Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of Algeria

YANGON, 1 Nov — On the occasion of the National Day of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 2005, 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 Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria.—MNA

State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China

YANGON, 31 Oct — Mr Guan Mu, newly accredited Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinttha at 10:30 am today. Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department. — 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

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

**Member of Secretariat meets executives of district and township USDA**

**Yangon, 31 Oct** — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung met heads of departments and factory managers in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions in Kanaung Hall in Mandalay yesterday.

In his speech the minister said factory managers are to strive for exceeding the targets set and only five months are left to end the 2005-2006 financial year. He spoke of the need to fulfill the requirements of the factories.

He also gave instructions on stockpiling of raw materials and spare parts and arrangements for enhancing work efficiency of the service personnel.

The minister inspected fabrics produced by Paleik Textile Factory. At 9 am, Patron of Mandalay Division Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and wife, USDA member of the Secretariat U Aung Thaung and members of seven district and Mandalay Township USDA attended the 11th communal Kathina ceremony at Taungsalin Monastery in Maha Aungmye Township.

The Five Precepts were taken from President Nayaka Agga Maha Pandita Dharmakahtika Bahuja-nahithadhara member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Bhaddanta Tikkh. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and wife, USDA member of the Secretariat U Aung Thaung and members of seven district and Mandalay Township USDA attended the 11th communal Kathina ceremony at Taungsalin Monastery in Maha Aungmye Township.

**Foreign Minister sends a message of felicitations to Algeria**

**Yangon, 1 Nov** — On the occasion of the National Day of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mohamed Bedjaoui, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria.

**Industry-2 Minister inspects Indakaw Industrial Zone**

**Yangon, 31 Oct** — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin yesterday went to Indakaw Industrial Zone in Bago Division and inspected production processes of the factories.

During his tour of inspection, the minister inspected parts of machines produced by the iron foundry of Myanmar Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries and motors produced by the motor factor which is on trial.

At the wire factory under the Myanmar Machine Tool and Electrical Industries, the minister called for cooperation with other departments, thrifty use of electricity and maintenance of machinery.

**Shan State (East) USDA holds annual meeting**

**Yangon, 31 Oct** — The Annual General Meeting-2005 of Shan State (East) Union Solidarity and Development Association was held on 28 October at the hall of Kengtung Township Development Affairs Department.

Patron of Shan State (East) USDA Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address and presented prizes to outstanding students who passed matriculation examination for 2004-2005 academic year with distinctions.

At the meeting, annual reports of the association were submitted by the officials concerned and the meeting passed the resolutions.

**Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells**

**Yangon, 31 Oct** — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient clean water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce. One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well with spare parts costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well with spare parts costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well with spare parts costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-291967), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-392619), the Deputy Director-General (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Director (Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-22760), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657).

**Boost production of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors**

Myanmar has favourable aquatic, terrestrial and climatic conditions and is trying to make the best use of natural resources.

Ayeayawady Division is one of the regions the State can rely on as it is the top producer of paddy, the staple food of the nation. Respective government departments have provided all the necessary assistance to farmers and so production of the agriculture sector has been increasing.

A ceremony to present prizes for the outstanding performance in crops production for the year 2004-2005 was held at the town hall in Pathon on 26 October and Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended the ceremony and gave away the prizes for the best performance of economic development. Prizes for high performance in cultivation of paddy, for high performance in cultivation of crops, for best model plots, for high per-acre yield and for best agricultural methods were also given to individuals, towns and districts.

The government is providing all the necessary assistance for boosting the production of the agricultural sector and farmers are trying to extend the cultivation of crops including paddy. For the year 2004-2005, Ayeayawdy Division cultivated more than 4.55 million acres of monsoon and summer paddy, 1.5 million acres of beans and pulses, 300,000 acres of edible oil crops and 100,000 acres of corn.

Regarding the livestock sector, fish and prawns are being farmed on more than 160,000 acres in Ayeayawdy Division. At the same time, fingerlings have been released into rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds and paddy fields. The agriculture sector constitutes more than 50 per cent of the gross domestic product of the division and the livestock breeding sector more than 12 per cent.

In this cultivation season, Ayeayawdy Division has cultivated 3.6 million acres of paddy and preparations are underway to grow 1.7 million acres of summer paddy.

We would like to call on the entire peasantry to make the best use of the assistance rendered by the government and try to boost the production of the agriculture and the livestock breeding sectors.
**US admits it has counted 26,000 Iraqis dead**

NEW YORK, 31 Oct — The Pentagon has admitted for the first time that it is keeping track of civilian casualties in Iraq. The figures, slipped into a bar graph in a lengthy report to the US congress this month, show that the daily number of Iraqi casualties has more than doubled in the past 18 months.

The report says that nearly 26,000 Iraqis have been killed or wounded in attacks by guerrillas, with an estimated 26 casualties a day between January and March of last year, rising to 64 a day in the run up to the referendum on the new constitution.

This contradicts the Pentagon’s assertion that the security situation in Iraq is improving — and that appearances to the contrary reflect the media’s focus on bombings.

**“Beta” targets Nicaragua Jungle coast**

PUERTO CABEZAS (Nicaragua), 30 Oct Hurricane Beta barrelled toward Nicaragua’s jungle coast on Saturday and hundreds of Miskito Indians and local residents huddled in shelters from the storm’s lashing rains and wicked winds.

An unknown number of fishermen and their families on the sparsely populated coast refused to leave their flimsy wooden shacks, oblivious to the danger from Beta, which whipped up winds of 90 mph as it headed for Central America.

With the storm on course for a direct hit on this normally sleepy fishing town, officials scrambled to find more solid buildings to convert into shelters but feared there was not enough safe space for its 50,000 inhabitants, plus evacuees.

“We are prepared with food, we are prepared with medicines, with rescue soldiers, but we do not have the space to shelter thousands of people” in Puerto Cabezas, Defence Minister Avil Ramirez told local television.

Beta, the 34th named hurricane of an unrelenting Atlantic-Caribbean season, the most active since record-keeping began more than 150 years ago, kept packing a punch and forecasters predicted landfall in Nicaragua overnight.

**Pakistan, India agree to open LoC for earthquake relief**

ISLAMABAD, 30 Oct — Pakistan and India have agreed to open two-way movement across the Line of Control at five points in quake-ravaged Kashmir where thousands of survivors desperately await help, according to a joint statement on Sunday.

Both the countries agreed to open LoC from November 7 at five points: Nauseri-Tithwal, Chakot-Uri, Hajipur-Uri, Rawalakot-Poonch and Tattapani-Mendhar.

Due to destruction of infrastructure and road links, the quake-affected people have been allowed to cross the LoC from these points on foot.

According to the joint statement, a deputy commissioner’s permission would be necessary for crossing the LoC, like it was compulsory for Kashmir bus service.

The second round of the talks, which started on Saturday night and lasted till early Sunday morning, proved positive and it was agreed to open LoC at five points.

— MNA/Xinhua

**Three including parliamentary candidate killed in S Afghanistan**

KARUL, 30 Oct — Suspected Taleban militia have gunned down three persons including a parliamentary candidate in south Afghanistan, officials confirmed Saturday. “A group of Taleban militants killed engineer Ghani, a candidate for the provincial council on Gresk-Nawzad road in Helmand Province on Friday night and two others on the spot,” deputy governor Hajji Mohdin told Xinhua.

Two more victims are the deceased’s son and brother. He also added that the slain Ghani failed to bag enough votes to secure a seat in the provincial council.

— MNA/Reuters

**Two US Marines killed in west of Baghdad**

BAGHDAD, 30 Oct— Two US Marines were killed in an indirect fire attack in the flash-point town of Saqlawiyah west of Baghdad, the US military said on Saturday.

“Two Marines assigned to Regimental Combat Team 8, the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in an indirect fire attack in Saqlawiyah on 27 October,” the military said in a statement.

One of them died at the scene and the other died of his wounds later at a nearby medical centre, the statement said.

The US military usually use the expression “indirect fire attack” to refer to mortar attack.

The names of the soldiers are being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement added.

Some 2,009 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

— MNA/Xinhua

**US admits it has counted 26,000 Iraqis dead**

**“Beta” targets Nicaragua Jungle coast**

**Three including parliamentary candidate killed in S Afghanistan**

**Two US Marines killed in west of Baghdad**
Canada strongly regrets US delay in action on ruling by NAFTA
OTTAWA, 30 Oct — Canada strongly regrets the US delay in action on a ruling by the North American Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to cut duties on Canadian softwood lumber exports, International Trade Minister Jim Peterson said on Friday.

“We strongly regret the delay but we are confident NAFTA’s panel will act fairly and respond as soon as possible,” Peterson said in a statement.

Washington said earlier today that its court ruling that essentially orders it to eliminate a 16-per cent countervail duty on Canadian softwood exports is the fifth time the United States has been ordered to cut the duties. Canada will continue pressing the case through litigation, retaliation and advocacy and it will also continue to seek opportunities in markets elsewhere, said Peterson.

Some government officials responded angrily to the US decision, saying it sends a negative signal as the prospects of the trade dispute while putting

US soldier killed, four wounded in bomb attack in northern Iraq
BAGHDAD, 30 Oct — A roadside bomb struck a US military patrol in northern Iraq on Saturday, killing a US soldier and wounding four others, the military said in a statement.

The early morning attack took place in southwest of the town of Buji, some 200 kilometres north of Baghdad, the statement said.

Some 2,010 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion began in March 2003.

Funds fade, deaths rise and Iraq rebuilding is spotty
WASHINGTON, 30 Oct — As the money runs out on the $30 billion American-financed reconstruction of Iraq, the officials in charge cannot say how many planned projects they will complete, and there is no clear source for hundreds of millions of dollars a year needed to operate the projects that have been finished, according to a report to Congress released yesterday.

The report, by the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, describes some progress but also an array of projects that have gone awry, sometimes astonishingly, like electrical substations that were built at great cost but never connected to the country’s electrical grid.

With more than 93 percent of the American money now committed to specific projects, it could become increasingly difficult to solve these problems. Issues like those “should have been considered before,” said Jim Mitchell, a spokesman for the inspector general’s office. “It’s very critical right now, with so little of the US money left to be committed, that they go on to make these determinations very quickly.”

New statistics compiled in the report also reveal a jump in deaths and injuries of contract workers in Iraq. Many of whom worked on reconstruction projects. At least 412 contractors and other civilian workers have died since the American-led invasion, 147 of them Americans. In June those numbers, based on insurance claims, were 330 and 113, respectively.

Gunmen kill Iraqi Vice-President’s brother
BAGHDAD, 31 Oct — Gunmen killed the brother of Iraq’s Shi’ite vice-president on Sunday and a top trade ministry official escaped assassination in another part of the capital, while the death toll in a major truck bombing the day before rose to 30. A US Marine was fatally injured in another bombing.

Nine people died yesterday (Thursday’s) accident. It’s a head-on collision” along the Emgu-Naskka expressway, police spokesman Shedu Adamu told Xinhua from Enugu. He could not give details.

Traffic accident kills nine in southern Nigeria
LAGOS, 30 Oct — At least nine people were killed and several others seriously injured in an auto accident in the southern Nigerian state of Enugu, police said on Friday.

“Nine people died at yesterday (Thursday’s) accident. It’s a head-on collision” along the Emgu-Naskka expressway, police spokesman Shedu Adamu told Xinhua from Enugu. He could not give details.

The passengers who lived the accident scene, however, put the death toll at 20. It said the accident involved a luxury bus and a truck carrying heavy logs of wood.

The accident occurred around 6:30 am (0530 GMT) when the luxury bus driver attempted to overtake a lorry at a bend but ran into the on-coming truck loaded with timber, the report quoted a survivor identified as Mrs Nnamdi as saying.

“The passengers had continued warning driver over his reckless driving until the incident happened,” she added. — MNA/Xinhua

Syrian border officials stand guard near a poster of the late Syrian President Hafez al-Assad at the Syrian-Iraqi border at Abu Kamal about 600 km (373 miles) northwest of Damascus on 28 Oct, 2005. —INTERNET
Canada expresses disappointment over EU new offer in Doha talks

OTTAWA, 30 Oct — Canada on Friday expressed disappointment over the new proposals submitted by the European Union (EU) in the Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, saying it does not provide for meaningful improvements in market access and subsidy issues.

"Canada is very disappointed in the EU proposal and feels that significantly more is needed to move the negotiations forward," said a statement jointly issued by Canada’s International Trade Minister Jim Peterson and Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Andy Mitchell.

"The proposal ‘does not go near far enough’ with regard to providing market access and reducing trade-distorting subsidies, the statement said.

"We are looking for key members, such as the US and the EU, to make big reductions to their high levels of support and protection, so that Canadian producers and processors can compete fairly and equitably in global markets."

Canada and other key WTO members were looking for the EU to propose a "much more ambitious" tariff reduction formula, as well as "appropriate treatment for sensitive products", it said, adding the EU proposal "does not provide for meaningful access improvements or the flexibility" called for in the July 2004 framework agreement.

— MNA/Xinhua

China, France pledge to boost local govt cooperation

WUHAN, 29 Oct — China and France signed a declaration of local government cooperation here Friday, vowing to enhance economic links through local government exchanges.

During the Sino-French Seminar on local government cooperation just concluded Friday in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, more than 500 representatives from the two countries exchanged views on topics of urban environmental protection and cooperative mechanism of local governments, and put their discussion results into the declaration.

The declaration proposed to offer hold seminars on local government cooperation in France and China to exchange information and suggestions.

Besides, a coordinating committee will be established to communicate with central governments and exchange information of both countries to promote the cooperation of local governments.

Chen Haosu, president of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and French Senator M Jacques Valade signed the declaration.

The second Sino-French Seminar on local government cooperation was held on the initiative of the French Consulate in Wuhan and its French sister city of Bordeaux, is expected to help French investors better understand the city and promote economic and trade cooperation.

— MNA/Xinhua

ETA members sentenced to 1,042 years in prison

MADRID, 30 Oct — Two members of the armed Basque separatist group ETA were each sentenced to 1,042 years in prison by Spain’s top criminal court Friday for a bomb attack that wounded 97 people in 2001.

Ana Belen Egaus and Aitor Garcia Alaga were found guilty of the Madrid car bombing aimed at murdering a state under-secretary of the Interior Ministry, who was wounded with 96 others in the attack.

Police caught the couple after they were alerted by a passing motorist. ETA, or Basque Homeland and Freedom, has been fighting for an independent Basque state in northern Spain and southwestern France since its founding in 1959.

It has been listed as a terrorist organization by the European Union and the United States, which accused it of resorting to assassination, kidnapping and bombing to press for an independent state in the area.

— MNA/Xinhua

Manila terror bombers sentenced to death

MANILA, 30 Oct — Three culprits of the Valentine’s Day bombing in Manila were sentenced to death by the Makati Regional Trial Court here on Friday.

Judge Marical Marissa Gullen handed the death sentence for Indonesian national Rohmat as well as Filipinos Gamal Baharan and Abu Khalil Trinidad, after finding them guilty of multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder charges.

The convicts were also ordered to pay one million pesos (18,000 US dollars) for exemplary damages.

The three are set to be taken to the death row of the National Bilibid Prison to await their execution.

Rohmat, a confessed member of the Indonesian terrorist group Jema’ah Islamiyah, had earlier pleaded not guilty, while two other suspects, both members of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group, have admitted to multiple murder charges, according to local reports.

The bombing took place on the evening of February 14, 2005 near Ayala Centre in Makati, a downtown business area of Metro Manila.

The three culprits were later tagged as responsible for the bombing that killed four people and wounded at least 100 others.

— MNA/Xinhua

Bus accident kills 13 in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 30 Oct — At least 13 people died and 15 more were wounded Friday in a head-on collision between a truck and a bus in central Brazil, the transport company Itapemirim said.

The accident occurred in Catalao in the central Brazilian state of Goias.

Ironically, the bus had been chartered by the Federal Highway Police to ferry passengers from another vehicle which had said was too dangerous. Officials had stopped an unsafe bus as it was carrying 45 passengers in the southern port of Sao Paulo, because it lacked a permit to drive and also lacked the legally required security measures.

Both drivers died along with 11 of their passengers.

— MNA/Xinhua

Canada to exchange information of central governments and China to exchange information of central China’s economic development. "Political and cultural cooperation between France and China has been on the rise in recent years, and we sincerely hope to promote economic cooperation," he added.

"Only about 100 French companies came to China last year, but this number has climbed to over 200 this year," said Dan Anyi, general director of French Association of Industry and Commerce in China.

Until now, about 400 French are living or working in Wuhan, accounting for a quarter of the French population in China. Over 30 French companies are operating business in the city, the largest number among other Chinese cities, according to official statistics. This two-day seminar, held on the initiative of the French Consulate in Wuhan and its French sister city of Bordeaux, is expected to help French investors better understand the city and promote economic and trade cooperation.

— MNA/Xinhua

A Chinese couple, holding panda cubs, pose for a photo in the Wolong giant panda research centre in southwest China’s Sichuan Province on Thursday, 27 October, 2005.

INTERNET

National Security Guard personnel, in black, using a sniffer dog investigate the site of a blast in Sarojini Nagar area of New Delhi, India, on Sunday, 30 Oct, 2005. Investigators detained more than 150 people during raids on dozens of small hotels across the Indian capital on Sunday as they hunted for suspects in three terrorist bombings that killed at least 61 people in two crowded markets, a report said on Sunday. At right, in white, is a civilian.

— INTERNET

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— MNA/Xinhua

A Chinese couple, holding panda cubs, pose for a photo in the Wolong giant panda research centre in southwest China’s Sichuan Province on Thursday, 27 October, 2005.

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— INTERNET

A Chinese couple, holding panda cubs, pose for a photo in the Wolong giant panda research centre in southwest China’s Sichuan Province on Thursday, 27 October, 2005.

INTERNET
These days, Western broadcasting stations are variously airing the exaggerated report of Vaclav Havel and Desmond Tutu calling on the UN Security Council to take action against Myanmar. They are broadcasting various interviews designed to tarnish the image of Myanmar. So, all who love the motherland and the people, should not support such an unjust act.

Indeed, the report was created under the influence of some big nations that are imposing economic sanctions, cutting off humanitarian aid and interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar.

Myanmar abolished the centralized socialist system in 1988, and since then it has been practising the market-oriented economic system to introduce multi-party democracy system. In doing so, the nation has paved the way on its own for introducing democracy in line with its way of life instead of directly copying the Western democracy. It is because it has taken lessons from some Eastern European countries that collapsed following death and destruction due to their carbon copy of Western democracy. Nowadays, the People’s Republic of China is enjoying miracle economy thanks to the practice of market economic system in its own style.

Industrialized countries that are in support of the market-oriented economic system are imposing restrictions against China instead of encouraging it. Although Western countries are claiming that they are capitalist democratic ones, they are in fact practising feudal system. So, they have lost fine characteristics of capitalism. Gradually, they have come to practise negative characteristics of feudalism such as monopolization, hegemonism, protectionism, invasion of weaker countries with the use of superior force, and keeping minions. The simultaneous practice of feudalism and capitalism is harming the interests of developing countries and the peoples and capitalists of those countries, where bankruptcy of companies, decreasing productivity, high inflation, and high unemployment are common.

Today, the annual economic growth rate of the People’s Republic of China is 8.5 per cent, and India, 6.5 per cent, which are much better than that of Western countries. The present economic strategy of China is different from that of Japan; it is more globalized or more capitalistic. Japan prefers exporting goods and making investments in foreign countries but keeps its domestic market closed. On the other hand, China keeps its large domestic market open encouraging import and export. In this regard, the US consistency in the context of the set value is questionable.

A Chinese offshore oil corporation (CNOOC) proposed to purchase the US oil company (UNOCAL). The US Congress strongly protested against the proposal. Theoretically, merging or division of companies should conform to the market economy. Such an interference of a government is opposed to the market-oriented economic system. The US constantly demanded China and Russia to open foreign investments in the energy sector. However, the interference of the Congress is not in conformity with its demand of China and Russia. It is too protective towards its interest. Experts made comments that the US Congress’ objection to disrupt China’s economy is contrary to its norm. There are two causes of why China’s economic policy has come to take the form of capitalism and the US economic policy has come to take the form of centralized socialism.

1. In industrialized countries such as the US, feudal system dominates other systems due to the State Constitution consisting of feudalism and capitalism.

2. In China, feudalism is no more and there have emerged characteristics of capitalism due to the fact that land belongs to human society.

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on a visit to Singapore made a harsh criticism in connection with the defence budget of China. In that regard, many newspapers including Singapore’s Straits Times stated comparison of defence budgets of China and the US. The US defence budget is close to 500 billion US dollars, accounting for about half of the defence budget of the entire world, while China’s defence budget stands between 50 billion and 90 billion US dollars. So, the US Defence Secretary came under criticism.

It vividly reflects that the US is anxious to dominate the entire world economically, politically and militarily.

Nowadays, the US is imposing economic sanctions against Myanmar, that never accepts US domination, despite her unremitting efforts to transform the nation into a democratic one through the market economic system. Besides that, it has cut off humanitarian aid, put pressure on the nation, and attempted to take action against her through the UN Security Council with the use of exaggerated allegations. The US always attempts to manipulate international affairs. For instance, it managed to manipulate choosing winners of Nobel Peace Prize awarded by Norway, academic and literary prizes by Sweden out of prizes awarded the programme of Alfred Nobel.

It is learnt that CIA successfully created situations under which the US citizens won the majority of the awards on science, medical science and economics, USSR and other socialist countries could not win these awards, and those who carried out activities in compliance with the CIA of the US especially those who were opposed to their governments against which the US had a bias, could win Nobel Literary Prize and Nobel Peace Prize.

Now, Vaclav Havel and Desmond Tutu have exaggerated Myanmar affairs with a call on the UN Security Council to act against Myanmar. Indeed, the act of the two men is dominated by the US or to the liking of the US.
Education sector witnesses sustained progress

Completion of education at basic education level

Development of student youths has been made in the environment of education in Myanmar. There is no differentiation between boys and girls in school and they are being trained to improve their education with noble outlook.

In order to implement the tasks of education for all in the Union of Myanmar, preliminary measures were undertaken from 1990 to 1995. In 1996, Central Coordination Committee for Education for All and Leading Committee for Education for All were formed to supervise the tasks of education for all.

Moreover, the national level work committee and the work committee for education for all were formed in 2002 and the objectives of education for all in Myanmar are being undertaken in connection with long-term project of basic education sector.

In doing so, completion of education at basic education level becomes higher and higher each year due to the assistance of the government and educational organizations, coordination of committees and basic education schools and concerted efforts of local and social organizations and the people. With the aim of ensuring learning of school-going-age children effective plans were laid down to achieve the targets of the completion of education. Active organizational activities were carried out as mass movement. As a result, completion of education at basic education level improves every year.

With the increase in the rate of completion of education, learning rate from one level to another has increased. The learning rates from primary level to middle level and those from middle to high levels are increasing considerably.

The rate of completion of education at basic education level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>24.80</td>
<td>69.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>47.10</td>
<td>78.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>30.70</td>
<td>41.88</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The learning rate from one level to another at basic education level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From primary level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to middle level</td>
<td>45.60</td>
<td>76.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From middle level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to high level</td>
<td>53.70</td>
<td>92.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Commander inspects cold storage, feedstuff factory in Pathein

YANGON, 31 Oct—Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, accompanied by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe yesterday morning inspected the cold storage of Ayeyawady Fisheries Ltd in Ward 1, Pathein, Ayeyawady Division and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the commander and party looked into products of the Yuzana Feedstuff Factory.

At the briefing hall of the fingerling production camp of Minzarni Co Ltd in Chaungtha-Uto village, Pathein District, the commander heard a report on progress of fingerling production, steps being taken for producing 8 million fingerlings and achievements in the feeding of fingerlings.

After inspecting production process of fingerlings at the fingerling production camp, the commander gave instructions to officials concerned.

In the afternoon, the commander and party proceeded to the Abalone Breeding Camp of the Golden Green Co Ltd in Chaungtha Village and heard a report presented by officials of the Fisheries Department on production process of abalone and profits gained.

At the Ayeyawady Division Fisheries Department, the commander heard a report presented by officials of the department on progress of the livestock sector in the division and called on them to make relentless efforts for realization of the ministry’s objectives.—MNA

Work Committee, subcommittees and State/Division team managers meet

YANGON, 31 Oct—The work coordination meeting of the Chairman of the Work Committee for Organizing the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions and members, members of subcommittees, team managers from states and divisions took place at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyauk Road here this evening.

Work Committee Chairman Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan delivered a speech.

Next, members of Work Committee and subcommittees and team managers held sector-wise discussions on the competitions.

The Work Committee chairman gave concluding remarks.—MNA

USDA assigned to implementing five rural development tasks

YANGON, 31 Oct—Understanding the association’s goal and policy, the USDA members on their part should strive for regional development”, said USDA Secretary-General Maj-Gen Htay Oo at a meeting in Pathein on 29 October.

The goal must be realized with full belief and conviction, added Maj-Gen Htay Oo, who is also Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation. The Tatmadaw government has been developing the nation with the people’s strength, he noted at the meeting with USDA members.

The members are assigned to the work of implementing the government’s five rural development project, supplying electricity to rural areas and carrying out health, education and social sectors in cooperation with the local people, the secretary-general said. They should give priority to realizing the association’s five basic principles.

Also speaking at the meeting, USDA Central Executive Committee member Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein said, for emergence of a modern and developed nation, USDA members will have to strive with Union Spirit in accord with the 12 objectives, while placing in the fore Our Three Main National Causes.

The ministers also met with members of Organizations for Women’s Affairs and Maternal and Child Welfare Association and sought means for rapid development of the regions, and social, health and education sectors in Pathein, the capital city of Ayeyawady Division.—MNA

Winners of colour photo competition announced

YANGON, 31 Oct — Prize winners of the colour photo competition entitled “All-round development of Myanmar” were announced today. Tekkatho Han Min Oo, Shwe Inthna Khin Maung Win, Pyay Soe Tun and Ko U won first, second, third and fourth prizes respectively.

U Than Aung (IPRD), U Tin Win (Aye Hlaing Win) and Ko Sein Htay won consolation prizes.

The competition was organized by the committee for organizing the National motto, literature and photo competitions.

Seven posters of MRCS win prizes

YANGON, 31 OCT — Seven posters of Myanmar Red Cross Society-MRCS were selected as the award-winning works in the international Red Cross Poster Competition.

Members of MRCS took part in the competition which was held to mark the centenary of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of Korea.

Maung Win Khant Naing Oo, Third Grade, Institute of Education Practising School (Kamayut) won the second prize at the primary level and Ma Khaing Myo Tun Linn, Ninth Grade, Institute of Education Practising School (Kamayut) won the third prize at the middle school level.

Ma Pwint Myat Thu and Ma Aye Myat Thu of No 2 Basic Education High School, Maung Zin Ko Ko of No 4 BEHS, Ma Hnin Le Phyu and Maung Tun Tun Win of Institute of Computer Science (Yangon) also won prizes.—MNA
Minister inspects railway stations, construction of railroads

Yangon, 31 Oct — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Deputy Minister U Pe Than inspected the railways stations and construction of railroads in upper Myanmar from 28 to 30 October.

On 28 and 29 October, they inspected Bagan Railway Station, Magway Railway Station and bridges along Bagan-Taungdwingyi and Magway-Taungdwingyi-Pyinmana railroads.

The minister and party yesterday arrived at Pyinmana-Myo Haung Railroad construction project site and fulfilled the requirements for the project.

At Thazi Station, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min met with engineers and called for timely completion of Yangon-Thazi-Merkitla-Myingyan railroad. During the tour of inspection, the minister also inspected laying of railroads between Myittha Station and Minsu Station.

Myanmar and Bangladesh will meet in Grand Royal’05 Challenge Cup final

Yangon, 31 Oct — The football matches of Grand Royal ’05 Challenge Cup were held at the Youth Training Centre (Thuwanna) this evening.

At the first match, the Bangladeshi football team beat the Indian football team 2-1. The man of the match award went to Rokomizzaman Kanchan of the Bangladeshi football team. He was presented US$ 200.

At the second match, the Myanmar football team drew against the Chinese football team. Chinese goalie Wang Dalei fetched the man of the match award and was presented US$ 200.

The football matches were graced by the attendance of Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

Among the spectators were officials of the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Central Working Committee, senior military officers, guests, those from Myanmar Football Federation and football enthusiasts.

The Myanmar football team will play against the Bangladeshi football team in the final match at 4 pm on 2 November.

Two more arrested over Birmingham killing

London, 31 Oct — Police investigating the murder of a 23-year-old man during a riot in Britain’s second city of Birmingham last Saturday said they have arrested two more men.

Islah Young-Sam was stabbed to death as he walked home with his younger brother and two friends. Police said the men were attacked after three cars carrying between 10 and 11 men pulled up and confronted them. A 23-year-old man and a 24-year-old man were arrested on Friday on suspicion of murder and serious assault, police said in a statement on Saturday.

Three men aged 22, 22 and 25 had already been arrested over the attack and remain in police custody.

Young-Sam was killed after noting broke out following a public meeting to address community concerns over an alleged sex attack on a young girl.

Police have said no victim has come forward regarding the rape allegation, making any investigation difficult. A peaceful demonstration initially passed off without incident but later in the evening gangs of youths wielding baseball bats ran amok in the Lozells area.

Expert suggests unified regulations of child food security

Beijing, 31 Oct — Zhang Jinze, Deputy President of China’s Child Food Science Society here Sunday suggested unified regulations on child food security by establishing a department to handle all the related cases.

In an interview with Xinhua during the ongoing First International Forum on Children Development here, Zhang said that the decentralized administration of child food security produced various regulations and different formulas for making a certain child food and resulted in overlapping and inefficiency in administration.

He said that this situation should be rectified by establishing a special department authorized by the central government to make unified regulations of child food security and give unified formulas for making child food and drugs.
Deployment of US nuclear carrier in Japan criticized

Tokyo, 31 Oct — While Japanese government highly welcomed the first deployment of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Japan, saying it will bolster security in the country, the public voice conveys strong protest against the plan, regarding it a further integration between Japanese and US military forces.

The move came after Washington announced Thursday that it and the United States had agreed to have the carrier, the conventional carrier Kitty Hawk at the naval base in Yokosuka, east Japan’s Kanagawa Prefecture, in 2008. Washington and Tokyo reiterated that nuclear-powered carriers are safe and that the stationing of such a vessel does not contradict Japan’s non-nuclear principles because the principles refer to nuclear weapons, not to nuclear power generation.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said at a Press conference that the deployment will “strengthen the Japan-US alliance and maintain the (US military) deterrence”. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura underscored the importance of the continued presence of the US Navy in and around Japan for the country’s security and international peace.

Defence Agency Director-General Yoshi-nori Ono echoed the foreign minister, saying that “from the viewpoint of Japan’s national security and the security of the Asian region, I think it is extremely significant to have a carrier with such high capabilities using Japan as its home port”.

But, no matter how much efforts the officials exerted in seeking for public support and understanding on the issue, local governments, military experts and residents across Japan strongly criticized the deployment plan immediately after the announcement.

Yokosuka Mayor Ryoichi Kabaya quoted as saying in an NHK TV interview that, “I’m sorry and disappointed. I’m feeling betrayed.” Kanagawa Governor Shigeru Matsuzawa also criticized the Japanese Government for agreeing with the United States on the matter, saying that “the move is extremely deplorable as it ignores local wishes.”

Shoji Shimizu, one of the leaders of a Yokosuka group opposing the deployment of a nuclear-powered carrier, told reporters that “the Japanese and US governments had said they would respect local opinions. But then this sudden agreement has appeared.”

Australia to consider more bird flu aid to Asia

Sydney, 31 Oct — Health Minister Tony Abbott said on Sunday Australia was willing to offer more aid to neighbouring countries to combat the spread of bird flu, aware of the implications for international travel and for Australians abroad.

Australia has already given Indonesia 50,000 courses of the antiviral drug Tamiflu, which is considered the first line of defence against the H5N1 avian flu virus because it can reduce the severity of influenza and may slow its spread.

“In respect of helping our neighbours, we’ve already invested some 15 million Australian dollars (11 million US dollars) in surveillance and preparation in Indonesia, we’ve invested another 15 million Australian dollars around other countries in the region,” Abbott told Australian television.

US auditor urges anti-corruption drive in Iraq

Washington, 31 Oct — Corruption continues to cost Iraq billions of dollars each year, and Washington and Baghdad should be doing far more to stop it, the top US auditor for Iraq’s reconstruction said in a report released on Sunday.

Stuart Bowen, special inspector-general for Iraq reconstruction, said US efforts to help Iraq build strong anti-corruption institutions were urgently needed and called for an American-Iraqi summit to battle a legacy of corruption.

“Creating an effective anti-corruption structure within Iraq’s government is essential to the long-term success of Iraq’s fledging democracy,” Bowen wrote in his first quarterly report to Congress.

It was released days after the United Nations concluded that 2,200 companies, including DaimlerChrysler, Siemens and Volvo made illicit payments totalling 18 billion US dollars to Saddam Hussein’s government under the UN oil-for-food programme.

Bowen’s office, which has 20 auditors and 10 investigators in Iraq plus staffers in the United States, has made significant progress on cases charging fraud, bribery and kickbacks involving US citizens government officials and contractors in Iraq, he said.

In these investigations but gave no details on any possible indictments. Bowen said his office, created by Congress in November 2003 to oversee the Iraq Reconstruction and Relief Fund, recently transferred 2 million US dollars to the Justice Department and fund prosecution efforts, and four prosecutors were now working full-time on Iraqi reconstruction cases. He said it was crucial for the United States to strengthen Iraq’s new domestic anti-corruption agencies, noting that Iraq lost more than 2 billion US dollars each year in stolen gasoline and diesel fuel supplies.

The report said Iraq’s Bureau of Supreme Audit charged that up to 1.27 billion US dollars from some 90 contracts was lost from June 2004 to February 2005 because such deals were given to “favoured suppliers” and cash was given to third-party firms to work out contracts. On October 10, Iraqi authorities issued warrants for the arrest of five former ministers and 22 former ministry of defence officials on criminal corruption charges, it said.

Australia to have anti-terror laws by Christmas

Sydney, 31 Oct — The Australian Government is committed to having tough new anti-terror laws in operation before Christmas, well before the Commonwealth Games start in Melbourne in March, Prime Minister John Howard said on Sunday.

Howard, who needs the support of Australia’s six states to pass the law, gave pioneers until Monday to respond to a final draft of the anti-terror bill, after an initial deadline passed on Friday.

The bill could be introduced to Parliament before the end of the coming week, Howard told Australian television. Full details of the bill are being kept under tight wraps, with leaders of states and territories facing legal action if they divulge details of the draft they are now examining.

The chief minister of the Australian Capital Territory earlier incurred Howard’s wrath by posting a first draft of the bill on the Internet. Main provisions of the bill cover tough control orders and preventative detention and give authorities the right to shoot-to-kill while in pursuit of suspected terrorists. Opposition leader Kim Beazley said on Sunday he wanted to strengthen the new law to ban incitement to violence on religious or racial grounds.

Howard rejected this. — MNA/Reuters

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Howard rejected this. — MNA/Reuters

Afghanistan sets up trust fund to fight drugs trade

KABUL, 31 Oct — Afghanistan, the world’s biggest producer of illicit opium and heroin, has set up a trust fund to manage the money it expects to receive in foreign aid for its war against illegal drugs, an official said on Saturday.

Donors, foreign as well as Afghans, say they have spent 400 million dollars so far this year on anti-drugs projects and in persuading local farmers to swap poppies for other crops.

Afghanistan is looking for more money to help persuade farmers give up opium growing, and to rebuild irrigation systems and roads destroyed by decades of war in the country.

“In order to centralize the money and strengthen the process of the campaign, the government has set up a counter-narcotics trust fund,” said Sayed Mohammad Azam, a spokesman for the Ministry of Counter Narcotics. The announcement of the trust coincides with the start of poppy sowing in many parts of the country. The government fund would be managed by the United Nations Development Programme, he said, adding that the European Union had pledged 15 million euros (18 million US dollars) to the fund.

MNA/Reuters

Sri Lankan forensic experts examine the interior of the car in which army intelligence officer, major T Meehin, was gunned down in the town of Kiribathgoda, a suburb of Colombo. —INTERNET

Two birds play in a park in Xiangfan city, in China’s Hubei Province on 26 October, 2005. —INTERNET
Foreign ministry says Russia-China cooperation fruitful

MOSCOW, 31 Oct—Marked progress has been made in the strategic partnership between Russia and China in recent years, with bilateral cooperation yielding tangible results, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Russia and China are now clear of any major political issue that might trouble bilateral relations, this favourable situation enables both sides to concentrate on developing their ties in wide-ranging fields, Mikhail Kamynin, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, said in a recent statement.

Kamynin described the bilateral ties between Russia and China as “irreversible”.

The first joint military exercise, code-named Peace Mission 2005, was a clear manifestation of the high-level mutual trust and understanding between the two countries and it highlighted the new level of cooperation in the Russia-China strategic partnership, the Russian diplomat said.

The joint manoeuvre also demonstrated that the two countries have joined hands in tackling new threats and challenges, safeguarding their national interests and territorial integrity and working together to shape a new, fair and multi-polar world, he said.

On the two countries’ economic cooperation, Kamynin said that Russia expects Chinese investment to enter its processing sector first, in particular the agriculture, timber and fishing processing industries. The two sides can also cooperate in large infrastructure projects like highways, bridges, and modernization of existing ports, he said, adding that Russia’s special economic zones will work well in attracting Chinese investors.

Kamynin said that bilateral trade is expected to hit 27 billion US dollars this year, Kamynin said. The current priority of the two countries is to shift the focus from trade to cooperation in production, mutual investment and joint research and development of advanced technologies, he said.

Kamynin listed energy equipment, civil aviation, ecology, energy saving and information technologies as potential areas of joint work.

Four US soldiers killed by roadside bomb in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 Oct—Four US soldiers were killed on Monday when a roadside bomb went off on their patrol just south of Baghdad, the military said in a statement.

The incident, around the town of Yusufiya, was one of the heaviest single US losses for some time. No further details were given.

Since early this year, US commanders have been concerned by the increasing use of more powerful or more sophisticated improvised bombs capable of penetrating armoured vehicles and inflicting much heavier casualties in each attack.

The southern fringes of the capital, sometimes referred to as the Triangle of Death, have seen considerable violence by Sunni Arab guerrillas against neighbouring Shiite residents and US forces defending the Shiite-led government.

US and Iraqi forces mounted intensive search operations in south Baghdad on Friday and Saturday, the military said in an earlier statement, arresting 49 suspects.

13 European countries agree security cooperation

BELGRADE (Serbia-Montenegro), 30 Oct—Representatives from 13 central and southeastern European countries on Friday signed a joint declaration in Slovenia, binding them to continue cooperating in combating organized crime, illegal migrations, corruption and terrorism, said reports reaching here from Slovenia.

Ministers of the interior and state secretaries for home affairs signed the declaration in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, when they attended the fifth regional conference.

This year’s conference aims to step up the fight against organized crime, corruption and terrorism in the framework of the so-called “Brdo Process”, a regional initiative that focused mainly on illegal migrations.

According to the declaration, signatory countries will harmonize legislation in the areas spanning visa and readmission policies, promote active judicial and police cooperation and efficient border management, in line with the established international rules and Customs.

US soldier killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 31 Oct—A US paratrooper was killed and four British peacekeepers were wounded in attacks in northern and eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, officials said.

The US soldier died after his patrol came under small arms and rocket grenade fire at Lwara, near eastern Afghanistan’s border with Pakistan, a US military statement said.

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Laos to organize world communication expo

HANOI, 30 Oct—Laos and the International Data Group will hold the 2005 World Communication Expo on 5-7 December, according to sources from Laos capital city of Vientiane on Friday. The exhibition entitled “Creating Strong Networks and IT” will show advanced IT equipment and networks in the world.

During the exhibition, a conference will be held to exchange experience and information on IT development worldwide. The meeting will discuss and cooperate to develop a wireless communication system, a new trend in developing mobile phone services, and cooperation in communication and postal services, as well as other advanced information technology. Laos has targeted to GDP growth of 7 per cent in the 2004-2005 fiscal year ending in November 2005. The country has made annual import-export turnovers of nearly one billion US dollars in recent years, with key exports being electricity, garments, woodworks and coffee.
A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED

TENDER NO: BLAST HOLE DRILL RIG HIRE-05

Hire of blast hole drill rigs to the MICCL mining operation, west bank of Monywa, Myanmar. All rigs should be capable of drilling a 5 to 10 metre bench in hard rock using bit diameters of 89mm or more.

CLOSING DATE: 8 November 2005 at 4 pm

TENDER DOCUMENT FEE: US$ 100 (in FEC)

COLLECTION OF DOCUMENT AT: MICCL — Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited 70(J), Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Phone: 951-514194 Fax: 951-514208

DATE AND TIME OF COLLECTION 1st November 2005 to 7th November 2005 Monday to Friday, 10 am and 5 pm

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Tin Ohnmar Tun B.A.(LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)
P.O.Box 109, Ph: 248108/723043(For. Ella Cheong Spruson & Ferguson, Singapore)

Dated. 1 November 2005

Fishermen with no catch raise suspicions of Seychelles police

VICTORIA, 30 Oct— Seychelles police suspect fishermen may be smuggling hard drugs onto the Indian Ocean archipelago from East Africa, a drug official said on Saturday.

The drugs are likely coming in on ships and offloaded onto smaller boats to ferry them ashore, said Benjamin Vel, director of Seychelles’ drug and alcohol council.

MNA/Reuters

Commander says Colombia sank four rebel motor boats

MITU (Colombia), 30 Oct— The Colombian Army sank four motor boats filled with Marxist guerillas, killing at least 11 on a river in the southeastern part of the country, a military commander told Reuters on Friday.

In an operation that included artillery and helicopter gunships, the Army ambushed the boats, each carrying between 20 and 25 guerilla fighters, on the Papuana River in Vaupes Province near the Brazilian border on Thursday, said General Gilberto Rocha.

MNA/Reuters
Late Pope’s Ford Escort sells for $680,000

CHICAGO, 30 Oct — The only car the late Pope John Paul II ever owned sold at auction for 680,000 US dollars on Saturday to a Houston attorney and car collector.

The car, which fetched much less than previous estimates of 2 million US dollars to 3 million US dollars, attracted four or five bids before being purchased by John O’Quinn, said a spokeswoman for the Kruse International auction house.

The 1975 powder-blue Ford Escort went on the auction block in Las Vegas after a father-son ownership spat was resolved earlier this month. The humble four-door sedan was purchased through the same auction house a decade ago by Illinois restaurateur Jim Rich for 102,000 US dollars. He put the vehicle on display under glass in his suburban Chicago restaurant, but the establishment was forced to close a year ago.

Pope John Paul, who died in April, drove the car, which had been put on display after his death. A father-son ownership dispute had led the court to take the vehicle and put it on the auction block in Las Vegas.

US surgeon hopeful of separating Indian twins

NEW DELHI, 30 Oct — Pioneering American neurosurgeon Benjamin Carson of Johns Hopkins Children’s Centre in Baltimore, who was flown in to separate the conjoined Indian twins Farah and Saba, has said the operation would be complex but “if everything goes the way we plan, I expect they will both be alive”.

Carson will lead the medical team of 20 doctors at Indraprashtha Apollo Hospital here to perform the first operation of its kind in India, a Press release from Johns Hopkins said on Friday.

The US surgeon was flown in after Abu Dhabi’s Crown Prince, Moham- med bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, who read about the twins in a newspaper, had agreed to pay for the operation, the release said.

Endangered tiger cubs receive wilderness training in N-E China

HARBIN, 30 Oct — Nearly 40 one-year-old tiger cubs from largest Siberian tiger breeding base in China’s northernmost Heilongjiang Province have been released into the wild in a bid to beef up their ferocity.

It is the first time for the Northeast China Tiger Park to set free such young tiger cubs into an area of approximately 400,000 square metres in the natural environment in all provinces, said Liu Dan, chief engineer of the breeding base, on Saturday.

“We hope the cubs can learn to live by themselves in the natural habitat through the training. After all, the artificial feeding for so long has weakened their preyig capability to some extent,” said Liu.

The Siberian tiger, the largest of all tigers, is among the world’s 10 most endangered species, with less than 400 living at large, mostly in Russia’s Far East. Fewer than 10 Siberian tigers are now believed to survive in the wild in China’s northeast.

Founded in 1986, the base has bred more than 520 Siberian tigers, a vast improvement from the situation some two decades ago when there were only eight.

Liu said the base will have more younger tiger cubs to take part in the training and their living area will also be enlarged.

Brazilian police seize lion after neighbours’ uproar

RIO DE JANEIRO (Bra- zil), 30 Oct — Police seized a lion in poor health from a private home in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, after scared neighbours squawked about the beast’s roar, police said on Friday.

Inspector Ione Rodrigues told Reuters the owners of the 15-year-old retired circus lion called Baby did not have a licence for the animal and would face criminal charges for ill-treatment.

“The lion was kept in a small cage in the covered backyard of the house. It was very skinny and presented signs of atrophy,” she said. The animal was transferred to the Rio Zoo on Thursday, the same day it was taken from the house.

Thailand takes Elephants Rally Day in November

BANGKOK, 30 Oct — Racing elephants will take the prizes — and win the hearts and minds of people near and far — on Elephant Rally Day in Thailand’s northeastern province of Surin next month.

In an attempt to boost tourism revenue and persuade people to help save the elephants, Surin Province bordering Cambodia — will hold the 3rd annual Surin Ele-phant Rally next month.

The elephant rally, part of the annual Surin Elephant Round-up and Surin Red Cross fair to be held for the 45th time this year, will accept 100 teams to take part in the competition which will be held on 19 November, Governor Sompong Anuyuthpong of Surin was quoted by the Thai News Agency on Saturday.

Veterinarian Alongkorn Mahan-nop, chairman of the organizing committee, said on Saturday that previous elephant rallies were not very successful, as growing numbers of local people and tourists had become more affectionate toward the elephants, which was a good sign toward solving elephant problems.

MNA/Xinhua

A tourist inspects the New Armilla, an instrument made in 1774 A D by the Qing Dynasty. Chinese archaeologists claim to have found one of the world’s oldest observatories, dating back 4,100 years ago — Internet
**Celtic beat Dundee United to go top**

**Glasgow, 31 Oct**— Celtic took full advantage of Hearts' derby slip-up and went top of the Scottish Premier League on goal difference with a 4-2 win at Dundee United on Sunday. Hearts went down 2-0 to city rivals Hibernian on Saturday for their first defeat of the season and Celtic's victory at Tannadice allowed them to match Edinburgh club's total of 32 points from 13 games.

"It would be great to stay there," manager Gordon Strachan told BBC Radio after Celtic went top for the first time this season.

Chris Sutton had a role in most of the significant action in an eventful first half and started his busy afternoon by heading a Barry Robson cross onto a deflected ball and bundling over the line from Danny Buijs struck 11 minutes from time to hand scored twice on his debut for Utrecht as his new team Denissen grabbed the home side's consolation goal in Patrick Paauwe to make it three on the hour. Hans counter attack before the interval and Dirk Kuijt set up onto a deflected ball and bundling over the line from

The fifth goal of the half came along two minutes later when a Maloney corner was diverted into his own net by United defender Alan Archibald, with Sutton applying the pressure for the 3-2 halftime lead.

"They were tested mentally with that goal early in the game," Strachan told Setanta TV. "But we came back brilliantly. It was a great game for anybody to watch." After such riches in the first period, the second half was a disappointment with few chances at either end.

It was not until the closing stages that substitute Stephen Pearson slid home Celtic's fourth from close range to leave the top two four points in front of Hibernian and 10 ahead of champions Rangers. MNA/Reuters

**Fiorentina close on Juve after win over Cagliari**

**Milan, 31 Oct**— Third-placed Fiorentina moved within five points of Serie A leaders Juventus after Danish winger Martin Jorgensen struck an 82nd minute winner in the 2-1 victory over Cagliari on Sunday.

Juventus, who lost 3-1 to AC Milan on Saturday, lead on 27 points with Milan two points behind them and Fiorentina third on 22 points.

French defender Philippe Mexes headed an injury time winner for 10-man Roma who beat Ascoli 2-1 despite having Romanian defender Cristian Chivu sent off.

Lazio fell to a 1-0 defeat at lowly Reggina, losing their own goal from Luciano Zauri deciding the game — while Livorno move up to fifth place thanks to a 2-0 victory over Parma. Udinese host Palermo later on Sunday.

Fiorentina had to fight back from a goal down to get the three points against Cagliari and once again it was Italian striker Luca Toni who was the key figure for Cesare Prandelli's team.

Honduran striker David Suazo put Cagliari ahead in the 23rd minute after taking advantage of sloppy defending from Fiorentina's Marco Di Loreto. Toni brought Fiorentina level eight minutes into the second half, finishing off a superb defensive splitpass from Stefano Fiore.

The striker then turned provider when he put over a low cross, while being harried by two defenders, which Jorgensen confidently converted.

Cagliari's disappointment was enhanced by two late dismissals — Daniele Conti and Michele Canini both being handed red cards in the final stages of the game.

Toni, currently Italy coach Marcello Lippi's first choice striker, regains the top scorer in Serie A with 12 goals from 10 matches.

The win continues an excellent campaign from Fiorentina who, after winning promotion back to Serie A in 2004, only avoided relegation on the final day of last season. Roma may have turned a corner in the past week after Wednesday's impressive 3-2 win at Inter Milan was followed by a thrilling victory over Ascoli.

Roma coach Luciano Spalletti was without capetain and inspiration Francesco Totti, who was suspended, and it was defender Christian Panucci who put the home side ahead with a fine angled header.

Chivu was sent off in the 81st minute for an elbow on Ascoli forward Sasa Bajenovic and two minutes later the visitors drew level thanks to a thundering 20-metre free-kick from Maurizio Domizzi. MNA/Reuters

**Owen scores twice in Newcastle romp at West Brom**

**London, 31 Oct**— England striker Michael Owen scored twice on his return from injury in Newcastle United's 3-0 romp over West Bromwich Albion at the Hawthorns on Sunday.

Owen, who missed two games with a hamstring strain, met Charles N'Zogbia's cross with a fine volley a minute into the second half before adding a second with a close-range finish after good work from Kieron Dyer on 78 minutes.

Substitute Alan Shearer swept in a third two minutes later in a victory that lifted Newcastle up to 10th place in the Premier League. West Brom stay 17th.

Champions Chelsea, who beat Blackburn Rovers 4-2 on Saturday, are clear at the top on 31 points. Wigan Athletic have 22 with Tottenham Hotspur and Bolton Wanderers on 20. MNA/Reuters

**PSG lose ground after 2-0 defeat atAuxerre**

**Paris, 31 Oct**— Paris St Germain lost ground in the Ligue 1 title race when they went down 2-0 at in-form AJ Auxerre on Sunday.

Midfielder Edouard Cisse put through his own goal following a free kick by Auxerre playmaker Yohan Lachuer in the 53rd minute.

Substitute Luigi Pieron then sealed PSG's second defeat in three league matches with a close-range header.

PSG are now fourth in the table, trailing champions Olymique Lyon by 10 points after 13 games. Unbeaten Lyon took their points tally to 33 with a 1-0 triumph over struggling Sochaux on Saturday.

Gironnins Bordeaux, 2-0 winners over Troyes, climbed to second, nine points behind the leaders. St. Etienne are third, level on points with PSG. Auxerre, who won 3-2 in the League Cup at Racing Lens on Wednesday, collected their second victory in five days.

The Burgundy side are now fifth in the table, two points ahead of sixth-placed Lille who drew 1-1 at Marseille on Saturday. In a matchable table, promoted Nancy and Nice drew 0-0 on Sunday. Hosts Nancy had Cedric Lecluse sent off after 45 minutes. —MNA/Reuters

**Bernard Mendy of Paris Saint-Germain challenges Thomas Kahlenberg (L) of Auxerre for the ball during their French Ligue 1 soccer match at the Abbe Deschamps Stadium in Auxerre on 30 October, 2005.** —INTERNET
Nicosia, 31 Oct— Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos on Saturday accused Washington of promoting divisive tendencies on the island by inviting the leader of the self-styled regime to meet with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat met on Friday with Rice in Washington at the US invitation, which was strongly criticized by the Cypriot Government.

Such move creates hope that “the self-styled regime in Turkish occupied Cyprus could be given a separate legal entity”, Papadopoulos told the Press upon returning from the Thursday informal summit of the European Union (EU).

Papadopoulos, meanwhile, denounced that Talat tried to bring back the UN-proposed plan for reunification, which was rejected by the overwhelming majority of the Greek Cypriots, but approved by the Turkish Cypriots in a referendum in April 2004.

The Cypriot Government has demanded major changes to the UN plan, claiming that the plan satisfied the interests of the Turkish Cypriots side but failed to meet the demands of the Greek Cypriots.

Asked about UN moves to resume negotiations, Papadopoulos said UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan “will decide when and how he will carry on with his initiative”.

All indications showed that the UN chief had some thoughts about certain steps and he would send UN envoys to Cyprus before the end of the year, Papadopoulos added.

Cyprus has been divided into Greek Cypriot south and Turkish Cypriot north since 1974, when Turkey sent troops to take control of the northern third of the island following a failed Greek Cypriot coup seeking union with Greece.

Turkey recognizes only the Turkish Cypriot controlled northern Cyprus while the international community views the government under the Greek Cypriots in the south as the sole legitimate representative of the whole island.

Residents of Puerto Cabezas look at the heavy swell caused by Hurricane Beta, after it hit Nicaragua recently.—INTERNET

WEATHER

Monday, 31 October, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin and Mon States, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Rakhine State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan and Chin States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State and Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukpyu (6.81) inches, Sittway (5.59) inches, Kyaukse (2.05) inches, Merekhita (1.65) inches, Toungoo (1.06) inches, Pyinmana (0.91) inch, Yamethin (0.67) inch and Magway (0.63) inch.

Maximum temperature on 30-10-2005 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 31-10-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 31-10-2005 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 30-10-2005 was (6.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 31-10-2005 were (0.08) inch at Mingaladon, (0.08) inch at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (100.20) inches at Mingaladon, (100.08) inches at Kaba-Aye and (104.80) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (15:20) hours MST on 30-10-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 1-11-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine and Chin States, Mandalay, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions, isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-11-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-11-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.
It is learnt that CIA successfully created situations under which the US citizens won the majority of the awards on science, medical science and economics, USSR and other socialist countries could not win these awards, and those who carried out activities in compliance with the CIA of the US especially those who were opposed to their governments against which the US had a bias, could win Nobel Literary Prize and Nobel Peace Prize.

Prime Minister General Soe Win sends message of felicitation to Head of Government of Algeria

YANGON, 1 Nov—On the occasion of the National Day of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 2005, General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ahmed Ouyahia, Head of the Government of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria.—MNA

Donor of the land and the religious edifices Agga Maha Sirisudhamma Manijotadhara U Sein Hla Win presented the related document to Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Land, religious edifices donated in Dagon Myothit (North) Township

YANGON, 31 Oct—Land for extended building of Theravada Dhamma Yaungchi Sasana Yeiktha in Ward 42, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon East District and religious edifices were donated at a ceremony held at the Sasana Yeiktha yesterday afternoon. The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party share merit gained for extending religious buildings at Theravada Dhamma Yaungchi Sasana Yeiktha in Dagon Myothit (North). —MNA

Commander Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party share merit gained for extending religious buildings at Theravada Dhamma Yaungchi Sasana Yeiktha in Dagon Myothit (North). —MNA

Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Agga Maha Kammathanacariya Thayet Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara.

Next, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Agga Maha Kammathanacariya Thayet Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara.

Next, members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Later, the commander presented offerteries to Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharathaguru Anibhi-dhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. Next, the Minister for Education and officials presented offerteries to members of the Sangha. Afterwards, donor of the land and the religious edifices Agga Maha Sirisudhamma Manijotadhara U Sein Hla Win presented the related documents to Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

The congregation heard a sermon delivered by the Magway Sayadaw and shared merits gained. Next, the commander and officials viewed round progress of construction of a religious edifice near the compound of the Sasana Yeiktha and attended to the needs.

Among the congregation were Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana Dr Myo Myint, Chairman of Yangon East District PDC Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein, the chairmen of the Township PDCs, well-wishers, social organizations and guests.—MNA

Storm news

YANGON, 31 Oct — The Kai-tak, a typhoon centred at the sea, 420 kilometres from coastal region of central Vietnam, is moving to the north east at 10 kph. The wind speed at the centre of the typhoon is about 89 to 102 kph. The storm is likely to move to coastal regions such as Quang Ngai and Phu Yen in central Vietnam.

MNA