Teachers are placed highly as a ‘role model’ in our Myanmar culture not only in schools but also in the community. Prime Minister attends World Teachers’ Day commemorative ceremony, presents prizes to winners in article, essay and poem competitions.

YANGON, 5 Oct — The World Teachers’ Day commemorative ceremony was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road here at 9 am today. Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony and presented prizes to winners of essay, poem and article competitions.

Also present on the occasion were V-C Chairman MEC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, SPDC member Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Yangon Division PDC Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, ambassadors of foreign missions and charges d’ affaires at resident representatives and officials of UN agencies, officials of SPDC office, departmental officials, doyen teachers, officials of social organizations, rectors of universities, colleges and institutes, principals, professors, associate professors, state/district education officers, township education officers, schoolheads of basic education schools, teachers, students and invited guests.

On the occasion, Ma Yadana Aye Min and Ma Kathy of Yangon University acted as masters of ceremonies and read out the agenda in English and Myanmar.

Ma Nay Chi Oo recited the poem to the accompaniment of harp played by Ma Aye Chan Myint Wai of Dagon BEHS-1 to open the ceremony. The poem on the virtues of noble teachers was written by U Khin Zaw (Kaythipan).

MEC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made an opening speech. He said: On this 5th of October, today, countries all over the world are celebrating “World Teachers’ day” with the aims of enriching opportunities for successful realization of teachers’ responsibilities and to honour teachers who are taking the major role in promoting the progress of the human society by upgrading and promoting the education standard of their countries.

The Union of Myanmar, due to our culture and tradition, having much respect for our teachers, is also heartily celebrating the “World Teachers’ Day” ceremony today. As one of the members of the international family, we are not only actively participating and collaborating in this meritorious event but also expressing our noble tradition. Our country Myanmar, which is striving with our national strength and inputs for the emergence of a modern and developed country is now trying to implement the national education development plan by nurturing talented human resources.

In this period of focusing mainly on national education development plan, the importance of the role of teachers is now being upgraded and many improvements and changes have been made in the field of teacher training so as to produce qualified and effective teachers.

In the year 1988, there were only one Institute of Education, one University for Development of National Races and 17 Teachers Training Schools and Colleges totalling 19 teacher training institutions only. At present these have been increased to two Institutes of Education, one University for Development of National Races and 20 Education Colleges with a total of 23 teacher training institutions.

Regarding teacher training, matriculated students can join the Education colleges for pre-service training. At the Institutes of Education, B Ed, Post-Graduate Diploma in Teaching (PGDT) and Post-Graduate Diploma in Multimedia Arts (PGDMA) courses are being offered to the university graduates.

(see page 8)

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconciliation
* 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 standard of the entire nation

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
The seven-point roadmap—key to emergence of democracy-flourishing nation

Myanmar is home to over one hundred national races who have been living in the Union in weal or woe since years countable by the thousands. Throughout the history, they have been living in the country drinking water from the same source and collectively warding off the danger posed to the Union. Therefore, in the Union of Myanmar, patriots, nationalisation and nationalist fervour have been flourishing.

Nowadays, plans have been made to build a modern, developed democracy-flourishing nation. The seven-point roadmap of the State (roadmap) is the goals of the State as well as the ones which the entire people have longed for.

Starting from 20 September, mass rallies, in support of the Prime Minister’s clarification on seven stages of policies and programmes of the State (roadmap), were held in Yangon, Mandalay, Hpa-an, Myitkyina, Loikaw, Taunggyi and Bago and on 4 October, it was held in Pathinhe, Ayeawady Division.

At these mass rallies, the motion, calling on the entire mass of people to actively participate in any sector for the successful implementation of the seven future policies of the State with full Spirit, was tabled and those in attendance approved the motion.

In the Prime Minister’s speech on the seven future policies and programmes of the State (roadmap), there includes reawakening of the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996.

The National Convention has been held since 1993 and consensus have been achieved to lay down basic principles. At a time when it gained momentum, it was adjourned on 31 March 1996 because there appeared such acts ignoring the future of the country and placing the attitude and wishes of an individual and the interests of its own party above the national cause, and perpetrating a scheme aimed at destroying the National Convention.

The 1947 Constitution and 1974 Constitution have been terminated due to their weaknesses and not meeting today’s requirements. Therefore, emergence of a new enduring State Constitution is the national duty of all citizens.

The future State is to be shaped after taking lessons from the past that due to the weakness of 1947 Constitution, the Union was on the brink of disintegration in 1962. After the successful completion of the National Convention, measures are to be taken step by step for the emergence of genuine discipline-flourishing democracy. In accordance with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention, a draft of a new constitution must be made.

The entire people are urged to take part in efforts for the successful realization of the seven-point roadmap.

Education Minister addresses UNESCO General Assembly

Yangon, 5 Oct — Myanmar UNESCO National Commission, Deputy Minister for Education U Than Aung, after attending the 32nd General Assembly of the UNESCO held in Paris, France, arrived back here this morning.

Minister U Than Aung was welcomed back at the airport by Minister backat the Prime Minister’s Office U Than Shwe, Deputy Ministers for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and U Myo Nyunt, department heads, and officials. Myanmar delegation comprising leader Minister U Than Aung, deputy leader Myanmar Ambassador to France U Wunna Maung Lwin, Myanmar UNESCO National Commission Secretary Dr Khin Zaw, Senior Counsellor U Myint Soe and First Secretary Daw Aye Hla Bu attended the assembly held on 29 September in Paris, and on 30 September, Minister U Than Aung made a speech. He presented national-building tasks, national education promoting programmes, increasing chances for pursuing basic and higher education for new generation youths, utilizing of IT in education sector, cooperation of the public and tasks for creating an education system that can generate a learning society.— MNA

Regional development tasks inspected in Loikaw

Yangon, 5 Oct — Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Col Myint Uo, accompanied by departmental officials at state level, yesterday afternoon, inspected Loikaw Government Com- puter College where they heard reports presented by the state Superintending Engineer U Thaung of the state construction work and gave necessary instructions.— MNA

Workshop on Management opens

YANGON, 5 Oct — Organized by Myanmar Industries Association, a ceremony to open the Workshop on Management was held at Myitkyina International Trading Co Ltd in No 15 Ward, Hline Township yesterday afternoon.

It was attended by President of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce Industry U Win Myint and executives, President of MIA U Hein Win and executives, departmental officials, course instructors, trainees and guests.

On the occasion, U Hein Win delivered an address and altogether 77 trainees are attending the two-week course.— MNA
United Nations must play an active role in the future of Iraq

The United Nations would be what its Member States wished it to be.

The success of the Organization would be the success of its Members, and its failure would be the responsibility of none other than its Member States.

She said the United Nations must play an active role in the future of Iraq, and Chile would continue to work in the Security Council to improve the security situation in that country and to establish a clear timetable for political transition.

Noting that globalization had created new opportunities, as well as imbalances for the world’s people, she called for technological innovation and economic growth to be placed at the service of integration and collective prosperity.

The grave situation in Iraq is a major cause for concern for the international community due to the threat it poses to international peace and security.

The process that led to this engagement of the United Nations in Iraq constituted a major crisis for the existing mechanisms dealing with threats to international peace and security, first and foremost the Security Council.

This organization is subject to and dependent on the political will of its Member States. Its distinctive quality lies in the fact that it provides legitimacy in accordance with international law.

This outstanding quality it must not lose, and we are all challenged to stand up for this core function of the United Nations, which is a good part of its raison d'etre in today's international law.

The crisis the United Nations has gone through in connection with the action taken against Iraq will not simply be overcome by adopting a pragmatic approach in dealing with the aftermath thereof.

We welcome the ongoing discussions in the Security Council on a stronger and more meaningful role of the United Nations in Iraq.

At the same time, there must also be a recognition that international law continues to be the foundation for our actions in dealing with problems of international peace and security and that the rule of law needs to be applied both at the national and at the international level.

Mr. Farouk Al-Shara', Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic

On United Nations reform, she said the main concern was how to overcome the immobility of multilateral institutions and how to embark upon a process of renewal.

In that regard, she welcomed the Secretary-General’s initiative to establish a group of eminent personalities to put forward a series of suggestions for reform.

She also called for reforms in the Security Council, which should include the addition of new members, both permanent and elected, and a review of the veto power.

More active interaction between regional organizations was also needed. The experience of the Organization of American States (OAS) could be useful in that regard.

Soledad Alvear, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile

The continued lack of security and stability, the proliferation of crises and conflicts, the propagation of diseases, and the increase of poverty and exclusion in many parts of the world had all contributed to a further deterioration of the world situation in the last year.

That should be met by a strengthened United Nations commitment to work together, within the framework of international consensus, to maintain peace and security and meet the challenge of those pending issues.

To accomplish that, the Organization must be reformed, particularly the Security Council and General Assembly.

Further, the implementation of a comprehensive and multidimensional approach, based upon the interdependence of peace, security and development, would help to eliminate the root causes of instability through the eradication of the poverty and deprivation that constituted breeding grounds for trouble and tension.

Rasid Abdullah Al-Noaimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia

The situation demanded resourcefulness and cooperation by all Security Council members to ensure that the reconstruction of Iraq encompassed peace, democracy, equal rights and justice for all Iraqis.

As for the Security Council, he reiterated his country’s position in favour of an expanded membership in both the permanent and non-permanent categories.

The new permanent members should include the addition of new members, but the use of the veto should be restricted and an obligation to state the reasons for its use should be established.

The transparency of the Council’s decision-making process should also be increased.

Iceland has contributing to Iraq’s reconstruction and would continue to do so, he said.

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Haldor Asgrímsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland

The United Nations' activities in rebuilding Iraq must continue

The extreme seriousness of today’s world situation meant that, while the United Nations must rise to meet new challenges to international peace and security, it was not surprising that the Organization’s credibility would be put to the test, nor that the lives of its employees would be jeopardized.

Yet, the United Nations’ activities in rebuilding Iraq must continue. In fact, the future of the wider Middle East region must be of primary concern for the Organization; the Road Map provided the sole hope for restoring peace between the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Jean Ping, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon

United Nations could strengthen further its active humanitarian and civil role in Iraq

The necessary conditions for social and economic development in Iraq would be established only through security, stability, independence, democracy, the rule of law and respect for rights.

In that light, he hoped that the transitional Government of Iraq, supported by the Security Council, could fully enjoy its right to self-determination and sovereignty and establish a democratic and representative government, which was internationally recognized and able to guarantee the conditions necessary for the country’s reconstruction.

He expressed hope that United Nations could strengthen further its active humanitarian and civil role in Iraq to contribute to its rebirth through democracy and development.

He also hoped all countries cooperating in Iraq under the aegis of the United Nations would reach agreement with the United Nations, and said a new Security Council resolution would be a major political and diplomatic achievement which would pave the way to democracy and progress in Iraq.

Small States could also contribute to finding balanced and shared solutions in order to foster dialogue and understanding, and he pointed out that San Marino would be pleased to contribute to the reconstruction process in Iraq.

Fiorenzo Stolfi, Minister for Foreign and Political Affairs of San Marino.

A strengthened United Nations commitment to work together, within the framework of international consensus, to maintain peace and security and meet the challenge

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Baghdad, 5 Oct — A rocket-propelled grenade and gun attack killed an American soldier in Baghdad, the US military said on Saturday, as Washington’s efforts to get allies to share the burden of stabilizing Iraq hit new setbacks.

The ambush late on Friday, which killed a 4th Infantry Division soldier and wounded another, brought to at least 85 the number of US troops who have died in guerrilla attacks since President Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

In further incidents on Saturday, two US soldiers and several former Iraqi troops were wounded in clashes in Baghdad and a British military spokesman said Iraqi ex-soldiers killed in the southern city of Basra.

Facing a guerrilla insurgency and mounting financial costs, Washington is trying to agree a new United Nations resolution giving the world body a broader mandate in Iraq in an effort to coax reluctant countries to provide troops and funds.

But Security Council members France and Russia said on Friday they were unhappy with the draft US resolution. The two countries, which opposed the war in Iraq, want a faster handover of power to Iraqis as a condition for their support.

Annan’s unusual defiance of Washington stiffened re-
Baghdad, 5 Oct—Former Iraqi soldiers angry over rumours their pay would be cut off clashed Saturday with coalition troops in Baghdad and in the southern city of Basra in riots that left two Iraqis dead and dozens injured.

Elsewhere, a US soldier from the 4th Infantry Division was killed and another was wounded in an ambush early Saturday in Sadiyah, 60 miles north of Baghdad.

The death brought to 88 the number of American soldiers killed by hostile fire since President Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

The trouble started in Baghdad when hundreds of ex-soldiers assembled Saturday morning at a US base at the city’s former downtown airport to collect their $40 a month stipend, which the coalition has been paying since Saddam’s army was disbanded in May. The crowd began hurling stones at US troops and Iraqi police, who fired shots to try to disperse them.

Some of the rioters moved to the nearby Mansour district, where they burned and looted four liquor stores and set fire to an Iraqi police car in the upscale neighbourhood. Back at the US base, an Iraqi police colonel finally persuaded most of the crowd to line up in an orderly fashion so they could receive their pay from the Americans.

One ex-soldier died from a gunshot wound to the head and 25 people were hurt during the Baghdad riot, according to Dr Abbas Jafar of the city’s al-Yarmouk Hospital. US officials said there were some injuries to coalition troops but refused to give further details.

Meanwhile, in Basra, Iraq’s second largest city, coast guardsman Maj Niall Greenwood said one protester was shot and killed by British troops when ex-soldiers rioted after hearing rumours that Saturday was the last day they would receive stipend payments.

Coalition officials in Baghdad blamed looters for provoking the riots. The officials, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, noted that the riots broke out on the day that the first battalion of newly retrained Iraqi soldiers completed their nine-week basic course — a first step toward establishing a new Iraqi army.

“The fact that the payments to the old conscripts have gone without incident so far and the successful graduation of the first battalion of the new Iraqi army seem to have been a bit too much for the old guard to accept,” one official said.

“They started to stir the crowd, they spread rumours the last of the conscripts would not be paid, that the coalition forces did not have enough money. There were clearly groups of former Baathist officers with green banners in the crowd, inciting the others,” the official said.

President Bush’s administration plans to spend $2 billion to create a 40,000-member Iraqi military by the end of next year.

An Iraqi man walks past a burning fuel tanker from a US convoy which was attacked near Amiriyah, southeast of Fallujah, Iraq on 2 October, 2003. The tanker was hit by either a mine or roadside bomb in the incident 65 kilometres northwest of Baghdad.——INTERNET

Japan, ASEAN to map out strategy to deepen ties

Tokyo, 5 Oct—Japan and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are striving to set out a new strategy to deepen mutual relations in political, economic and social fields over the medium to long term.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and his counterparts from the 10 ASEAN members are to adopt the strategy when they assemble in Tokyo in December, according to Kyodo News.

The strategy is scheduled to be mapped out in two documents — one charting the future course for the Japan-ASEAN partnership and another containing a number of specific measures to strengthen the relationship.

The latter, titled “Japan-ASEAN Joint Action Plan,” would consist of such steps as promotion of trade and investment relations, conducting research on human cooperation and development of human resources in the newer, less-developed members of ASEAN.

Japanese and ASEAN leaders are due to sign a framework for the economic partnership at their summit Tuesday in Indonesian resort island of Bali and the two sides would seek to create a regional FTA by 2012.

In addition to the economic partnership, the action plan would prompt Japan and ASEAN to step up cooperation in harmonization of legal institutions and transport, mobility of business people and tourism, the draft says.

As for political cooperation, the two sides would inaugurate a study group to explore avenues for strengthening security partnership and seek to jointly play a role for the prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts in the region.

They would also promote the universality of non-proliferation and disarmament treaties, intensify cooperation in counterterrorism, especially in the area of capacity building.

Drive safely

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian power company to issue one trillion rupiah bonds

Jakarta, 5 Oct—Indonesia’s state electricity company PLN will issue bonds worth 1 trillion rupiah (some 117.65 million US dollars) in 2004 to help finance the development of power plants and distribution networks.

“I hope to issue PLN bonds in mid-2004, with the hope that not many other companies will do so, so that the market may give a positive response to ours,” PLN president director, Eddy Widiono, was quoted by the official Antara news agency as saying Thursday.

He said proceeds from the bond issue will be used to finance the development of facilities outside Java and Bali, particularly in Riau, on Sumatra Island and on the entire of Kalimantan Island.

A Chinese dragon performs before the China-Russia 2003 Women’s World Cup quarterfinals on 2 October, 2003, at PGE Park in Portland, Ore.——INTERNET

US troops in Iraq mourn slain female soldier

Tikrit (Iraq), 5 Oct—Hundreds of US troops held a memorial service on Friday at their base in one of Saddam Hussein’s former palaces in Iraq to mourn a female soldier killed when a roadside bomb exploded as she drove past.

Private Analaura Esparzo-Gutierrez, 21, was killed on Wednesday when the blast hit the Humvee vehicle she was driving outside the base in Tikrit, Saddam’s home town.

Three other soldiers were wounded in the attack.

A US Army spokeswoman said Esparzo-Gutierrez was the fourth female US soldier to die in combat operations since the start of the war and the first killed in action since President George W. Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

Esparzo-Gutierrez, from Houston, Texas, had arrived in Iraq on April 5 and was midway through a one-year tour.

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Groups say Iraq needs $24b for infrastructure

WASHINGTON, 5 Oct— Iraq needs 24.2 billion US dollars to rebuild its infrastructure, 7.2 billion US dollars for education, health and jobs, and three billion US dollars for agriculture, according to a needs assessment from international organizations.

An estimate of the costs put together by the World Bank, United Nations and International Monetary Fund, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, estimates 15.6 billion US dollars will be needed over the next four years to get key areas of the economy up and running.

Those funds would be needed in addition to the 20-billion-US-dollar estimated by the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority.

The breakdown confirms numbers told to Reuters by UN sources on Wednesday.

The assessment is being unveiled in Madrid on Thursday at a meeting of governments and international agencies preparing for the donors meeting, due to take place in the same city on October 23-24. The meeting is being sponsored by Spain, the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

The breakdown for the 20 billion US dollars from the US includes five billion US dollars for security and police, eight billion US dollars for the cost of rebuilding the oil industry and 3.5 billion US dollars for the environment.

Delivery of the money should be front-loaded with a large chunk of the money needed next year, the studies said.

The US estimates that 8.2 billion US dollars will be needed in 2004, mostly for security and police, and the assessment carried out by the Bank, Fund and United Nations said an additional 9.3 billion US dollars will be needed next year in key sectors. — MNA/Reuters

Bush asks $600m for Iraq weapons hunt

NEW YORK, 5 Oct— More than 600 million US dollars is needed to continue searching for evidence of weapons of mass destruction or other illegal arms in Iraq, the New York Times reported on Thursday, citing Bush Administration officials.

The request is included in the classified section of the White House’s $87 billion US dollars supplemental spending request for Iraq and Afghanistan expenses, the Times said.

The size of the request suggests that the search for weapons will go on, despite the fact there has not been any solid evidence that Iraq had chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, said the Times.

The money is earmarked for the Iraq Survey Group, which is comprised of teams of troops and experts who are managed by the Pentagon but whose activities are coordinated by David Kay, the daily reported. Kay is former United Nations weapons inspector who has been coordinating the Central Intelligence Agency-led hunt for banned weapons in the country.

If the Administration gets all the money, it will allow the survey group to boost its staff to 1,400 from about 1,200 members, said the Times, citing officials familiar with the request. A Pentagon spokesman declined to comment to the Times about the classified request for funds. — MNA/Reuters

Singapore Air tightens security with cabin cameras

SINGAPORE, 5 Oct— All Singapore Airlines aircraft will have surveillance cameras just outside the cockpit from November to view the cabin as a security precaution, Southeast Asia’s biggest airline said on Friday.

Singapore Airlines and its unit Silk Air have already installed bullet-proof reinforced cockpit doors and use sky marshals armed with stun guns on flights deemed high risk.

Singapore stepped up security after the September 11, 2001 hijack attacks on the United States and tightened it again after last October’s devastating bomb blasts on the resort island of Bali in neighbouring Indonesia.

“We have completed the installation of bullet-proof cockpit doors in April,” said SIA spokesman Rick Clements. “We are also in the process of installing surveillance cameras so that the cockpit crew can immediately see outside the cockpit and the cabin area.”

The installation of cameras across the fleet would be completed by the beginning of November, he said.

Security has been stepped up across the city-state, a major base for Western businesses in Asia. Soldiers patrol the airport and border crossings with Malaysia. The government has said Singapore was a target for militants because of its support for the US war on terror.

Clements said Singapore Airlines had also strengthened building security, guarding aircraft on the tarmac, while conducting random baggage searches.

Asked about the cost of the extra security, he said it could run into the “tens of millions over a period of time, over one or more years.” Singapore Airlines is installing the cameras in its operating fleet of 75 aircraft. It has a total of 97 aircraft in its fleet. — MNA/Reuters

India reacts coolly to Pakistan’s test-firing of missile

NEW DELHI, 5 Oct— India Friday reacted coolly to Pakistan’s test-firing of a surface-to-surface missile in the day, saying it was “nothing new” as such tests had been carried out by Pakistan before.

“This is nothing special about it,” Defence Minister George Fernandes told reporters.

His remarks came as Islamabad announced the “successful” test firing of the 290-kilometre-range missile capable of carrying conventional and nuclear warheads.

Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal also echoed Fernandes’ comment by saying “this is nothing new. They have had missile tests before also.” — MNA/Xinhua

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Iraqi judge orders confiscation of smuggled oil

BAGHDAD, 5 Oct— An Iraqi judge said Friday that two seized oil tankers and several thousand tons of smuggled oil on board should be confiscated.

The Gicun, with 150 tons of fuel oil, and the Manara II, with 2,145 tons of oil, were seized by the US-led coalition forces in Gulf waters in August, a statement issued by the coalition said.

The judge from the port city of Umm Qasr permitted the Iraq's deposed leader Saddam Hussein in Baghdad, during a demonstration to demand salary payments. — Reuters

China-France Culture Year hailed as milestone of bilateral ties

BEIJING, 5 Oct— More than 300 years ago, five French priests were sent by their Emperor to Beijing as the first French cultural envoys.

This year Chinese artists will go to France to take part in a diversified art and performance exhibition during the upcoming Chinese Culture Year. The year’s activities will debut in Paris on October 6, and with more than 300 programmes, will bring the cultures of Asia and Europe together.

Chinese Culture Minister Sun Zhaoheng said in an interview with Xinhua on Friday that the Chinese Culture Year will greet the French people with Chinese culture programmes of unprecedented size, innovation and quality, marking a milestone in history between the two countries.

Sun said Sino-French cultural relations had reached a peak, with an annual exchange of more than 200 projects. In recent years, the two countries have signed a series of documents to set up culture centres and strengthen inter-government culture cooperation.

The Chinese Culture Year will cover various fields of literature and arts, education, technology, physical culture, minority groups and tourism, said Sun.

More than 20 provinces and cities in China will host activities with their French counterparts. He said the Chinese Culture Year will host many exhibitions and performances, such as a Chinese modern film exhibition, a Chinese 20th Century art exhibition and tour performances by the Chinese Central Ballet Troupe. — MNA/Xinhua British police on patrol near the M16 headquarters in London. British diplomat Sir Peter Heap cast doubts on the quality of intelligence which led Britain into the Iraq war. Heap warned that M16 in prone to hyping up the authority of its sources. — Reuters

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Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal also echoed Fernandes’ comment by saying “this is nothing new. They have had missile tests before also.” — MNA/Xinhua

Bush asks $600m for Iraq weapons hunt

NEW YORK, 5 Oct— More than 600 million US dollars is needed to continue searching for evidence of weapons of mass destruction or other illegal arms in Iraq, the New York Times reported on Thursday, citing Bush Administration officials.

The request is included in the classified section of the White House’s $87 billion US dollars supplemental spending request for Iraq and Afghanistan expenses, the Times said.

The size of the request suggests that the search for weapons will go on, despite the fact there has not been any solid evidence that Iraq had chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, said the Times.

The money is earmarked for the Iraq Survey Group, which is comprised of teams of troops and experts who are managed by the Pentagon but whose activities are coordinated by David Kay, the daily reported. Kay is former United Nations weapons inspector who has been coordinating the Central Intelligence

Iraqi judge orders confiscation of smuggled oil

BAGHDAD, 5 Oct— An Iraqi judge said Friday that two seized oil tankers and several thousand tons of smuggled oil on board should be confiscated.

The Gicun, with 150 tons of fuel oil, and the Manara II, with 2,145 tons of oil, were seized by the US-led coalition forces in Gulf waters in August, a statement issued by the coalition said.

The judge from the port city of Umm Qasr permitted

China-France Culture Year hailed as milestone of bilateral ties

BEIJING, 5 Oct— More than 300 years ago, five French priests were sent by their Emperor to Beijing as the first French cultural envoys.

This year Chinese artists will go to France to take part in a diversified art and performance exhibition during the upcoming Chinese Culture Year. The year’s activities will debut in Paris on October 6, and with more than 300 programmes, will bring the cultures of Asia and Europe together.

Chinese Culture Minis-
A war may have many definitions from many angles. But finally there are only two kinds of wars — the war of aggression and the war of safeguarding or restoring the sovereignty, with full patriotism and unyielding spirit for the nation and the people. Whatever reason an aggressive war has, it really is an unjust act of domination, insult on other’s sovereignty, and making indirect threat against others, with the show of force.

The internal affairs of a nation is the issue of its own people. The people will have to solve an internal problem by themselves. The act of issuing multi orders and imposing sanctions on a country, under various excuses, with the aim of enabling a person or an organization in their favour to win power, amounts to interfering in the internal affairs of American, and it is also a political insult, an unlawful act and the domination, like the act of launching an armed invasion, with the use of a large manpower and fire power. Sadly, there always exist the internal traitors relating to this question. The traitors will feel sorry after being severely punished by the Tatmadaw members and the people, who will safeguard their nation, the citizens and the sovereignty at the risk of their lives.

In a community, there are people who wish to lead a sincere and peaceful life, within the framework of law, while living in peace with the surrounding communities. And there also exist some, overestimating themselves, and thinking that their participation is always needed in every case, and are getting involved in every problem. Because of the existence of the latter type of persons, the community has to face deterioration of peace and stability, slowdown in the development, sufferings both in body and mind, and loss of lives and property. The strength and wealth of the rowdy persons can poison the human community.

The US, which faced the consequences of the civil war for a period of over 100 years has been gaining the greater degree in the global military affairs since the later period of the World War I. Because of the capitalists and the fascists, wishing to colonize the whole planet, the world faced a great deal of destruction due to the eruption of the World War II, and its consequences for a very long time.

Myanmar, which lost her independence and sovereignty, also experienced a worse situation while struggling to free itself. It suffered bitter experiences under two kinds of colonialism — the capitalism and the fascism. Once, Myanmar faced a great deal of trouble under the colonialist war. And the consequences had led to deterioration of the internal peace and stability and a slowdown in the development for decades after it became an independent and sovereign nation. Since then, the traitors who lack the qualifications and strength, a good citizen would have, have been disturbing the nation and the people.

The British launched a major military operation with a large naval, air, ground, artillery and mechanized forces of the Chinese and the Burma Army to drive out the fascist troops and take a foothold in Myanmar. The fascist troops faced their enemy with nine army divisions. But those forces were not to liberate the Myanmar people and the country. The Myanmar land was destroyed by the tanks, guns and bombs of the battling armies. The battles had flattened many towns and villages and resulted and destroyed a countless number of lives and property. As the invaders did not want to give back inde-

### Training on Entrepreneurship Development concluded

**Yangon, 5 Oct —** The training on Entrepreneurship Development for Women in Myanmar, jointly conducted by Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum (GMS-BF), concluded at the International Business Centre yesterday. Present were UMFCCI President U Win Myint, CEC members, Vice-President of MWEA and executives. Dr Dhunangma of Trade and Investment Division of UNESCAP, Project Director Daw San Yu Yu Ohn of GMS-BF, President U Win Myint and Adviser and Founder of MWEA Prof Daw Yi Yi Myint made speeches. U Win Myint, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of UMFCCI and officials presented the course completion certificates to the trainees. — MNA

### EFFICIENT USE OF ELECTRICITY

- Use daylight as the main source of light
- Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

### EFFICIENT USE OF FUEL

- Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US $ 5.5 million in a year
- The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

### ALL THIS NEEDS TO BE KNOWN

- **Do not be frightened whenever intimidated**
- **Do not be bolstered whenever flattered**
- **Do not be softened whenever apprehended**

### People’s Desire

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize the 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

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**Going into the darkness from the light**

Akkito Bhini

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Teachers are placed highly...

(from page 1)

Moreover, in-service teacher training courses such as distance education, the interests of teachers are being provided and B.Ed two-year course through distance learning is also given in Institutes of Education in order to upgrade the professional qualifications of teachers to improve their prospects.

If we look back to the year 1988, it can be observed that only about 4000 teachers were given in-service training. However, in the 2002-2003 academic year, a total of over 30,000 teachers were given training and so it is found that, the number of trained teachers have increased nine times compared to the previous years.

Today, basic education and higher education students numbering over 8.45 million are now being taught by two hundred and forty thousand teachers.

With regard to the improvements in education sector, in 1988, there were only 32 universities and colleges and 33,747 basic education schools. But now it has increased to 154 universities and colleges and 40,099 basic education schools. The number of students in 1988 was one hundred and thirty thousand and eight thousand university students and 5.24 million basic education students making a total of 5.37 million only. But now it has risen to nine hundred thousand university students and 7.55 million basic education students a total of 8.45 million increment.

In viewing the teacher strength, in the year 1988, there were only 6,600 university teachers and about one hundred and seventy-five thousand basic education teachers with a total of only one hundred and eight thousand teachers. Now there are over 17,000 university teachers and two hundred and twenty-four thousand basic education teachers making a total increment of two hundred and forty-one thousand teachers.

In the higher education sector only the masters degree was offered as postgraduate course in the past. Nowadays master’s degree on a research doctorate degree courses are being provided resulting not only in uplifting the national education standard but also research programmes. Human resource development centres are being established with "One Campus Multi System" system at universities and degree colleges providing appropriate courses and trainings to meet local needs.

By improving the mode of teaching-learning process, teachers should try to change their role as facilitators to meet local needs. Degree colleges providing appropriate courses and trainings "One Campus Multi System" system at universities and colleges in middle school level article competition.

Second four-monthly coord meeting of Ministry of Rail Transportation held

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min addresses the four-monthly coordination meeting of the ministry. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents a prize to SAT Daw Yin Myint, who stood first in the high school level article competition. — MNA

For General U Tin Nyunt of No 1 Basic Education Department read out the message on World Teachers’ Day sent by the chiefs of the UNESCO, the ILO, the UNDP and the UNICEF under the (5).

Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science Chairman U Than Oo explained the endeavours of Sayagu U Po Hoo, who compiled General Science subject in Myanmar for primary, middle and high school students. Sayagu U Khin Thaing, who has been contributing educational papers throughout his life under the pseudonym "Ba Gyi Thu", and Sayu U Maung Heat, who sacrificed his life together with three pupils in preventing Wyapa Village in Maung Township (Now Yayzwa Township) from forest fire.

The Prime Minister presented prizes to U Khin Than, U Kyaw Kyaw Thein, son of Sayagu U Po Hoo and Ma Hpwa Bu, daughter of Sayu U Maung Heat. He also presented first, second and third prizes to Associate Professor Daw Din Tin Wai of Myanmarsa Department of the UDE, Lecturer Daw Su Su Khang of Myanmarsa Department of YU, and Demonstrator Daw Wint Swe Wai (Head of Physics Department of YU in university, college and institute level article contest, and SAT Daw Yin Myint of Pabedan BEHS-1 in Yangon Division, SAT Daw Khin Aye Myint of Hinthada BEHS-1 in Ayeyawady Division, and SAT Daw Swe Swe Than of Kanyad都n BEHS in Ayeyawady Division in high school level article contest.

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win presented the first, second and third prizes to JAT Daw Thawda Min of North Okkapala BEHS-3 in Yangon Division, JAT U Shwe Tui (Chunwe) of Thaton BEHS-1 in Mon State and JAT Daw Moe Si Khin of Sagaing BEHS-1 in Sagaing Division in middle school level article contest. Schoolhead Daw Khin Aye (Khin Khin Win -BEd) of Chanayethazan BEHS-17 in Mandalay Division, PAT Daw Kye Pin Zein of Thatlang BEPS-3 in Chin State and PAT Daw Oo Min Lwin of Chanayethazan BEHS-14 in Mandalay Division in primary school level article contest.

Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein presented the first, second and third prizes to Second Year Student Ma Nyo Zin Myint of Myanmarya Education College, Second Year Student Ma Swe Zin Nu of Mandalay Education College and Second Year Student Ma Pyi Phyo Thu of Sagaing Education College in educational university and college level essay contest. Second Year Student Ma Hu Hnin Paing of Myanmarya Education College in educational university and college poem contest.

Member of SPDLC Li-Gen Kyaw Win presented the first, second and third prizes to Ninth Grader Ma Myint Myat of Thaton BEHS-2 in Mon State, Ninth Grader Ma Pyi Phyo Wai (Thet) of Mintha BEHS in Bago Division (West) and Eighth Grader Nan Ngwai Pnui Pwint Oo of Bago BEHS-1 in Bago Division in high school level essay contest, Eighth Grader Maung Thaung Soe of Natatlan BEHS in Bago Division (West), Ninth Grader Ma Myat Zin Oo of Pathin BEHS-6 in Ayeyawady Division and Eighth Grader Ma Ei Sin Thu of Hpa-an BEHS-1 in Kayin State in high school level poem contest.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented the first, second and third prizes to Seventh Grader Ma Nt Htet Htet Lwin of Sinway BEHS-4 in Bakhute State, Seventh Grader Ma Hayman of Lokha BEHS-1 in Kayah State and Seventh Grader Ma Hau Sandi Aung of Thatlang BEHS-4 in Yangon Division in middle school essay contest, Seventh Grader Maung Zawtika Maung Maung of Bago BEHS-3 in Bago Division, Fifth Grader Maung Htet Aung Lin of Myikyina BEHS-3 in Kachin State and Fifth Grader Ma Ye Myat Nanda of Pathin BEHS-6 in middle school level poem contest.

Awards, gold medalists students of Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions and high school students presented entertainment programmes. After the ceremony, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present and looked around the World Teachers’ Day commemorative exhibition 2003.

MNA

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win presents a prize to JAT Daw Thein Min, who stood first in the middle school level article competition. — MNA

Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein presents a prize to second year student Ma Nyo Zin Myint who stood first in the essay competition. — MNA

MNA
**Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attends...**

(From page 16)

First, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence unveiled the signboard of the monastic education school.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and a member of the School Board of Trustees U Maung Maung formally opened it.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected it. Afterwards, the merit-sharing ceremony for the two-storey building was held in conjunction with the cash-presentation ceremony at Gyohthiriyadana Kyauung of the Kyautgaik.

First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from member of State Central Working Committee of Sangha Presiding Sayadaw of Kanmine Kyaungtaik in Lashio. Then Aung Htwe and party presented 500 dozens of honey, 1 million by U Kyaw Sein of Top and Top Co, K 1 million by U Htay Aung of Ngwe Hsin Co, K 500,000 by U Sai Aye for the monastic education school.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented 500 dozens of exercise books and 200 dozens of pencil for the students through member of the School Board of Trustees U Maung Maung.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presented documents related to newly-built two-storey building to Presiding Sayadaw of Seikta Thukha Kyautgaik Bhaddanta Nantobhasa (Dhammarataya).

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sumana of Khayo Parittyi Sarthintaik delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party presented offerings to members of the Sangha.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe accepted K 40 million donated by well-wishers led by North-East Command for the two-storey building, K 500,000 by U Laik Hte of Yathika Co, K 1 million by U Kyaw Sein of Top and Top Co, K 1 million by U Htay Aung of Ngwe Hsin Co, K 500,000 by U Sai Aye for the monastic education school.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected the coffee nurseries of the North-East Command and gave necessary instructions to officials.

They then arrived at the 1000-acre poppy-substitute agriculture zone of the North-East Command on Lashio-Hsenwi Road.

At the briefing hall, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing monitored progress in cultivation of poppy-substitute crops and future tasks.

In Charge of the agriculture zone Lt-Col Nay Lin reported on efforts being made by the North-East Command for extended production of poppy-substitute crops in the 1000-acre agriculture zone and tasks to be carried out.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected Mount Hla Thwin planted with flowers, sunflowers, and placed a special High Yield Shwehl paddy, Hsinyadaw Highland paddy and Macadamia plants.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe together with the commander, senior military officers and departmental officials paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunanda.

Next, they inspected the newly built two-storey Sunsvarkyaung of the Sarhtintaik.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected Sasana Jotika Kyauung and Thein Kyauung under construction in the compound of the Kyautgaik and gave necessary instructions to officials.

**Commander, Minister meet industrialists of Pathein Industrial Zone**

YANGON, 5 Oct — Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, in-charge of Pathein Industrial Zone, on 3 October, met with members of the industrial zone supervisory committee and industrialists at the Pathein Industrial Zone Management office.

At the meeting, the commander called for concerted efforts to be made for development of the State and the minister for production of import-substitute machinery and vehicles.

Chairman of the industrial zone supervisory committee Chairman of Pathein District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Hla Thwin reported on implementation of the zone, situation and area, power supply, running of private industries, assembling of vehicles, investment and strength of labour and the zone management committee chairman industrialist U Maung Maung Myint on their needs. The commander and the minister fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister inspected the assembling of Ayar Hi-speed double-cabs, vehicles and gave necessary instructions.

Later, they inspected the engine production and Ayar Swarn Aar rice mill of the command and fulfilled the requirements.

**Regional development tasks inspected in Maung**

YANGON, 5 Oct — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Soe Oo, accompanied by departmental heads at state level arrived in Maung Maung Township on 1st October and met with departmental officials, members of Myanmar National Women’s Affairs, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association, social organizations and townsmen.

During the meeting, they gave instructions on mobilization of the five rural development tasks, regional rice sufficiency and extended cultivation of paddy.

The commander and party arrived in Bein village, Maung Maung and met with local people and gave instructions to them and they donated offerings to members of the Sangha at Maung, Mysma monastery on 3rd October.

Next, the commander and party inspected construction site of Ohn Creek bridge with the length of 210 feet and fulfilled their needs and attended cash donation ceremony.

The commander attended cash donation ceremony for construction of new building for Kha-ohnhaw Village Primary School. He inspected the 16-bed hospital in Maung Township and left necessary instructions.
National Kandawgyi Garden in PyinOolwin

Flowers of late monsoon and spring were blooming with brilliant colour in the National Kandawgyi Garden of PyinOolwin, a town honoured as a city of flowers thanks to the ever-blooming various flowers in it.

Monsoon flowers such as dahlias, sunflowers, spider, land lily were competing with the spring flowers of Tulips, Stock, Delphinium, Felicia, Afrostemma Gitato and Linum Gwnjilorum.

The staff of Kyemon visited the garden on 15 September. National Kandawgyi Garden is full of fascinating landscapes and scenic views, covering 456.96 acres of land including natural forest, refreshment lawns and lakes at various levels.

Under the guidance of the Head of State, all-round upgrading tasks of the garden was jointly carried out by Woodland Group of Companies, Winlandscaping and Design (Japan), GEO-BCS Construction Group (Myanmar).

In order to upgrade the garden into a national garden of international standards, Woodland Group of Companies carried out the tasks phase by phase. The first phase of the project started on 1 October, 2001 and completed on 30th March, 2002, expanding another 104.81 acres of land. National Kandawgyi Garden Upgrading Project was carried out with a view to strengthening the beauty and essence of a garden according to the designs of international standards drawn with the assistance of technicians at home and abroad.

General Manager U Tin Aung Hla and incharge of the sections of garden conservation and natural forest and birds conservation Daw Aye Aye Maw conducted the staff of Kyemon round the garden in a mini-car.

First, we entered archways constructed with the natural trunks of teak, Pyingadoe, and Yinmar. Enjoying the atmosphere of forest, we continued the tour in the mini-car.

At the end of the road, abundant array of flowers were welcoming us. The sun was shining through a fountain and created a beautiful rainbow.

Landscaping tasks were carried out with a view to conserving the existing trees, and growing of grass, pines, flowering plants were arranged in an attractive way.

Although the area of the garden was only 240 acres before the project, after the second extension of 92.15 acres, total area of the garden increased to 436.96 acres with 369 embankments of flowering plants and 16 species of trees numbering 324.

Walking through the banks of flowers, we reached a garden filled with land lilies. On the other side of the garden was a 620-foot long stone garden. And a small lane, which looked like a dry creek, carried us into a rain forest.

Translation: MWT
(28-9-2003 Kyemon)

Scene of flowering viewpoint in National Kandawgyi garden in PyinOolwin.
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Better transportation plays a key role in national development. With this end in view, the government is building roads and bridges across the country. The 1,900 feet long Shwelaung Bridge on Pantanaw-Shwelaung-Wakema road is a bailey truss suspension one. It was commissioned into service on 21-3-2002.— PHOTO: MNA

In the time of Tatmadaw Government, many dams and reservoirs have been built for agricultural purpose. The photo shows the Salin Dam with the length of 2,770 feet and height of 220 feet which was opened on 15 August 2001 in Salin Township, Magway Division to irrigate 33,000 acres of farmland. PHOTO: MNA

Human resource development programmes are being implemented with greater momentum in basic and higher education sectors. The photo shows the magnificent main building of Mandalay Yadanaung University which was opened on 7 July 2003 in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA
Two killed in crash of firefighter air tanker in S California

LOS ANGELES, 5 Oct.—Two people were killed Friday as a firefighting air tanker crashed and burst into flames in southern California.

The plane, contracted to the US Forest Service, crashed in the San Bernardino National Forest while flying from Arizona state to San Bernardino, 64 kilometres to the east of Los Angeles, the Federal Aviation Administration office here said.

Authorities said the crash started a one-and-a-half-acre fire, but it was quickly doused.

The tanker was one of two that were heading to the San Bernardino Air Tanker Base after fighting a fire in Arizona. The other plane landed safely, a Forest Service spokesman said.

The identities of the two victims in the crash were not immediately released.

It was foggy at the base at the time of the crash, but it remained unclear whether that overcast extended into the mountains.—MNA/Xinhua

Hollywood singer-actress
Courtney Love booked for drug overdose

LOS ANGELES, 5 Oct.—US singer and actress Courtney Love was hospitalized for drug overdose following her arrest for breaking windows at a friend’s house, local media reported Friday.

Love, 39, was released late Thursday after she was booked for allegedly being under the influence of a controlled substance outside a Wilshire-area home, the NBC4 TV reported.

She admitted having broken the windows in an attempt to enter her friend’s house, Los Angeles Police Lieutenant Art Miller said.

She was booked and released by the police. But less than an hour later, Beverly Hills police and paramedics responded to a call for help at another residence, where Love was found and taken to a hospital for treatment.

She was taken to Century City Hospital for treatment before being booked on drug overdose, the report said.

Love, widow of grunge rock star Kurt Cobain, is the founder of the influential band Hole, and was a Golden Globe nominee for her role in the movie “The People vs. Larry Flynt.” She has played roles in “Man on the Moon” and “Beat.”

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Phone: 372416
Dated: 6 October 2003

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P.O.Box 109, Ph. 248108
(For: Donnern Songjat & Boonma Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated: 6 October, 2003

NOTICE IS hereby given that the online trading will enable India to join the ranks of New York Mercantile Exchange and Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

The online trading will enable Indian jewelers, exporters and banks engaged in bullion trade to reap the benefits of hedging against price fluctuations, Geojit Corp. Managing Director C.K. George told reporters in Kochi in southern India Thursday.—MNA/Xinhua
Bangladeshi exports to US

Mohak, 6 Oct — Bangladeshi exports to the US States are likely to face a setback, as registration with the US Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (BCBP) may become mandatory for local exporters from Bangladesh, reported the Financial Express on Thursday.

This will be part of the measures under the Bio-terror Act-2002 (BTA) passed by the US Government recently which requires registration with the department concerned and prior statements of consignment by the exporters to ensure the new container security initiative.

Visiting US official of the BCBP Patrick Day was quoted as saying here Tuesday that local exporters will not get entry into the US market without meeting those requirements.

The deadline for the registration has been fixed on October 12, and the BCBP will begin the enforcement of the BTA by December 2003, said the BCBP sources.

The fresh move coincides with the reported step of Southern Shrimp Alliance of the US that passed a motion in August to pursue an anti-dumping/countervailing duty petition against the shrimp exports from developing countries including Bangladesh.

China’s auto output forecast to top

Beijing, 6 Oct — Experts have forecast that over 4 million vehicles will be produced in China this year.

China produced 2.728 million motor vehicles in the first eight months this year, up 36 per cent over the same period of last year. China produced 3.25 million motor vehicles last year.

China registered sales of 2.723 million motor vehicles in the eight-month period, 30.7 per cent higher than the figure for last year’s corresponding period.

Sales of sedans cars accounted for 42.5 per cent of total auto sales in the first eight months.

India should become regional

Mumbai, 6 Oct — India should become a regional hub for financial services and constantly engage in new activities to sustain economic growth, Indian Finance Minister Jaswant Singh said on Thursday.

“We should improve the financial sector to provide services to the entire region and we can do this,” Singh said after laying the foundation for Securities and Exchange Board of India’s (SEBI) proposed new headquarters in western Indian city of Mumbai.

Indian business and financial community has a natural flair to deal with money and capital markets and people working in this sector should go out in the world to grab opportunities, Singh said adding, “government will provide all support to this endeavour.”

Citing the example of Surat which was once a thriving banking centre, Singh said those involved in trade had then perfected the “hundi” (traditional financial instrument) system.

On the growth of Indian economy, he said “our growth must never stop and we must continuously engage in new activities”.

The system should not be the victim of destiny and instead become a catalyst for change, he added.

SEBI chairman GN Bajaj said the market regulator has prepared a four-pronged strategy, including revamping the organization and establishment of a data centre.

The government has granted permission to Asian Development Bank and International Finance Corporation, part of World Bank group, to raise funds from the Indian market.

Bajaj added. — MNA/PTI

China’s satellite to operate by

New Delhi, 6 Oct — India’s latest communications satellite INSAT-3E, launched last week, is expected to reach its designated space home on October 10 and will be operational by the end of this month, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman G. Madhavan Nair said Thursday.

“It is expected to be operational by the end of this month,” Nair told reporters at the ISRO Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan in southern India where from the satellite is being tracked and monitored.

INSAT-3E, launched on September 28 by Ariane 5 rocket by Arianespace from the spaceport of Kourou in South America, was performing well, he said. The satellite, with 36 transponders, carried one third of ISRO’s transponder capacity and would “enhance the capacity to cater to domestic and international customers”.

China’s auto output forecast to top

Mumbai, 6 Oct — Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra called as “rumours” the reports that said six shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles may have been smuggling into the country for terrorist attacks during the APEC summit, scheduled to be held later this month, the Bangkok Post reported Thursday.

He was quoted as saying that there were rumours that some weapons might have been smuggled into the country from Cambodia, but the Thai authorities had investigated to be sure that it was not true, just rumour. If any surface-to-air missiles from Cambodia were left, then they must be antiquities that cannot be used, he joked, reiterating that the country was safe and that security services were coordinating closely with foreign intelligence services to guard against any potential threats.

Thaksin stressed that security had been heightened significantly and anybody attempting to launch an anti-aircraft missile would be arrested immediately. Police would also hold a seminar Thursday to explain to 4,000 taxi motorists working around the airport just what a missile and launcher looked like.

The local Press reported on September 29 that some Singaporean security experts singled out Bangkok’s Don Muang Airport as the most vulnerable major airport in the region, especially the planes flying out of the airport were relatively easy targets for surface-to-air missiles.

MNA/Xinhua

Sister cities bridge China-

Beijing, 6 Oct — The splendid of the Chinese culture will blossom in France through the channel of sister cities, said the organizing committee of the Chinese Culture Year, an event scheduled to open in Paris on October 6. Advo-

cated by top leaders from both countries, the China-France Culture Year will last till July 2005, with the Chinese Culture Year to be held in France from this October to July 2004, and the French Culture Year ensuing in China.

According to Sun Jiaxiang, chairman of the Chinese organizing committee and China’s Cultural Minister, a notable characteristic of the event is the active involvement and interaction between the sister cities from the two coun-

tries. Apart from Paris, many other French cities will also stage performances and exhibitions sent by Chinese cities they have established sisterhood ties with. China and France currently boast 47 pairs of sister provinces and cities. Some big cities, like Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing and Guangzhou, will stage their own “culture week” in Paris, Marseille, Toulouse and Lyon. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia’s Prime Minister will have his own spokesman for the first time, and a 45-year-old telecommunications giant executive has been appointed to the job. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai on Wednesday said he has appointed former Head of the state-run Vietnam Television, as his spokesman, officials said.

While most heads of state and government have media experts on their personnel staff, the concept is still new in Communist Vietnam, which is often criticized for its lack of transparency and tight control on information.

Up to now, the Foreign Ministry has been the government’s public face, with its spokesman speaking on a range of issues from investment rule changes to human rights. The ministry holds media briefings twice a month. Quoc, who worked for Vietnam’s Army newspaper before reporting for the state television until the end of last month, could not be reached for comment.

Hanoi also plans to set up a spokesman in every ministry but has yet to say how those appointments will be completed.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam TV reporter named

Hanoi, 6 Oct — Viet-

nam’s Prime Minister will have his own spokesman for the first time, and a 45-year-old telecommunications giant executive has been appointed to the job. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai on Wednesday said he has appointed former Head of the state-run Vietnam Television, as his spokesman, officials said.

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Bajpai added.
Ferguson to stick with under-fire defenders

MANCHESTER (England), 5 Oct—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson will keep faith with his under-fire defenders in the Premier League match against Birmingham City on Saturday.

Ferguson was unhappy with the errors that led to United’s 2-1 Champions League defeat in Stuttgart on Wednesday but is not planning to alter things, unless England international Rio Ferdinand is ruled out with a foot injury.

“Ferdinand was disappointing (in Stuttgart),” Ferguson told a news conference on Friday. “We started the second half badly and never recovered really. I read some nonsense in the newspapers that four of them were getting axed. I can’t believe that. Axing four is a wee bit dramatic. I think. There will not really be any changes tomorrow.”

If Ferdinand fails to recover, John O’Shea is likely to move to central defence with Quinton Fortune playing at left back. In reality, Ferguson has few alternatives with Wes Brown still injured and a lack of experienced defensive cover in his squad.

While the spotlight will be on United’s back four, Birmingham have had no such problems with the best defensive record in the league.

Birmingham have conceded just two goals, none away from home.

Ferguson, therefore, expects fourth-placed City to provide resistance opposite in the manner of their manager, former Manchester United centre back Steve Bruce.

“Steve’s had the experience at other clubs, which will help him,” Ferguson said.

“He’s taken them (Birmingham) into the Premier Division, which many managers have tried for years beforehand, and then done very, very well.

They consolidated well last year and have had a great start this season. There’s no saying how far they’ll go now. If you go back to when I was a boy, Birmingham were the biggest team in the Midlands.

They are a very determined side. They have good legs in midfield. We know what they are facing.” — MNA/Reuters

Barclays renew Premier League sponsorship

LONDON, 5 Oct—Barclaycard have renewed their title sponsorship of the English Premier League after agreeing a further three-year deal worth 57 million pounds (95.19 million US dollars), the Premier League said on Friday.

Barclaycard, the credit card business of British banking group Barclays, took over as sponsors in 2001. The new deal, worth nine million pounds more than the last one, begins at the start of next season.

“It is a testament to the successful relationship we have enjoyed with Barclaycard as well as the continued domestic and global popularity of the FA Premier League that Barclays view us as the ideal sponsorship property to drive their business at home and abroad,” said Premier League chief executive Richard Scudamore in a statement.

“This is an excellent deal for our clubs and gives Barclays’ commitment to further develop the sponsorship for fans and other elements of the game we believe the relationship offers tremendous value to all parties involved,” he added. — MNA/Reuters

Milan derby offers Inter chance for revenge

MILAN, 5 Oct—Inter Milan will try to avenge last season’s Champions League semifinal defeat by AC Milan when they face their city rivals Sunday in Serie A.

AC Milan went on to be crowned Euro- pean champions following an “away goals” semifinal win over Inter in May after two closely contested matches at the San Siro stadium shared by the two clubs.

Inter also lost both last season’s league derby games 1-0 and have not beaten Milan for the “home side” since an Italian Cup match in January 1998. But Inter’s Argente- cine captain Javier Zanetti is convinced his team are made of sterner stuff this season.

“We are stronger because we are a more complete side,” said Zanetti, whose team are fifth on eight points, two less than joint leaders AC Milan, after four games.

“We have more choices available to us and we have two players for each role.

“Believe me we have a group of lads here who will get excellent results. There is a cohesion that I haven’t seen before and that is fundamental,” he added.

While the fixture arrives unusually early in the Serie A season, the pressure is on Inter to pick up three points after successive draws against Sampdoria and Udinese.

Hector Cuper’s side are boosted by the return of Christian Vieri to their attack — the Italiy striker marked his comeback from three weeks out with a calf injury by grabbing the last-minute winner in their 2-1 Champions League win over Dynamo Kiev.

But they will again be without central defender Marco Materazzi with former Colorado stopper Daniele Adani expected to stand-in as Inter look to keep a fifth consecutive clean sheet.

AC Milan have striker Filippo Inzaghi back to full fitness and he is expected to partner Andriy Shevchenko in attack with Brazilian Kaka was one of several players below par in Milan’s goalless draw at Celta Vigo in the Champions League on Wednes- day but he could be the nod ahead of Portugal’s Rui Costa. — MNA/Reuters

Beckham returns to training with Real Madrid

MADRID, 5 Oct—Real Madrid midfielder David Beckham continued his recovery from a painful hamstring injury by taking full part in training at the Spanish club on Friday.

Real have not yet passed Beckham fit to play in Sunday’s league game at home to Espanyol, because their club preferring to make an assessment on the eve of the match.

“(Beckham’s) status is dependent on the evolution of the injury over the next 24 hours,” Real’s medical department said in its official report.

The English captain suffered the injury to his right foot in Real’s 2-0 defeat by Valencia last weekend and was forced to miss the 3-1 win over Porto in the Champions League in mid-week.

The player himself had said his place in the England side for the decisive Euro 2004 Group Seven qualifier at Turkey on October 11 was in doubt but his return to training should have alleviated those fears. — MNA/Reuters

Answers for yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

A N S W E R S  f o r y e s t e r d a y ’ s  C r o s s w o r d  P u z z l e


Ferguson says England can win Euro 2004

LONDON, 5 Oct—Alex Ferguson said on Friday that England will have a chance to win the Euro 2004 Championship.

Ferguson, who knows four of England’s squad of 25 members, was speaking before the teams left for the two-week tournament in Portugal.

Ferguson is one of four managers invited by the Daily Mirror to write an assessment on the eve of England’s opening Group Seven qualifier against Turkey.

“England are good enough to win this thing,” Ferguson said.

“I think they have plenty of ability and talent. They have good legs in midfield. They have good goalkeepers. They have good centre backs.” — MNA/Reuters

Don’t smoke

Sergio Garcia of Spain tees off the 16th tee during the American Express World Golf Championship at the Capital City Club Crabapple in Woodstock, Georgia, on 2 Octo- ber, 2003. Garcia finished at five under par.—Intrum
WEATHER
Sunday, 5 October, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions, isolated in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Tanintharyi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawthong (6.54) inches and Patu (1.34) inches.

Maximum temperature 4-10-2003 was 34.5°C (94°F). Minimum temperature 5-10-2003 was 22.0°C (72°F). Maximum wind speed at 09:00 hrs BST on 5-10-2003 was 65 km/h. Total sunshine hours on 4-10-2003 was 9.5 hours approx. Rainfall on 5-10-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-10-2003 was 2175 mm (85.6 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2246 mm (88.13 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2300 mm (90.55 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 16 m/s from Southeast at (14:50) hours MST on 4-10-2003. Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in Western Central Bay, South Bay and partly cloudy in elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until 15:00 hours MST on 6-10-2003: Rain or thunderstorms are likely to be scattered in Tanintharyi Division, Chin and Mon States, isolated in Rakhine and Kachin States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is moderate to varied. Notice for: Weather will be partly cloudy in central Myanmar waters.

“Ok season” for subsequent two days: Continued rain or thunderstorms in southern Myanmar areas. Forecast for: Continued rain or thunderstorms in isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (40%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-10-2003: Partly cloudy.

CONDOLENCES
It is with profound sorrow that we mourn the passing of Vice U Win (aging 65) of Department of Civil Engineering, Myitkyina Oil and Gas Enterprise, father of Ma Chaw Su Win of Petronas Caregail, at 7 pm on Thursday (2-10-03). We are grief stricken and feel the sad moment equally together with the bereaved family.

General Manager Mr Rusli Jusho and staff of Petronas Caregail
Prime Minister Khin Nyunt visits the Mindhamma Hill.

YANGON, 5 Oct — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected the construction work for the full harvest of paddy cultivation in Shan State on 3 October. The Prime Minister also presented prizes to the staff of the Ministry of Defence and Development Council Lt.-Gen. Aung Htwe for the construction of religious buildings on Mindhamma Hill.

Lt.-Gen Aung Htwe attends monsoon paddy harvesting ceremony in Lashio.

YANGON, 5 Oct — Lt.-Gen Aung Htwe inspected a paddy harvesting ceremony in Lashio. Lt.-Gen Aung Htwe, who is the Deputy Commander of North-East Command, made a speech at the ceremony and presented prizes to the staff of the Ministry of Defence and Development Council Lt.-Gen Aung Htwe for the construction of religious buildings on Mindhamma Hill.

Lt.-Gen Maung Bo inspects regional development in Kayin and Mon States.

YANGON, 5 Oct — Lt.-Gen Maung Bo inspected the construction site of the church in the Kayin and Mon States. The Prime Minister also inspected the construction of religious buildings on Mindhamma Hill.

Prime Minister Khin Nyunt inspects all-round construction of Lawka Chantha Abhayab Labha Muni Buddha Image.

YANGON, 5 Oct — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township at 11 am today. Yangon Division and Development Council Chairman Com- mander Maj.-Gen Myint Swe, the Mayor of Yangon, the Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and members of the Board of Trustees of Lawka Chantha Abhayab Labha Muni Buddha Image welcomed the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister also presented prizes to the staff of the Ministry of Defence and Development Council Lt.-Gen Aung Htwe for the construction of religious buildings on Mindhamma Hill.

Khin Nyunt inspects all-round construction of religious buildings on Mindhamma Hill.

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