Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets officials, staff and Tatmadawmen in Taungup

YANGON, 8 Oct — State Peace and Development Council Member Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, together with Rakhine State PDC Chairman Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Col Myint Soe of Taungup Station, arrived at Township Hall in Taungup on 6 October morning. He met with state/district and township PDC members, departmental officials and social organization members, War Veterans Organizations and township elders and local people and discussed matters related to regional development tasks.

Township PDC Chairman U Saw Aung briefed on local rice cultivation, area and climate of the region, efforts are to be made for extending sown acreage for the purpose.

Lt-Gen Maung Oo presented a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made a speech. He said it is needed to make earnest efforts for development of agriculture and meat and fish sectors for the State’s economy to be strong, which is essential in building the country into a modern and developed one. There are six divisions and states that mainly assist the State’s economy. Rakhine State is graded the seventh. Although there is surplus rice in the state, efforts are still made to meet the targeted 10 million sown acres. So, efforts are to be made for extending sown acreage as well as producing 100 baskets of paddy per acre.

The state has named 10 major crops, three perennial crops and three new plants for the long-term interest of the State. It is found that Taungup region grows only monsoon crop. Although there is surplus paddy in the state, it is needed to extend growing of paddy in the interest of the state and the country. To produce 100 baskets of paddy per acre, quality paddy strains are to be grown. As regards growing of beans and pulses, growing of Pesimal exceeded the target. Other kinds of beans and pulses should be grown. It is needed to give encouragement to extend growing of Thitsinac trees as perennial crops. Among the three new items, pepper is grown on a large scale. As the state has favourable condition for growing pepper, it is needed to extend sown acreage for the state to be named a pepper state. Those wishing to grow pepper on a large scale will be provided with cultivation methods and saplings. It is found that only monsoon paddy is grown in the region. So, after harvesting the monsoon paddy, it is needed to grow vegetable and kitchen crops for the family, he said.

As regards the livestock breeding sector, digging ponds in the sown acreage is to be avoided. Officials concerned are to see that the sown acreage did not decrease. It is needed for every family having a compound to raise 10 of poultry.

Efforts are to be made to meet the economic targets in 2003-2004 and data are to be collected carefully so that no services and production industry is left out.

The township plays a key role in economic and social sectors in the region, efforts are to be made systematically for the town to have the characteristics of a town.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially greeted departmental officials, members of social organizations, township elders and local people. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Bodhigon Pariyatti Monastery in Taungup.

The offering of rice took place at the monastery in the morning. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended the ceremony and presented rice.

(See page 9)

Cash donated for construction of Shwemyaingthiri Nunnery

YANGON, 8 Oct — The cash donation ceremony for construction of Thatanapyjizzawtayon three-storey building of Shwemyaingthiri Nunnery was held at the nunnery on Maosoein Kyawng Street in Mayangon Township, Yangon West District, this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Development Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended the ceremony.

Also present were members of the Sangha led by Joint Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Dwipakadharo Dwipatita Kovidathaye Mayangon Nagabhaingung Kalewaతwaya Sarhintaik President Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagarabhirama, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo Daw Khin Than Nwe, Adviser to the State Peace and Development Council Office U Arnt Muang, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin, Commander of No 1 Military Region Lt-Col Myint Kyi, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, (See page 2)

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.
TOWARDS DISCIPLINE-FLOURISHING DEMOCRATIC NATION

The State Peace and Development Council is trying its utmost in all sectors with the aim of developing the Union of Myanmar to be able to keep abreast with other nations of the world, consolidate national economic life and raise the living standard of the entire national people.

People are now witnessing all-round development of the State due to the collective efforts of the entire national people under the leadership of the Government. Moreover, people are enjoying peace and stability across the country and fruitful result of the development of the State.

Progress has been made throughout the country, not for a particular region. Economic and social infrastructures seen in the respective regions are the proofs of development.

Although Magway Division in Central Myanmar is blessed with rich soil, it had faced difficulties in water supply not only for agricultural purpose but also for household use in the past. Nowadays, 26 dams and 46 river water pumping stations built in the division contribute much towards cultivation of crops. In the past, only over 300,000 acres of land have been put under monsoon paddy but in 2002-2003, the number of sown acreage of both monsoon and summer paddy reached over 600,000.

The transport sector of the division has also made progress as new motor roads and railroads have emerged in the division. Altogether 30 bridges including Anawrahta Bridge (Chauk) and Ayeawady Crossing Bridge (Magway) have been constructed. People can now easily access to the division thanks to the building of a new airport.

Based on the historical background of the country and cultural tradition of the people, the Government has laid down the future policies and programmes for emergence of modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

The Government will lay emphasis on emergence of discipline-flourishing democracy without harming the historical background of the country, tarnishing the prestige of its people and damaging the national characteristics.

A mass rally, organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association, was held in support of the Prime Minister's clarification on seven stages of policies and programmes of the State (roadmap) at Magway District sports ground in Magway, Magway Division, on 5 October morning. At the rally, Magway Division Education Officer U Aung Chain said that Myanmar as a sovereign and independent nation has the right to shape her future; and that based on the objective condition of the State, the Government and the people are to strive in the interest of all the citizens.

We would like to urge all national people to actively take part in efforts for realization of the seven-point programmes (roadmap) clarified by the Prime Minister.
The most efficient way to overcome contradictions and on such issues as that of Iraq was through compromise.

The development of that principle assumed exchanges of views, opinions and even criticisms. At the same time, however, while there was nothing reprehensible about disputes per se, polarization in that case had endangered the United Nations. “Attempts to restrain its role are perceived, especially by small States, as a means of undermining the world body”, he said.

But the numerous statements thus far had shown that, although many world leaders had varying opinions about the state of international affairs, they all agreed on the importance of defining a role for the United Nations to ensure that it succeeded in this new century, and fulfilled the promise and expectations of all the world’s people.

The most efficient way to overcome contradictions and overcome on such issues as that of Iraq was through compromise. He went on to say that efforts to reform the United Nations should be accompanied by a return to focusing on specific targets and objectives that must be reached in the immediate future, particularly the Millennium Development Goals and the international war on terrorism.

Together, the United Nations, the great Powers, and the international community could effectively address these issues and overcome the common challenges of the day. Universal cooperation was crucial, for “if we act separately, we can expect a turn for the worse”. — Internet

The Organization also had a pivotal role to play regarding both nation-building and the political transition in Iraq.

The challenge of ensuring world peace and security was of particular concern to small States, who relied on international rule of law, and on the collective security mechanism of the Security Council to guarantee their right to a secure, sovereign and peaceful existence.

For that reason, leaders needed to work to strengthen the rule of law worldwide, as well as the capacity of the United Nations to engage both in conflict prevention and in the management of global crises that disrupted international peace and security.

Nowhere was there more pressing need for peace and security than in the Middle East, he said. Under the present circumstances, consideration should be given to the deployment of a United Nations force to ensure the implementation of “realistic and mutually acceptable confidence-building measures”.

The Organization also had a pivotal role to play regarding both nation-building and the political transition in Iraq. Threats to international peace and security were not posed by State actors exclusively, he noted, but also by organized criminal groups engaged in the illegal drug and small arms trade.

On terrorism, he stated that the international community must focus its attention on the root causes of that new global phenomenon. He was also concerned with the non-conventional threat posed by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In the African context, the non-conventional threat posed by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and observed that, while Africa remained the hardest hit, the Caribbean ranked second in terms of prevalence rates.

He noted that there was a need for reform of the United Nations to make it more relevant to present day realities. In that regard, he hoped that recognition would be given to the role which small States would play in international affairs. The reform exercise must also have, as its ultimate objective, the strengthening of the United Nations and an enhancement of its capacity to respond to new global challenges.

Also required was the “long overdue” reform of the Security Council, by expanding its membership, so that it could be made more democratic and representative. He also felt that the General Assembly could be better empowered to play its role more effectively as the “chief deliberative and policy-making organ” of the Organization. — Internet

It was necessary to remedy the damage done to the integrity of the rule of law, and vital that the Iraqi people see a timetable leading to the full restoration of their sovereignty.

M Javad Zarif (Iran) said that, damage had been done to the legal regime governing the use of force under the United Nations Charter.

Strategies aimed at reducing terrorism should take into account some of its root causes, including poverty and injustice.

Maintaining a global coalition against terror required progress on other fronts of the struggle for a humane and just world.

Regarding weapons of mass destruction, he said that the only powerful and legitimate tool was universal adherence to negotiated multilateral agreements.

He also noted that the momentum generated after the International Conference on Financing for Development seemed to be dying down, shattering prospects for meeting the Millennium Development Goals and building global partnership for development.

In addition, the inability to produce favourable results in Cancun demanded that the international community pay urgent attention, once again, to the insufficient voice of developing countries in the areas of trade, financial institutions and democratic reform.

Finally, strengthening the efficacy of the Organization and its centrality in the international arena was essential to responding to current and future challenges.
**US challenged in quest for UN resolution on Iraq**

**United Nations, 8 Oct—** The United States faces an uphill fight this week in trying to get enough UN votes for its blueprint on Iraq after Secretary-General Kofi Annan challenged the plan, aimed at getting more troops and money.

Despite optimistic comments from US officials, UN Security Council members say Annan’s rejection of the American-British approach stopped progress in its tracks on a draft resolution, to be discussed again on Monday.

Annan told Security Council ambassadors on Thursday he did not want to risk more lives, following the deadly August 19 bombing of UN offices in Baghdad, for a marginal political role in Iraq as in the US-drafted resolution.

At issue are US plans to hand over sovereignty to Iraq after a Constitu­tion and free elections, which the Bush Administration estimates could take a two years if done correctly. The United Nations has to help with the election process under the US-led occupation.

“The transition to self-government is a complicated process, because it takes time to build trust and hope after decades of oppression and fear,” President George W. Bush said in his weekly radio address on Saturday.

In contrast Annan prefers a plan, almost identical to proposals from France and Germany, that would transfer some sovereignty to an interim Iraqi Government in several months and then take some two years to write a Constitution and organize elections as in Afghanistan.

“The end of the formal occupation would send rather a powerful signal to Iraqis,” a senior UN official said.

The official said Annan was not trying to haggle, bargain or be obstructionist. “It is not axiomatic that the United Nations has to play a political role in every crisis there is,” he told reporters.

France, Germany and Russia, as expected, signalled approval of Annan’s remarks shortly after he spoke. But diplomats said the impact of his comments on undecided nations was considerable and made it unlikely the US measure would be adopted without substantial changes.

— MNA/Reuters

**PUK opposes Turkish peacekeepers in Iraq**

**Ankara, 8 Oct—** The Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) on Monday reiterated that they do not want Turkish troops to be sent to Iraq.

Behram Salih, the representative of the Iraqi Kurdish group, told Turkey’s private television channel NTV that Turkish soldiers would be attacked once they arrive in Iraq.

He made the remarks when Turkey’s Cabinet met Monday to finalize a motion to send troops to Iraq. The motion will be voted by the Parliament on Wednesday or Thursday.

Salih stressed that the arrival of the soldiers from Turkey or other neighbouring countries would not be welcomed by Iraqis, adding that the lesser foreign pow­ers in Iraq, the easier taking over sover­eignty by Iraqis.

However, Gani Soltan Abdullah, governor of Mosul of northern Iraq city, urged Turkish soldiers to come and offer help.

The visiting governor called for opening a Turkish consulate in Mosul and received a promise from Turkish officials.

The Turkish Cabinet motion, named “Authorization to Give Permission”, covers the number of troops, the region of mission and the time of the deployment of troops.

— MNA/Xinhua

**Chinese, French presidents hail Chinese Culture Year in France**

**Beijing, 8 Oct—** Chinese President Hu Jintao and his French counterpart, Jacques Chirac, expressed Monday their congratulatory to the inauguration of a year-long show of Chinese culture known as “the Year of Chinese Culture in France”.

In his congratulatory message to the event which was inaugurated in Paris on Monday, Chinese President Hu said that the Chinese and French peoples have created their own splendid cultures in their long history, making tremendous contribution to the civilization and progress of mankind.

He said that exchanges between different cultures and learning from each other are an excellent way to enhance cultural creativity. Activities in the Chinese Cultural Year will show the charm of China’s ancient cultural achievements and its vigor in modern days, Hu said. They will also help promote understanding and friendship between the Chinese and French peoples.

— MNA/Xinhua

**China to tighten supervision over power industry**

**Beijing, 8 Oct—** Following major blackouts that hit North America and Europe recently, China is working to tighten its supervision over the nation’s power industry to prevent the possible occurrence of similar incidents, China Daily reported Tuesday.

The nation is now amending its Electricity Law, the first time since the law was adopted eight years ago, said the Beijing-based English newspaper, adding that one of the major pushes for the amendment is to ensure the stability of power supplies and to regulate the market.

The government hopes the amendment can be completed by the end of the year, the newspaper said. The government is also looking at establishing an emergency-response procedure for dealing with possible power problems.

— MNA/Xinhua

**Iraq to pay debts to Romania after 2005**

**Bucharest, 8 Oct—** The first payments of Iraq’s debts to Romania will be made after 2005, Romanian Minister of Public Finances Mihai Tanaseacus is quoted by Monday’s daily Bursa as saying.

Thus, in the forthcoming years, Romania might recoup up to 350 million US dollars of the 1.72 billion US dollars owed by Iraq, Tanaseacus said in reply to a question raised in Parliament. He also underlined that up to now, Romania has paid no commissions or fees to any intermediary or consultancy firm to solve the problem of the debts to be recouped from Iraq.

Most of the creditors agreed that it is reasonable that Iraq cannot begin the payment of its foreign debt before the end of 2004.

— MNA/Xinhua

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— MNA/Xinhua

**A US soldier provides cover in front of a Bradley fighting vehicle, on 7 October, 2003 as troops search a house for an alleged bombmaker in Tikrit.** —INTERNET

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— MNA/Xinhua

**A oil refinery is seen in the city of Beiji, home to the Iraq’s largest oil refinery, on 6 October, 2003. Beiji, population 60,000, 145 miles north of Baghdad on the road to Mosul, is Iraq’s third-largest city. It sits in the so-called “Sannu Triangle,” a swath of land to the north and west of Baghdad mainly inhabited by Sunni Muslims. US forces come under almost daily attacks in the area, where Saddam, himself a Sannu, enjoyed his strongest support.** —INTERNET

**UN refugee chief’s term extended two years**

**United Nations, 8 Oct—** Ruud Lubbers, one of the few UN officials to have refused a salary, received a two-year extension on Monday as head of the world’s largest refugee agency from the 191-member UN General Assembly.

Lubbers, 64, who served as Dutch prime minister for 12 years, took over from Japan’s Sadako Ogata in January 2001 as the UN high commissioner for refugees.

The job is usually for five years and the extension ensures he will serve a full term.

In an unusual disclosure, UN officials said Lubbers was working for free, returning to the United Nations about 300,000 US dollars a year, which includes his 167,000 US dollars annual salary and travel and other expenses.

No head of a large relief agency has done so in recent memory. Lubbers holds the rank of undersecretary-general. — MNA/Reuters
Schroeder sees coordination with Arab nations on Iraq

**Riyadh, 8 Oct—**German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said Monday his ongoing Arab tour mirrored identical views over a host of Arab and international issues, such as Iraq and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In a Press conference held here with Saudi leaders, Schroeder said the upcoming period will see more coordination between Germany and Arab countries to work on retrieving stability for Iraq and improve the security conditions there.

Schroeder, who flew in to Saudi Arabia from Egypt Sunday night, said Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Germany concern on the necessity to enhance the UN role in Iraq to guarantee international legitimacy and the reconstruction of Iraq as well as restoring security and stability under an independent government that represents all Iraqis.

He also voiced his country’s readiness to provide training for the Iraqi Army and police units in Germany or, if in any other country in order to assist Iraq to restore security.

As for a new US-backed UN resolution on Iraq, Schroeder said it had to be improved.

“We believe the wording of this resolution needs to be improved, which is possible. And we have told this to our partners and our friends in the United States and in France,” he said.

Referring to the latest political crisis in the Middle East, Schroeder condemned Israel’s strike in Syria, saying it represented a violation of the Syrian sovereignty.

He underlined the need to solve the Palestinian-Israeli dispute politically in accordance with the internationally-backed roadmap peace plan, through which the establishment of two neighboring states living in peace would be realized.

The German Chancellor pointed out that his talks with Saudi King Fahd and bin Abdul Aziz and Crown Prince Abdullah were successful and useful, and that the UN role in Iraq to guarantee the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait.

It is Schroeder’s first official visit to the Middle East region in the wake of an US-led war on Iraq. After Egypt and Saudi Arabia, he will also visit the United Arab Emirates and give a Press conference in Dubai on Tuesday. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Companies criticize US tender process in Iraq**

**Washington, 8 Oct—**Billions of dollars of business is still up for grabs to rebuild Iraq, but some companies complain that a lack of transparency in the bidding process makes it hard to compete for hundreds of lucrative tenders.

With fresh funds in the pipeline if Congress agrees to US President George W. Bush’s 20.3 billion US dollars request for reconstruction costs, a new round of US Government contracts is likely soon, which will in turn spawn subcontractors.

In addition, the new USIMs are a big source of business, and the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority has posted hundreds of tenders on a host of web sites, although US officials say these are often difficult to navigate.

US officials have repeatedly rejected claims of favouritism in contracts for Iraq, saying their choices are based on who can do the job best for the lowest price.

Sam Kuba, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce, said he was getting complaints from members about a lack of transparency in the tender process.

“Sometimes we feel that they are just going through the motions and that a decision has already been made,” said Kuba, whose organization was founded after Saddam Hussein was toppled by US troops. Kuba said tenders issued by the CPA, in which bids sometimes had to be submitted within a couple of days, were often a logistical nightmare, communications problems prevented companies from getting their bids in on time.

“The impression you get with such short lead times is that it’s already been given to someone and therefore they don’t mind giving such notice,” he said. “I think everything should be as transparent as possible.”

Speaking at a conference on Iraqi reconstruction on Monday in Washington, Merriam Mashatt, a representative from the Coalition Provisional Authority, defended the short turnaround times and said they were due to the need to move quickly in Iraq. **MNA/Reuters**

**US House Republicans trim Iraq aid**

**Washington, 8 Oct—**Republican members of the House of Representatives on Monday unveiled their version of an 87-billion-US-dollar emergency package for Iraq and Afghanistan that cuts nearly two billion US dollars from President George W. Bush’s effort to rebuild Iraq while boosting aid to Afghanistan.

The bill written by Republicans on the House Appropriations Committee cuts 1.7 billion US dollars from the 20.3 billion-US-dollar Bush wants for Iraq’s reconstruction, shifting 400 million US dollars to Afghanistan. It would raise the total aid to Afghanistan to 1.2 billion US dollars. **Internet**

**Putin warns US of prolonged Iraq war**

**New York, 8 Oct—**The United States could face a prolonged and futile war in Iraq as the Soviet Union did in Afghanistan in the 1980s, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview published in Monday’s edition of _The New York Times._

Putin called the US decision to invade Iraq “an error”. The Russian leader also told the newspaper that the US would consider partial relief of the eight billion US dollars it is owed by Iraq if other major creditors in the Paris Club do likewise. But for now he ruled out sending troops to help in Iraq.

Putin warned in the interview that Iraq could “become a new centre, a new magnet for all destructive elements.”

He also said “a great number of members of different terrorist organizations” have been drawn into Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

Putin repeatedly characterized Russia’s relations with the United States as close and frank, describing the two nations as partners and allies. But he was sharply critical of American complaints about Chechnya and of humiliating new visa requirements for Russians.

Putin disputed whether Iraq had ties to international Islamic militancy and terrorism—a core justification given by Bush for attacking Iraq and said the invasion had created a terrorist haven where one did not previously exist.

“The coalition forces received two enemies at once—both the remains of the Saddam regime, who fight with them, and those who Saddam himself had fought in the past—the fundamentalists,” he said of the situation after Saddam was ousted.

_The New York Times_ also reported that White House is to overhaul its missions in Iraq and Afghanistan in an effort to quell violence and assert more direct White House control. Since President George W. Bush declared major combat over on May 1, 88 US soldiers have been killed in combat in Iraq. **MNA/Reuters**

**HK needs to develop new artificial flower markets**

**Hong Kong, 8 Oct—**Hong Kong, the world’s biggest artificial flower exporter, needs to develop new markets as its products, Hong Kong artificial flower manufacturer said here Monday.

Hong Kong exported 887.94 million US dollars worth of artificial flowers last year. It is still the number one exporter in the world but the volume has been decreasing in the past several years, said Victor Chan, chief executive officer of Oncor Holding Limited, a local producer. Chan said overseas market, especially the US market which accounted for nearly 60 per cent of Hong Kong’s total exports, is shrinking. He argued the whole industry to work together to develop new markets, like Chinese Mainland and East European market, where consumers’ income is rising. **MNA/Xinhua**
Gunmen kill three US soldiers in Iraq

BAGDAD, 8 Oct—Gunmen killed three US soldiers with roadside bombs, the military reported Tuesday, and former Iraqi intelligence officers demanding jobs hurled stones and charged American forces guarding occupation headquarters in the capital.

Large sections of Baghdad were in turmoil. There was an explosion inside the Foreign Ministry compound about a half mile from the confrontation outside the US-led occupation headquarters. Across the city, US solders were met with a demonstration by Shiite Muslims after closing a mosque and allegedly arresting the imam. Late in the afternoon, US troops fired concussion grenades and shots in the air to disperse the crowd, which grew by the hour.

By nightfall, an estimated 200 American troops backed by helicopters and at least six M1A2 tanks had sealed off the area, and more Americans and Iraqi protesters converged on the scene. As the midnight curfew approached, however, the standoff eased, with the Americans pulling back most of their forces. Shortly afterward, the protestors began leaving the area, too.

L. Paul Bremer, the US administrator for Iraq, said the trouble in the capital did not reflect a turn for the worse. “The situation is certainly not getting worse, that is nonsense,” he said in Hillah, 40 miles south of Baghdad, where he was participating in a women’s conference. “When I arrived in Baghdad in May, it was a city on fire, there was no electricity, the schools, hospitals, universities were all closed,” he said.

“All of these things have gotten better, day by day,” Bremer said. “Of course there will be demonstrations, we should expect that. We have demonstrations in all democracies throughout the world.”

After the former Iraqi intelligence officers hurled pavement stones outside occupation headquarters, American reinforcements began moving forward from the compound toward the protesters, who then scattered. No shots were fired and the Americans pulled back. Throughout the day, small groups of protestors milled around the entrance but did not threaten the soldiers.

The three soldiers’ deaths, the first reported since Friday, brought to 91 the number of American soldiers killed in hostile action since President Bush declared an end to major combat on 1 May.

Fear of Iraq quagmire affects US politics

WASHINGTON, 8 Oct—Fear of a Vietnam-style quagmire in Iraq has coloured US politics in the six months since US-led forces ousted Saddam Hussein’s Baath party regime.

Polls have indicated a growing skepticism among Americans over whether the US-led invasion was worth it. Support for the war has suffered from controversies over Iraq’s alleged nuclear, biological and chemical weapons as the justification for the war. Democrats who seek to unseat President George W. Bush in elections next year have seized on the public doubt.

One of them, retired general Wesley Clark, recently called for an independent investigation into how intelligence was used by the Bush administration to convince US citizens of the need for war. “It’s backwards: They start with a solution, then cast a problem and mold the facts to make the case,” said Clark, who opposed the war.

Questions also arose in the media as the search for Iraq’s banned weapons dragged on with little result. Americans also worry about the cost. Bush recently asked the US Congress for 87 billion dollars to finance US military operations and reconstruction projects in Iraq and Afghanistan. This, atop 79 billion dollars already approved by lawmakers, has created controversy in a time of rising budget deficits and economic uncertainty.

The concern is reflected in the fact that Bush’s popularity has recently dropped below 50 percent for the first time since he took office in January 2001.

Malaysia Airline flight goes off taxiway in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 8 Oct—A Malaysia Airline Flight MH601 from Kuala Lumpur went off the taxiway while it was taxiing at Singapore’s Changi Airport on Monday, said the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS).

No one was hurt in the incident, which took place at about 12 p.m., said the CAAS.

The aircraft, a Boeing 737, is currently stuck in the grass area, it said, adding efforts are currently underway to remove the aircraft.

Changi Airport Runway 1 is closed as a result of the incident, but airport operations are not affected as Runway 2 is still operational, it said.

The public relations division of the airport also said on Monday that SQ318 of Singapore Airlines, which had been scheduled to depart from Changi at 9am on Monday, was delayed until 3pm due to a bomb threat.

The police was still investigating the threat, which is later proved to be a false one, it said.

In the wake of a series of bombings in the region, the Singapore government has repeatedly said that the country stands as a prime target to terrorist attacks and the people should keep their vigilance against terrorism, although there is no specific information on such attacks.

Vietnam to invest $500m to build thermo-power station

HANOI, 8 Oct—The Vietnamese Government has approved a 500 million US dollars project to develop a thermo-power station in the northern province of Quang Ninh, the country, said the Ministry of Industry and Materials.

The Ministry will be responsible for evaluating and approving the technical design and calculating the budget for the project.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Finance will provide guarantees for the project to borrow $500 million from foreign credit institutions to buy equipment and materials that are not produced in the country.

A Banglad bus attendant calls for passengers at a bus stop on 6 October, 2003 in front of the former headquarters of Iraq’s telecommunications company which was destroyed by US air strikes. Iraq’s Communications minister announced Monday that Iraqis mobile telephone contracts have been awarded to AsuaCell, Drascom, and AirTel which will run for two years after 35 companies submitted more than 100 bids. —INTERNET

A Baghdad bus attendant calls for passengers at a bus stop on 6 October, 2003 in front of the former headquarters of Iraq’s telecommunications company which was destroyed by US airstikes. Iraq’s Communications minister announced Monday that Iraqis mobile telephone contracts have been awarded to AsuaCell, Drascom, and AirTel which will run for two years after 35 companies submitted more than 100 bids. —INTERNET

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In the wake of a series of bombings in the region, the Singapore government has repeatedly said that the country stands as a prime target to terrorist attacks and the people should keep their vigilance against terrorism, although there is no specific information on such attacks.

Vietnam to invest $500m to build thermo-power station

HANOI, 8 Oct—The Vietnamese Government has approved a 500 million US dollars project to develop a thermo-power station in the northern province of Quang Ninh, the country, said the Ministry of Industry and Materials.

The Ministry will be responsible for evaluating and approving the technical design and calculating the budget for the project.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Finance will provide guarantees for the project to borrow $500 million from foreign credit institutions to buy equipment and materials that are not produced in the country.

A Baghdad bus attendant calls for passengers at a bus stop on 6 October, 2003 in front of the former headquarters of Iraq’s telecommunications company which was destroyed by US airstikes. Iraq’s Communications minister announced Monday that Iraqis mobile telephone contracts have been awarded to AsuaCell, Drascom, and AirTel which will run for two years after 35 companies submitted more than 100 bids. —INTERNET

Internet


**Think globally but act locally**

The following is the message from the Director General, International Bureau, Universal Postal Union in commemoration of the World Post Day.

Today, globalization is driving the process of interaction between people, societies, economies and States. Many companies are expanding their operations beyond traditional borders to see sales of their products and services grow throughout the world as a result of effective marketing strategies.

The postal sector, too, is influenced by this process of globalization. Some established postal services are setting up their operations in other countries, preparing for what they predict will be a completely liberalized market in a few years. Others are forming alliances with private operators that have a global presence in order to expand the reach of their services, increase revenues and improve service.

But how does the Universal Postal Union view globalization in the postal sector? And what can postal administrations do in the face of increased competition on the domestic and international fronts?

On the one hand, postal administrations that attempt to establish a global presence are demonstrating that the postal service can compete as effectively as any other market-oriented enterprise. In many cases, such an approach is leading to a revitalized postal industry by improving the quality of certain services or allowing the postal entity to gain market share, thus helping to avoid the danger that competition among competing against each other is not inherently bad, since competition often leads to greater efficiency and better service.

On the other hand, not every postal administration is necessarily able to compete on a global scale in the same manner that others do. But I believe each and every postal service can adopt a global perspective by acting locally to meet the communication needs of its domestic and international customers.

The UPU itself as a global institution because it ensures the exchange of mail and parcels to the citizens of all countries in the world. This was the concept of the “single postal territory, which was envisaged by the founding fathers of the UPU in its Constitution. The UPU, in fact, was the only truly global inter-governmental organization when it was founded in 1874 and it remains today a global forum, contributing to the economic and social development of all its member countries.

The obligation to serve all citizens, whether they live in cities or remote rural areas, is central to the concept of “universal service”, which was incorporated in the UPU’s Convention and Regulations at the 1999 Beijing Congress. Adherence to the principle by all UPU members provides the basis for the global character of the Exchange for the old UPU countries.

The UPU also manifests its global presence through its activities to improve the quality of service throughout the world. Postal services are essential to economic progress and development.

In order to assist all member countries to upgrade their services and to provide the most effective management structures at the national level, the UPU also provides assistance to developing countries in their efforts to strengthen or re-form their services. This enables them to play their proper role in the globalized postal sector.

Although the economy is increasingly global social and political institutions remain local, regional or national. Governments, therefore, which must ultimately ensure the rights of citizens to have access to global communications, are concerned that the UPU provide leadership and direction in helping to see that the obligation is fulfilled. Postal administrations are not grouped together, under the postal network of the UPU, into its effects to enhance or develop products and services as well as to establish a worldwide electronic network for tracking and tracing postal items, reinforces its global mission.

Finally, the essential mission of every postal administration is to provide service to the people of their country. This responsibility will continue to be the primary objective of every member of the UPU, regardless of the increasing globalization. By guaranteeing this objective at the national level, postal services are reinforcing their solidarity and influence at the global level.

As we celebrate World Post Day, we should keep in mind that all countries in the UPU are committed to strengthening postal services in the context of a new global environment. Unless globalization provides physical, social and economic progress it will be judged to have failed. Postal services are the foundation of a unique position, through their impact on people’s daily lives, to contribute significantly to the opportunities delivered by globalization.

Mra Hnin

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**The Smallest Paper Currency**

At the beginning of postal services, it remained the custom for a long time for the recipient or addressee to pay the postage but the calculation of the postal tax was not an easy affair. Due to various currencies in use, there was the conversion problem. Yet another problem was more worrying for messenger organizations …

Defraying the costs when the addressee refuses the letter, and there were refusals. Thus the creation of the convention of the postage being paid by the sender was necessitated.

Around the 17th century, a certain Monsieur de Belayer of France created a small post office where he offered his clients small pieces of paper with the mention “receipt for the payment of transport”. The letters were then put into letter-boxes that were put at regular hours and sent to their destinations.

Later, other creations were attempted but did not have the desired success. In 1814, the Sardinian postal service took up M. de Velayer’s idea again and launched the “stamped paper” principle, to serve as payment for the transport of letters. The tariff depended on the radius of delivery distance. These postal payments in the form of an adhesive receipt, the postage stamp, was created. The creator was Sir Rowland H. F. Mustapha.

And for this creation, Britain has the privilege of not printing its name on its postage stamps.

In 1892, the United States of America issued the first commemorative Stamp, for the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus.

Thus, the postage stamp has become the smallest paper currency in the world for at least three reasons: for its face value; for its worth as a contemporary historical document; and for its place in collections. It differs from other paper currency on one point: The stamps must not be re-used.

The UPU’s International Bureau does not have the status of a postal administration, and therefore cannot produce postage stamps of its own. However, it is involved in the service of stamps which are printed under agreement by Swiss La Poste. The stamps may be used only on mail leaving the Bureau in Berne.

This service stamps can be purchased as philatelic items from Swiss philatelic centres.

The United Nations, although not a postal administration, issued its first stamps in New York on 21 October 1951, and in Geneva in October 1969.

The UN stamps popularize various important themes such as the main-tenance of world peace, the struggle against illiteracy, the development of education and science, etc.

Under UPU regulations, all stamps issued by Post Offices must be on sale on the release date locally and be freely available. The stamps must also be appropriate for postal purposes.

Nearly every country uses stamps to promote some new idea or to encourage fresh efforts. Stamps depict numerous themes and the service of stamps educational and historical background connected with the stamps. Stamp-collecting is still very much alive and well worldwide.

Thus stamps make their own unique contribution in keeping before the world the visions that mankind should accomplish. They undertake a big task in propagating human ideals on a very small piece of paper which so very effectively bears a message of friendship to the peoples of the world.

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**Minyan team fetches three bronzes in Malaysian Open Karatedo Championship**

**Yangon, 8 October** — The Myanmar Karatedo team fetched three bronzes in Malaysian Open Karatedo Championship 2003 held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 26 to 28 September.

Among the twelve countries participated in the championship, host Malaysia stood first with ten golds, seven silvers and six bronzes, Indonesia second with four golds, four silvers and four bronzes and Vietnam third with three golds and one bronze. The Myanmar Women Karatedo team comprising Ma Yin Hsa, Hthaung Lwe, Thin Thuzar and Non Naing Min won one bronze each in the women team kata and the women team kumite competitions. Maung Han Kham Kap of the Myanmar team won one bronze in the 55kg individual kumite competition. — MNA

Commander inspects EM natural fertilizer plant

**Yangon, 8 October** — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, inspected the EM natural fertilizer plant in Mayangon Township, Yangon West District, and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

On arrival at the plant, the commander was welcomed by Commander of No 1 Military Region Lt-Col Myint Kyi, divisional level departmental officials, local authorities and officials.

The commander inspected the raw materials for the fertilizer, spraying of EM solution, production of natural fertilizer powder, packaging of finished fertilizer products and storage fertilizer bags. Officials reported on condition of the fertilizer which will assist the boosting of crops yield.

The commander gave instructions on boosting production. This year, a total of 30,000 bags of EM natural fertilizer have been distributed to the farmers in Yangon Division.

On the same day, the commander and party arrived at pig breeding farm of U Sai Lor of Hlawa Village in Shwegyin Township, Yangon West District. The commander viewed the breeding of pig. Officials conducted him around the farm. The commander gave instructions on extended breeding of pig and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA
It was at that time that the Tatmadaw Government came into the picture.

In reality, it was not out of the desire for power but because of the demand of time and circumstances that the Tatmadaw Government had to take responsibilities for peace and development of the State.

Since around March, 1988, there had been sporadic demonstrations, and the situation became so frequent and intense that the chairman and the vice-chairman of the then Burma Socialist Programme Party had to quit in July. A new chairman came to power. But he also had to leave in August. Then came the government headed by new president Dr Maung Maung. On September 11, he promised to hold multi-party general elections within three months. On 16 September, a decree was issued and according to that decree, all service personnel including Tatmadaw members must not belong to any political party including the then Burma Socialist Programme Party and they had the right to vote freely for any party of their choice.

As soon as President Dr Maung Maung lifted the martial law imposed during that period, demonstrations became rampant and some people including parliamentary leaders, retired senior Tatmadaw officers and a person who had returned from abroad for family matters emerged as leaders. On 9 September, U Nu, patron of the democracy and peace party formed on 28 August, declared that he was officially the prime minister and formed the parallel government. On 13 September, the BCP central committee demanded that the existing government be abolished and elections be held and some organizations called an anti-verification rally. On 16 September, a hostile mob bringing sticks, swords and knives ganged up the Tatmadaw members. On 17 September, a hostile mob bringing sticks, swords and jingalsis brought in force the Tatmadaw members who were at that time discharging security duty of the office of the Ministry of Defence, the crowd holding sticks, knives and swords ganged up the Tatmadaw members. The protesters using abusive language issued a strong challenge to the Tatmadaw leaders at the vacant plot at the corner of Yangon Zoological Gardens at noon on 16 September. Without caring the request of the Ministry of Defence, the crowd holding sticks, knives and swords ganged up the Tatmadaw members.

It was clearly seen that discord was being sown in the Tatmadaw. During the period, due to the violent attacks: - 9 Tatmadaw members were killed and three severely wounded, - two members of Myanmar Police Force were beheaded, 24 killed and 10 wounded, - 55 civilians were beheaded and 18 killed, - Government property worth K 621.4 million was destroyed or looted.

The number of casualties and the amount of destroyed or looted property increased day by day. Consequently, the Tatmadaw had to assume the State’s duties on 18 September.

After taking up responsibilities under unavoidable circumstances, the Tatmadaw Government got ready to discharge any possible duties and then gave top priority to stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order.

In no time, the Tatmadaw announced that it would duly build up a democratic nation and told the political parties to get registered and called for a complete stop of protests and closure of strike camps. But after the announcement based on genuine goodwill of the Tatmadaw, some were seen in disarray.

Thanks to the strenuous efforts of the Tatmadaw, all the strike camps were closed. Next, the Tatmadaw tried to rebuild the entire country.

It may be found that the Tatmadaw has tried to lay down the proper foundation to build up a new nation. At the same time, it has laid emphasis on flourishing of the Sasana by renovating old pagodas, stupas and religious edifices.

(Translation: NV + MS)

(To be continued)

(Myanma Alin, 24-9-2003)
Wellwishers presenting donations to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung. MNA

Treatises and cash donated to ITBMU

YANGON, 8 Oct — A ceremony to donate Tri Pitaka treatises for study of members of the student Sangha and lay-persons of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, and cash was held at the mediation hall of the ITBMU this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Pro-Rector (Teaching) Dr Hla Pe, professors, (Management) of the university Dr Myo Myint, Pro-Rector Director-General of the Sangha, Minister Kumarabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Pro-Rector (Management) of the university Dr Hla Pe, professors, heads of departments, wellwishers and guests. The minister and the congrega-

tion received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr Kumara-
bhivamsa and members of the Sangha recited the parittas. Wellwisher teacher Dow Shwe Pu (Rend) of BEHS 4 Tamway explained the pur-

pose of donation. Next, wellwishers Dow Shwe Pu, Daw Kyu Kyin Win (DSP) and family presented 147 treatises of Tri Pitaka worth K 343,000 for the university to the minister who presented certificate of honour to the wellwishers. Afterwards, the wellwishers presented K 100,000 for Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nanamun of Mingalatthukha Pali Tekkhatto of Kyaukmyaung, K 100,000 for Thaddhamma Waka Maha Monastery in Tamway Township, K 46,000 for the ‘soon’ trust fund and K 36,000 for the education trust fund of Thiri Mingala Monastic Education School in Tamway, K 52,000 for Maha Dhammikayana Monastery in Dagon Myothit Seikkan Township, K 100,000 for Thiri Yadana Nunnery in Thingangyun Township, K 100,000 for UHla Twn (His-

pice) Cancer Foundation and K 100,000 for Kyinnymyine School for the blind of the Social Welfare Department to officials.

Pro-Rector (Management) Dr Hla Pe spoke words of thanks. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr Kumara-
bhivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing the merits gained. Those wishing to donate treatises, religious books and cash for the trainer monks of the ITBMU may dial 01-

650716, 01-650715 or 01-

650716. — MNA

Commander attends...

(from page 16)

YANGON, 8 Oct — A ceremony to honour the victorious chess players of the South-West Command Team who won championship in the 26th Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services (Army, Navy, and Air Force)’s Shield Chess Competition was held at the Ayeawady Hall of the command yesterday. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Win Maung, together with Acting Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Myint and officials, inspected the construction of new school buildings of Basic Education Middle School in U Tun Ward, No 11 Burma (Branch) in Naung-U Ward and the BEHS in Seikkyi-Khanhtungo this morning. — MNA

Commander honours victorious chess players

YANGON, 8 Oct — The manager of the victorious team explained facts about the competition and handed over the champion shield to the commander. Afterwards, the commander presented prizes to the chess players. — MNA

Minister attends opening of co-op shop

YANGON, 8 Oct — Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Soe Win Maung, together with Acting Director-General for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min attended the opening cer-

emony of the Sanpya Cooperative Society in Seikkyi-Khanhtungo. — MNA

Mayor inspects self-reliance road

YANGON, 8 Oct — Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin yesterday inspected tarring of Bo Yar Nyunt Road in Dagon Township funded by the public and using machinery and workers provided by the Engineering Department (Road and Bridges) of YCDC.

Public contributed K 3,506,000 for the new-tarred road. At the work site, Head of the Engineering Department U Bo Htay and engineers reported to the mayor on tarring of 500-

foot-long and 30-foot-

wide Bo Yar Nyunt Road (Middle Section). Next, the mayor urged the officials concerned to construct the pavements and drains meeting set standard. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Htu Soe opens the opening of the sale centre of Sanpya Cooperative Society. — COOPERATIVE
National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOolwin

(Continued from 6-10-2003)

In 1915, Forest Research Officer Mr Alexrodger, with the assistance of Botanist Lady Cuffe of Kew Botanical Garden in London, established the National Kandawgyi Gardens as a botanical garden by setting up lawns and lakes at various levels and small gardens, and beautifying the natural forest.

The Forest Department issued an order designating the 240-acre garden as the forest reserve on 1 December, 1924.

It was a famous botanical garden composed of small gardens such as flowers of all season, orchids, Dahlia, and roses. According to the records of the garden in 1942, it had about 178 kinds of orchids and set up connection with the international gardens.

Under the guidance of the Head of State, maintenance and upgrading tasks were carried out in 2000 with a view to turning the garden into a pride of the nation, and exhibiting the different flowers of local and foreign origins and rare species of birds and animals of Myanmar. The upgrading of National Kandawgyi Gardens includes more than a dozen works including construction of a swimming pool, an elevated timer walkway, and a croton garden, and cementing tasks to prevent the seepage of lake of the gardens undertaken by the Irrigation Department.

The staff of Kyemon left the rain forest, and walked along the 1,060 feet long pedestrian lane that led to swamp forest. Ma Aye Aye Maw of the garden explained that the garden was situated on the land full of springs, and that the group was to pass a long wooden bridge enjoying the pleasant croaking of frogs and chirping of birds and the sight of dragonflies.

After the staff had left the swamp forest, we entered the bamboo garden where 75 kinds of bamboo from all over the country numbering 448 groves was grown. Various kinds of pine were also grown and stone benches were built among the pine trees. In the birds exhibition booth, there were different kinds of birds of local and foreign origins. Then, the staff walked through the 1,010 feet long elevated walk-way constructed with tree trunks 20 feet above the ground. It was very fascinating to see upper part of old trees. Flowering plants were grown on 396 rows covering an area of 146,856 Sq-fts. A total of 410,332 orchids of local and foreign origins were also grown. A total of 482 local hardwoods and 76 kinds of wood of foreign origin were also cultivated in the garden. Rare species animals of Myanmar including four takins, 58 birds of 13 rare species, 16 kinds of birds of foreign origins were also raised there. Rare and useful herbal plants can also be seen in the garden.

After enjoying all the pleasant scenes of the garden, the staff sat on the benches among the pines.

Translation: MWT
(7-10-2003 Kyemon)
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Water is prerequisite for agriculture. Therefore, the government is building irrigation facilities wherever possible in the country. The photo shows the Alaini Dam which was built near Kyantkun Village in Bago Division to irrigate 12,000 acres of farmland.—PHOTO: MNA

With the concept that human resource development plays a key role in national development, the government is making all-out efforts to promote the education sector. Thanks to the government’s efforts, new universities and colleges have emerged throughout the country. The photo shows lecture rooms in Pathein University. PHOTO: MNA

The Darka bridge opened on 6 July, 2003 is on Yangon-Pathein Road. The old Darka bridge was rail bridge built about 50 years ago. It was upgraded into road-cum-rail bridge in 1983. As the number of cars is on the increase in the division, the government upgraded Darka bridge into a modern one to cease traffic congestion.—PHOTO: MNA
ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV “BAGO” VOY NO BG752/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “BAGO” Voy No BG752/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 9-10-2003 and will be berthing on about 10-10-2003 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the by-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am to 11:30 and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE
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Dated: 9th October, 2003

HAPPY BIRTHDAY “MOM” DW KHN SAW AUNG
7-10-03
WITH BEST WISHES FROM LOVING
SON & DAUGHTERS
KAU, NAYANG, ZIN, LINN

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MV ORIENT ENTERPRISE VOY NO(10)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORIENT ENTERPRISE VOY No(10) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-10-03 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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China’s environmental supervisors introduced in construction sites

NANNING, 8 Oct — Choking dust and deafening noise common in many construction sites in China are seldom seen or heard in the construction site of the Longtan Hydroelectric Power Station in south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The good environment is a result of huge investment in environmental protection and the efforts of environmental supervisors who monitor the work, said Lou Ping, an official with the supervision department of the State Administration of Environment.

MNA/Xinhua
Goh says “We must push toward an ASEAN Economic Community”

Bali (Indonesia), 8 Oct — Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong here on Monday strongly urged the ASEAN members to accelerate the process of establishing a single market to deal with the challenges facing the region.

Delivering a keynote address at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, Goh compared the progress made by the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in economic integration with what was achieved in Americas and Europe, and deplored the group’s inadequate response to the landmark developments in those regions. Analyzing the reasons for the slow movement towards a single ASEAN market, the Prime Minister cited, among other factors, the red tape and delays that businesses would encounter when applying for preferential treatment under AFTA and the bewildering range of standards for products, which vary from one ASEAN country to another.

In order to resolve these hankrances, Goh called on all ASEAN countries to make difficult internal adjustments. The need for ASEAN to press on with economic integration remains as urgent as ever, if not more so. We must push towards an ASEAN Economic Community: a single production base and a single market, with free movement of goods, services and capital, he said. “Just as the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community 50 years ago helped revitalize the war-torn European economies, I believe the ASEAN Economic Community will revitalize ASEAN economies,” Goh concluded. — MNA/Xinhua

Thaksin urges acceleration of ASEAN economic integration

Bali, 8 Oct — Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said in Bali Monday that the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) must accelerate regional economic integration for the proposed deadline of 2020.

The ASEAN economic ministers have proposed the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) as a single market and production base with free flow of goods, capital, services, investment and skilled labour by 2020.

“But personally, I wish to see some of the AEC achievements by earlier dates. Seventeen years from now might be too late,” Thaksin said.

“There is no need for one deadline for all countries. The need for ASEAN to accelerate economic integration remains as urgent as ever, if not more so. We must push towards an ASEAN Economic Community: a single production base and a single market, with free movement of goods, services and capital,” the Thai Prime Minister said.

The AEC is one of the main contents in the draft of ASEAN Concord II, which is expected to be endorsed by leaders of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. — MNA/Xinhua

US based “IT” company eyes Chinese market

BEIJING, 7 Oct — US information technology firm Storage Technology Corp (StorageTek) plans to invest an average 10 million US dollars annually in the next several years in its businesses in China.

Monday’s China Daily quoted the corporation’s chairman and chief executive officer Patrick Martin as saying the investment will go to research and development, hardware and software testing, staff and equipment purchases.

He expected the revenue from the Chinese market to reach one billion US dollars in a decade.

The size of the Chinese market is similar to Brazil with a storage market worth as much as five billion US dollars, Martin said. “I do not think it is an aggressive goal, if we just take one-fifth of the total market,” he said. The New York Stock Exchange-listed company had come to China in 1998 and set up a representative office in Beijing. Martin said with the increasing complexity of storage infrastructure in China, there are more demands for StorageTek’s services. — MNA/Xinhua

China builds wood-block printing museum

NANJING, 8 Oct— China plans to build a museum relating to the history of wood-block printing, which led world development of printing, in Yangzhou in east China’s Jiangsu Province.

The China Wood-Block Printing Museum, to showcase the history of China’s wood-block printing and will be devoted to the scientific research of ancient printing technologies, local officials said.

Yangzhou, one of the printing industry centers in ancient China, is the only Chinese city that still preserves and uses wood-block printing technique.

The museum will be built on the basis of the former wood-block printing museum in Yangzhou, which was founded in 1999 with a collection of some 300,000 wood blocks dating back to the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

But the valuable wood blocks were kept in poor condition in the old museum and are partly moth-eaten. To protect them, the city decided to build a new museum. — MNA/Xinhua

Yellow River main dyke holds, but inner barrier breached

ZHENGZHOU, 8 Oct— The main dyke of Yellow River has contained flood waters, but an inner dyke, in Lankao County of central China’s Henan Province, had been breached, said a local official.

The inner dyke was built 57 kilometres from the main dyke on the southern river bank to protect farmlands in the area between the stream and the main dyke.

Water levels averaged 1.3 metres deep in this area, according to Kong. The area, an alluvial flat, was earmarked as an overflow area in the rainy season, but farmers were allowed to grow crops there in the dry season as the water was very fertile, said Kong, official with the Yellow River Conservancy Committee.

The Yellow River had moved slightly northward in Lankao in 1855 and left the wide alluvial flat along the southern bank. Due to reduction of river water in recent years, the alluvial flat along the Yellow River has not been flooded for years.

Russia, France agree joint space venture

MOSCOW, 8 Oct— Russia and France said on Monday they had agreed to launch Russian Soyuz rockets from the Kourou cosmodrome in French Guiana, potentially cutting launch costs.

Kourou, on the northeast coast of South America, is closer to the equator than Russia’s usual blast-off base at Baikonur in Kazakhstan. The closer the pad is to the equator, the cheaper the launch.

“An accord in principle has been agreed in a document that will serve as a legal base for the use of Kourou,” French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said during a meeting with his Russian counterpart Mikhail Kasyanov. Cash-strapped Russia’s space resources have been squeezed since February when it became the sole launcher of manned flights and supplies to the International Space Station after the United States grounded its shuttles. Russia has started sending space tourists to the station at a fare of 20 million US dollars to help cover the cost of building new Soyuz craft. — MNA/Reuters

China Daily 13

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 9 October, 2003

A man prepares to board up his shop window in Puerto Vallarta on the Mexican Pacific coast as Hurricane Olaf is due to pass close to the famous seaside resort later on 6 October, 2003. Olaf is one of three tropical weather systems close to or affecting Mexico at the moment. — INTERNET

China Daily 13

A Chinese visitor looks at models of Long March rockets at an exhibition in Beijing on October 6, 2003. The rocket is the vehicle for China’s space programme. China plans to conduct experiments related to a moon landing, just days before the country is expected to launch its first manned space flight, according to state media. — INTERNET

China Daily 13

Russia, France agree joint space venture
Central African Republic pull out of 2006 world Cup qualifying

BANJUL, 8 Oct—The Central African Republic have withdrawn their team from the 2006 World Cup qualifying competition because of lack of funds, the country's football federation said on Sunday.

They were drawn to play Burkina Faso in the preliminary round, with the first leg due to take place in Ouagadougou on Oct. 12.

The country have regularly withdrawn teams from African club competitions for the same reason.

They join Djibouti, who did not enter, on the sidelines for the start of African World Cup qualifiers on Friday. —MNA/Reuters

Kuwait beat Palestine 2-1 to reach Asian Cup

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Oct—Kuwait became the first team to qualify for the 2004 Asian Cup with a 2-1 home victory against Pales-"("

Hen on Sunday.

Playmaker Abdullah Wahban opened the scoring in the 25th minute for Kuwait, who only needed a draw to secure a place in the finals in China. Bader Mutawaa made it 2-0 on the hour.

Palestinian defender Tayser Amer pulled one back in the 72nd minute but Kuwait hung on for the three points.

Hosts China, along with holders Japan, qualify automatically for the Asian Cup, which takes place from July 17 to August 7 next year.

Kuwait have 13 points from five games in Group B.

Qatar, second on five points from four games, are favourites to claim the other qualifying spot. —MNA/Reuters

France's Clement wins second ATP title in Metz

METZ, (France), 8 Oct—Frenchman Arnaud Clement won the second ATP title of his career on Sunday when he beat Fernando Gonzalez 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 in the final of the Metz Open. Fourth-seeded Clement, 25, had lost his last two finals but his service proved too hot for the Chilean, seeded three.

Clement won his first title in 2000 when he beat Andre Agassi in the semifinal and Pat Rafter in the final in Lyon. Two French pairings played each other in a doubles final for the first time in the ATP Tour's history on Sunday and there was a surprise win for Julien Benneteau and Nicolas Mahut.

Junior world champions in 1999, the duo beat Michael Llodra and Fabrice Santoro —— 7-6, 3-6.

It was the first time French players had won both the singles and doubles titles at the same tournament since 1996. —MNA/Reuters

**Bruges hold runaway leaders**

Anderlecht to draw

BRUSSELS, 8 Oct—Leaders Anderlecht dropped their first league points of the season in a 1-1 draw at home to champions Club Bruges in the First Division on Sunday.

Anderlecht's lead at the top has been cut by two points to five against Racing Genk, which moved up to second place with 17 points by two points to five after Racing Genk.

Anderlecht coach Hugo Broos made only one change from the team that drew 1-1 at home to Bayer Munich in the Champions League on Wednesday with experienced defender Glen de Boeck replacing suspended international Hannu Tihinen.

Bruges coach Trond Sollied recalled veteran 40-year-old goalkeeper Dany Verlinden in place of Croatian Tomislav Butina with Timmy Simons coming into the centre of the defence.

Anderlecht opened the scoring through Dindane in the 28th minute as they piled on the pressure in the first half and forced Verlinden to make some excellent saves. They could not keep up the pace and Bruges, who were starting to look more dangerous, created a couple of chances before Bros upset some that helped turn the match.

On 71 minutes he replaced Colombia's forward Ivica Mornar, the goalscorer against Bayer, with midfielder Pjar Zetterberg and brought on defender Olivier Doll for midfielder Marc Hendrick.

Anderlecht's more defensive approach was their undoing as Bruges took the game to them and 11 minutes later Andres Mendoza won a duel against de Boeck to level the scores at 1-1. —MNA/Reuters

**Lokomotiv out of title race after 1-0 defeat by Torpedo**

MOSCOW, 8 Oct—Lokomotiv Moscow were officially dehorned as Russian champions after losing 1-0 to city rivals Torpedo in a Premier League derby on Sunday.

Russian international midfielder Igor Semshov scored the only goal shortly after the interval to seal Torpedo's first victory in their last four matches.

The defeat, which snapped Lokomotiv's nine-game unbeaten streak, left the railwaymen side 10 points behind leaders CSKA Moscow with only three games remaining. CSKA but- tled to a 1-1 draw with arch-rivals Dynamo in a heated Moscow derby on Saturday to move four points clear of second-placed Zenit St. Petersburg, who hammered bottom club Chermomoret Novososnissk 3-0 on the same night.

CSKA have 55 points, while Lokomotiv remain in third place with 45 points, ahead of fourth-placed Dynamo, also on 45, thanks to a greater number of wins. —MNA/Reuters

**Collina to referee Turkey-England match**

LONDON, 8 Oct—Italian referee Pierluigi Collina will be in charge of Turkey's decisive Euro 2004 qualifier against England this weekend, UEFA said on Monday. Collina last refereed a Turkey match when he handled Turkey's Group Seven game and officiated at Brazil's World Cup final victory over Germany last year in Yokohama.

Nielsen is impressed by England fans for having sent off David Beckham, now England's captain, in their 1998 World Cup defeat by Argentina in France.

England are top of Group Seven and need only a draw to qualify for next year's tournament in Portugal, and consign their hosts to the playoffs in November. —MNA/Reuters

**Beckham boost for England**

MUNICH, 8 Oct—David Beckham expects to be fit for England's decisive Euro 2004 qualifier against Turkey next week after coming through Real Madrid's 2-1 league victory over Espanyol on Sunday unscathed.

"There's no problem playing for my country," said Beckham, who missed Real's Champions League win over Porto this week with a hamstring injury. "There was no reaction to the injury, although it's true my foot does hurt a bit." Beckham had rated himself as doubtful for the Group Seven clash with Turkey next Saturday after suffering the injury in a 2-0 defeat by Valencia last weekend.

He played all but the last few minutes against Espanyol, though, and was satisfied with his fitness, despite suffering a slight injury in the 52nd minute. "I received a blow to my leg in the first 20 minutes," the England captain told Real Madrid's web site. "At the end of the game it was painful. "I'm fine, though, and I'm happy because we won the game. It's not a time to think about England. We'll be giving it everything against Turkey."

England could still be without one of their key players for the Turkey game. After Liverpool striker Michael Owen suffered a shin injury in his side's 2-1 defeat by Arsenal on Saturday, Owen has been given only an even chance of recovering in time for the game, which will decide whether England or Tur- key win Group Seven and qualify automati-

**Drogba powers Marseille to 3-1 win over Bastia**

PARIS, 8 Oct—Striker Didier Drogba hit his sixth goal in three matches to set up Olympique Marseille's 3-1 victory over Bastia on Sunday, which cut Monaco's lead in Ligue 1 to one point.

Drogba, who hit a hat-trick in Marseille's 3-0 midweek defeat of Partizan Belgrade in the Champions League, made the most of a poor defensive header by Pascal Chambonda, arriving before goalkeeper Nicolas Peneteanu to score in the 16th minute. 

Monaco have 22 points and Olympique Marseille 21. Champions Olympic Lyon are on 17 points, and Nantes and Paris St. Germain have 16. Monaco, reduced to 10 men for the whole of the second half, hung on to beat En Avant Guingamp 2-1 on Saturday.

At Marseilles's Stade Velodrome, Drogba's strike partner Steve Marlet made it 2-0 five minutes after the Ivorian's opener with a header from a free kick by Camel Meriem and Marseille cruised to halftime with a 2-0 lead after the break, scor-ing through striker Frederic Neez whose shot, following a fine pass by Florian Maurice, dribbled inside the Marseille post in the 50th minute. But Marseille regained control of the game in the 66th minute when Czech midfielder Rudolf Skacel after a cross was half-cleared to the edge of the area and, after chances at both ends, maintained their 100 percent home record.

Drogba nearly missed the game after being injured in training on Saturday. He was substituted early in the second half.

On Saturday Lyon beat AC Ajaccio 4-2 thanks to a hat-trick by Peguy Luyindula while Paris St. Germain ended Sochaux's run of 29 home games without defeat with a 1-0 win following a goal by Portuguese striker Pauleta. —MNA/Reuters

**The captain of England's soccer team David Beckham, right, and his injured teammate Michael Owen, left, get into a cart at the England training ground in St Albans, England, Tuesday, on 7 Oct, 2003, where the England soccer team are preparing for their Euro 2004 qualifier against Turkey on Saturday. Neither player took part in the training session. —ETYEBOT**
Minister receives guests

YANGON, 8 Oct — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw received Vice-Chairman of Mida Communication Co Ltd, Indra, Mr Raghu Rao and party this morning at his office. Also present were Vice-Chairman of National Task Force Member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint and officials. — MNA

Roads and bridges in Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions inspected

YANGON, 8 Oct — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and officials, on 6 October, inspected tasks being carried out for upgrading of roads in Bagan-Nayung-U. Chief Engineer U Tint Hsan and District Chief Engineer U Tun Myint reported to the minister on progress of work. The minister gave instructions on work done Tuesday morning. The minister and party inspected Pakokku-Yenangyo road section of Pakokku-Monywa road. Next, he inspected the approach road of Hsinbyushin Bridge. The minister gave instructions on work being carried out for upgrading of roads. He inspected the approach bridge of Hsinbyushin Bridge on the bank of Monywa and urged officials to make efforts for upgrading of the road. Next, the minister inspected the axis of Monywa-Sagaing road at the entrance to Monywa and gave instructions. Later, they arrived at Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction site on the bank of Sagaing. The deputy chief engineer reported to the minister on progress of work in construction of approach road on the bank of Mandalay and bore pile of the main bridge. The minister gave instruction on bridge construction. — MNA

Minister meets Myanmar athletes to XXII SEA Games

YANGON, 8 Oct — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint met selected Myanmar athletes who are undergoing training to participate in the rowing competitions of the XXII SEA Games, at Myanmar Rowing Federation in Inya Lake this morning. The minister delivered a speech to the athletes and presented track suits to them. At the Ruby Hall of the National Indoor Stadium (1) in Thuwunna, the minister also met Myanmar soccer team to Group 9 of U-20 soccer qualifier in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Myanmar sports team to U-19 international invitational judo tournament in Thailand, the Myanmar sports team to table tennis friendly matches in Chiangmai, Thailand, a Myanmar referee who will sit for Asia level referee examination (badminton) in Jakarta, the Republic of Indonesia and the athletes.

The leader of Myanmar sports team and officials reported to the minister on arrangements for the games. The minister gave instructions and fulfilled the requirements. The minister addressed the opening of the fifth Inter-State/Division Myanmar traditional boxing tournament (2003) at Aung San Stadium in the afternoon. Altogether nine teams from States and Divisions are taking part in the tournament, which will last until 17 October. — MNA

Myanmar Ambassador presents Credentials to President of Finland

YANGON, 9 Oct — U Nyunt Maung Shein, Ambassador Ordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Finland, presented his Credentials to Her Excellency Ms Tarja Halonen, President of the Republic of Finland, on 4 September 2003, in Helsinki. — MNA

“Soon” offered to members of the Sangha in Kengtung, Shan State (East)

YANGON, 8 Oct — “Soon” was offered to over 200 members of the Sangha from the monasteries in Kengtung at a ceremony held on the platform of Maha Muni Pagoda in Shan State (East) on 1 October. Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and wife, senior military officers and their wives, members of Shan State, District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials and wellwishers attended the ceremony.

After the ceremony, the sharing of merits followed at Hkhein Paryayi Monastery. The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa. Presiding Nayakaya Sayadaw of the monastery Bhaddanta Jotika administered the Five Precepts.

Members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta paritta. The commander and officials presented offerings to members of the Sangha. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotika delivered a sermon. The commander and wellwishers shared merits.

Commander attends World Teachers’ Day commemorative ceremony

YANGON, 8 Oct — The World Teachers’ Day commemorative ceremony of No 2 Basic Education Department (Upper Myanmar) was held at Pyinnya Taazung hall of Mandalay Education College in Chanayetthazan Township in Mandalay on 5 October morning, attended by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife.

Also present on the occasion were Division PDC Secretary Lt-Col Tin Ohn and members, Mandalay City Development Committee Secretary Lt-Col Maung Pu, Director-General of Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) Dr Then Myint, Director-General of No 2 BED Lt-Col Win Hma.

Italian tourists arrive

YANGON, 8 Oct — Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and sponsored by the Ministry of Transport, the M/Y Itasca owned by South East Asia Liveabords Co Ltd of Phuket, Thailand, carrying seven Italian tourists and 12 crew members arrived at Kawthoung from Phuket on 30 September. After visiting the Myeik archipelago in Kawthoung District, the tourists arrived at Nanthida Jetty here yesterday evening. The tourists are due to visit Inle Lake from yesterday to tomorrow and Bagan the day after tomorrow.

On 11 October morning, they will go on tour of the balloon voyage and leave here by Thai Airways in the evening. The crew members of M/Y Itasca will stay here till 13 October and leave here for Phuket on 14 October. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party receive the Five Precepts from the Taungup Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw. (News on page 1) — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw receives Mr Raghu Rao and party. — ctp

Myanmar Ambassador U Nyunt Maung Shein presents his Credentials to President of Finland, Ms Tarja Halonen. — MNA