Oct — The establishment of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Centre for Humanitarian Assistance was urgently needed to help create a kind of mutual understanding on how to handle natural catastrophes, an Indonesian official said Wednesday.

"The existence of such a center is expected to help ASEAN members facilitate assistance to any country hit by a disaster," said Marty Natalegawa, director-general of ASEAN Cooperation with the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Through the centre, he said, any intention of each ASEAN country to help could be identified so that as soon as there was any incident their data could be easily assessed.

"At least with the establishment of this centre assistance handling can be well coordinated," he was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

"The United Nations is expected to be open to the idea of the establishment of the centre," he said, adding that the idea of founding the centre was raised at the ASEAN Tsunami Summit held in Jakarta on 6 January, 2005.

The region was hit by an earthquake-triggered tsunami on 26 December, 2004, killing 130,000 people in Indonesia and around 4,000 others in Thailand.

A Chinese woman reads a newspaper at her egg stall next to a live bird market in Beijing, China, on 28 Oct, 2005. —INTERNET

Castro denies accepting US aid

HAVANA, 28 Oct — Cuban President Fidel Castro denied on Thursday that his Communist government had accepted US aid for the first time in the wake of Hurricane Wilma.

The US State Department said earlier its long-time foe Cuba, whose own offer of help was snubbed by Washington after Hurricane Katrina, had for the first time “in memory” accepted US disaster aid.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said a three-person US assessment team was on stand-by to go to Cuba to see what was needed after Wilma flooded Havana and western shore areas this week.

US aid would be funneled through a nongovernmental organization if it were needed, he said, adding that Washington had sent a diplomatic note to Cuba on Tuesday offering help and received a positive response a day later.

HAVANA's reply to the US offer, read out by Castro on a live television broadcast, said Cuba had not requested international aid. "That is not an acceptance of aid," the Cuban leader said.

Castro, annoyed that Washington was distorting Cuba's intentions, said Havana had only accepted a visit by the assessment team in an effort to build regional cooperation in dealing with the growing danger posed by hurricanes.

"We have no objections at all to the three officials visiting us, to know their assessment and exchange views on these matters," Castro said. "We won't close the door."

Two months ago the United States did not take up Havana's offer to send more than 1,000 doctors and tons of medical supplies to the United States after Hurricane Katrina hit the US Gulf Coast.

A British soldier (L) keeps watch as a colleague talks on a radio during a foot patrol in Basra on 27 October, 2005. —INTERNET

China pledges to push forward regional cooperation in east Asia

BEIJING, 27 Oct— Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Wednesday that China pledges to enhance exchanges with ASEAN members in an effort to push forward regional cooperation in East Asia.

"Citing China as a "good neighbour, friend and partner" of ASEAN, Hu said that China attaches importance to the first East Asia Summit, respects the consensus reached by ASEAN members and supports ASEAN's leading role in the summit for the meeting's success."

Hu made the remarks in his meeting with visiting Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who was here for his first China trip since he took office last year.

"We are ready to enhance communication and coordination with ASEAN members in an effort to push forward the construction of China-ASEAN free trade area and East Asia regional cooperation," he said.

The inaugural East Asia Summit will be held in Malaysia in December, when ASEAN members will meet China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

Hu also spoke highly of the growth of China-Singapore relations.

Some 15 years after China and Singapore forged diplomatic ties, Hu said, bilateral relations see healthy and fast growth thanks to efforts made by both.

On the basis of Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, the two countries properly handle major problems concerning the other side, he said.

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Three more US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 Oct— Guerillas using roadside bombs and small arms fire killed three soldiers and wounded four, while clashes southeast of Baghdad between Shiite militiamen loyal to a radical cleric and Sunni militants left at least 15 people dead, officials said Thursday.

Five Iraqis died in other attacks. US aircraft, meanwhile, destroyed more militant safe houses near the Syrian border, and apparently killed a senior al-Qaida in Iraq figure who was using religious courts to try Iraqis who supported coalition forces, the military said.

The two soldiers were killed Wednesday when their convoy hit a roadside bomb in eastern Baghdad, the military said. That same day, a roadside bomb and small arms fire struck an Army patrol 37 miles north of Baghdad, killing one American soldier and wounding four, the military said. —INTERNET

Annan calls for more aid to save victims of S Asia

GENEVA, 27 Oct— United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Wednesday called for more funds, logistics and manpower to save victims of the South Asia earthquake earlier this month.

"The scale of this tragedy almost defies our darkest imagination... We meet today to prevent a second shockwave of deaths, and to prevent further suffering," Annan told a ministerial-level meeting held here by the UN on humanitarian assistance to communities affected by the quake on 8 October.

According to the UN, tens of thousands of people were confirmed dead, more than 70,000 injured and all essential infrastructure were destroyed in an area covering 28,000 square kilometres during the earthquake.

"While no one could have had the power to prevent the earthquake from happening, we do have the power to stop the next wave: the death and despair caused by freezing temperatures and disease, by lack of shelter, food and water," said Annan.

"For the next days and weeks, we literally remain in the life-saving phase," he said. —INTERNET
Putin, Wen Jiabao meet on bilateral relations

MOSCOW, 27 Oct—Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao here on Wednesday to discuss bilateral relations and major international issues.

Wen, who arrived here earlier on Wednesday to attend the Fourth Meeting of Prime Ministers of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, said China-Russia ties have been consolidated and have registered new development so far this year. The two countries have started a consultation mechanism on strategic security, approved a border agreement, issued a joint statement on international order in the new century and held a joint military exercise, Wen said.

Bilateral cooperation in economy and trade, energy, technology has been fruitful. The two neighbours offered firm support to each other on issues concerning national sovereignty, territorial integrity and national security, the Chinese Premier said.

Both China and Russia are at an important stage of development, and establishing and developing a strategic partnership is a right choice, Wen said.

It is a wish shared by the two peoples that their countries remain sincere friends, good neighbours and cooperating partners, Wen said, adding it is in the interests of the two countries and their peoples.

The China-Russia strategic partnership is not targeted at any third party. Rather, it is devoted to establishing a diversified, just and reasonable new international political and economic order, Wen said. Ultimately, it is conducive to global peace and development, he added.

Putin, for his part, said Russia-China strategic partnership is a close, long-term relationship and an important factor in international politics. He added it is also the most important and a priority direction in Russia's foreign policy. Russia hopes both sides can maintain the high level of mutual trust and further develop this relationship, Putin said.

The Russian President agreed with Wen on his proposals on bilateral economic and trade ties, saying the ties grow rapidly, with trade steadily rising, and Russia hopes to keep the momentum.

The two countries should optimize trade structures, provide convenient market access, boost import of electromechanical and high-tech products and expand cooperation in energy, investment and production, Putin said.

US military deaths rise to 2,005

WASHINGTON, 27 Oct—As of Thursday, 27 Oct, 2005, at least 2,005 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 1,559 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians. The AP count is nine higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EDT Thursday. The British military has reported 97 deaths: Italy, 27; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,866 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,450 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 15,991 US service members have been wounded, according to a Defense Department tally Thursday. —INTERNET

Oil jumps 3.5% as US chill boosts heating fuels

NEW YORK, 27 Oct—Oil prices surged 3.5 per cent on Tuesday, vaulting over $62 US dollars a barrel as chilly weather in the United States fixed up furnaces and a power outage at the largest refinery on the East Coast reigned supply fears.


The rise came as chilly weather in parts of Texas and along the Eastern seaboard triggered a 10-per-cent spike in US natural gas prices and a 5-per-cent jump in heating oil.

“We've gone away from worrying about supply and are concerned that demand may be stronger than anticipated if we get an early winter and stay cold through March,” said Phil Flynn, analyst at Alaron Trading.

An early-season Nor' easter — a storm that brings chilly Northeast winds to the coast — was peeling the Eastern seaboard Tuesday with parts of the Northeast expected to get some of the season's first snow.

Adding to strength, ConocoPhillips said on Tuesday that its big oil refinery in Linden, New Jersey, experienced a brief power glitch that triggered a plant-wide shutdown. —MNA/Reuters

Gunmen attack Iraqi minister's convoy in western Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 27 Oct—Gunmen opened fire at the convoy of an Iraqi Cabinet minister in western Baghdad on Wednesday, wounding two of his bodyguards, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

"Unidentified armed men opened fire at around 9:00 a.m. (0600 GMT) at the convoy of Abdul Latif Rashid, the Minister of Water Resources, in Ameryah District, wounding two of his bodyguards," the source said on condition of anonymity.

He said that Rashid was not at the convoy when the attack occurred.

In a separate incident, another group of gunmen hailed their bullets on the car of Nabil Yasar Ali, a director general in the Iraqi Ministry of Culture, and his driver as he was leaving his home for office in Baghdad's southern district of Saidiyah, the source said.

Ali was killed and his driver was seriously wounded, added the source.

Iraqi government officials are often under attacks waged by guerrillas who try hard to topple the Shiite-and-Kurdish-dominated government installed in April.

Wednesday's attack came one day after the Iraqi Independent Electoral Commission announced the final results of the October referendum on a draft constitution, which was passed with 78 per cent "yes" votes and 21 per cent "no" votes. — MNA/Xinhua

Russia to enlarge cooperation with Iran

MOSCOW, 27 Oct—Russia will not give up its political dialogue with Iran and is ready to expand cooperation with the Gulf country in all areas, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov said on Wednesday.

"We are ready to promote and enlarge both the political dialogue and cooperation in all areas" with Iran, Fradkov said at a meeting with Iran's First Vice-President Parviz Davoodi, who arrived here to attend the conference of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) prime ministers as an observer.

Russia is convinced that under the new Iranian leadership, the two countries will maintain and advance their friendly relations, according to the Russian Premier.

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India-Russia-China dialogue not directed against anyone

MOSCOW, 27 Oct—The trilateral India-Russia-China dialogue is not directed against anyone and the three countries have “quite favourable” prospects of interaction in this format, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Alekseev here said.

“Deepening of Russia-China and Russia-India partnership and positive qualitative changes in the relations between Beijing and New Delhi observed lately permit us to assess as quite favourable the prospects of trilateral interaction in Russia-India-China format,” Alekseev was quoted as saying by ITAR-TASS.

He also said that the trilateral dialogue is not directed against anyone in Asia or the world.

Expressing satisfaction at the traditional informal meetings of the Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China, including their recent meetings in June in Vladivostok and in New York in September on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, he said Russia wanted to quickly proceed to the tri-lateral economic partnership of the three countries.

“We are interested in quick movement of our countries in the field of economic partnership, although the joint combat against international terrorism and illegal drug trafficking still remain topical tasks,” Alekseev said.

Underscoring the “open and constructive” character of the trilateral dialogue, he said the three nations are united by the proximity of their fundamental issues of contemporary world order. They have common understanding that multilateral efforts based on the centrality of the UN role are the most effective way of resolving modern problems of the mankind.

Mexico, 27 Oct—The military is sending troops to help the police combat looting in the resort town of Cancun which was ravaged by Hurricane Wilma at the weekend, but the government will not declare a curfew, presidential spokesman Ruben Aguilor said on Tuesday.

In a visit to the area on Sunday, Mexican President Vicente Fox said that federal and local police “were overwhelmed” by looters and gangsters who were throwing themselves on houses, shops, supermarkets and commercial centres, Aguilor said.

He added that the government has issued a “respectful request” for residents of Cancun to stay in their homes after 7 p.m. local time (0100 GMT).

“No one has been arrested for the killing, and the investigation is still going on,” he added.

Three officers were injured in the attack Tuesday morning when their vehicle came under attack in another eastern province of Nangahar, a local official said.

“A vehicle full of police officers from a police academy was attacked by suspected Taliban militants this morning in Sorkhord District,” a local official said Tuesday.

Indonesia, Malaysia join probe into explosives discovery

JAKARTA, 27 Oct—The Indonesian police have requested Malaysia to assist investigation into five suspected terrorists who were caught recently carrying explosive materials in East Kalimantan Province, a high-ranking police officer said here Tuesday.

“Because the explosives came from (Malaysian town) Tanjung, the Indonesian police invited the Malaysian police to join the investigation,” police spokesman Brigadier-General Soenarko Danu Ardanto said.

The police have seized more than 375 kilos of ammonium nitrate from four women and a man who were arrested over the weekend. Soenarko gave their identities with their initials. He said the suspects also kept 1,000 metres of fuse and 900 detonating devices.

They are now being held at the provincial police headquarters in East Kalimantan, which shares land border with Malaysia’s Sabah State.

Deputy police chief killed in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL, 27 Oct—A deputy police chief was killed on Monday night at home when a group of militants crashed into the house in this Afghan eastern province of Paktia, a local official said Tuesday.

The deputy police chief of Zurmat District, Pakia Faiz Mohammad was killed by a group of suspected Taleban militants who surrounded in his home, his brother was injured, Riza Mohammad, the district chief of Zurmat told Xinhua.

“Now no one has been arrested for the killing, and the investigation is still going on,” he added.

Two US soldiers killed in roadside bombs in Iraq

BAKU, 28 Oct—Two US soldiers were killed in separate roadside bomb blasts in Iraq, the US military said Friday.

A roadside bomb went off when a US military patrol passed by a road south of Baghdad on Thursday, killing one US soldier.

Another soldier was killed when a roadside bomb hit his vehicle in Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad.

Blast in Tel Aviv kills three, crime link suspected

TEL AVIV, 27 Oct—An explosion killed three people in a Tel Aviv building on Wednesday in what Israeli police said was apparently a bomb-making accident involving criminals.

“Our first assessment is that this was caused by a bomb,” Motti Cohen, the local police chief, told reporters. “Initial findings indicate this is a criminal incident rather than terrorism.” Security sources earlier had said the blast on the third floor of a four-storey building in the Jaffa port district had been a gas explosion, but police later said it was caused by explosives.

Israel’s ZAKA rescue service said three people died in the explosion, and an ambulance service said five people were injured.

Thai Airbus damaged, blocks Australian airport

CAIRNS, 27 Oct—A Thai Airways Airbus suffered undercarriage damage during a heavy landing at Melbourne Airport, forcing Australia’s second-busiest airport to close, Australian aviation officials said on Wednesday.

A spokesman for Airservices Australia said the plane touched down at about 0220 GMT after a flight from Bangkok but blew a tyre and damaged hydraulic lines in its undercarriage on landing.

“As a result, hydraulic fluid has leaked onto hot brakes, and there’s been two fires. They were extinguished quickly,” the spokesman said.

He said the plane had stopped at the intersection of the airport’s two runways. All flights out of Melbourne were delayed and flights to Melbourne were diverted to other airports.

“There are nil reports of any injuries to passengers or flight crew,” the spokesman said.

In for a swim: A Japanese macaque (Macaca fuscata) swims in the Landskron zoo in the province of Carinthia on 25 Oct, 2005.—INTERNET

Mexico send troops to Cancun to fight looting
The following is the reproduction of an article by Elliot Jager in The Jerusalem Post issued on 24 October, 2005.—Ed

While the attention of Iraqwatchers was focused on the opening day of Saddam Hussein’s trial, at about the same time, 10,000 kilometers away, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Capitol Hill. She was outlining, perhaps for the first time, the Bush administration’s strategy for “victory” there.

The strategy is to clear out “the toughest places” so the enemy finds no sanctuary, and “to disrupt foreign support for the insurgents.” Continued Rice: “We are working to hold and steadily enlarge the secure areas, integrating political and economic outreach with our military operations... to build truly national institutions by working with more capable provincial and local authorities.”

There’s nothing wrong with this strategy; but with a mere 150,000 troops on the ground to control a violent, 432,000-sq. km. country of 26 million people, you don’t have to be Sun Tzu to figure out that this approach probably comes too late.

To understand just how bad things are, listen to the good news. Rice told the senators that compared to last year, “security along the once-notorious airport road in Baghdad has measurably improved.”

Measurably, noch. You also don’t have to be a Saddam-loving, antiwar-marching, Israel-bashing anarchist to recognize that “victory” is not an option.

The idea of attacking Iraq in the wake of 9/11 (2001) was hardly a bright one from the get-go. Saddam Hussein wasn’t behind Osama bin Laden, and thus attacking Iraq was a mindless, unforgivable distraction, one that made it possible for the Islamist menace to metastasize further.

Iraq is – always was – the wrong war in the wrong place, led by a man who does not read papers or watch TV news.

Saddam did not have weapons of mass destruction, despite the fact that the administration had “no doubt” he did. Nor will America bring democracy to Iraq, because Western notions of representative government, pluralism and respect for minorities are culturally alien to the Middle East.

IN THE onslaught of Iraqi-datelined news it’s useful to step back and gain perspective. The war was launched in March 2003. On April 9, Saddam’s 20-foot statue in Baghdad was brought down. The next day, Ken Adelman, one of the neoconservative advocates of the war, wrote an op-ed in The Washington Post gloating that prognostications about Iraq being a “cakewalk” had proved accurate after all. On May 1, wearing a flight suit, Bush landed on the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln to declare: “Major combat operations in Iraq have ended.”

That month the US also made what is now widely recognized as the biggest mistake of the war. Rather than co-opt or rehabilitate them, the occupation authorities disbanded the Iraqi army and dismissed Ba’athist civil servants. Many are today the backbone of the “insurgency.”

On December 13, 2003 US forces captured Saddam. The Iraqi Interim Government was formed in June 2004. In January 2005, Iraqis voted to elect a 275-member Transitional National Assembly. Last Saturday Iraqis held a referendum to approve a new constitution crafted by that assembly. Parliamentary elections are scheduled for December.

The day after a new Iraqi government is formed, and without fanfare, US forces should be withdrawn over a period of, say, 12 months.

Granted, it’s possible that without US troops Iraq might disintegrate. It could become a haven for Islamic fundamentalism; a bloodbath could ensue, pitting the Shi’ite majority against the Sunni minority. And if all that happened, America would lose face — what’s left of it — in the Arab world.

Which is why Rice warned the senators: “The terrorists want us to get discouraged and quit. They believe we do not have the will to see this through.” But her boss never prepared the American people “to see this through.” And he no longer has the credibility to do so.

Most Americans have given up on the war. In the latest Associated Press-Ipsos poll, 61 percent said they disapprove of Bush’s handling of Iraq. Only belatedly has Bush even begun to describe the foe for what it is: a warped civilization, as opposed to a tactic (“terrorism”).

IF IRAQ disintegrates into Kurdish, Shi’ite and Sunni statelets, so be it. America (and Israel) owe only the Kurds, in the north, a second thought. They can be adequately protected (as they were) by a US-enforced “no-fly zone” and by other Western military and diplomatic backing. There is nothing wrong with helping people who want to be helped and have demonstrated a capacity for helping themselves.

And if the Shi’ite and Sunni parts explode, wake me up when it’s over. Expect the tactical alliance between the Sunni (secular) Saddamites and the Sunni (Islamist) Zarqawites to unravel. The rival – and majority – Shi’ite factions led by Moqtada al-Sadr, Grand Ayatollah Ali Hussein al-Sistani and Ayatollah Mohammed Bagir al-Hakim may have their own intramural scores to settle, when they’re not busy fighting the minority Sunnis. All this internecine conflict just might complicate life for the mullahs in Persian Iran.

So rather than become a haven for Islamic fundamentalism, Iraq could well become a quagmire for the various Muslim factions: one big Islamist Roach Motel. Call me pitiless, but if Muslim Arabs want to murder each other, that’s a problem for the Arab League and the Islamic Conference, not the West.

And if we are pleasantly surprised – if modernizing elites inside Iraq pull together, prevail over the Saddamite and Islamist beasts and, using newly created institutions and structures (parliament, elections, constitution), develop a workable federalist Iraq – no one will be happier than I.

Meanwhile, Israelis who wish America well should not want to see it bogged down in an Iraqi quagmire.

Perhaps the larger lesson of the Iraqi boondoggle is that the war against Islamist fascism was much too serious to be left in the hands of this administration. The next one will have to do better.
High education qualification is the main national driving force in this age that sees the education sector playing a leading role in every aspect. As it is in the time, education is the engine of growth for the nation-building undertaking, the government has assigned itself specially to the task of ever developing the qualification and strength of education sector’s most basic force.

The government has been implementing the 30-year long-term national education promotion plan meaning that the government has provided adequate number of schools and classrooms for the increasing number of students in addition to the rising number of teachers.

### Development of basic education in the time of Tatmadaw Government

The above-mentioned endeavours of the government is to implement its prioritized national education promotion projects. Looking forward to future with goodwill, the government has been laying a sound foundation for education development of the nation. Now the relevant tables have been inserted in the paper to study the proportionate rise in the number of students and teachers.
Paddy production beyond food...

(from page 1)

Paddy fields in 26 townships, cultivation of paddy on 400 acres model field and harvesting of monsoon paddy presented by officials.

After the meeting with officials, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than viewed Ayeyarwady power-tillers and four-inch diameter pumps manufactured by Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Industries, and Leyar-16 power-tillers and harvesters produced by Agricultural Mechanization Department.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than proceeded to Inna Model Village of Pantanaw Township, and attended the ceremony to open the new BEHS school building.

Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Chairman of the School Board of Trustees U Nyein Myaing unveiled the stone plaque of the two-storey school building which is 200 feet long, 30 feet wide and 25 feet high. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than pressed the button to open the new school building.

Wellwishers U Nyein Myaing and wife Daw Khin Khin Yi who spent K 58 million on construction of the building handed over the documents related to the building to Pantanaw Township Education Officer U Min Naing.

On the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the 30-year long-term education plan was laid down and is being implemented for development of human resources in the nation. For enabling school-age children to have the opportunities to pursue education, the Government has extended basic education schools, opened universities and colleges in major cities of 24 special development regions and appointed teachers at necessary schools, he added. He noted that the newly-opened school building was the result of cooperation between the authorities and local wellwishers. He urged teachers to turn out outstanding students and all to safeguard the school building for its durability. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than arrived back here in the evening.

YANGON, 28 Oct — The 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the fifteenth day at the designated venues today.

Present on the occasion 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, Yangon Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, members of work committees and subcommittees, maestros and guests.

Altogether 10 contestants from States and Divisions participated in the higher education level women’s Maha Gita song contest and 12 contestants in the basic education level (aged 5-10) boys’ Maha Gita song contest held at the hall of National Museum.

The ozi and dobat contests were held at National Theater and six troupes competed in the professional level dobat contest, six troupes in the basic education level (aged 15-20) ozi contest and six troupes in the basic education level (aged 5-10) boys’ dobat contests.

At Kabawza theater, a total of 11 contestants participated in the professional level men’s xylophone contest and nine in the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls’ xylophone contest.

At the Padonna Theater, a total of seven competitors took part in the professional level oboe contest, three in the basic education level (aged 10-15) and six in the basic education level (aged 5-10) boys’ oboe contests.

Maung Zin Myo Htet and troupe of Ayeyawady Division taking part in basic education level (aged 5-10) boys’ oboe contest. — MNA

Maung Pyay Phyo Aung of Ayeyawady Division participates in basic education level (aged 5-10) oboe contest. — MNA

Ma Ei Mon Aung (a) Ma Mya Thanda Khaing of Kayah State competes in basic education level (aged 5-10) girls’ xylophone contest. — MNA

13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue
October to 30 November. — from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm during weekdays from 31 blood donor cards and citizenship scrutinizing card, of Yangon General Hospital, bringing together with 2005 may enlist at the Central National Blood Unit (Blood Bank) will organize the ceremony to held at the Ministers’ Office this morning, attended by Committee Chairman Minister for Education Dr Chan Myint. Also present on the occasion were committee members deputy ministers, departmental heads, guests and officials, Committee Joint Secretary 1 Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu gave a report on the 84th Anniversary National Day observance and Committee Secretary Director-General of Education and Planning Department U Bo Win, the plan for the National Day observance. Afterwards, those present took part in the discussions. Next, Minister Dr Chan Myint gave instructions on successful observance of the National Day to the officials and the meeting ended. — MNA

Blood donors to be honoured for 29th time

YANGON, 28 Oct — Central National Blood Unit (Blood Bank) will organize the ceremony to honour blood donors for 29th time here in December. Those who donated blood for 50 times and over after holding the 28th blood donors honouring ceremony, and the blood donors who won Excellent Performance in Social Field (First, Second and Third Classes) awarded by the Government on 4 January 2005 may enlist at the Central National Blood Unit of Yangon General Hospital, bringing together with blood donor cards and citizenship scrutinizing card, from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm during week days from 31 October to 30 November. — MNA

Meeting of Central Committee for Observance of Anniversary National Day held

YANGON, 28 Oct — The first meeting of Central Committee for Observance of 85th Anniversary National Day was held at the Ministers’ Office this morning, attended by Committee Chairman Minister for Education Dr Chan Myint. Also present on the occasion were committee members deputy ministers, departmental heads, guests and officials. Committee Joint Secretary 1 Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu gave a report on the 84th Anniversary National Day observance and Committee Secretary Director-General of Education and Planning Department U Bo Win, the plan for the National Day observance. Afterwards, those present took part in the discussions. Next, Minister Dr Chan Myint gave instructions on successful observance of the National Day to the officials and the meeting ended. — MNA

Commander, CEC member attend…

(from page 16)

After that, the commander accepted cash donations for installation of generator at the Divison USDA Office — K 1 million by U Tin Maung of Honda Co; K 500,000 by U Soe Thein of Dhana Aung Co; K 500,000 by U Win Myint of Shwe Nagamin Co, President of UMFFCCI; K 300,000 by U Than Tun of Shwe Group Co Ltd; K 200,000 by Aung Mya Than water-craft owner U Myo Win Lay; K 100,000 by Monywa All Bus Lines Control Committee and K 100,000 by U Tin Swe-Daw Cho of Tawswin Machinery Trading. The minister presented prizes to outstanding students and persons, District and Township USDAs. Next, the CEC member accepted cash donations from well-wishers. Wife of the Commander Patron of Sagaing Division Women’s Affairs Organization Chairperson of Sagaing Division Supervisory Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Wai Wai Khin gave away prizes to three outstanding schoolgirls, one Myanmar selected woman footballer and two women gold medalists in Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. Sagaing Division PDC Secretary Lt Col Myo Myint and Sagaing Division USDA Secretary U Htay Aung presented prizes to outstanding persons and organizations. The meeting ended with singing of the song entitled the Land of Myanmar. After the ceremony, the commander and the minister cordially greeted those present, and posed for documentary photos with outstanding USDA members and students in front of the city hall. — MNA

On-job Training Course No 26 for heads of Township Revenue Department concludes

YANGON, 28 Oct — The On-job Training Course No 26 for heads of the Township Revenue Department of the Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue concluded at the meeting hall of the IRD on Pansodan Street here this morning with an address by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun. In his address, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun said that the trainees will be able to discharge duties practically, combining law, rules and regulations and instructions as they had completed the course. The course was conducted for the trainees to become good service personnel equipped with high qualification and the service personnel, on their part, are to organize the people to willingly pay taxes incurred. In conclusion, the minister called upon the trainees to make relentless efforts to meet the goals and objectives of the State. Next, the minister presented prizes to outstanding trainees and certificates to trainees who had completed the course. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint addresses Sagaing Division USDA Annual General Meeting (2005). — MNA

An outstanding student formally unveils the billboard to mark the Annual General Meeting (2005) of Sagaing Division Union Solidarity and Development Association. — MNA

Daw Wai Wai Khin presents gift to an outstanding member.

MNA

MNA

MNA
NPE to rebut fabrications of destructive elements, to make national development widely known to the people

News and Periodicals Enterprise marks founding anniversary

Yangon, 28 Oct.—The News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information commemorated its founding anniversary (2004-2005) in conjunction with prize presentation at the Ministry on Theinbyu Road here this afternoon.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan in his speech said that the purposes of the ceremony were to review the strengths and weaknesses in carrying out the tasks in the previous year and to strive for the achievement of the objectives of the State and the ministry through healthy competition. All the staff of the NPE are to energetically discharge their responsibilities with new vigour to be able to put the two purposes into reality.

He spotlighted the importance of effective implementation of the nine future tasks of the enterprise — to reflect the tasks for successful completion of the National Convention and the State’s seven-point Road Map, to strive for sustainable improvement of daily newspapers both in essence and in appearance, to increase earnings, to establish more sub-printing houses and to publish colour newspapers, to ensure media cover of the entire nation through agriculture and livestock breeding, and to practice thrifty. The enterprise is to rebut all the fabricated news stories of internal and external destructive elements, who have waged media attacks with political purposes for disrupting the interests of the nation, and to make national development widely known to the people, he said.

In conclusion, the minister urged the departments and enterprises under the ministry to cooperate and coordinate in cohesion for greater achievement of the objectives of the ministry.

Next, he presented cash assistance to the departments and enterprises, exercise books to children of the employees, and cash awards to students who passed 2004-2005 matriculation exams with distinctions.

The minister presented prizes to Technician U Kyaw Win of GoldTech Electronic Service and Manager of GTC Printing House U Kyaw Kyaw who repaired Compacta Press that had been out of order since 2002. Deputy Minister U Thein Sein presented prizes to Chief Editor U Ye Myint Ps of Myanma Alin Daily, Chief Editor U Myint Swe of Kyemon Daily, Chief Editor U Maung Aye of The New Light of Myanmar, Assistant Manager (Press) U Maung Maung Aye of The New Light of Myanmar, Assistant Manager (Press) U Maung Maung Thant of Myanma Alin Press, Deputy Chief Editor U Nyunt Zaw of Sub-Printing House (Mandalay), and to service personnel — Lower Divisional Clerk Ma Thida Oo of Sub-Printing House (Taunggyi), Accountant Daw Thidar Oo who won best trainee award in basic clerical course No 14 of CICS (Upper Myanmar), and LDC Ma Zar Phyu Hnin of Myanma Alin Daily.

Gifts were presented to lucky draw winners.

After the ceremony, the minister cordially greeted those present.
Shan State (South) WAO participates in development tasks in Pekhon Township

YANGON, 28 Oct — As part of an effort to implement the development tasks, Shan State (South) Women’s Affairs Organization on 13 October went to Moebye Village-tract in Pekhon Township and participated in regional development tasks.

During their tour of Moebye Village-tract in Pekhon Township, members of Shan State (South) WAO donated exercise books to the basic education primary schools and books and journals to self-reliant libraries in the region. They also visited Moebye Station Hospital where a medical team comprising specialists gave free medical treatment to 266 local people.

With the aim of uplifting the health standard of people, the state WAO organized educational talks on health at NyauangWai Village in the region.

In an effort to disseminate general knowledge on health, they also organized the round-table discussions with local women.

They briefed on do’s and don’ts on common diseases peculiar to women, pregnancy and AIDS, and answered the queries raised by those present.

Moebye Village-tract has a population of 20,397 and 3557 households. There are 33 BEPSs, one BEMS, one hospital, 14 libraries, one station health care centre, one telephone exchange office and one post office.

The village-tract’s acreage of monsoon paddy increased up to 6471 acres and summer paddy to 3098 acres in 2004-2005. In 2004-2005, the number of acreage of groundnut, sesame, pigeon peas was also up. Although there were only 103 acres of maize in 1988-1989 in the village-tract, the number of maize cultivation acres reached 637 in 2005-2006.

In an attempt to maintain the Moebye Dam and to protect the forest around the dam, Pekhon Township Forest Department established 4640-acre Moebye Protected Public Forest.

The department planted 75 acres of teak, 150 water shed forest plantations, 25 acres of firewood plantations in the region in 2005-2006 fiscal year. No forest plantations were established before 1988.

In 2001, 4640-acre public protected forest was established and the area of the forest has extended up to 35425 acres.

At present, a total of 2009 acres of forest plantations has been set up.

Concerning the transportation sector, 4200-foot-long rural gravel road was inaugurated on 13 October in Pekhon Township.

Shan State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee members give refreshments to children of Moebye region, Pekhon Township. — MNA

Shan State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee members give refreshments to children of Moebye region, Pekhon Township. — MNA

Lecture on prevention against AIDS given to MWAF members

YANGON, 28 Oct — Talks on prevention against AIDS contagious disease to members of the Central Committee of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation took place at the federation this morning, attended by President of MWAF Daw Than Nywe, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint, executives and members of MWAF totalling over 200 people.

After giving a lecture on the facts about HIV and AIDS, Assistant Director of Health Department Dr Win Mar gave a talk on the preventive measures against AIDS being carried out in Myanmar.

In the afternoon, Director of Health Department Dr Khin Than Oo and Deputy Director of the Education and Planning Department Daw Kyi Kyi Hla gave a lecture on the role of MWAF in taking preventive measures against AIDS and educative programmes based on schools for prevention against AIDS. — MNA

Outstanding students, staff of Supreme Court honoured

YANGON, 28 Oct — A ceremony to honour outstanding staff and present stipends to their children was held at the meeting hall of Supreme Court, here, this morning.

It was attended by Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Supreme Court Justices, officials and guests.

First, Chief Justice U Aung Toe gave a speech and presented prizes to staff who won the Chief Justice awards and an outstanding student who won distinctions in all subjects of the matriculation exam for 2004-05.

Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Supreme Court Justices U Khin Myint, Dr Tin Aung Aye, U Myint Thein, U Chit Lwin and U Tin Aye gave away prizes to outstanding students who passed the matriculation exam with flying colours.

Supreme Court Justice U Khin Myint and U Myint Thein gave away cash assistance and stationery to 180 children of staff.

Director-General U Soe Nyunt of Supreme Court presented gifts to outstanding staff who grabbed the prizes in training courses at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi). — MNA

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## Table: List of Outstanding Students

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Biology</td>
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<td>Chemistry</td>
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<td>Soe</td>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>88</td>
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Chief Justice U Aung Toe presents award to an outstanding staff. — MNA
MSF says pneumonia could kill Kashmir quake victims

ISLAMABAD, 27 Oct.—Homeless earthquake survivors in Pakistan are at risk of dying from hypothermia and pneumonia unless they find shelter before winter hits the mountainous region next month, a medical relief agency said on Wednesday.

Medics Sans Borders. “Bronchitis will be on the rise in no time,” said Medics Sans Borders. “the colder it gets, the more bronchitis you’ll have,” he said, adding that people would die of pneumonia unless there was adequate shelter and health care available.

UN warns of death traps in Pakistan quake relief

GENEVA, 26 Oct—The United Nations said on Tuesday “death traps” were forming in quake-stricken Pakistan as blocked roads and a lack of funding hindered relief deliveries to survivors.

“The blocked roads, snow and a serious lack of funding could create a death trap for tens of thousands of people who survived,” the United Nations’ leading emergency food-relief agency, the World Food Programme (WFP), said at a briefing, a day ahead of a global meeting to totally rescue efforts.

The WFP said it had received only 13 cents of the $56 million US dollars in requested donations needed to head off starvation among hundreds of thousands stranded since the quake on October 8 in one of the most rugged mountains in the world.

On Wednesday, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan will lead a global ministerial meeting in Geneva attended by 65 countries including the US, Britain, France and Japan to take stock of relief efforts and whip up support for more aid.

UN agencies such as the WFP and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees who requested a combined appeal for $312 million US dollars after the quake, a figure that is expected to rise sharply at Wednesday’s conference.

So far, only 68 million US dollars of that has been received in cash. The quake killed at least 53,000 people and left 75,000 seriously injured plus hundreds of thousands of more homeless.

“If people are to be protected from the onset of winter weather in just a few weeks time, it is absolutely crucial that the funds be provided now,” UNHCR spokeswoman Jennifer Pagonis said.

The WFP said it has used rafts, pack mules, trucks and helicopters to deliver 3,000 tonnes of food aid so far. The bill is scheduled for at least one year for operations to keep records and surveillance cameras protected from the onset of winter weather in just a few weeks time, it is absolutely crucial that the funds be provided now,” UNHCR spokeswoman Jennifer Pagonis said.

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Toyota to become world’s top automaker

Tokyo , 27 Oct — Japan’s largest automaker Toyota Motor Corp, group is expected to boost its automobile production to more than 9.2 million units in 2006, making it almost certain that the group will top the giant US automaker General Motors Corp, to become the world’s biggest automaker in terms of output, the Nikhon Keizai Shim bun reported on Wednesday.

Toyota has decided to raise its 2006 global production volume by 12 per cent from its 2005 projection of 8.3 million units, or an increase of roughly 900,000 units, the business daily said.

Toyota group automakers Daihatsu Motor Co. and Hino Motors Ltd. have yet to finalize their plans for 2006, but they will likely increase their total output from the roughly 900,000 units projected for 2005 amid strong domestic sales, the newspaper said.

In contrast, global production of GM in 2006 is unlikely to top its 2005 projection of 9.12 million units in light of factory closures following a severe sales slump, it said— MNA/Xinhua

Tumour plaguing giant Chinese girl removed

BEIJING, 27 Oct — A tumour that turned a 16-year-old girl into a 2.08-metre-tall giant was removed from her brain on Monday afternoon in Beijing.

Liu Li, who has suffered from gigantism caused by a pituitary tumour for 16 years, was taken out of the surgical room of the second hospital affiliated with Qinghua University at 5 p.m. Monday after a nearly eight hour operation, Tuesday’s Beijing Times reported.

Zhou Mingrui, the doctor in charge of her case, was quoted as saying that the condition of Liu is satisfactory by and large, though the blood platelets in her body are relatively few.

In addition, she has lost sight in her right eye and has diabetes mellitus, according to the doctor.

Liu went to Beijing from her hometown in central China’s Hunan Province on September 22 for treatment.

Singapore develops world’s smallest transformer

SINGAPORE, 27 Oct—Researchers from Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University (NTU) have developed the world’s smallest transformer, a gadget which is traditionally a separate component outside the integrated circuit (IC) chip, Channel NewsAsia reported on Wednesday night.

The feature-packed transformer, only about five times the average thickness of a human hair, is integrated into the IC chip, allowing manufacturers to save both space and production costs, and paving the way for smaller and cheaper electronic products.

Following this breakthrough, the team hopes to conduct further research in the field of integrated circuit design and work towards incorporating an entire system of electrical and electronic components into a chip. — MNA/Xinhua

Mexico baby turtles thriving as poachers kept out

MEXICO CITY, 27 Oct — About 13 million endangered Olive Ridley turtles have hatched on Mexico’s Pacific beaches and scuttled safely into the sea so far this year, protected from poachers by armed guards deployed by the government, environmentalists said on Tuesday.

While only 13,000 of those will live to adulthood and breed, biologists say the numbers are on par with 2004 and show they are winning the battle in Mexico, where men gulp down raw turtle eggs with salt and lime juice as a supposed aphrodisiac. “It’s a good figure. We can’t consider them out of danger yet, but they are recovering,” said Cuauhtemoc Penaflores at the Mexican Turtle Centre in the Pacific coast Oaxaca state. “We’re only halfway through the season so there will be a lot more turtles hatching. But the important thing is the action of human predators on the beaches has diminished,” he said.

Indian doctor awarded Scientific Prize of International Union

LONDON, 27 Oct — Leading Non Resident Indian physician Ajit Lalvani has won the Scientific Prize of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease for his research into the functioning of vaccines against the ailment.

Commending the outstanding research work done by Dr Lalvani, Dr Mario Raviglione, Director-General of World Health Organization, Geneva, said his latest discovery has helped in understanding for the first time how the 60 year old BCG vaccine functions.

“Our findings show that children can be protected against TB infection by vaccination,” said Lalvani, son of Kartar Lalvani, who founded Vitamin Labs Ltd.

“Until now, managing TB has always been a two-pronged approach, preventing disease progression from latent to active TB and treating patients with active TB.

Now we know we can protect against infection, so it’s a three-pronged approach,” he said.

Lalvani is Wellcome Senior Clinical Research Fellow and Honorary Consultant Physician in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine at the University of Oxford. — MNA/Reuters

Tourists ride elephants as they pass the famous Bayon temple in Siem Reap, part of Cambodia’s Angkor temple complex, 300km (186 miles) north-west of Phnom Penh on 28 October, 2005. Cambodia tourism officials said on Thursday that tourist visits have increased since September and they expected four million tourists to visit the country by 2010. — INTERNET
Sociedad dash Getafe’s hopes with 3-0 victory

MADRID, 28 Oct — Getafe’s hopes of regaining the leadership of the Primera Liga were dashed on Thursday when they slumped to a 3-0 defeat at Real Sociedad.

Bernd Schuster’s side conceded all three goals in a poor first half display and although they improved in the second they were unable to prove that the Basque side’s comfortable lead.

Sociedad midfielder Mikel Aranburu opened the scoring with just four minutes on the clock when he completed a neat move by drilling in from 20 metres out.

Turkish forward Nihat Kahveci doubled their lead when he turned in from close range after keeper Luis Garcia was caught stranded off his line.

Xabi Prieto added a third from the penalty spot after the referee had spotted some shirt-tugging on striker Darío Kovačevic.

There was better news for Getafe’s city rivals Atlético Madrid who recorded their biggest win of the season, 3-0 at home to Cádiz.

Osasuna, who snatched a last-gasp 2-3 win at home to Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday, lead the standings on 18 points from nine games, one clear of Getafe who remain in second spot despite their defeat.

Barcelona are third after Wednesday’s 2-0 win over Malaga, level on 16 points with Celta Vigo and Real Sociedad.

Nigeria postpones Cup final to mourn crash dead

LAGOS, 28 Oct — Nigeria has postponed indefinitely this weekend’s Cup final in honour of the 117 people killed in Saturday’s plane crash and the wife of President Olusegun Obasanjo who died after a surgery, the Nigeria Football Association (NFA) said on Wednesday.

“The FA Cup final of October 29 between Enyimba FC and Lobi FC has been postponed indefinitely in honour of the tragic deaths Nigerians were involved in last weekend,” the NFA said, adding that a new date would soon be announced.

The Nigerian Football League also said it had put back by one week this weekend’s league matches.

It said players and officials were expected to wear black armbands during their league matches for the rest of the season.

All 117 passengers and crew perished when a domestic airliner travelling to the capital Abuja crashed three minutes after taking off from Lagos.

Stella Obasanjo, 59, died after taking off from Lagos.

The Nigerian Government declared three days of national mourning on Tuesday. — MNA/Reuters

Japan holds flag-raising ceremony for East Asian Games

MACAO, 28 Oct — The East Asian Games is a stepping stone for a young Japanese team, Japan’s delegation chief said here on Thursday.

Chef de mission Fukuuda Tomiaki described the Macao games as a world-standard competition and said it would provide the athletes with valuable experience on the road to the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, in 2006 and to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The 479-member delegation includes 335 athletes who are to compete in all 17 sports.

“We think the East Asian Games are very important and regard them as one of four major events of a year,” the event’s chief organizer Manuel Silverio, who said the host city was looking forward to reciprocating the games’ chief organizer Manuel Silverio, who said the event because of its favorable security situation.

The event would also have the potential to attract more foreign investment to the regency, he said.

James Robinson of New Zealand is currently atop the standings in the series.

“Based on the event’s potential, the overseas investors can expect their investment to receive an incentive,” Robinson said. — MNA/Xinhua

Real slump at Depor, Osasuna seize top spot

MADRID, 28 Oct — An out-of sorts Real Madrid missed their chance to claim the leadership of the Primera Liga when they slumped to a comprehensive 3-1 defeat at Deportivo Coruna on Wednesday.

The Galicians preserved their 14-year unbeaten home record against Real in the league thanks to a superb start from Canadian midfielder Julian de Guzman and a fine double from central defender Juanma.

With Real suffering their second league defeat in a row, Osasuna seized control at the top of the standings after snatching a last-gasp 2-1 win at home to Athletic Bilbao.

Cameroon striker Pierre Webo stabbed home the Osasuna winner in the 92nd minute after keeper Daniel Aranzubia had palmed a Valdo shot onto his path.

Barcelona moved to within two points of the leaders after a Ronaldinho penalty and a classy finish from substitute Henrik Larsson earned them a 2-0 win at home to Malaga.

Osasuna lead the standings on 18 points from nine games, one clear of Getafe, who travel to Real Sociedad on Thursday, and two ahead of Barcelona and Celta Vigo, who went down 1-0 to struggling Real Mallorca.

Real are three points off the pace in fifth place, level on 15 with Villarreal, who notched up a controversial 3-2 victory away to Real Betis.

Deportivo made a whirlwind start at the Riazor against a weakened Real Madrid missing Ronaldo, Julio Baptista and Zinedine Zidane as they laid siege to their opponents’ area in the opening quarter of an hour.

The chances came thick and fast from Depor, while Real managed to threaten the opposition goal just once in the half when a weak shot from Robinho looped into Jose Molina’s hands. Depor eventually got the lead they deserved when De Guzman squeezed a superb shot past Iker Casillas and inside the far post after a neat pass from Diego Tristain in the 34th minute.

Juanma made it 2-0 before the break when he got in front of Ivan Helguera to head in a great cross from former Real Madrid midfielder Pedro Munitis.

The Deportivo centre back took full advantage of some appalling defending from the Real back four to make it 3-0 with another fine header six minutes later.

Raul pulled one back for Real with a spectacular long-distance strike two minutes later but it was scant consolation for the visitors who turned in one of their worst performances of the season.

Barca had Malaga on the rack for much of the first half at the Nou Camp but were kept at bay by an inspired performance by their former keeper Francesc Arnau.

Mexico beat World Cup hopefuls Uruguay 3-1 in friendly

MEXICO CITY, 28 Oct — Uruguay lost 3-1 to Mexico on Wednesday in a warm-up for next month’s World Cup playoffs against Australia.

The Uruguayans, who meet Australia over two legs on November 12 and 16 for a berth at next year’s finals in Germany, were without their European-based players and included seven based in Mexico including veteran striker Sebastián “Loco” Abreu.

Abreu, a member of Uruguay’s 2002 World Cup squad, equalized in the 18th minute seconds after Carlos Salcido had put the home team ahead and their players were still celebrating, sparking a war of words between rival coaches Ricardo La Volpe, Mexico’s Argentine trainer, and Jorge Fossati.

Two second-half goals in four minutes from Diego Martinez, a 47th-minute penalty, and Luísito Perez with a free kick, settled the match in favour of Mexico, who secured their World Cup berth from the CONCACAF zone in September. — MNA/Reuters

Indonesia’s Manado to host Asian Motocross

JAKARTA, 28 Oct — The final leg of the Asian Motocross Championships would be held in Manado, the capital of North Sulawesi Province from 11-12 November, local media said here Thursday.

Ronny Eman, chairman of the North Sulawesi provincial chapter of the Indonesian Motor Association (IMI), said the area was an appropriate site to host the event because of its favorable security situation.

The event would also have the potential to attract more foreign investment to the regency, he said.

Real Madrid midfielder Pedro Munitis. The Deportivo centre back took full advantage of some appalling defending from the Real back four to make it 3-0 with another fine header six minutes later.
Sylvia, fell asleep in Jesus on 27th October 2005, at 1:15 am. The funeral cortege will leave the YGH mortuary at 2:00 pm on 29th October, 2005 and thence to Yayway Christian Cemetery for entombment after funeral service.

(Buses will leave St Jude’s Church, Kyauk-kone and C 2-B, Hlaing Yadana, Thazin Road at 2:00 pm to Yayway Christian Cemetery.)

**Charles Jarvis (a) U Myo Aung**

**BAC (Rtd)**

**Age (76) years**

(Toungoo)

Son of late (Mr JF-Jarvis)-(Daw Than), father of (Henery), Jimmy-Ma Tin Tin Nwe, Frankie-Ma Cherry Tin, Annie (a) Ma Huy Hray Kywe, Tommy-Ma Sandar Cho, Albert-Ma Phyu Phyu Than and George Ko Zaw-Ma Ohmma Aung, grand-father of eleven grandchildren, beloved wife of Sylvia, fell asleep in Jesus on 27th October 2005, at 1:15 am. The funeral cortege will leave the YGH mortuary at 2:00 pm on 29th October, 2005 and thence to Yayway Christian Cemetery for entombment after funeral service.

(Buses will leave St Jude’s Church, Kyauk-kone and C 2-B, Hlaing Yadana, Thazin Road at 2:00 pm to Yayway Christian Cemetery.)

**Brothers and Sisters**

- Than and George Ko Zaw-Ma Ohnma Aung
- Tommy-Ma Sandar Cho
- Albert-Ma Phyu Phyu Than
- Sylvia
- Jimmy-Ma Tin Tin Nwe
- Frankie-Ma

**WEATHER**

Friday, 28 October, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfalls in Magway Division and Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlamyine (4.25) inches, Gwa (3.36) inches, Sittway (3.19) inches, Kalay (2.44) inches, Chaik (2.01) inches, Thipaw (1.69) inches, Coco Island (1.57) inches and Pyinnmana (1.10) inches.

Maximunm temperature on 27-10-2005 was 84°F. Minimum temprature on 28-10-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 28-10-2005 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 27-10-2005 was (1.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 28-10-2005 were (0.99) inch at Mingaladon, (1.18) inches at Kaba-Aye and (1.26) inches at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (100.12) inches at Mingaladon, (100.00) inches at Kaba-Aye and (104.80) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southwest at (11:30) hours MST on 27-10-2005.

**Bay inference:** According to the satellite meteorological observations at (09:30) hours MST today, the tropical depression has crossed Andrapadech coast, about (230) miles Northeast of Chennai, India. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 29-10-2005:** Rain or thunder-showers will be isolated in Southern and Eastern Shan, Kayah States and Ayeyawady Division, scattered in Magway, Yangon and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuing of rain or thunder-showers are likely in the Northern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-10-2005:** Isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-10-2005:** Isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

**Weather outlook for first weekend of November 2005:** During the coming weekend, rain or thunder-showers will be isolated in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.
Prime Minister sends message of felicitations to Turkey

YANGON, 29 Oct—General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October, 2005. —MNA

Though the traffic and car accidents decrease under the supervision of the committee, the continuous efforts are more needed to follow strictly the traffic rules.

Matters for better transport coordinated

In his address, Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that the supervisory committee is striving for providing smooth and secure transport. Though the traffic and car accidents decrease under the supervision of the committee, the continuous efforts are more needed to follow strictly the traffic rules.

Next, those present reported on management affairs for smooth transport, taking action against traffic rules violators and completion of converting into natural gas vehicles.

After hearing the reports, the commander attended to the needs and the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the commander. —MNA

Commander, CEC member attend Sagaing Division USDA AGM (2005)

Billboard bearing Sagaing Division USDA Annual General Meeting (2005) unveiled in Monywa

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, CEC member Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and party attended the ceremony to unveil the billboard bearing Sagaing Division USDA Annual General Meeting (2005) near the city hall in Monywa on 24 October morning. Three outstanding students who passed the matriculation exam with five distinctions cut the ribbon to open the billboard and the student who stood tenth in the science combination of the matriculation exam in the entire nation unveiled the billboard.

At 8 am, the commander and the minister attended the first session of the second day of Sagaing Division USDA Annual General Meeting (2005) at the city hall in Monywa.

The meeting was opened with singing of the song titled Eternal Union by Students of Monywa Basic Education Middle School No 4 and Education College Practising School.

Next, Member of the Panel of Patrons Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and CEC member Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave speeches.

The commander presented gifts to five outstanding students who passed the matriculation exam with flying colours, one student who won the first prize in the essay contest to mark the 2005 International Literacy Day and UN Literacy Decade, Katha District USDA and Wuntho Township USDA that are outstanding in organizational work.

Moreover, the commander gave facsimile machines to Katha, Sagaing, Tamu and Mawlaik District USDAs.

(See page 9)

“Storm News”

YANGON, 28 Oct—According to the satellite meteorological observations at (09:30) hours M.S.T today, the tropical depression over Southwest Bay and adjoining West Central Bay has crossed Andrapradesh coast, about (230) miles Northeast of Chennai, India.

Most Americans have given up on the Iraq war. In the latest Associated Press-Ipsos poll, 61 percent said they disapprove of Bush’s handling of Iraq.