

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 188

8th Waxing of Thadingyut 1366 ME

Thursday, 21 October, 2004

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Indonesian President

YANGON, 20 Oct—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who has been elected as President of the Republic of Indonesia.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends felicitations to Vice-President of Indonesia

YANGON, 20 Oct—Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Jusuf Kalla, who has been elected as Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia.—MNA

Pyu Creek Multipurpose Dam project is being built by the Construction Group-4 of the Irrigation Department on Pyu Creek in Pyu Township. The diversion tunnel of the dam will be 2,480 feet long and 12 feet in diameter.

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

A & I Minister inspects Pyu Creek Multipurpose Dam project

YANGON, 20 Oct — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo on 18 October arrived at Pyu Creek Multipurpose Dam project being built by the Construction Group-4 of the Irrigation Department on Pyu Creek in Pyu Township and inspected the site chosen to build the main dam and diversion tunnel.

At the briefing hall, Director U Maung Maung Tin and Director-General U Kyaw San Win of the Irrigation Department reported on construction of diversion tunnel and spillway, estimated time of construction period and construction work.



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects the site for construction of Pyu Creek Multipurpose Dam in Pyu Township.—AGRI & IRR

The minister fulfilled the requirement. Engineers conducted the minister round the con-

struction site of the diversion tunnel which is 2,480 feet long and 12 feet in diameter. Afterwards,

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo gave instructions on timely completion of work and work site safety.

Later, the minister and party proceeded to No 7 Sugar Mill (Otwin) in Otwin Township and

inspected test run of the mill. The deputy factory manager reported on production process of the mill.



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects growing of flowery plants between the runway and taxiway of Yangon International Airport.—TRANSPORT

Development of Yangon International Airport inspected

YANGON, 20 Oct—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor of Yangon City Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, together with Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and officials, inspected preparations for growing flowery plants between the runway and the taxiway of Yangon International Airport being carried out by employees of YCDC.

Officials reported on land preparation and water supply. The minister and the mayor attended to the needs. The minister and the mayor inspected land preparation tasks along the runway and interior decoration at the departure lounge. Next, they inspected drawing of traffic signs on the runway.—MNA

At the briefing hall, the factory manager reported on production of sugar, cultivation of sugarcane in 2004-2005 and arrangement to purchase sugarcane. Next, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo urged the officials concerned to produce sugar exceeding target and to provide assistance to sugarcane cultivators.

MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 21 October, 2004

National consolidation through border areas development

Myanmar is a nation where the national brethren have been living in unity throughout the successive eras of history countable in years by the thousand, and their historical tradition of living in weal or woe and with Union Spirit is firm till now.

With this fine tradition, all the countrymen will have to safeguard the Union for its perpetuation, as it is their national duty.

Hence, the Government has been giving priority to harmonious development of all the national races and further strengthening of the national solidarity, while paving the way for all the fellow citizens to take part more in the national defence and development duties.

It is also paying special attention to development of border areas and national races in its drive to strive for enhancing national solidarity with greater efforts. The Government has launched the project to develop border areas and national races in 1989, and since then it has been in progress in building infrastructures to improve regional transport facilities, raise the social standard of the national races, and further cement the national unity. To this date, it has already used over K 56,000 million and over US \$ 550 million for the project.

Thanks to the Government's endeavours in providing infrastructure, certain number of villages in remote border areas have become modern towns, and large stretches of vacant and fallow lands have been transformed into commercial farms. Apart from its project for progress of border areas and national races, the Government is also implementing five rural development tasks and the 24-development zone project covering every part of the Union.

Together with the progress in all the regions of the Union including the border areas and rural areas, all will have to make efforts to run the regional administrative machinery and economic, social, health and education sectors more smoothly and effectively, and with greater acceleration.

As the rapid developments the nation has seen in the economic and social fields of border areas are the results of the leadership and support of the Government and the harmonious efforts of the national race leaders and the entire countrymen, we would like to urge all departmental personnel, local authorities and national people to continue to work with added momentum for progress and prosperity of border areas, with the aim of further cementing the national unity.



PRIZE PRESENTING CEREMONY HELD: The prize presentation ceremony for 2003-2004 academic year of Pazundaung BEHS No 3 was held in conjunction with PTA meeting on 16 October morning. Photo shows Headmistress Daw May May Sein presents a certificate of honour to a donor who donated K 100,000 for the school.—(H)

People's Desire

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

Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister for Labour U Tin Winn meets staff of division and district level departments of the Ministry of Labour in Sagaing on 18-10-2004.

LABOUR



PRESS BRIEFING HELD: The press briefing on Vietnam Trade Fair to be held at Yangon Trade Centre from 21 to 24 October was held at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel on 19 October evening. Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Pham Quang Khon explains matters related to the trade fair.—NLM

Partnership Meeting of National Red Cross Societies opened



Ms Joanna Maclean speaking at Partnership Meeting of National Red Cross Societies hosted by MRCS.—MNA

YANGON, 20 Oct—A ceremony to open the Partnership Meeting of National Red Cross Societies hosted by Myanmar Red Cross Society was held at Traders Hotel this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwia,

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, President Dr Kyaw Win and EC members of MRCS, departmental heads and officials, officers of NGOs, delegates from International Committee of the Red Cross and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, representatives

from Division and State Red Cross Supervisory Committees, the President and members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and guests.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo delivered an address. President of MRCS Dr Kyaw Win, Mr Patrick

Vial of ICRC and Ms Joanna Maclean of IFRC gave speeches.

After the opening ceremony, those who attended the meeting posed for documentary photos. The meeting followed it and the partnership meeting and workshop will continue up to 22 October.—MNA

Chike Village-tract in Loikaw Township gets new library

YANGON, 20 Oct—The new self-reliant library was opened in Chike Village-tract in Loikaw District, Kayah State, on 14 October at Htaythama Village Peace and Development Council Office.

Secretary of District Peace and Development Council Maj Win Mon, Secretary of Kayah State Union Solidarity and Development Association U Kyaw Swe and Village Peace and Development

Council Chairman U Rei formally opened the library.

At the opening ceremony, 450 publications and cash were handed over to officials of the library donated by Minister for

Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Information and Public Relations Department, Bureau of Special Investigation, Kayah State USDA and Maternal and Child Welfare Association.—MNA

US military deaths in Iraq rise to 1,103

WASHINGTON, 19 Oct—As of Tuesday, 19 Oct, 2004, at least 1,103 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 846 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is 1 higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am Tuesday.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 965 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 737 deaths

resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 8,016 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

One soldier died from a non-combat injury Monday at a base in Diyala Province. The soldier was found in his living quarters after he did not return to his guard post.

Internet

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Number of US troops wounded in Iraq war tops 8,000

WASHINGTON, 19 Oct—The number of US troops wounded in Iraq since military operations began in March 2003 has topped the 8,000 mark, according to figures released by the Pentagon on Tuesday.

The total of 8,016 is more than double what it was six months ago when the insurgency suddenly accelerated. On 5 April the number wounded in action stood at 2,988; by 26 April it had grown to 3,864. The US military death toll almost doubled in that same period, standing at 1,102 as of Tuesday, by the Pentagon's count. On 2 April it stood at 598. The wounded toll has grown by several hundred a month since April. It surpassed the 5,000 mark in early June and crossed the 7,000 mark in early September. —Internet



An injured man lies on a bed at the general hospital following a shooting attack in the city of Baquba, 60 kms northeast of Baghdad recently.—INTERNET

Macedonian government working on return of Macedonians in Iraq

**** IRNA, 19 Oct— After Monday's news about the death of two Macedonians in Iraq, the Macedonian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Dusko Uzunovski informed Tuesday that the ministry was working on the return of 19 Macedonians working there, the MIA news agency reported.

The Macedonian authorities were in permanent contact with the competent foreign services and representatives in order to check up the information of the Qatar TV station Al-Jazeera saying that an Iraqi rebel group had killed two Macedonian hostages, the MIA said. On Monday, "Al Jazeera" reported that the rebel group, Islamic Army of Iraq, killed two Macedonian hostages due to "espionage in favor of US forces". In a Press release, the rebel group stated that their security forces arrested

the two Macedonians at the moment when they were leaving a US base in Iraq. Basing on their interrogating and the documents they found, it was determined that the two Macedonians were spies for the US forces.

Macedonia, a country of the US-led coalition, has 32 troops stationed in north of Baghdad. In addition, there are hundred Macedonian citizens, whose accurate number has not been available, working in Iraq for foreign companies.—Internet

British Govt accused of delaying report of passive smoking

LONDON, 19 Oct— A leading anti-smoking group accused the British Government on Monday of sitting on a confidential report which confirms the health dangers of passive smoking.

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) said there is no longer any excuse to deny the health damage caused by inhaling other people's cigarette smoke.

"This report show that Britain's leading medical experts have concluded that second-hand smoke is a serious risk to public health. It is deeply worrying that the government has sat on this for months," said ASH director Deborah Arnott.

The Department of Health denied any delay.

"It is not a cover-up. We are considering the evidence. It is not taking any longer than any other report would," a spokeswoman for the department said. "It is not something we have sat on."

Arnott said the report, which has now been leaked to the *Evening Standard* newspaper, should have

been published in time to inform debate ahead of expected government proposals to deal with second-hand smoke.

Health experts have urged Britain to follow Ireland's example and ban smoking in public workplaces, which would include bars, restaurants and pubs. According to ASH, the report concludes that "it is evident that no infant, child or adult should be exposed to second-hand smoke."

It also found there is an increased risk of lung cancer for non-smokers exposed to second-hand smoke of about 24 percent and a greater likelihood of developing heart disease.

In children, passive smoking is linked to a raised risk of pneumonia, bronchitis, asthma, middle ear disease, decreased lung function and sudden

infant death syndrome, ASH added.

The Department of Health spokeswoman said the evidence in the report was about smoking in the home, not public places.

"It is not about public places, specifically," she added. But ASH said the findings of the leaked report are further evidence of the need for a smoking ban. It added that exposure to smoke in both the home and workplace is causing several thousand premature deaths a year across Britain as well as many thousands of illnesses.

Arnott added the report shows "the absurdity" of any exclusions from a smoking ban. Health Secretary John Reid is reportedly considering exempting some pubs and clubs where food is not served from a potential ban.

MNA/Reuters

India, Iran to set up cooperation in energy, transit and trade

NEW DELHI, 20 Oct — India and Iran have agreed to step up cooperation in energy, transit and trade that will benefit the entire region as Tehran apprised New Delhi of its efforts on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

These issues figured during talks Indian National Security Advisor J N Dixit had with Hassan Rouhani, Secretary of the

Supreme National Security Council during his three-day visit to Iran that concluded on Tuesday.

The visit was part of the ongoing and regular consultations between the National Security Councils of the two countries, the External Affairs Ministry stated here on Tuesday. Rouhani had visited India

in February this year.

The two leaders exchanged views on the enhancement and further consolidation of the "excellent" bilateral relations, it said.

The Iranian side apprised Dixit of Tehran's efforts on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Dixit invited Rouhani to visit India.

MNA/PTI



An Iraqi police officer guards the area after a road side bomb attack on the airport road in Baghdad, Iraq, on 18 Oct 2004. One man was killed and two others injured when their car hit the explosive device, according to witnesses at the scene.—INTERNET

British ministers accused of misleading Parliament on Iraq

LONDON, 19 Oct—Ministers were accused last night of misleading Parliament over the redeployment of British troops in Iraq to an American-controlled area. A decision to move the soldiers was made more than a week ago, defence sources said.

"It was decided and virtually under way," one said, describing the Government's claim that no decision had been made as "nonsense". He added: "I

think there is an issue over the extent to which they have misled Parliament."

The accusations will increase pressure on Tony Blair, who was struggling

last night to contain the most serious backbench revolt he has faced on Iraq with many Labour MPs who supported the war opposed to the redeploy-

ment of 600 soldiers of the Black Watch.

A group of 45 Labour MPs demanded a Commons vote before any decision was made. Amid signs that he was considering backing down, the Prime Minister insisted there was no political aspect and that no decision had been taken prior to a reconnaissance yesterday by British officers of the area where they would be based.—*Internet*



An Iraqi man inspects the damage at a building in Fallujah, outside Baghdad, Iraq, on 18 Oct, 2004 after US troops pounded the guerilla stronghold of Fallujah with airstrikes and tank fire overnight.—INTERNET

India, China to reshape int'l landscape in a few decades

WASHINGTON, 20 Oct — India and China will reshape the international landscape in the next few decades and the US should recognize and adapt to this new world order, a leading American columnist has said.

There have been two great shifts in the international balance of power over the past 500 years. The first was the rise of Western Europe, which by the late 17th century had become the

richest, most dynamic and expansionist part of the globe. The second was the rise of the US, he said.

Right now, a trend of equal magnitude is taking place: the rise of Asia, led by China, which will fundamentally reshape the international landscape in the next few decades".

"For the United States, whether it is preserving jobs or security, recognizing and adapting to the new world order is key," he said in an editorial in 'Washington Post' entitled "America's Big Challenge: Asia".

India, too, he points out "is growing with impressive resilience and determination and because of its size, it adds another huge weight to the Asian balance."

With economic growth, said Fareed Zakaria, comes cultural confidence and political assertiveness. "The West has long taken Asia for granted, seeing it as an investment opportunity or a stage where Great Power rivalries could be played out, as in Vietnam and Korea. But this too will change".

China and India, he points out, are both proud and ancient civilizations. They also have large internal economies, not totally dependent on exports to the West. In the wake of the East Asian crisis of 1997, all the East Asian tiger economies collapsed but China and India grew solidly, even when demand from the West had dried up.

China's ranking legislator urges better ties with Poland

WARSAW, 19 Oct — Ismail Amat, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, has called for strengthened cooperation between China and Poland.

The senior Chinese legislator, who arrived here Friday on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-Polish diplomatic relations, told Jozef Oleksy, Speaker of the Polish Lower House of Parliament, that the two sides should take the opportunity to push forward cooperation in all fields. Oleksy, for his part, said bilateral ties have developed smoothly with the joint efforts of both sides over the 55 years.

He noted that Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski's 1997 China visit and Chinese President Hu Jintao's trip to Poland last June have opened a new chapter in ties between the two countries. Poland stands ready to work with China to further such ties, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/PTI

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Australian aid group worker kidnapped in Iraq

CANBERRA, 19 Oct—A British-born Iraqi aid worker who was kidnapped in Iraq was an employee of CARE Australia, the charity said.

Margaret Hassan, a dual British and Iraqi citizen, was abducted in Baghdad at 7:30 am.

CARE Australia had responsibility for running CARE's operations in Iraq, and Hassan was employed by the Australian branch of the international charity, said CARE Australia spokeswoman Jessica Walker.

CARE Australia said it was unaware of the motive for the abduction. "As far as we know, Margaret is unharmed," it said in a statement, adding that it was doing everything it could to secure her release.

A number of aid bodies have withdrawn foreign staff because of bombings and the kidnapping of foreigners.—*Internet*

Report says Iraq war increases terrorism risk

BEIRUT, 20 Oct—War in Iraq has increased the risk of terrorism against the West, at least for the short term, the International Institute for Strategic Studies said on Tuesday in its annual report on the world's militaries.

The IISS has added a section on Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network to "The Military Balance," its authoritative yearly defence handbook, which lists the size and capabilities of the world's armed forces. "Overall, the risk of terrorism to Westerners and Western assets in Arab countries appeared to increase after the Iraq war began in March 2003," it concluded.

"With the military invasion and oc-

cupation of Iraq, the United States demonstrated its desire to change the political status quo in the Arab world to advance American strategic and political interests," it said.

"Accordingly, the Iraq invasion was always likely in the short term to enhance jihadist recruitment and intensify Al-Qaeda's motivation to encourage and assist terrorist operations." — *Internet*

Sustainable development of energy sources is China's priority

BEIJING, 20 Oct — Sustainable development of energy sources is a priority of Chinese Government, said Qu Geping, chairman of China Environmental Protection Foundation at the World Petroleum Congress First Youth Forum here on Monday.

Along with an annual GDP growth rate of 9 per cent in the last 20 years, China also saw a soaring energy demand and deteriorating environment.

According to Qu, in 2003 moderate or serious air pollution affected 59 per cent of the cities monitored in China. By late 2003, 30 per cent of China's territory has been affected by acid rain and 30 per cent of water resources has been contaminated.

"China has taken strong measures to

restrict energy-guzzling, pollution-generating companies and published a series of environmental protection criteria for enterprises. In the past five years, China has closed 84,000 companies failing to meet the standards," Qu said.

In addition, new energy sources such as water power, wind power, solar energy and biomass have big potential for use in China. But now, these sources account for less than 1 per cent in China's current energy use, Qu said.—*MNA/Xinhua*



An Iraqi man views damage to his house after it was hit during a US air raid conducted over the western city of Fallujah, on 18 Oct 2004. —INTERNET

Attacks of int'l terrorism in Iraq directed at Bush

DUSHANBE, 19 Oct— Russian President Vladimir Putin, siding with George W Bush two weeks before the US presidential election, said on Monday that armed attacks in Iraq were staged by “international terrorism” out to block his re-election.

“The attacks of international terrorism in Iraq are directed not only at international coalition forces but at President Bush personally,” Putin, speaking in the Tajik capital, said.

“International terrorism has given itself the goal of causing maximum

damage to Bush in the election battle, the goal of blocking the re-election of Bush for a second presidential term,” he told a news conference.

Putin’s comments, ahead of the November 2 election in which Democratic challenger John Kerry and Bush are fight-

ing a close race, seemed a reward to the US President for his personal friendship and valuable support.

The strong support he enjoys from Bush since quickly backing the US war on terrorism following the September 11 hijacked plane attacks in the

United States has helped him withstand other criticism from the United States and the West over his democratic record at home.

Despite making clear he wanted to see Bush returned to the White House, the pragmatic Putin carefully balanced his comments by adding: “We will, of course, respect any choice by the American people.”

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi men comfort each other as they sit in the rubble of their destroyed house in Fallujah, outside Baghdad, on 18 Oct, 2004.—INTERNET



Iraqis and Iraqi police look inside a destroyed civilian vehicle following an attack on a main road in Baghdad on 18 Oct, 2004.—INTERNET

Australian journalist detained, released in Iraq

CANBERRA, 19 Oct — An Australian TV journalist has been released after being detained by unknown military group in Baghdad last weekend, SBS Television said in a statement on Monday.

John Martinkus, a freelancer, was seized near his hotel about 0700 GMT on Saturday and held for more than 20 hours.

He was interrogated during his detention, SBS said.

Martinkus had finished his filming in Iraq and was ready to leave the country before the incident.

“Martinkus has been released without harm and will be returning to Australia within the next few days,” SBS said.

“In order not to compromise his safety and until more detailed information can be gathered SBS Television will not be commenting further on his situation at this stage,” it said.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer has confirmed the detention and said the journalist ignored travel advice in Iraq. “The journalist went out to investigate a story, I under-

stand, and went to a part of Baghdad, where he was advised not to go to, but he went there anyway ... He was detained but just

for 24 hours and subsequently has been released,” Downer told Melbourne radio 3AW earlier Monday.—MNA/Xinhua

Putin satisfied with his visit to China

MOSCOW, 19 Oct — Russian President Vladimir Putin Monday described his visit to China as “an important step forward” in the bilateral relations, according to *Interfax* news agency.

“An important step forward has been made in cooperation with the People’s Republic of China. The same has happened (in relations) with Central Asia, especially with Tajikistan,” Putin said at a meeting with the Russian Government members in Moscow on Monday.

“It took us a long time to prepare these visits and documents that were signed during these visits,” Putin said.

“In both cases, we (I say we because it was

the government that made a considerable contribution to laying the groundwork for these visits) have achieved our objectives,” the President said.

Putin had his official visit to China on October 14-16. During his stay in Beijing, Putin met with President Hu Jintao, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress Wu Bangguo, and Premier Wen Jiabao.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia’s stand on Iraq war proven right

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Oct — Malaysia’s stand to oppose the US-led invasion on Iraq was proven to be right as no weapons of mass destruction have been found in the country till now, Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said on Monday.

There was also no evidence to show that former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had links with the al-Qaeda terror network or had a hand in the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, the Deputy Prime Minister said while launching a book entitled “*Between Blood and Bombs — A Journal of War, Iraq 2003*” at Menara Star here.

“It’s very clear our stand is accurate and right,” he said.

The book, written by Assistant News

Editor Shahanaaz Habib of *The Star*, a local English-language daily, tells stories about the conflict in Iraq and also the post-war Iraq when she returned to the war-torn nation for the second time last year.

In her book, Shahanaaz shared her experience and provided eye-witness account of how the people, including innocent civilians, soldiers and peacekeepers suffered and the bloody violence that erupted in the aftermath of the war. —MNA/Xinhua

Singapore’s private sector urged to fight against terrorism

SINGAPORE, 19 Oct — Singapore has urged private sector and communities to work together with the government to fight terrorism.

Speaking at a retail security conference here Monday, Senior Minister of State for Law and Home Affairs Ho Peng Kee stressed the importance of the involvement by the private sector and community in fighting terrorism.

“Here in Singapore, although the government has taken concrete steps to enhance our nation’s safety

and security, we must recognize that counter-terrorism is a shared responsibility that also involves the private sector and the community,” he said.

Everyone of Singaporeans, including those in the retail industry, can play a part to counter terrorism, he said, adding that the damage of a terrorist attack on any of

the business premises would be tremendous to the entire industry and to Singapore’s social-economic stability.

The minister called on retailers to periodically review the security of their premises, and take concrete steps to educate their employees on how they can be vigilant at all times.

He encouraged retailers to organize regular gatherings amongst their neighbouring business owners in a bid to know one another better.

“As neighbours, you should care for one another and keep a lookout for suspicious activities in your premises. Getting familiar with your neighbours will help you detect suspicious characters in your community,” the minister noted.

MNA/Xinhua

Singaporean man dies of cholera

SINGAPORE, 19 Oct — An old Singaporean has died of cholera, which has infected eight others in the island state recently.

According to local Press reports on Monday night, the 89-year-old man was not among the initial eight cases reported in Singapore last Friday.

The man lived in Bukit Panjang, central Singapore, but the eight others live in the southeastern part of Bedok.

The old man, who had diarrhoea on 4 October, was admitted to the National University Hospital five days later when doctors found that he also had acute renal failure. He died on 13 October. —MNA/Xinhua

Iraq negotiating to use Iran's, Kuwait's ports for import

BAGHDAD, 19 Oct— Iraq is negotiating with Iran and Kuwait to use their Gulf ports to import one million tons of Australian wheat, Iraqi officials say.

The Australian Wheat Board was last month awarded a tender to sell one million tons of wheat for delivery through Iraq's Um Qasr port during the first quarter of next year.

But congestion and a shortage of equipment at Um Qasr has prompted Iraq to seek help from Iran and Kuwait, the officials say.

"There is simply no way we could bring the shipments through Um Qasr. The situation there is a mess," a senior Iraqi Trade Ministry official told *Reuters*.

"A deal with Iran to use its Bandar al-Khomeini Gulf port is effectively

sealed and the Kuwaitis have indicated no objection to use their Shouaikh port," said the official, who declined to be named.

Iraq has been upgrading its Gulf ports, unlike Iraq. Iraq's now defunct Coalition Provisional Authority has already paid Australia millions of dollars in demurrage payments for shipments delayed at Um Qasr, using Iraqi oil revenues.

Iraq imports three million tons of wheat a year, mostly from Australia, and distributes it to Iraqis as part of their food rations.

MNA/Reuters

Turkey warns citizens not to travel to Iraq

ANKARA, 19 Oct— The Turkish Foreign Ministry on Monday warned the country's citizens not to travel to neighbouring Iraq unless the trip is essential.

The ministry said in a statement that the advisory is issued since the ongoing unrest in Iraq is developing to very serious levels.

It also warned Turkish companies operating in Iraq and those who con-

duct transport services into Iraq that they should take all safety measures.

The statement said that Turkish citizens who still intend to travel to Iraq should get information from offices established at the border be-

fore crossing.

In recent months, Turkish truck drivers have been frequently targeted by guerillas in Iraq. At least six Turks have been killed by their captors so far.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh sets target to cut population growth rate to 1%

DHAKA, 20 Oct — Bangladeshi Cabinet Monday approved the draft of the National Population Policy 2004 (NPP 2004) that focuses on bringing down population growth rate to 1 per cent by 2010 from the present 1.54 per cent.

According to the *Daily Star* on Tuesday, the new policy aims to stabilize Bangladesh's population at 216 million by 2060, and to that end the net reproductive rate has to come down to 1 per cent by 2010.

First outlined in 1976 and revised by a nine-member committee since 2002, the draft NPP 2004 comprises 16 specific objectives that include bringing down maternal and infant mortality rates, and seven implementation strategies including empowerment of women, human development and decentralization of programme implementation.

The maternal mortality rate (MMR) in Bangladesh is one of the highest in the world with 320 women dying during childbirth out of every 1,000 live births. Infant mortality rate (IMR) is

also quite high compared with that of any other developing country, as 70 infants die out of every 1,000.

In view of the high MMR, the new policy particularly emphasizes women's reproductive health envisaging 100 per cent safe motherhood, and providing emergency obstetric services at all levels.

It also gives special attention to family planning services mainly to increase contraceptive prevalence rate, by offering choices to women, expanding clinical services from all static healthcare facilities and making home family planning services available.

Adolescent health is one of the priority areas of the policy, proposing school-based reproductive education for young people, and education of

parents on the significance of reproductive health education for their children.

On adolescent health, the policy also focuses on late marriage for girls, spacing of childbirth and mass awareness on transmission of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

It also seeks to address high rates of malnutrition, decline in arable land, pollution of environment and water resources, poverty, fast urbanization and growing unemployment.

The draft NPP stresses equal rights of women and men, women's participation in all spheres of policy-making, proper protection and shelter for the elderly and minimum required calories for all growing children.

MNA/Xinhua

မြို့ပြဧကစာ၊ မိန်းပါးလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်



A US Army 2nd Infantry Division tank crew watches traffic on a highway near Ramadi, Iraq, on 17 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

Two Macedonian hostages killed in Iraq

DUBAI, 19 Oct— A militant group in Iraq said it had killed two Macedonian hostages whom it accused of spying for the United States, Arabic television Al-Jazeera said on Monday.

Al-Jazeera said it had received a videotape showing the killing of the men, accompanied by a statement from the Islamic Army in Iraq. It did not broadcast the killing.

It did not name the hostages and it was not clear whether they were among a group of three men—Dalibor Lazarevski, Dragan Markovic,

Zoran Naskovski — who were seized by militants in Iraq in August. Al-Jazeera aired a segment of the video showing two men speaking to the camera and then another shot of what appeared to be their passports. Their speech was not audible.

Militants have kidnapped and killed several foreigners in Iraq to pres-

sure their governments and private companies to end cooperation with the US-led forces. Macedonia has 32 soldiers in Iraq. The three Macedonians known to be hostage were builders for United Arab Emirates-based Soufan Engineering, catering to the needs of the US military and its private contractor firms.—MNA/Reuters

India, ASEAN to work for Regional Trade, Investment area

NEW DELHI, 20 Oct — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Tuesday India and Association of South East-Asian Nations (ASEAN) would work for creation of Regional Trade and Investment area to take the bilateral trade to 30 billion US dollars by 2007.

"This is to be achieved through progressive elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers, progressive liberalization of trade in services and through liberal and competitive investment regime," the *Press Trust of India* quoted Singh as saying at the third Indo-ASEAN business summit here.

Asserting that a balanced expansion of trade will boost industries, Singh said "we are working towards completion of Free Trade Area negotiations between India and ASEAN".

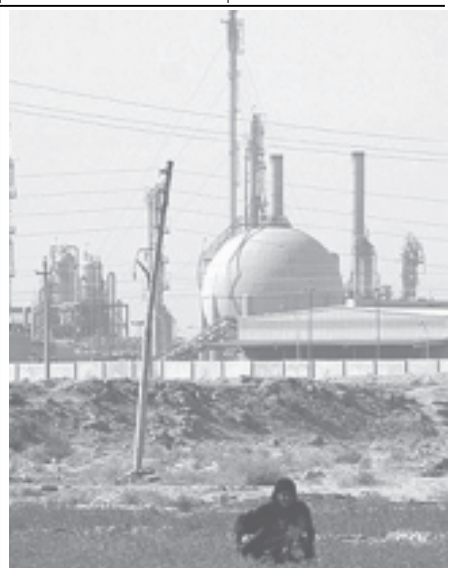
The two sides have set a target to raise bilateral trade to 15 billion US dollars by 2005 and 30 billion US dollars by 2007, he said adding, "these are achievable if we focus on commodities which show a great potential for trade."

He said the Early Har-

vest Programme under the India-ASEAN Framework Agreement for immediate tariff concessions

is a confidence building measure and harbinger of what is to follow.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman looks after her vegetable patch close to an oil refinery on the outskirts of Basra recently. —INTERNET

Therefore we do hope the Fifth Tri-state commission Meeting for Myan-mar-Thailand Malaysia Peninsular Campaign for FMD Freedom to be held in Myeik, Tanintharyi Division will be a mile- stone for the creation of FMD free status in Myanmar as well as in Thailand and Malaysia.

ဦးသခမအကြိမ်(၁၂ ကြိမ်) ဖြန့်မနုရ်ရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆင့် အက၊ အခရ၊ အတီး၊ ငြိမ်းပွဲ ငြိမ်းပွဲကျင်းပခရ၊ ဆင်းကပ်မတီ၏ ငြိမ်းပွဲ အစီအစဉ်ပေး						
နံပါတ်	အမျိုးသားပြတိုက်	အမျိုးသားဇာတ်ရုံ	ပန်တျာကျောင်း	(ကမ္ဘောဇဇာတ်ရုံ)	(ပုဒုမ္မဇာတ်ရုံ)	
၈၈	၂၁-၁၀-၂၀၀၄ ကြာပထမအဆင့်	မဟာဂီတ(နံနက်) (၁) ဝါသနာရှင်(မ) မဟာဂီတ(နေ့လယ်) (၂) အခြေခံ(၁၀-၁၅) (ကျား)	စနုရာ: (၁) ပညာရှင်(ကျား+မ) (နံနက်) (၂) အခြေခံ(၁၀-၁၅)(မ) (နေ့လယ်) ရှပ်သေးဇာတ်တော်ကြီး (ညပိုင်း)ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း တော်ဝင်ရုပ်ရှင်သဘင်အဖွဲ့	အရေးကြီးပွဲဝင်များ သီချင်းလေ့ကျင့်ခြင်း (၁) ဝါသနာရှင်	တယော (၁) အဆင့်မြင့် (ကျား+မ)(နံနက်) (၂) အခြေခံ(၁၅-၂၀) (ကျား+မ)(နေ့လယ်)	ဒိုးပတီ (၁) အဆင့်မြင့် (နံနက်) (၂) အခြေခံ(၁၅-၂၀) (နေ့လယ်)
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12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing...

(from page 16)

girls from States and Divisions took part in the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' old and modern song contest. On 21 October morning, the amateur level (women's) classical song contest and the basic education level (aged 10-15) (boys') classical song contest will be held at the same venue.

At the National Theatre, leader of the panel of judges U Ye Dway and members supervised the marionette contest. A total of 12 participants took part in the amateur level marionette contest. Tomorrow morning, the professional level piano (men's) (women's) contests and basic education level (10-15)

(girls') piano contest will be held.

At State School of Music and Drama, contestants of the basic education level (aged 15-20) song composing contest practised singing of their songs to the accompaniment of musical instruments.

At Padonma Theatre, eight participants took part in the amateur level (women's) solo orchestra contest. Similarly, four contestants participated in the higher education level women's solo orchestra contest.

Afterwards, six girls competed in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' solo orchestra contest.

U Sein Hla Myaing and party supervised the

contests.

On 21 October, the higher education level dohbet contest and the basic education level (aged 15-20) dohbet contest will be held.

At Kanbawza Theatre, 14 contestants of States and Divisions participated in the amateur level (men's) xylophone contest and five contestants in the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls' xylophone contest. Leader of the panel of judges U Yi Nwe and party supervised the contests. On 21 October, the higher education level (men's) and (women's) and the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls' and boys' violin contests will be held.—MNA



Maung Soe Lin Kyaw and Daw Khaing Wai Lwin of Ayeyawady Division taking part in the marionette contest.—MNA



Ma Nwe Darli Zaw of Chin State taking part in the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' old/modern song contest.—MNA



Daw Win Thanda Aung of Mon State participates in amateur level (women's) solo orchestra contest.—MNA

Minister inspects cold storage, fish meal plants, prawn breeding in Myeik

YANGON, 20 Oct—Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, accompanied by Deputy Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Hone Ngai, on 17 October inspected cold

storage of Asaungkaung Co including the fish meal plants of the company in the Industrial Zone in Myeik and crab breeding in Kyunsu Township.

The minister also inspected breeding of sea prawn in Laut Laut

Village in Kyaukphya Village-tract in Myeik Township being carried out by the Fisheries Department. Expert U Min Thein reported on tasks being carried out and achievement.

MNA

Fifth cash donation for performing arts held

YANGON, 20 Oct—The fifth cash donation of Finance and Prize Presentation Subcommittee of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the City Hall this afternoon.

Present were Chairman of Leading Committee of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung

Pa, Secretary of Leading Committee of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan, Chairman of Finance and Prize Presentation Subcommittee Joint Secretary of YCDC U Aung Soe and members, Commander of No 4 Military Region Col Yan Naing Oo, member of YCDC Col Tin Soe and wellwishers. Next, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa presented K 3 million donated by YCDC to Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Next, Maj-Gen Myint

Swe and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa accepted K 4.1 million including K 100,000 donated by the Ministry of Sports, K 200,000 by Internal Revenue Department, K 300,000 by Fisca PABX and K 100,000 donated by Ganhtawin Nandaw Construction.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said the performing arts competitions are being held with the aims of restoration of Myanmar ensuring traditional culture and arts. He also thanked the donors for their cash donations. A total of K 31.754 million have been received so far.—MNA

Industry-2 Minister receives Japanese Ambassador

YANGON, 20 Oct—Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin received the Japanese

Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano at his office on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this

morning. Officials from the Ministry also attended the call.

MNA



Maung Banya Thiha Naing of Taninthayi Division practising the composed song.—MNA

Future tasks of sports federations, arrangements for camping of athletes coordinated

YANGON, 20 Oct—A coordination meeting on future tasks of sports federations and arrangements for camping of athletes who will participate in the XXIII South-East Asian Games was held at the National Indoor Stadium-1 yesterday.

Present were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic

Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials of the ministry, presidents and secretaries of sports federations.

The minister spoke on start of camping programmes for winning more medals in the XXIII South-East Asian Games.

Director-General of Sports and Physical

Education Department U Thaung Htaik reported on attendance of XXIII South-East Asian Games Federation Council Meeting and Director U Than Zaw on arrangements for matches and officials of sports federations on future tasks and camping programmes. The meeting came to a close in the evening.—MNA



Ramayana Drama Contest of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions in progress.— MNA

Ramayana Drama Contest continues

YANGON, 20 Oct— The Ramayana Drama Contest of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued this evening for the last day at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township. The Ramayana Drama Troupe representing Yangon Division participated in the contest.

Present at the contest were Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Chairman of the Leading Committee for organizing the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Perform-

ing Arts Competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and family, member of the Panel of Patrons Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and family, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Chairman of the work committee for organizing the performing arts competitions No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan, No 4 Military

Region Commander Col Yan Naing Oo, leading committee members, members of the work committee and subcommittees, Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy Mr Wang Ruiqing, artistes and the public.

Leader of the Panel of Judges U Chit Oo Nyo and members supervised and judged the contest.

Marionette contest competition will take place tomorrow evening at the same venue and the Marionette Troupe of Yangon Division will take part in the contest. —MNA

40th Anniversary of UDNR observed

YANGON, 20 Oct — A ceremony to mark the 40th Anniversary of University for Development of National Races was held at the convocation hall of the university at Ywathitkyi, Sagaing Division, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint, Director-General Lt-Col Win Htein of No 2 Basic Education Department (Upper Myanmar), Rector Col Win Maung of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi), Rector Col Aung Hsan Win of Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar), Rector Col Zaw Min Thein of UDNR, pro-rectors, members of the University Council and Univer-



Member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint addresses 40th Anniversary of University for Development of National Races.—MNA

sity Education Committee, representatives of State and Division Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, faculty members of UDNR and trainees.

First, Member of the Civil Service Selection

and Training Board U Aung Myint delivered an address. Next, CSSTB Member U Aung Myint presented cash to 40 service personnel of the university who have worked at the university for 30 years and over, four students who

passed the 2004 matriculation examination with flying colours and four UDNR trainees who

won first prizes in the State level competitions.

After the ceremony, CSSTB Member U Aung

Myint cordially conversed with the faculty members and trainees.

MNA

Exhibition to mark 40th Anniversary of UDNR opened

YANGON, 20 Oct— The ceremony to open the exhibition to mark the 40th Anniversary of University for Development of National Races was held on the lawns in front of Panglong Hall of UDNR this morning.

Present were Member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint, Director-General Lt-Col Win Htein of No 2 Basic Education Department (Upper Myanmar), Rector Col Win Maung of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi), Rector Col Aung Hsan Win of Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar), Rector Col Zaw Min Thein

of UDNR, pro-rectors, members of the University Council and University Education Committee, representatives of State and Division Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, faculty members of UDNR and trainees.

First, they took the designated places. Rector Col Zaw Min Thein and Pro-Rector (Academic) Daw Khin Si Si formally opened the exhibition. CSSTB Member U Aung Myint unveiled the signboard of the exhibition.

Later, the CSSTB member and guests visited the exhibition and signed in the visitors' book.—MNA

NPE Credit Cooperative Society meets

YANGON, 20 Oct— The Credit Cooperative Society of News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information held the annual general meeting for 2003-2004 at the enterprise this morning.

Present were Manager U Nyunt Hlaing of Myanmar News Agency (Internal), Staff Officer U Win Kyi of Cooperative Department of Botahtaung Township, executives and members.

Manager U Nyunt Hlaing and U Win Kyi spoke on the occasion.

Next, the meeting approved the executive committee report and financial statement.

MNA



Member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint and rectors view round the Exhibition to mark 40th Anniversary of University for Development of National Races.— MNA

Coordination meeting to seek ways and means for development of crop production held

YANGON, 20 Oct—A coordination meeting to seek ways and means for boosting crop production was held at Myanma Agriculture Service (Head Office) yesterday.

Present were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung, managing directors and directors-general of enterprises and departments, agriculturists, managers of states and divisions and officials.

In his address, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo said there are a lot of cultivable lands in agro-based country and there are ag-

riculturists who can disseminate agricultural techniques to farmers. The ministry is responsible for development of the State economy.

He spoke of the need to give priority to use of modern cultivation methods for production on commercial scale, extension of cultivated acreage, boosting production of per acre yield, low cost in production, minimizing wastage and loss and seeking ways suitable for the regions.

He said efforts are to be made for meeting the targets of major crops.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung

spoke on implementation of the tasks in accord with the policies laid down by the State.

General Manager (Land Use) of MAS Dr Nyi Nyi took part in the discussions.

The minister made a concluding speech and samples of paddy and soybean produced by agricultural research of MAS.

Professor Dr Oswalt Ban Cleenput of Ghent University of Belgium gave lecture on interaction between agriculture and environment to the managers of states and divisions and the agriculturists.

MNA

Mon State USDA holds annual meeting

YANGON, 20 Oct — The Mon State Union Solidarity and Development Association held its annual meeting at Mon State USDA Office in Mandalay Ward of Mawlamyine Township on 18 October morning.

Present on the occasion were Member of the Panel of Patrons of USDA (Central) Patron of Mon State USDA Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Member of the Central Executive Committee Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and departmental officials, Secretary of Mon State USDA U Tin Soe Moe Naing, executives, wellwishers, USDA members and outstanding students.

First, students of Mawlamyine BEHS No 6 sang songs to the audience. Next, Mon State USDA Patron Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung gave

necessary instructions.

Afterwards, CEC member Brig-Gen Ohn Myint delivered an address. Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung presented K 500,000 for Mon State USDA to the CEC member. Similarly, the Patron, the CEC member and departmental officials accepted donations for the Mon State USDA.

Next, the Patron, the CEC member and departmental officials gave away prizes to outstanding members who attended the training courses opened by USDA (Central) and outstanding students who won distinctions in 2004 matriculation examination and best pass rate schools in Mon State.

Then, Mon State USDA Annual Meeting followed. Mon State USDA Secretary U Tin Soe Moe Naing presided over the meeting together with Joint-Secretary Daw Yi Yi Myint and Execu-

tive U Win Bo.

Executive Daw Ei Ei San submitted the EC report. Next, five groups discussed the report. Next, accomplishments of districts and townships were reported. Later, the meeting put two matters on record, made four resolutions and concluded with chanting of slogans.

Next, the CEC member together with Commander Maj-Gen Myint Aung attended the first cash donation ceremony for construction of Myanmar monastery in Paris, France, at Yamanya Hall of Mon State Peace and Development Council Office. They inspected progress in renovation of Kyaikthalan Pagoda.

In-charge of Mawlamyine Industrial Zone Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint went to Mawlamyine Industrial Zone and met officials and entrepreneurs. The minister attended to their needs.

MNA



Ma Ei Ei Mon of Ayeyawady Division taking part in basic education level (aged 15-20) girls' xylophone contest (News on page 16).—MNA

Shan State Cooperative Festival opened

YANGON, 20 Oct — The Shan State Cooperative Festival for 2004, organized by Shan State Cooperative Department, was opened at No 2 Basic Education Middle School in Nyaungshwe on 18 October morning.

Present were Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, staff officers, local authorities, departmental officials, social organizations and stu-

dents.

First, the commander and Assistant Director U Soe Nyunt of Cooperative Department opened the festival and visited there. The festival will be held up to 22 October.

MNA

Commander inspects harvesting of model monsoon paddy plots in Toungoo, Oktwin

YANGON, 20 Oct — Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, accompanied by departmental officials, inspected harvesting of monsoon paddy in Nyaungbintha Village-tract, Yedashe Township, on 17 October morning.

In the briefing hall, Deputy Manager of Bago Division Myanma Agriculture Service U Kyaw Myint reported on harvesting of model paddy plot and Chairman of Yedashe Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Than Shwe on arrangements for cultivating summer paddy.

Next, the commander inspected model plot of Manawthukha paddy. He cordially met local farm-

ers and attended to their needs. Later, the commander viewed winnowing of paddy. The model plot of monsoon paddy yielded 103.05 baskets per acre.

Afterwards, the commander inspected harvesting of model monsoon paddy plot in Lebu Village-tract of Toungoo Township. The model paddy plot yielded 103.3 baskets per acre. Officials reported on agricultural tasks being carried out in the township.

After inspecting the harvesting of paddy, the commander gave instructions on meeting the targeted per-acre yield, use of fertilizer and quality paddy strains, repair of canals and sluice gates for supplying water to farmlands and cultivation of

summer paddy, green gram and mung bean for meeting the targeted cultivation.

Next, the commander inspected construction of buildings at Lebu Village Post-Primary School in Toungoo Township and fulfilled the requirements.

In Oktwin Township, the commander went to Hsin-Ekari paddy plot in Uyindaw Village, township authorities reported on progress of cultivation of monsoon paddy in the township and extended land reclamation and per-acre yield of Hsin-Ekari paddy strain.

The commander inspected harvesting of model monsoon paddy plantation. The model plot yielded 103.3 baskets per acre.

MNA



Maung Nyi Nyi Aung of Rakhine State participates in higher education level (men's) religious song contest. (News reported)—MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့

ပိုင်းခန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

၂၀၀၄-ခုနှစ်၊ အောက်တိုဘာလ (၁၉)ရက်နေ့ထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင် ကျေးရွာ ကိုယ်အားကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၉၆၁)တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက်

သုတ/ရသစာအုပ်များကို

ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့

လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

Int'l Conf on Power Supply Industry opens in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 20 Oct— The 15th Conference on Electric Power Supply Industry, a major technical conference sponsored by the Association of the Electricity Supply Industry of East Asia and Western Pacific (AESIEAP), opened here Monday.

Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju sent a letter of congratulations to the conference on behalf of the Chinese Government, hoping the conference would help promote the development of the power industry in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to the development of the power industry and will map out policies on the industry's development and a medium-and long-term development plan in a scientific manner, Huang said.

The five-day conference brings to-

gether more than 2,000 people from 37 countries and regions, including administrators, technical experts, equipment manufacturers and researchers.

Established in 1975, the AESIEAP is a regional non-governmental organization registered in Hong Kong, with an overall aim to promote development of the electricity supply industry in the region and international and regional cooperation.

China joined the organization in 1996 and it is the first time China plays host to the biennial conference.

MNA/Xinhua

Expressway being built to link two major scenic spots in E China

HEFEI, 20 Oct— Construction on the land shortcut between Mount Huangshan in Anhui Province, and Hangzhou of Zhejiang Province, two major tourist attractions in east China, has proceeded well, according to transport authorities of Anhui Province.

The expressway being built to link the famous scenic mountain with Hangzhou, capital city of Zhejiang, had its Anhui section open to traffic Monday.

The 83.103-kilometre-long section starts at the Shuaishui Bridge of Huangshan City, where the mountain is located, and ends at Yulingguan at the border of the two provinces, taking an estimated investment of nearly two billion yuan (241 million US dollars).

It is believed that the section will benefit the efforts of southern Anhui, northern Jiangxi Province and the mountainous area of western Zhejiang to join

the economically developed Yangtze River Delta.

The Zhejiang section of the expressway is still under construction and scheduled for completion before May 2005.

After the whole line of the expressway open to traffic, journey by motor vehicle from Mount Huangshan to Hangzhou will take only two hours, much shorter than the previous six hours.

Huangshan City accommodates 6.2 million tourists annually. It is predicted that the figure will increase by six million after the expressway goes into operation. — MNA/Xinhua

Cyprus, Egypt ready to expand bilateral cooperation

CAIRO, 20 Oct— Visiting Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iacovou said Tuesday that Cyprus will take advantage of its membership in the European Union (EU) to expand cooperation with Egypt, official MENA news agency reported.

The Cypriot official was quoted by the agency as saying that his talks with Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazef centred on how to widen bilateral cooperation through Cyprus' status as an EU country.

The two sides also discussed ways of enhancing

cooperation between the two countries in the fields of tourism, oil, natural gas and investments, he added.

Nazef, for his part, praised Cyprus' strategy of development that depended on tourism investments and service industries such as banking, maritime transport and insurance.

He underlined the importance of bilateral cooperation in tourism development in Egypt, which is rich in ancient cultural sites and beautiful sea resorts.

Tourism industry has long been one of the pillars of Egypt's economy and the Cabinet headed by Nazef, who took office in July, is eager to attract more foreign investment as part of efforts to reactivate a stagnant economy.

The Cypriot Foreign Minister arrived in Cairo on Tuesday for a two-day visit, during which he will hold talks with Egyptian officials on bilateral cooperation in addition to other regional and international issues of common concern.

MNA/Xinhua

Norway accused of overfishing

LUXEMBOURG, 20 Oct— The European Union's fisheries chief on Monday accused Norway of overfishing and warned non-EU member Oslo about taking a tough stance in annual negotiations over catches which start next month.

Under a yearly deal, EU trawlers fish cod in Norway's waters while Norwegian fishermen catch capelin and

Greenland halibut in EU waters.

"We have gained the right to ask others to act in a way which is conducive to conservation and puts an end to infringements," outgoing EU Fisheries Commissioner Franz Fischler told a news conference, warning that talks with Oslo would be more difficult than usual this year.

MNA/Reuters

France, Romania to set up int'l committee on adoption proceedings

BUCHAREST, 20 Oct— France and Romania agreed on Monday to set up an international committee to help French couples caught out in the middle of adoption proceedings by a Romanian ban on foreign adoptions.

EU candidate Romania approved a law in June under which children can only be adopted abroad by their grandparents, cementing a moratorium on foreign adoptions imposed in 2000 after fears the babies were at risk of abuse.

The law meant that dozens of French couples, who had started adoption procedures before the moratorium, were caught out.

"I proposed to set up an international committee, under the incontestable authority of a credible organization, which

could examine different cases," French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said during a visit to Romania.

The collapse of Communism 15 years ago sent foreigners rushing to adopt from crumbling Romanian orphanages, crammed with 100,000 children. Stalinist leader Nicolae Ceausescu had banned contraception and abortion.

The EU, which Romania hopes to join in 2007, warned the Balkan country against easing the ban on adoptions when

Romanian officials said in July they were considering allowing Parliament to approve the adoption abroad of very ill babies.

Around 130 French couples are estimated to have been caught in the middle of adoption proceedings by the ban, with 35 of these having already met their prospective Romanian child.

"There are still delicate situations and for us it's important to solve (them) in a humane way," Romanian Prime Minister Adrian Nastase said.

MNA/Reuters

State-run Chinese research institute opens to public

BEIJING, 20 Oct— The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Institute of Automation put its latest, high technologies on display here on Monday.

The latest technologies include entertaining robots, an intelligent wheelchair, intelligent housing systems, public information platform for 2008 Beijing Olympics and others.

The show attracted more than 1,000 students from Qinghua University, Beijing University of Science and Engineering, Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and primary and middle schools.

In addition to the high technology

show, the CAS institute organized ten lectures to promote public scientific awareness.

Tan Tieniu, director of the institute which is a state-run research body, said, "we need to do more to our taxpayers, including improving their scientific awareness."

As a tradition, Tan's institute organized such kind of exhibition and promotion four to five times a year.

MNA/Xinhua

Portuguese fishing boat missing near Aveiro

LISBON, 20 Oct — A Portuguese fishing boat with six crew members was missing in rough seas and a search was under way, a spokesman for the Marine Rescue Agency said on Tuesday.

The 27-metre (88-foot) fishing boat disappeared early on Tuesday near the port of Aveiro,

about 155 miles north of Lisbon, the spokesman said. The body of a man was found on the beach north of Aveiro but the spokesman said he could not confirm he had been on the missing boat.

A life raft believed to be from the boat was found on the beach at Torreira about nine miles north of

Aveiro, a second spokesman said later.

Pieces from a boat also washed ashore near there, but he said it was not known if they were from the missing boat.

High winds and rain are lashing Portugal and seas are forecast to be between 10 and 16 feet on Tuesday. — MNA/Reuters

Egypt, Russia sign wide-ranging economic agreements

CAIRO, 20 Oct — Egypt and Russia signed wide-ranging bilateral economic agreements on Tuesday, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported.

Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazef and Boris Alyoshin, chairman of the Russian Federal Industry Agency, attended the signing ceremony, where a number of agreements in heavy industry, agriculture, tourism and energy sectors were inked. The two officials exchanged views on boosting Russian-Egyptian ties, especially ways

of increasing trade between the two countries.

They also explored the possibility of setting up a joint company for industrial and energy cooperation.

Alyoshin's visit came as part of Russia's efforts to give momentum to bilateral economic and trade cooperation, which topped agenda of talks between Egyptian Presi-

dent Hosni Mubarak and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Moscow in May.

MENA said that Alyoshin also met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit on Tuesday to prepare for a visit to be paid by Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov to Egypt by the end of this year. — MNA/Xinhua

Invitation to Attend
Myanmar International Freight Forwarders' Association
(MIFFA)
First Annual Meeting

Myanmar International Freight Forwarders' Association is holding the First Annual Meeting as per the details below and would appreciate your kind presence.

(1) Date - 2nd November 2004 (Tuesday)
 (2) Time - 10:00 a.m to 12:00 Noon
 (3) Venue - Myanmar Ballroom (2), Level (2)
 Traders Hotel
 No.223, Sule Pagoda Road,
 Yangon, Myanmar

Invitation Cards will be sent to all members.

INVITATION TO TENDER
(TENDER NO. 11(T) MPE/HSD(10)/2004-2005)

- Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of **(4,750±10%) Metric Tons and (5,000±10%) Metric Tons H.S.D (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%)**.
- Tender closing Date: (3-11-2004) at (12:00) noon.
- Tender Documents and detail information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min-Ye-Kyaw-Zwa Road, Yangon, during office hours commencing (21-10-2004) on payment of one hundred (100) FEC per set.
- Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender documents officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director,
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

Indonesia export expo records \$107.7m trade

JAKARTA, 19 Oct— The 19th Indonesian annual export exhibition, which officially closed late on Sunday, recorded a total sales transaction of 107.7 million US dollars, a 12.7 per cent increase from the previous year, a senior official has said.

Diah Maulida, head of the National Agency for Export Development (NAFED) which organized the expo, attributed the boost in sales to the increasing number of participants.

The five-day expo at the Jakarta Fairground complex in Kemayoran, Central Jakarta, was participated in by 1,254 companies and drew at least 3,000 buyers from 65 countries and regions.

"The sales increase exceeded our initial 10 per cent target," Diah was quoted Tuesday by *The Jakarta Post* newspaper as saying.

Diah said the top three most traded commodities were furniture, handicrafts and building materials.

Products displayed at the exhibition included textiles and garments, footwear, automotive components, electronics, cosmetics, food products and mining commodities.

According to Minister of Industry and Trade Rini MS Soewandi, the expo was aimed not only at promoting top quality export products but also to rebuild Indonesia's trading image in the international forum.

MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe to host regional conference on HIV/AIDS

HARARE, 19 Oct— The Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) of Zimbabwe will host a five-day regional conference on access to treatment for women living with HIV/AIDS, according to local newspaper *Sunday Mail* on Sunday.

Thirty-five participants are expected to attend the meeting, which starts on 25 October and ends on 29 October. The theme of the conference will be "Women and HIV and AIDS".

The meeting is a follow-up to the one held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2001, at which strategies to fight HIV and AIDS as a united front were mapped out.

Each YWCA branch participating in the conference will share experiences of their activities and make action plans to take back home.

This meeting's objective is to evaluate the activities in the action plans, to chart the way forward and to strengthen the networks within the region.

MNA/Xinhua

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Win Mu Tin,
 M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
 for Glaxo Group Limited
 P.O. Box 60, Yangon
 Dated: 21 October 2004

Crude oil prices fall on profit-taking after topping new high

NEW YORK, 19 Oct— Crude oil prices fell sharply Monday as traders opted to take profits after futures reached a new high above 55 dollars a barrel.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, crude oil futures for November delivery fell 1.26 dollars to end at 53.67 dollars per barrel. Prices reached 55.33 dollars in electronic trading before the session.

Meanwhile, on London's International Petroleum Exchange, the November Brent crude-oil futures contract declined 1.02 dollars to settle at 48.91 dollars a barrel.

MNA/Xinhua

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 Dated: 21st October, 2004.

Uruguayan FM
elected as LAIA
secretary-general

MONTEVIDEO, 19 Oct— Uruguayan Foreign Minister Didier Operti Badan was elected Monday as new secretary-general of the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) at the 13th meeting of the organization's Council of Foreign Ministers.

Operti will replace Juan Francisco Rojas Penso from Venezuela on 15 March, 2005 and will serve the two-year term until 2007.

Operti told *Xinhua* that he will resign from the post of foreign minister after Uruguay's October 31 general election to wholly devote himself to the LAIA affairs in establishing a Latin America free trade area.— *MNA/Xinhua*

MERCOSUR, Ancom create world's fifth largest trade bloc

MONTEVIDEO, 19 Oct— The Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and the Andean Community (Ancom) signed a trade agreement here Monday to create the world's fifth largest trade bloc.

The foreign ministers of MERCOSUR members — Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay — signed the Economic Co-operation Agreement (ECA) with their Ancom counterparts — Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela — at the headquarters of the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA).

At the signing ceremony, Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim said, "Today we take a great step" which is the culmination of great efforts to lay foundations for the establishment of a free trade area throughout South America.

The ECA is an example for the negotiations on similar accords with third countries or groups as it respects asymmetries and "the interests of less-developed countries", said Amorim, who is holding the rotating presidency of the MERCOSUR.

He added that the negotiations with the European Union and those on a Free Trade Area of the Americas would have been easier if the ECA had been signed three years

ago as "we would have been more united and stronger".

Amorim denied reports on alleged contradiction between the ECA and the LAIA, saying that the agreement is a "complementary action" that "leads to Latin American integration".

Peruvian Foreign Minister Manuel Rodriguez Cuadros, also Ancom's rotating president, echoed Amorim's view by saying that the agreement is a concrete and realistic step toward the creation of a "South American economic and political space".

Rodriguez added that the ECA will cover an area of 17 million square kilometres with 350 million consumers. Its gross national product is estimated at 800 billion US dollars and trade among its members will reach 30 billion dollars. LAIA's outgoing Secretary General Juan Francisco Rojas Penso said the ECA will come into effect "in a gradual way", depending on the legislative ratification by the participating countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Belarus arrests US citizen for allegedly mishandling funds

UNITED NATIONS, 19 Oct— An American citizen specializing in the Internet was arrested by the Belarus KGB for allegedly mishandling funds, Belarus authorities reported on Monday.

The man, Ilya Mafter, a long-term employee of the Open Society Institute (OSI), founded by financier George Soros, was also a consultant in Belarus for the UN Development Programme,

the UN agency said.

Mafter has worked for more than a decade for OSI to help build infrastructure in Belarus, Russia, the Caucasus and Central Asia, OSI spokeswoman Laura Silber said in New York. He was in Belarus to expand Internet access, Silber said.

In Minsk, the Belarus capital, KGB chairman Leonid Yerin said Mafter was arrested for "pocketing part of the sums entrusted to him", according to the *Interfax-Ukraine* news agency. He allegedly committed fraud against the Belarus mobile telephone operator Velcom, Yerin was quoted as saying.— *MNA/Reuters*

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A bee is seen on a flower on the way to Sumela Monastery, northeast of Turkey. A Turkish honey called "mad honey" for its reputed ability to induce euphoria and stimulate an erection contains a poison that can cause vomiting and heart problems.—INTERNET

Construction begins on Moscow's tallest building

Moscow, 21 Oct—Although still only in its infancy, construction has begun on the building that is to be Europe's tallest, a shiny younger brother to the dour Stalinist "Seven Sisters" skyscrapers that dominated Moscow's skyline for a half-century.

The first beam was put in place last week for the "Federation", a mixed residential and office project that will consist of two soaring glass-clad buildings linked to an even taller stiletto-like tower, due for completion in 2007. From an observation deck there, visitors will be able to view a city being transformed by a booming economy and a taste for gigantism.

The taller of the two buildings is to top out at 340 metres (1,115 feet), 76 metres (249 feet) higher than the continent's current champion — Moscow's Triumph Palace apartment high-rise. In Western Europe, the tallest building is Frankfurt's 259-metre (850-foot) Commerzbank.

With the two curved-wall buildings sloping away

from the central tower, the 315 million US dollars Federation complex will "call to mind the sails of a brigantine", its developer Mirax-City claims.

The popular weekly magazine *Vsyo Yasno* came up with a different, though equally gushing analogy: Don Quixote and Sancho Panza jointly holding a spear.

The comparison may reflect Moscow's long penchant for hugely ambitious projects that often go awry, a run of bad luck dating back to at least 1737 when the Tsar's Bell, the world's largest, cracked before it could ever be rung.

In the 1930s, Josef Stalin conceived of what would have been the world's tallest building at the time, a Palace of the Soviets topped by a gar-

gantuan statue of Vladimir Lenin that would have outstripped the Empire State Building by 34 metres (112 feet).

Moscow's main cathedral was dynamited to make way for this pinnacle of official atheism, but the ground proved to be unstable and the grandiose project was abandoned in favour of a swimming pool — which itself was destroyed after the fall of the Soviet Union and the cathedral was rebuilt.

In the 1960s, an entire neighbourhood was razed to build the Rossiya Hotel, Europe's largest. It became notorious to visitors for its nightmarishly endless corridors and a seemingly limitless supply of vermin and prostitutes. It is now being prepared for destruction.

MNA/AP

Liverpool may become first smoke-free city in Britain

LONDON, 21 Oct—Liverpool could become the first smoke-free city in Britain if councillors vote in favour of a ban on smoking in public places on Wednesday.

If the move is approved, the city's council plans to petition Parliament to pass a law banning smoking in restaurants, pubs, shops, offices and other enclosed public areas and workplaces.

The council says more than 1,000 people a year die from smoking-related

diseases in Liverpool.

"We have a duty to protect employees and customers alike from this real danger," Councillor Richard Oglethorpe, the city council's executive member for green issues, said in a statement.

Under the council's plans, firms or individu-

als who flout the new law would face fines of up to 1,000 pounds.

Health experts have urged Britain to follow Ireland's example and ban smoking in public workplaces, which would include bars, restaurants and pubs.

MNA/Reuters

French President meets with Chinese Defence Minister

PARIS, 21 Oct — French President Jacques Chirac received Wednesday Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan, wishing for development of dialogue and cooperation between Chinese and French Defence ministries.

Their meeting followed talks between Cao and French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie on the eve over reinforcement of defence cooperation between the two countries.

In the presence of Alliot-Marie, Chirac thanked Chinese authorities for the exceptional reception reserved for his state visit to China and "expressed the wish that dialogue and cooperation between the French and Chinese (Defence) ministries develop in the spirit of the global strategic partnership between the two countries," said Chirac's spokesman Jerome Bonnafont.

Chirac mentioned notably the medical field and the cooperation of participation in UN peacekeeping operations.

MNA/Xinhua

Jordan reduces mortality rate of children under five

AMMAN, 21 Oct— Jordan significantly reduced its mortality rate of children under five by 2.4 per cent in the last 10 years, said the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in its latest "Progress of Children" report.

However, UNICEF Health Adviser for the Middle East region Mahendra Sheth told local Press that further reducing under-five mortality and nutritional gaps require Jordanian Government's efforts over the

next five years.

Jordan's Demographics and Health Survey said recently that the country's under-five child mortality rate still stand at 27 per 1,000 live births.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese Long March 3-A carrier rocket blasts off from the Xichang launching site on 25 May, 2003.

China has launched a meteorological satellite capable of monitoring natural disasters.—INTERNET

Zimbabwe exports 48 million kilos of tobacco in 9 months

HARARE, 21 Oct— Zimbabwe has exported more than 48 million kilos of tobacco worth 151.2 million US dollars in the past nine months of 2004, the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB) said on Tuesday.

TIMB said a total of 48.66 million kilos of both flue cured and burley tobacco were exported to different parts of the world from January to September. Of the exports, flue-cured tobacco accounted for 47.8 million kilos while burley accounted for

846,400 kilos.

The bulk of the exports in 2004 went to the European Union, which accounted for 18.8 million kilos, followed by East Asia with 14 million kilos.

The rest of Europe imported 5.8 million kilos

from the country. Africa 4.7 million kilos while the Middle East accounted for 4.2 million kilos. The statistics further show that the European Union bloc has been the largest importer of Zimbabwean tobacco over the last three years.—MNA/Xinhua

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SPORTS

Man Utd held 0-0 draw at Sparta

PRAGUE, 20 Oct— Manchester United were held 0-0 at Sparta Prague in their Champions League Group D match on Tuesday, the first time in 15 outings that the English side have failed to score in a European match. United's teenage forward Wayne Rooney failed to repeat his heroics of two weeks ago.

The 18-year-old, who scored a hat-trick on his United debut in the demolition of Fenerbahce at Old Trafford, showed flashes of his prowess and twice shot narrowly wide in the first half.

But Sparta came closest with two chances just before halftime. United's former winger Karel Poborsky, Sparta's captain, forced United keeper Roy Carroll into a good save with a shot from the right. Then defender Jiri Homola headed the corner kick against the top of the post.

The home side could also have gone ahead in the 72nd minute when Tomas Jun was sent clear by midfielder Lukas Zelenka's header, but with only Carroll to beat he was foiled by the goalkeeper, who saved with his feet.—MNA/Reuters

Owen scores first goal for Real

MADRID, 20 Oct — Michael Owen scored his first Real Madrid goal on Tuesday to earn the nine-times European champions an edgy 1-0 win over Dynamo Kiev and leave Group B finely poised at the halfway stage.

The England striker slid in to convert a Ronaldo cross from close-range in the 35th minute at a rainswept Bernabeu and open his account for the Spanish club following a close-season move from Liverpool.

Real went close again through Ronaldo eight minutes into the second half but there were few

other clear chances for the home side, who were barely clinging on by the end of the game.

Real, beaten 3-0 away to Bayer Leverkusen in their opening game, revived their campaign with a 4-2 comeback win over Roma last month and a second successive home win was enough to put them level with

Leverkusen and Kiev on six points.

Mariano Garcia Remon chose the most attacking line-up at his disposal for another must-win match and for the first few minutes Kiev seemed overawed at the sight of Owen, Ronaldo, Raul, Zinedine Zidane and Luis Figo bearing down on them. Ronaldo almost made them pay for hesitant defending in the fourth minute when he closed in on goal and smacked in a shot that Olexander Shovkovsky did well to turn away.

Two minutes later the keeper made a mess of a Raul cross but redeemed himself by palming clear Figo's first-time shot from the edge of the box.

Zidane struck a post with a low free kick after Figo had been fouled in the 11th minute and Raul took advantage of more artless defending to race towards goal and fire wide. Real were unable to maintain the pace of their attacks for much longer and Kiev began to go forward with menace themselves.

Kleber had good claims for a penalty when he was bundled over by Francisco Pavon and Maksim Shatskikh was only fractionally wide with a sweet shot from just inside the area after a neat move down the right.

MNA/Reuters

Deportivo hold Liverpool to 0-0 draw

LIVERPOOL (England), 20 Oct — Deportivo La Coruna rode their luck on Tuesday as they held Liverpool to a 0-0 draw that keeps their slender hopes of qualifying for the next stage of the Champions League alive.

Liverpool's Djibril Cisse, Milan Baros and Luis Garcia were all denied as the Spanish team secured their second point in Group A, although they are yet to find the net. Deportivo barely threatened Liverpool, with lone striker Walter Pandiani an isolated figure in attack.

Rafael Benitez's high-tempo Liverpool side wasted several chances in the opening half, although Deportivo right back

Manuel Pablo made some crucial blocks.

He dashed back to block Cisse's shot after the ball had broken to him in the area from Garcia's tackle.

Pablo then denied Baros when the Czech forward raced on to Dietmar Hamann's defence-splitting pass and rounded goalkeeper Jose Molina.

Molina also tipped Garcia's close range shot

over the bar when the impressive Xabi Alonso's drive deflected to him behind the visitor's defence.

Despite their defensive approach, Deportivo — semi-finalists last season — did have an early chance to go in front.

Liverpool's marking failed them in the 15th minute, allowing Cesar a free header which John Arne Riise cleared off the line.

MNA/Reuters

Leverkusen beat Roma 3-1

LEVERKUSEN (Germany), 20 Oct — Bayer Leverkusen rallied with three second-half goals to beat AS Roma 3-1 in a Champions League Group B match on Tuesday on a miserable night for the Italians who finished with nine men.

Roma began brightly when they took the lead through a Dimitar Berbatov own goal after 26 minutes.

But they ended with a third successive Champions League defeat after goals from Roque Junior (48), Jacek Krzynowek (59) and Franca (90+4) gave Leverkusen all three points and a share of the leading places with six points along with Dynamo Kiev and Real Madrid.

Roma have no points and virtually no chance of qualifying for the knockout stages and they will play the return against Leverkusen in two weeks without Christian Panucci, sent off after 61 minutes, and Daniele de Rossi, red carded three minutes from time.

"You can't play better than that," said a satisfied Leverkusen coach Klaus Augenthaler. "I just hope it wasn't a one-off and that we're going to tail off again after this. Everything seemed to work well. I hope it lasts."

Leverkusen opened strongly and were dominating until the own-goal, which shocked the team that has struggled in the Bundesliga — down in ninth place after an especially poor effort in a 3-1 loss against Hertha Berlin on Saturday. Yet with jeers in their ears, Leverkusen were revitalised at the start of the second half, scoring twice quickly, and keeping the pressure on Roma throughout.

Down one man, Roma nevertheless nearly man-

aged to equalize when Francesco Totti's free kick in the 85th minute hit the crossbar. But moments later they lost de Rossi and Franca made it 3-1 in stoppage time just ahead of the final whistle.—MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters



Champions in Athens: Arsenal's Fredrik Ljungberg runs for the ball during a group E European Champions League football game against Panathinaikos in Athens.—INTERNET

Monaco advances to knockout stages

MONACO, 20 Oct — Last season's finalists Monaco took a big step towards the knockout stages of the Champions League with a 2-1 victory over Olympiakos Piraeus in Group A on Tuesday.

The home side made a flying start with Argentina striker Javier Saviola and Uruguay's Ernesto Chevanton scoring two goals in the first 10 minutes of a lively match.

Didier Deschamps' side lead the group with six points from three games after Liverpool were held to a goalless draw by Deportivo Coruna at Anfield. Both Liverpool and Olympiakos are on four points.

However, Olympiakos never gave up and Cyprus forward Yiannis Okkas reduced the scoring on the hour from close range. "In the first half, we were able to create movement, and they were in danger," said Deschamps. It was harder after the break as we fired, so we were unable to put any more pressure in them, but the most important thing is victory. Olympiakos looked at first as though they were never going to recover from a shaky start.

MNA/Reuters

Ajax win comfortable 3-0 victory over Maccabi

AMSTERDAM, 20 Oct — Three first-half goals gave Ajax Amsterdam a comfortable 3-0 victory over Maccabi Tel Aviv on Tuesday for their first points in Champions League Group C.

Wesley Sonck opened the scoring for the Dutch champions on four minutes as he followed up to net from seven metres after goalkeeper Liran Strauber had blocked a Wesley Sneijder shot.

Headers from Nigel de Jong (21st) and Rafael van der Vaart (33rd) sealed Ajax's win before the break to end their streak of five consecutive Champions League defeats.

Two minutes from time Sneijder hit the bar from the penalty spot after a handball by defender Marcio Giovanni. Ronald Koeman's Ajax, who lost to Juventus (1-0) and Bayern Munich (4-0) in their earlier group games, got back

on track after Saturday's 3-1 home Dutch league defeat to Heerenveen.

They went in front early on when Van der Vaart set up Sneijder whose mis-hit shot was saved by Strauber only for Belgium striker Sonck to react quickly and find the net.

Ajax doubled their lead when De Jong headed home from close range after Strauber was beaten in the air by Johnny Heitinga.

A minute later Ishmael Addo had a chance to pull one back for the visitors when he stole unmarked into the area but he lifted the ball over goalkeeper Bogdan Lobont's goal.

MNA/Reuters



Boston Red Sox players celebrate after defeating the New York Yankees 10-3.—INTERNET



Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min inspects the shop of Yadanamyay Trading Cooperative Ltd in Thingangyun Township on 20-10-2004. — COOPERATIVE

L&F Minister inspects raising of ornamental fish

YANGON, 21 Oct — Accompanied by the deputy commander of Coastal Region Command, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein on 18 October arrived on Mawtongyi Island in Kyunsu Township, Myeik District, and inspected breeding of ornamental fish of Pyi Phyto Tun Co employing cage system.

The minister and party next inspected chosen sites where sea fish

and prawn can be bred, the cold storage of Pyi Phyto Tun Co and breeding process, functions of the dried fish and prawn processing factory, the crab breeding camp and saw mill of the company. Managing Director of the company U Hla Than reported to the minister on breeding tasks and future work.

The minister gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Model cooperative shops opened

YANGON, 21 Oct — Model Cooperative Shop of Yadanamyay Trading Cooperative Ltd in Thingangyun Township was opened yesterday morning and Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min inspected the shop.

Director-General of the Cooperative Department Col Soe Win, Chairman of Yangon Division Economic Cooperative Union U Ye Aung and Chairman of Yadanamyay Trading Cooperative Ltd U Than Maung formally opened the shop.

After the opening ceremony, U Ye Aung presented cash assistance

provided by Yangon Division Economic Cooperative Union for the model shop.

Later, model cooperative shop-2 of the Thakayta Township Trading Cooperative Ltd was also opened in Thakayta Township.

Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min inspected the shop and gave instructions.

Foodstuff, household goods, stationery and textiles are available at the model shops.

After the opening ceremonies, the minister went to Cooperative Bank (Head Office) and also inspected banking services. — MNA



Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein inspects 1,000-ton capacity cold storage of Pyi Phyto Tun Co in Kyunsu Township. — L&F

12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue for eighth day



Maung Star Bo Htet and troupe of Yangon Division taking part in the basic education level (aged 15-20) dohbat contest. — MNA

YANGON, 21 Oct — The 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the eighth day by implementing the six objectives of the competitions at the designated places, here, today.

The song contest was held at the National Museum on Pyay Road, the dancing contest at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street, the song composing

of Music and Drama on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and the music contest at Padonma and Kanbawza Theatres.

Present on the occasions were members of the Panel of Patrons Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office, officials of the Leading Committee, the Work Committee and sub-committees and fans.

At the National

Museum, Chairperson of the Panel of Judges Assistant Director (Music) Daw Tin Tin Mya of Myanmar Radio and Television, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and members supervised the song contest. A total of 13 contestants from States and Divisions participated in the amateur level (women's) classical song contest. Next, 14 girls and boys from States and Divisions took part in the basic education level

(aged 10-15) classical song contest. Tomorrow morning, the professional level (women's) religious song contest and the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' old/modern song contest will be held at the same venue.

The song composing contest continued at the State School of Music and Drama of the Fine Arts Department. The contestants practised singing of their songs to the accompaniment of musical instruments.

At Padonma Theatre on

Bagaya Road in Sangyoung Township, four dohbat troupes took part in the higher education level dohbat contest. Next, four contestants took part in the higher education level dohbat contest and five dohbat troupes participated in the basic education level (aged 15-10) dohbat contest. Leader of the panel of judges U Sein Ba Maw and party supervised the contest. On 22 October, the amateur level (women's) team orchestra contest, the higher education level

(women's) team orchestra contest and the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' team orchestra contest will be held.

At the National Theatre, leader of the (See page 9)

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Ma Yadana Lin of Bago Division participates in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' piano contest. — MNA