

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 195

Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut 1366 ME

Thursday, 28 October, 2004

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Czech Republic

YANGON, 28 Oct — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Czech Republic which falls on 28 October 2004.— MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win sends felicitations to Czech counterpart

YANGON, 28 Oct — Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Vladimir Spidla, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Czech Republic, which falls on 28 October 2004.— MNA

Timely completion of bridge construction projects emphasized Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects construction of roads, bridges in Rakhine State



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects construction of An-Padekyaw-Maei Road.— MNA

YANGON, 27 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Brig-Gen Myint Soe of Taungup Station, saw over construction of Maei-

Minkyaung Road section built through geotextile technology on Yangon-Kyaukpau Highway on 25 October morning, after attending the ceremony to open Londawpauk Bridge.

Next, they inspected the construction site of Thanthamagyi Bridge Project in Yanbye Township, Deputy Superintending Engineers U Soe Myint and U Than

Nyunt and officials reported on progress of construction works.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions, saying that as nine bridges including Londawpauk Bridge out of 14 river-crossing bridges have been built on Yangon-Kyaukpau Highway Project. Efforts are to be made for timely completion of the remaining Thanthamagyi Thanthamachay, Thazintanpauk, Wamphaik and Minkyaung Creek Bridges in accord with set standard. He then attended to the needs.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled the requirements. Thanthamagyi

Bridge is 552.4 feet long and has a 24 feet wide motorway and three feet wide pedestrian ways on both sides.

Water clearance is 111 feet wide and six feet high. The steel-framed bridge is built of reinforced concrete. Thanthamachay, Thazintanpauk, Wamphaik and Minkyaung Creek Bridges are under construction. They will be launched in the coming open season in order to facilitate secure and smooth transport for the local people and develop the region. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to An-Padekyaw-Maei Road Construction

Project site at Talaing Hill, Project Senior Engineer U Ohn Lwin reported on construction of the road, bridges and concrete conduit.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected construction tasks with the use of heavy machinery.

Diplomats visit Gems Mart

YANGON, 27 Oct — Diplomats of Foreign Missions in Myanmar came over to the display of the 2004 Mid-Year Gems Emporium sponsored by Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning.

They were wel-

comed by responsible personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Myanmar Gems Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines.—MNA

After inspecting progress of work, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to An and spent the night there.

MNA

Thanthamachay, Thazintanpauk, Wamphaik and Minkyaung Creek Bridges are under construction. They will be launched in the coming open season in order to facilitate secure and smooth transport for the local people and develop the region.

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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

INSIDE

Perspectives
Repaying the gratitude
(page 2)

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 28 October, 2004

Repaying the gratitude

Today is the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut or the Abhidhamma Day, a significant day for Buddhists all around the world, marking the end of Buddhist Lent. During the Lent, members of the Sangha go into retreat or are confined to their respective monasteries for serious meditation or study of religious scriptures.

As the Myanmar month of Thadingyut falls in the open season every year, usually, the weather is fine and pleasant in the whole country, and on the surface of lakes are the blossoming lotus flowers of five different species that add extra beauty to the landscape. In addition, the land is also decorated with flowers of various plant species making the environment aromatic.

After attaining seven vassas, the Buddha ascended to the celestial abode of Tavatimsa, and His aim was to repay the gratitude to celestial being, Santusita, His mother in the previous existence, by means of preaching the Abhidhamma for three months. His preaching of the Abhidhamma for all the celestial beings began on the Fullmoon Day of Waso and completed on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut.

The Abhidhamma teaches us to stay away from greed, anger, delusion and evil desires. It also helps us find the correct way to the Nirvana.

After concluding the Abhidhamma discourse in Tavatimsa, the Buddha descended to the human abode in the evening on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. To mark His return from the Tavatimsa, Buddhists in Myanmar offer multi-coloured lights to Him for three days — on the day before the Fullmoon Day, on the Fullmoon Day, and on the day after the Fullmoon day.

As it is the day of religious significance, Buddhists read or recite the Abhidhamma verse that will help them find the correct way to the Nirvana. They also practise meditation and vipassana, keep Sabbath and do meritorious deeds.

Nowadays, Myanmar stands as a nation where the flourishing of Theravada Buddhist has reached new heights.

On this very special and auspicious day, all Buddhists in Myanmar always praise the Buddha, while reciting and learning the Abhidhamma, practising vipassana and doing pious deeds, keeping in mind the importance of repaying the gratitude the Buddha had shown them practically over 2,500 years ago.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ ဌာနပိုင်

မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၄ - ဇူလိုင်

ဧကန်တိကာလအတွက်

နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) (၃၁-၁၀-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၄ - ဇူလိုင်

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ

(၁၄-၁၁-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့နှင့် (၂၈-၁၁-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့

**The best time to plant a tree
was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.**

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

Cooperatives Minister receives Japanese Ambassador

YANGON, 27 Oct — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min received Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano at his office on Bogyoke Aung San Road this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Director-General of Cooperative Department U Sein Than, Deputy General Manager of Cooperative Exports and Imports Enterprise U Saw Oo and officials.— MNA



Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min receives Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano and party.— COOPERATIVE

Chinese Minister arrives

YANGON, 27 Oct — Chinese Minister, Vice Chairperson of Working Committee for Children and Women Ms Huang Qingyi arrived here by air this afternoon to attend meeting of Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking.

The minister was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung, departmental heads, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and embassy staff. Similarly, Secretary of State Ms You Ay of Ministry of Women Affairs (MWA) of Cambodia and party arrived here by air yesterday evening to



Chinese Minister Vice-Chairperson National Working Committee for Children and Women Ms Huang Qingyi being welcomed at the airport.— MNA

attend COMMIT Senior Officials Meeting. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Mr Hul Phany and officials of Reception and Accommodation Subcommittee.

Likewise, Adviser of Bangkok-based UNODC Mr Yugve Danling and three representatives of Bangkok-based UNICEF arrived here by air this morning to at-

tend COMMIT Senior Officials Meeting. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of Reception and Accommodation Subcommittee.

MNA

Prize presentation ceremony of Junior Golf Series held



YANGON, 27 Oct — Han Golf Masters Junior Golf Series organized by Myanmar Golf Federation was held at the Myanmar Golf Club at 9th-mile on Pyay Road this evening. It was attended by General Secretary U Aung Kyi of the MGF and executives, General Secretary Professional Golfer U Chan Han of the MPGA and others.

At the prize presentation ceremony, Wilson Operation Manager U Aung Tun Oo presented the first prize to Zwe Lin Ngwe in

the Wilson Putting Challenge. Joint Secretary U Re Htet Doe of the MGF gave away prizes to those who stood first, second and third in U-18 women's event; U Peter, to those who won first, second, third, fourth and fifth in the aged 8-10 event; Managing Director U Chan Han of the Han Golf Masters Pte Ltd, to those who secured first, second, third, fourth and fifth in the aged 11-12 event; Secretary U Ko Ni of the Myanmar Golf Club, to winners who came first,

second, third, fourth and fifth in the aged 13-14 event and General Secretary U Aung Kyi of the MGF, to winners who bagged first, second, third, fourth, fifth prizes in the aged 15-17 event. The golf series was mainly sponsored by Han Golf Masters Pte Ltd and co-sponsored by Pan-

West (Myanmar) Co Ltd, Wilson, Srixon, Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Golf Driving Range, KM Golf Centre, Alpine Purified Drinking Water, Myanmar Golf Club, Myanmar Golf Club Restaurant and Star Ice-Cream. The golf series was organized by Han Event Management—MNA



MGF General Secretary U Aung Kyi presents first prize to Nay Bala Win Myint.— MGF

Iraq blames US-led forces for Army massacre

BAGHDAD, 26 Oct — Iraq's US-backed government said on Tuesday that "major neglect" by its American-led allies led to a massacre of 49 army recruits at the weekend.

In one of the bloodiest attacks on Iraq's fledgling security forces, the unarmed recruits were shot in the back of their heads after being stopped by guerrillas posing as policemen as they travelled home for leave.

"There was an ugly crime in which a large group of National Guards were martyred," Prime Minister Iyad Allawi told Iraq's interim national council.

"We believe this issue was the outcome of major neglect by some parts of

the multinational (forces)," he said without elaborating.

Al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi

claimed responsibility for the attack. Iraq's Minister of State for national security affairs later softened the govern-

ment's tone, saying he was not assigning blame but waiting for the findings of that inquiry, which is due in three weeks. —Internet

Bush, Kerry reach across party lines to attack on nat'l security

ONALASKA, (Wisconsin) 27 Oct — President George W Bush and Senator John Kerry accused each other of lacking the hard-nosed resolve of Cold War presidents — from Democrat Harry Truman to Republican Ronald Reagan — reaching across party lines a week before Election Day to try to break their campaign deadlock.

With tensions rising Tuesday in both camps, Kerry escalated his criticism of Bush over

explosives missing in Iraq, asserting that the weapons could be used against American troops

and citizens.

He accused the president of keeping the cost of war in Iraq under wraps until after Election Day. "What else are you keeping from the American people?" Kerry said in Green Bay.

Across the state, Bush said his rival favours "the position of weakness and inaction" contrary to "the great tradition of the Democratic Party."

A *Los Angeles Times* poll showed the popular vote tied, 48-48, with Bush-weary voters open to change on Iraq and the economy but harbouring doubts about Kerry's ability to lead the nation against terror.

MNA/AP



Australian armoured vehicles secure the area following a blast in the Karrada District of Baghdad on 26 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

Nigeria strengthens Customs operations against illegal importation

LAGOS, 26 Oct — The Nigerian Government said Monday it has adopted new measures to strengthen the nation's Customs service against rising illegal importation from neighbouring countries.

Jacob Buba Gyang, comptroller-general of the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), told reporters in Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos that "the manpower of the NCS has increased from 14,000 to 17,000 between last year and this year to enable it to contend with rising rate of smuggling."

Henceforth, he added, one per cent of the value of impounded goods would be distributed to Customs officials responsible for the seizure as a morale booster to intensify their operations.

MNA/Xinhua

China to auction grand ancient encyclopedia

BEIJING, 27 Oct — Seven complete copies of the Chinese literary classic *Encyclopedia Sinica* (Si Ku Quan Shu) carrying real imperial seals of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) will be auctioned off around the world.

The seven copies, each containing 1,184 volumes, bear the stamps of two real jade seals once used by Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795), who himself organized the composition of the massive encyclopedia, officials from the Palace Museum (The Forbidden City) said on Monday.

The seven collections are among the 300 complete sets of the encyclopedia's "Wen Yuan Ge" edition, recently completed by approximately 100 scholars and technicians. "Wen Yuan Ge" is the name of an ancient library used to

house the encyclopedia.

It took four years using traditional thread-binding methods to produce the copies of China's magnum opus, Palace Museum experts said.

To restore the authenticity of the ancient work, technicians used handmade Xuan paper — a kind of high-quality paper for traditional Chinese painting and calligraphy — and printed and bound the texts by hand, the experts said.

First edited from 1773 to 1784 under the direct auspices of Emperor Qianlong, the encyclopedia contains the collection and transcription efforts of more than 3,800 upper-class intellectuals of that time. It took 15 years to complete.

The collection, also called the Complete Library of the Four

Branches of Literature, covers a wide range of knowledge and expertise.

MNA/Xinhua

ထိုက်တိုင်နှစ်သိန်းမြင့်

1,108 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 26 Oct — As of Tuesday, 26 Oct 2004, at least 1,108 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 as of Tuesday. The figures include three military civilians.

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

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

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 970 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, 8,150 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department's weekly tally. — Internet

Mozambique, Tanzania to strengthen bilateral relations

MAPUTO, 26 Oct — Mozambican Prime Minister Luisa Diogo met with a Tanzanian delegation headed by her counterpart Frederick Sumaye in Maputo on Monday to discuss bilateral relations.

According to a local report, the two leaders discussed the question of the "Unity Bridge", the idea for a road link between the two countries across the Rovuma River, in northern Mozambique.

Other matters on the bilateral cooperation agenda include trade, tourism, agriculture and mineral resources.

The call for such a bridge dates back to the time when Mozambique won independence in 1975, but to date there has not been enough funding available to build it.

MNA/Xinhua



Demonstrators protest against the upcoming visit to Chile by US President George Bush in front of the central courts building where a coalition of leftist groups sued Bush and other US government officials for the abuses at the Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq, in Santiago, Chile, on 26 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

US reservists sue feds to block deployment to Iraq

LAS VEGAS, 26 Oct — When US Army reservist Jay Ferriola filed suit against the federal government Friday, the 31-year-old combat veteran joined the ranks of a newly emerging military contingency of reservists who are resisting deployment to Iraq on grounds they've already fulfilled their obligations to the armed forces.

Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld is among the defendants in the suit that claims Ferriola was forced into "involuntary servitude," and that his right to due process was violated when the Army ordered him to report to his unit Monday to prepare for an 18-month assignment in Iraq.

Ferriola claims he completed his eight-year obligation in February and submitted a formal

resignation in June.

The Army, however, contends Ferriola submitted his resignation only after his unit was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On Sunday, he won a temporary injunction in Manhattan's US District Court until 1 November to allow the government to investigate and respond to the claims.— *Internet*

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Iraq soldiers 'taken hostage'

BAGHDAD, 27 Oct—An Iraqi guerilla group said on its website today that it had taken 11 Iraqi National Guard soldiers hostage and showed pictures of them in uniform.

The Ansar al-Sunnah Army said the troops were captured on the highway between Baghdad and Hillah but did not say when they were seized. The posting included the names of all 11.

The movement claimed responsibility for a number of attacks and hostage takings, including the kidnap and murder of 12 Nepalese who were seized in August.

Internet



Iraqi National Guard (ING) secure the area while ING together with Iraqi Special Forces (unseen) and British soldiers (background) check the area for bandits on the outskirts of the city of Basra, on 24 October 2004. — INTERNET

EU divided over asylum, immigration, security policy

LUXEMBOURG, 26 Oct — The European Union was divided on Monday over whether to set up joint border patrols to protect its vast frontiers and how far to go in building a common asylum system, EU ministers said.

EU justice and interior ministers met to flesh out the 25-nation bloc's policy on asylum, immigration and security before a November summit where EU leaders are expected to endorse the strategy.

But despite differing views, including on how to exchange information to fight crime and terrorism, EU president the Netherlands voiced confidence the bloc would approve it.

"Individual ministers commenting on the programme will find that certain points are not to their liking, but that is the nature of getting agreement between 25 member states," Dutch Justice Minister Piet Hein Donner told a news conference.

One point of disagreement was how fast and far the EU should harmonize national asylum laws. The Netherlands insisted the European Union had agreed on a 2010 deadline for a common system despite opposition from key member states.

"Obviously we are all involved in a negotiation process. For some member states ... 2010 does not go far enough. For others, it is too far. But today we have reached agreement," Dutch Integration and Immigration Minister Rita Verdonk said.

While France and some other countries backed the deadline, ministers said EU heavyweight Germany, supported by Denmark, Ireland and Britain were reluctant.

"We have adopted so many rules that we now need to get them implemented and carried out in practice

and evaluate what it has meant in practice," Danish Immigration Minister Bertel Haarder told reporters, adding most of the 10 new member states shared this view. EU states also disagreed over whether to set up a common border guard to protect its vast eastern frontier with countries such as Russia and Ukraine and its Mediterranean sea border.

MNA/Reuters

UNDP representative calls for total cancellation of Zambia's debts

LUSAKA, 26 Oct — The United Nations Development Programme's country representative to Zambia, Aeneas Chuma, has called for total cancellation of the country's foreign debts once it reaches the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) completion point.

Chuma was quoted by local newspaper Times of Zambia on Monday as saying that the partial cancellation would not enough due to a number of problems besetting the country.

He said that if the debt relief was spread over a period of 20 years, the impact of the relief would not be felt and the country would continue to wallow in poverty instead of the economy growing.

Chuma said once Zambia reached the HIPC completion point, the economy would grow positively and funds realized through the debt cancellation would be pumped into the education, health and social sectors.

MNA/Xinhua

Britons oppose Iraq troop shift

LONDON, 27 Oct—Britons overwhelmingly oppose Prime Minister Tony Blair's decision to move some troops in Iraq to back up American forces near Baghdad, a poll showed today.

Sixty-one per cent of those questioned by the ICM polling firm for the Guardian newspaper said they disapproved of the move, compared to 30 per cent who approved. Detailed results of the survey were being published in the newspaper tomorrow. Britain is preparing to move 850 soldiers out of relatively peaceful southern Iraq to

an area just south of Baghdad, freeing up US troops to fight guerillas in central Iraq ahead of elections in January.

The shift, part of a coalition effort to bring order to Iraq before the vote, is politically risky for Blair. The Prime Minister's critics fear a major increase in British casualties, and some say he is trying to boost US President George

W Bush's chances of re-election.

The survey found thirty-one per cent said they backed the opposition Conservative Party, and 23 per cent supported the Liberal Democrats.

Pollsters interviewed 1001 people between Friday and Sunday, with a margin of error of three percentage points.

Internet



US Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment run to a building after detonating explosives to open a gate during a mission in Ramadi, Iraq, on 26 Oct, 2004. — INTERNET

Mozambican farmer wins UN anti-poverty award

MAPUTO, 26 Oct — A young Mozambican farmer has received one of this year's poverty eradication awards granted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), local media reported on Monday.

The man, 30, named Samuel Magassosso, lives in the central Mozambican province of Manica, and heads an association of local peasant producers called "Chekwaedzera" (meaning "a new day and a new start"). Currently it has about 70 members, mostly Mozambicans.

They are organized into seven cooperatives, and are growing tea and coffee on about 20 hectares. The association has struck a deal with a company in Zimbabwe to process its tea.

Chekwaedzera has benefitted from 250,000 US dollars from a UNDP-supported programme. This has provided seeds, 2,000 tea plants, fertilizers, hoes, seven head of cattle, ploughs, carts and training.

After returning from New York, where he received the award, Magassosso told the Press on Monday that they want to continue eradicating poverty in Mozambique and Africa.

Of the five award winners this year, Magassosso is the only one from Africa.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi Minister says 92 suicide car bombings killed 567 people since June

BAGHDAD, 27 Oct — Iraq's Interior Minister told angry politicians on Tuesday 92 suicide car bombings had killed 567 people in Iraq since the interim government was appointed in June.

Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib said his ministry needed more time to recruit, arm and train enough police to quell guerillas who have stepped up attacks in recent months, bent on derailing the US-backed political process.

"The Iraqi police are not trained to combat terrorism. The Iraqi police is trained to capture criminals and robbers," Naqib told Iraq's interim national council.

"We cannot solve these problems in a day and night. We cannot reach a good result in a month or two or three or six. We need time."

Naqib was grilled by assembly members, one of whom accused him of ap-

pointing unqualified relatives and people from his home town of Samarra to positions in the fledgling security forces. He denied the accusation.

Naqib said 152 people were reportedly kidnapped in September alone. Eleven of those were rescued by the police, 16 paid a ransom, 31 were released by their kidnappers and one was found dead. He did not give their nationalities.

Scores of Iraqis are kidnapped each month, either by criminals seeking a ransom, or by guerillas punishing them for working with US-led forces.

Tens of foreigners working in Iraq, many of

them truck drivers, security guards and contractors, have also been seized and sometimes killed by militants who want foreign forces out of their country.

Naqib said there had been 645 attacks on government institutions in August and 120 in September. About 147 and 193 people died respectively in those attacks.

Suicide bombings inflicted the largest casualties.

In June, the month Iraq's Interim Government was appointed, 18 car bombs killed 128 people, Naqib said.

Guerillas exacted the heaviest toll the month after, when 34 car bombs

killed 245 people.

Twenty car bombs killed 28 people in August. Twenty more killed 168 people in September, he said.

"We have started to work ... there are operations to clean up the police," Naqib said. "There are operations to improve the police so it can confront the terrorist campaign against Iraq."

MNA/Reuters

US forces battle militants in Iraq's Ramadi

BAGHDAD, 26 Oct — At least three people were killed when clashes erupted between US forces and militants in the restive city of Ramadi on Monday, witnesses said.

Fierce clashes took place in al-Zeiyou neighbourhood and Malaeb Street in central Ramadi City and snipers spread on the rooftops of high buildings as US helicopters and war planes could be seen flying overhead, witnesses told Xinhua.

At least three people were killed in the clashes, and ambulances could not enter the scene because of the fighting, medical sources in Ramadi General Hospital said.

The western Anbar Province, including Ramadi, some 100 kilometres west of Baghdad, has long been a hotbed of insurgency against the US forces since last year's US-led war on Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers patrol the streets of Sadr City in Baghdad on 26 Oct, 2004.

INTERNET

Spanish Govt orders withdrawal of battalion from Afghanistan

MADRID, 26 Oct — The Spanish Government confirmed Monday it had ordered the withdrawal of 500 troops from its contingent collaborating with the International Security Forces (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

Joint Chief of Staff, General Felix Sanz Roldan, informed that the return of the paratroopers which since early-September are stationed in Mazar, north Afghanistan, will be completed within 20 days.

The troops were in charge of the security of the electoral process in the Central Asia country.

Sanz Roldan highlighted that during the stay of the Spanish military personnel no problems occurred in the vigilance zone. He noted, however, that there is a possibility of increasing the number of troops in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, where Spain is in charge of a hospital and the international air bases of the airport. — MNA/Xinhua



A US Marine from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment grimaces on patrol in Ramadi, Iraq, on 26 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

US milt to shut down nine installations in S Korea

SEOUL, 26 Oct — The US military will close nine installations in South Korea by the year's end, a United States Forces Korea's spokesman said Monday.

The closures are part of an agreement reached by the two countries to shut down 34 of its 41 major military bases scattered across South Korea and return more than half of its granted land by 2011.

The nine US camps belong to the 2nd US Infantry Division of the USFK deployed along the inter-Korean border, which has been the backbone of the US security commitment to South Korea, said Kim Young-kyu, a spokesman at the

US command in Seoul.

The US military will first close Camp Stanton, a combat helicopter unit, in November and eight others in phases by the end of this year, Kim said.

Camp Stanton's 160 personnel and 16 Kiowa Warrior helicopters will be shipped back to the United States shortly after the base's closure.

The other eight US installations to be reconsolidated are camps Bonifas, Liberty Bell, Falling Water, Howze, Edwards, Greaves, Garry Owen and Giant, Kim said.

"Camps Bonifas and Liberty Bell's land will be immediately returned to South Korea this year, while the other bases will be shut down this year and their land will go back next year," Kim said.

In 2002, South Korea and the United States signed the Land Partner-

ship Plan, under which the US military was to close 28 of its 41 military bases in South Korea and return more than half of the land being used by 2011.

Earlier this year, the allies revised the land-swap accord to have the US military close an additional six installations and shut down nine others at an earlier date. Under the amendment, the US military is to return to South Korea 153 million square metres of granted land to realign its forces on 82.5 million square metres of land.

In a separate realignment plan, the US plans to reposition most of its troops stationed between Seoul and the inter-Korean border to an expanded facility south of Seoul. Washington also intends to slash one-third of its 37,500 troops in South Korea by September 2008.

MNA/Xinhua

FBI finds two skeletons at "Mafia ville"

NEW YORK, 26 Oct — The FBI on Monday ended a three-week excavation of a vacant New York City lot suspected of being a mob cemetery after finding just two skeletons and abandoning hope of unearthing more bodies.

The skeletons are believed to be remains of two murdered organized

crime family captains, the FBI said.

The FBI had hoped to find more victims in the lot nicknamed "Mafia-ville" by local residents, based on testimony from Mafia turncoats.

"This location was the best lead we had," said FBI spokesman James Margolin, who described

the Queens site as a dumping ground for household trash and dilapidated vehicles.

Authorities had thought they might find the body of John Favara, a former neighbour of Mafia crime boss John Gotti. It is believed Gotti ordered Favara killed after he accidentally ran over and killed Gotti's

12-year-old son.

Favara disappeared after the 1980 accident and has never been found.

Dozens of FBI agents, city police officers and members of the medical examiner's office have toiled daily at the site, using heavy machinery to move the dirt and screen it for evidence. —MNA/Reuters

UNEP chief says hazwaste convention goals need invigorating

GENEVA, 26 Oct — The goals of a major UN convention on dealing with hazardous waste need invigorating if it is to achieve its full potential, delegates to a conference meeting here to discuss the issue were told by a top UN official Monday.

National efforts to achieve the aims of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal must be increased, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director Klaus Topfer warned the delegates.

"The Basel Convention needs to mobilize more resources and further engage industry and other partners if it is to achieve its full potential for protecting human health and the environment," he told the conference.

"Minimizing and safely managing hazard-

ous and other wastes contributes to the UN Millennium Development Goals of reducing poverty and improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

"Investments in effective systems for separating hazardous from non-hazardous wastes at the local level should be an important priority, said Topfer.

After three days of discussion, the conference will conclude on Friday with a high-level segment where ministers and heads of delegation will set strategy for the way forward.

This is the seventh conference of the parties

to the Basel Convention, signed in 1989 in Basel, Switzerland. The convention took effect in 1992 and currently boasts 162 member governments.

The basis for delegates' discussions will include a strategy paper entitled "Mobilizing Resources for a Cleaner Future: Implementing the Basel Convention". The paper explores options for securing more sustainable sources of funding to meet the practical challenges posed by wastes at the local and regional levels.

Strongly linked to this resource-mobilization effort will be development of a work programme for

the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.

Another important theme for the high-level segment will be the life-cycle approach to chemicals management.

A number of legal and technical issues are also on the meeting agenda. Another important agenda item is the adoption of guidelines for managing and disposing of wastes contaminated with persistent organic pollutants.

MNA/Xinhua

မြို့ပြဆွေးနွေးချင်း
ဆန်းစစ်လေ့လာ
ထုတ်ကုန်ခြင်း

Chile, Argentina Defence Ministers stress cooperation

SANTIAGO, 26 Oct — Chilean Defence Minister Jaime Ravinet and his Argentine counterpart Jose Pampuro met at the Chilean capital of Santiago and stressed their cooperation in military field, Chile's Defence Ministry said Monday.

The ministry said both ministers discussed issues regarding security and defence within the framework of cooperation, transparency and mutual confidence.

Ravinet and Pampuro addressed issues related to regional security, environmental cooperation and actions to removing landmines, added the ministry.

The two ministers also discussed the possibility of sending a Chilean-Argentine contingent for the United Nations Mission for the Stabilization of Haiti, and the challenges and opportunities represented by the coming Meeting of Defence Ministers of the Americas, which will be held in Ecuador next month. —MNA/Xinhua

Cuba will no longer accept US dollars

HAVANA, 26 Oct — Radically changing the way business has been done in Cuba over the past decade, the Communist government announced that starting next month American dollars will no longer be accepted at stores or other businesses.

The resolution read Monday night by state television personality Randy Alonso, with President Fidel Castro looking on, calls for all such transactions to now be done in a local currency known as the convertible Cuban peso.

"Beginning on November 8, the convertible peso will begin to circulate in substitution of the dollar throughout national territory," Castro said in a message read Monday night by his chief aide Carlos Valenciaga. Castro asked Cubans to tell relatives living abroad to now send them their family remittances in other foreign currencies, such as euros,

British sterling or Swiss francs.

Castro looked animated, despite the bright blue sling he sported over his olive green uniform to support a broken right arm. Castro has made a point to remain involved in government affairs since falling and injuring himself Wednesday.

Cuba's latest economic measure seemed aimed at increasing foreign reserves as the American Government steps up efforts to prevent US dollars from reaching the island as part of a strategy to undermine Castro's government. Cuba's national currency, the peso, cannot be used with inter-

national partners.

The government said the change is necessary to protect its economy as the US Government seeks to punish banks and businesses that ship American dollars to Cuba, which has been under a US trade and financial embargo for more than 40 years.

The measure was tied to the US Federal Reserve's decision in May to fine Switzerland's largest bank, UBS AG, 100 million US dollars for allegedly sending American dollars to Cuba, Libya, Iran and Yugoslavia in violation of US sanctions against those countries.

MNA/AP



Citizens look at the demolished houses in a neighbourhood of the restive city of Fallujah recently. — INTERNET

UAE air traffic movement shows strong growth

ABU DHABI, 26 Oct — The aviation industry in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is booming, with movement throughout the country's six international airports up by nearly 20 per cent since October 2003, the *Gulf News* reported on Monday.

UAE Minister of Communications and Chairman of the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) Ahmed Humaid Al Tayer was quoted as saying that the number of passengers has increased by more than 11 per cent and cargo traffic has reached a record 49.5 million tons in the period.

The growth of civil aviation in the UAE has been phenomenal and the GCAA has developed a strategic plan for 2004-2013 to promote it, he added.

The GCAA's revenue in 2003 rose to 19.8 million US dollars from the previous year's 19.1 million US dollars. Its surplus declined to 2.8 million US

dollars last year, compared to the previous year's 3.75 million US dollars, due to higher operational expenditure.

The UAE's three airlines, Emirates, Air Ara-

bia and Etihad Airways, have air operation certificates, while eight possess air transport certificates for cargo, charter and business aviation operations.

MNA/Xinhua

Syria, Turkey agree to promote mutual investment

DAMASCUS, 26 Oct — Syria and Turkey have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on trade and investment, the official *Syria Times* reported on Monday.

The memorandum signed on Sunday provided for encouraging mutual investment in the industrial fields, particularly in tractors, fertilizers, cement and engineering industry.

According to the document, the two countries will exchange expertise and technical information to promote mutual investment.

A joint follow-up committee will also be formed to tackle problems that may occur during the cooperation.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis inspect a destroyed building in Fallujah, outside Baghdad, Iraq, on 26 Oct, 2004. — INTERNET

Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut or Abhidhamma Day

U Kyaw Sein (Mandalay)

Thadingyut is the seventh month in Myanmar calendar, and it is in the rainy season. In the etymological dictionary compiled by a fleet admiral, it is stated that the month of Thadingyut covers a period of 90 days or three months called the Lent starting from the Fullmoon Day of Waso through the very day after the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. In the astrological term, Thadingyut is known as Libra. Lily is regarded as seasonal flower during that period.

In reference to the descent of the Lord Buddha from the celestial abode to the human abode, the light festival has been held with luminous decorations.

The Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut is for all Buddhists a day of great significance. They consider the day profound as equally as the Fullmoon Day of Kason and the Fullmoon Day of Waso. To repay the debt of gratitude He owed Santusita, who had been His mother in his past existence, the Lord Buddha ascended Tavatimsa and delivered Abhidhamma Discourse, which fell into seven treatises. He descended to the human abode on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. With reference to it, the day is also called Abhidhamma Day.

The descent of the Lord Buddha from Tavatimsa through the ruby stairways, together with celestial beings on His right through the gold stairways and Brahmins on His left through the silver stairways was so gracious and splendid that all the people who caught sight of the event made a solemn wish to attain Buddhahood.

By virtue of His supernatural power, the whole universe became so transparent that all the living things ranging from human beings, to celestial beings, to Brahmins, and to those locked in hell could see each clearly. The Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut being the last day of the three-month Lent, the members of the Sangha, who have been on retreat during that time, are free to travel wherever they want. The members of the Sangha who have been on retreat to that day deserve

the donation of Kathina religious requisites.

The Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut is blessed with attributions as it is also the day on which monks have finished their retreat during the Lent, the day on which the Lord Buddha has completed His Abhidhamma Discourse during the three-month Lent in Tavatimsa, the day on which He descended with the accompaniment by celestial beings to the human abode, the day on which Brahmins, celestial beings and human beings paid homage to the Lord Buddha, and the day on which the whole universe became transpar-

The Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut is for all Buddhists a day of great significance. They consider the day profound as equally as the Fullmoon Day of Kason and the Fullmoon Day of Waso. To repay the debt of gratitude He owed Santusita, who had been His mother in his past existence, the Lord Buddha ascended Tavatimsa and delivered Abhidhamma Discourse, which fell into seven treatises. He descended to the human abode on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. With reference to it, the day is also called Abhidhamma Day.

ent on account of the virtues of the Lord Buddha.

In human abode, the Lord Buddha preached Abhidhamma Discourse to His Disciple Ven Sariputtara, who in turn to his 500 disciple monks. A close study of Abhidhamma Discourse will prove that nobody, save the Lord Buddha Himself, will be able to

preach so deep and sublime a discourse.

The 500 disciples of Ven Sariputtara were bats in their past existence at the time of the Kassapa Buddha. As bats, they happened to hear the recitation of Abhidhamma Discourse by two monks. By virtue of it, they reincarnated in the celestial abode after their demise from the life of bats. They reincarnated in the human abode when the Gottama Buddha appeared, and became the followers of Ven Sariputtara. They thus became the first to hear Abhidhamma Discourse lectured by Ven Sariputtara.

When they lived as bats, they did not understand the depth of Abhidhamma Discourse. By virtue of it, they however could dwell in the celestial abode throughout the eons from the time of Kassapa Buddha till the time of Gottama Buddha. It was only when the Gottama Buddha appeared that they reincarnated in the human abode. Later on, they became the disciples of Ven Sariputtara and became the first to hear Abhidhamma Discourse. If so, what is Abhidhamma Discourse?

According to literati, in the hearts of all living creatures lies a pure sense of comprehension. Mental instincts occurred to whosoever heard the recitation of Abhidhamma Discourse.

By virtue of it, the bats reincarnated in the celestial abode and then in the human abode at the time when the Gottama Buddha was alive. Abhidhamma Discourse will surely do all the listeners good whether they can catch the deep definition of it or not. The reason is because the discourse is so absolutely natural and realistic to an extent that it does not emphasize on any genders of living creatures.

Therefore, all living creatures are requested to recite Abhidhamma Discourse by taking an example from the way the bats heard the discourse without understanding a word.

Translation: KTY
Kyemon: 27-10-2004

CEC member gives lecture

YANGON, 27 Oct — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Thein Sein this afternoon gave a lecture on the policies of the government and achievement of seven-point policy programme of the State to 73 trainees at Basic Organizational Course conducted by Insein Township USDA at its office. — MNA

425 gem merchants arrive at Mid-Year Myanmar Gem Emporium

YANGON, 27 Oct — A total of 320 gem merchants from 96 gem companies of seven countries and 105 gem merchants of 61 companies in local came over to 2004 Mid-Year Myanmar Gem Emporium organized by Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Organizing Committee at the Myanmar Gem Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road today. The gem merchants viewed round gems being displayed at the emporium. Managing Director U Khin Oo of the Myanmar Gems Enterprise and officials conducted the merchants round the museum.

Owing to the better quality and quantity of jade, gems and pearl lots and better measures of security system, number of gem merchants from local and abroad attended the emporium more than that of previous year. On 28 and 29 October, more gem merchants from local and foreign gem companies are scheduled to arrive here. — MNA

Junior World Ranking Tennis Tournament commences



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe enjoys matches of 1st Myanmar Junior World Ranking Tennis Tournament. — YANGON COMMAND

YANGON, 27 Oct — The 1st Myanmar Junior World Ranking Tennis Tournament Grade-5, which is being hosted in Myanmar was held at Theinbyu Tennis court this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw

Win, Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials, regional commander and officials, Chairman of MTF U Zaw Zaw and executives, members of leading panel of patrons of MWF and fans.

A total of 36 events have finished.

Phyo Min Thar and Chit Hsu Yi entered the second round.

The second round (28) events will be held at the same venue tomorrow.

MNA

CEC Meeting 10/2004 of MWJA held

YANGON, 27 Oct — A ceremony to meet for Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association (10/2004) was held at the meeting hall of Sarpay Beikman Building on Merchant Street this afternoon.

After Vice-Chairman of MWJA U Tin Kha (Tekkatho-Tin Kha) had made a speech, Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay) presented reports on

work done on the minutes of CEC meeting (9/2004).

Next, leaders of the respective sub-committees participated in the discussions.

Officials accepted K 50,000 for paying respects to doyen literati donated by Tekkatho Tin Maung Htwe (Natyaygan Foundation) through Joint-Secretary Dr Tin Tun Oo; K 30,000 by MWJA CEC

member Daw Khin Khin Sein (Yuwady Khin Sein Hlaing); K 11,000 by Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay)-Daw Nyunt Nyunt Than; K 10,000 by Mingala Taungnyunt Township WJA; and 50 books and K 10,000 by writer Captain Tha Sein.

Later, Vice-Chairman U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) gave the concluding remarks. — MNA

Myanmar government...

(from page 16)

That we are here today is an indication of our strong determination to solve this problem through efforts of cooperation and coordination. Our respective governments have taken this issue seriously and acted accordingly. I believe that to a certain extent, our actions have benefited our citizens and contributed much toward reducing incidences of human

this crime.

The root causes of trafficking are almost the same within the region and globally. Pull factors and push factors, need to be tackled, both at the point of origin and that of the destination. Collaboration is needed in these countries. The governments and the peoples of our region are united in our desire to bring a stop to this trade in people. In Myanmar, as in your

The root causes of trafficking are almost the same within the region and globally. Pull factors and push factors, need to be tackled, both at the point of origin and that of the destination. Collaboration is needed in these countries.



Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing poses for a group photo with delegation leaders to COMMIT Senior Officials Meeting.—MNA

trafficking in our region. At the same time, we are aware that this horrible crime against people continues to grow despite all our efforts. That we are determined to act together collectively and uncompromisingly will surely add a much needed strength to our fight against

respective countries, the government has given the highest priority to better tackle this issue.

In Myanmar, we have, as of last year, formed a Specialist Anti-trafficking Police Unit and Anti-trafficking Task Forces around the border and other

hot spot areas. At the same time, we are of course aware, of the absolute need to provide psycho-social support to the victims of trafficking, undertake and improve repatriation and reintegration systems, and provide rehabilitation services for the victims of trafficking and vulnerable

take the opportunity to suggest, that Regional Plan of Action, that you are to work out be guided by international norms and standards, human rights and humanitarian law, UN Conventions and Guidelines. May I further take the opportunity to remind ourselves, the importance of thinking globally and acting locally. I hope that between us all, we can find some common ground during this meeting, to put this into practice. I know that we will all be looking at many areas of common concern in the fight against trafficking. We will also want to be strengthening the cooperation among our front-line law enforcement agencies and develop capacity building initiatives to ensure that GMS states have the capabilities to detect, monitor and report suspected trafficking activities. Further cooperation on the repatriation of trafficking victims, also need to be encouraged and strengthened.

The rich gets richer and the poor gets poorer. Such a situation leads to opportunities for traffickers and peoples' brokers, to exploit the vulnerable. We need to act in a concerted

manner, to ensure a more just and equitable world, where opportunities to exploit are minimized. I am afraid to think, of what the full-blown symptom of discontentment, with the

solutions to the abuse of innocent people, and to ensure that they are free from such vulnerabilities, that lead them to become victims of trafficking. I have no doubt that during these two

The rich gets richer and the poor gets poorer. Such a situation leads to opportunities for traffickers and peoples' brokers, to exploit the vulnerable. We need to act in a concerted manner, to ensure a more just and equitable world, where opportunities to exploit are minimized.

current world economic order will look like, if left un-addressed. In this regard, we return once again, to a recurrent problem confronting developing countries, countries which are marginalized, which stand to lose out most, from this present form of globalization. I call upon you all to once again look at the problem of trafficking globally, and find locally appropriate and effective solutions. We must act now, collectively, and proactively before the issue overtakes us completely.

In conclusion, we are gathered here today to discuss an issue which is felt deeply by all; to find

days of Senior Officials' Meeting, you will be able to find ways and agree upon a basic regional cooperation mechanism to overcome this daunting issue in the spirit of sincerity and confidence, he concluded.

After the opening ceremony, Minister Col Tin Hlaing and senior officials from China, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam and officials of UNIAP posed for a documentary photo.

Next, the meeting was launched at 10 am and delegates to the meeting discussed matters relating to cooperation to fight against the human trafficking.—MNA

Applications invited to State Pariyatti Sasana Universities

YANGON, 27 Oct — Members of the Sangha, aged under 30 and 10 vasa, who passed just one of Government's Pahtamagyi, Ceti Yangana and Sakkyasiha examinations, may submit applications to First Year Course of Sasana Takkasila Dhammacariya at State Pariyatti Sasana University in Yangon and Mandalay for 1366-67 academic year.

The entrance examination will be held. The candidates must answer Vinaya, Grammar, Abhidhamma subjects, a paper based on Myanmar and another

one on knowledge of religious affairs. The applications can be obtained at the registrar's office of the university beginning 31 October and the application are to be submitted to the university not later than 4 pm on 18 November.

Those wishing to know further information may contact the registrar's Office of SPSU (Yangon), Tel: 01-665362 and 01-662997, the registrar's Office of SPSU (Mandalay), Tel: 02-26876 and 02-61114, and Universities Administration Office, Tel: 01-664395.

MNA

Information Minister receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 27 Oct — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Chinese Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy Mr Wang Ruiqing at his office on Theinbyu Road here this afternoon. Also present on the occasion together with the minister were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry and the head of office.

Likewise, the minister received Director-General of Sunny Capital Group Co Ltd Mr Li Xudong and party of PRC at the same venue this

afternoon.

Also present on the occasion together with the minister were Deputy

Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and

enterprises under the ministry and the head of office and officials.

MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Cultural Counsellor Mr Wang Ruiqing of PRC.—MNA



Progress in construction of Thanthamagyi Bridge to be opened soon in Yanbye Township. — MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects completion of Thanthamagyi Bridge in Yanbye Township. — MNA

Minsiter inspects dam...

(from page 16)

including construction of the conduit, spillway and earth work. Next, director-general of the Irrigation Department also reported on project to supply irrigation water through canal linking Kyaukdaga Dam and Taunggyay Dam.

Afterwards, the minister met Magway Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe and departmental officials and gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the minister inspected progress of the

construction of the main dam, conduit and spillway of Kyaukdaga Dam and water storage.

Later the minister and party proceeded to Taunggyay Dam project in Kyaukpadaung Township and inspected the canal which will be used to supply water from Taunggyay Dam to Kyatmauktaung Dam.

Officials concerned reported on supply of water from Taunggyay Dam to Kyatmauktaung Dam.

During his tour, the minister also saw over the thriving monsoon paddy cultivation in Magyitaing Village in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division. — MNA

Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Czech Republic

YANGON, 28 Oct — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Cyril Svoboda, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Czech Republic, which falls on 28 October 2004. — MNA

1,588 lots of jade, 300 lots of gems and 1,161 items of silver wares, 266 lots of pearl displayed at Myanma Gems Emporium

YANGON, 27 Oct — The opening of Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium 2004, organized by Myanma Gems Emporium Organizing Central Committee of the Ministry of Mines was held at the Myanma Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

Present were Member of the Public Relations and Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of Myanma Radio and Television, Director-General U Chit Naing of Public Relations and Information Department, Managing Director Col Soe Win of News and

Periodicals Enterprise, Correspondent U Sein Win of Kyodo News Agency, Patron of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Hla Htway, President U Sao Kai Hpa and members.

Chairman of the Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Secretary Managing Director of Myanma Gems Enterprise U Khin Oo and member welcomed the guests and conducted them round the booths of jade and gem ornaments at fixed prices and jade figurines of Myanma Gems Enterprise and private jewellery shops on the ground floor of Yadana Hall, commercial, utility and imperial jade lots around the emporium and gem lots and pearl lots on the top floor.

Next, the press



Local and foreign journalists led by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein view booths of Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium. — NLM

conference related to the gems emporium was held.

Deputy Minister U

Myint Thein clarified that quality and quantity jade, gems and pearl lots will be displayed and sold at the Mid-year Gems Emporium. It is estimated that over 500 gem merchants from the People's Republic of China and Thailand and about 300 local gem merchants will attend the emporium. At the mid-year emporium, 1,588 lots of jade worth 13.35 million euro at floor prices will be sold. In addition, 8,202 items of jade ornaments worth 0.09 million euro at the fixed prices will be displayed.

A total of 94 jade lots of joint venture enterprises worth 3.29 million euro at floor prices,

79 jade lots of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd worth 0.89 million euro at reserve prices and 1,415 jade lots of companies, organizations and private entrepreneurs worth 9.17 million euro at floor prices will be sold. Therefore, 1,588 jade lots worth 13.35 million euro will be displayed at the emporium.

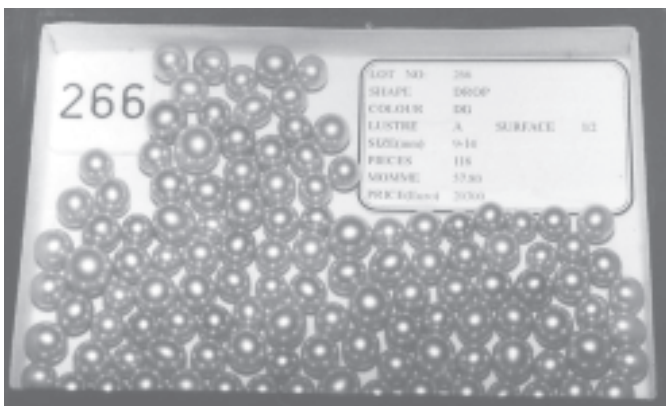
Furthermore, 300 lots of gems worth 8.6 million euro at reserve prices and ornaments and 1,161 items of silver wares worth 806,354 euro, totalling over 9.40 million euro are to be put on display there.

In addition, 196 lots

of pearl comprising 11,641 rounds of pearl weighing 5,856.45 mommes worth 511,700 euro will be sold through tender system and 70 lots of pearl comprising 3,892 round of pearl worth 516,000 euro weighing 2,286.3 mommes through competitive system.

Next, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein gave a speech.

Afterwards, Central Committee Chairman Deputy Minister U Myint Thein, Secretary U Khin Oo and member answered the queries raised by journalists. Later, Deputy Minister U Myint Thein gave the concluding remarks. — MNA



No 266 lot of pearl worth 20,300 at reserve price euro weighing 57.80 mommes displayed at Mid-year Gems Emporium. — NLM

နေရာ	(အမျိုးသားပြတိုက်)	(အမျိုးသားစာတိုက်)	(ကမ္ဘောဇစာတိုက်)	(ကမ္ဘောဇစာတိုက်)	(ပုဒ်မာစာတိုက်)
စဉ်	ရက်စွဲ	အဆို	အတီး	အရေး	အတီး
၁၅။	၂၈-၁၀-၂၀၀၄ ကြာသပတေးနေ့	ဓမ္မဉာဏး (နံနက်) (၁) အခြေခံ (၁၅-၂၀) (မ) ခေတ်မောင်း/ ကာလမော် (နေ့လယ်) (၂) ဝါသနာရှင်(ကျား)	မယ်ဒလင် (၁) အခြေခံ(၁၀-၁၅) (ကျား+မ) (နံနက်) (၂) အဆင့်မြင့် (ကျား+မ)(နေ့လယ်)		ပတ္တလား (၁) အခြေခံ(၁၀-၁၅) (မ) (နံနက်) (၂) အဆင့်မြင့် (ကျား)(နေ့လယ်)
၁၆။	၂၉-၁၀-၂၀၀၄ ဆာကြာနေ့	မဟာဂီတ (နံနက်) (၁) ပညာရှင် (မ) မဟာဂီတ (နေ့လယ်) (၂) အခြေခံ(၁၅-၂၀) (ကျား)	မယ်ဒလင် (၁) ပညာရှင် (ကျား+မ)(နံနက်) (၂) အခြေခံ(၁၅-၂၀) (နေ့လယ်)	ဒိုမင်း (၁) ပညာရှင်(ကျား+မ) (နံနက်) (၂) အဆင့်မြင့် (ကျား+မ) (နေ့လယ်) (၂) အခြေခံ (ကျား+မ) (နေ့လယ်)	ဆိုင်အဖွဲ့လိုက် (၁)အဆင့်မြင့်(ကျား) (နံနက်) (၂) ဝါသနာရှင်(ကျား) (နေ့လယ်)

Commander Maj-Gen
Myint Swe pays
homage to Maha
Wizaya Pagoda at the
'soon' and lights
offering ceremony on
eve of Fullmoon Day of
Thadingyut.—MNA



Performing Arts Competitions continue for 14th day

YANGON, 27 Oct — The 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the 14th day at the designated places on a grand scale today.

The song contest was held at the National Museum on Pyay Road in Dagon Township, the music contest at Padonma Theatre, Kanbawza Theatre and the National Theatre.

Present on the occasions were member of the Panel of Patrons for Organizing the Competitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Competitions Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan, Chairman of the Organizing

Sub-committee Director-General U Kyaw Win of the Fine Arts Department, officials and people including tourists who took photos with TV cameras.

At the National Museum, 12 contestants participated in the amateur level (men's) classical song contest. Similarly, 14 girls from States and Divisions took part in the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' classical song contest. 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. On 28 October morning, the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls' religious song contest and the amateur level modern and old song contest will be held.

At the Kanbawza Theatre, leader of the panel of judges Gitalulin U Ko Ko and members supervised the guitar contest. Four participants took part in the basic education level (aged 5-10) boys' guitar contest. Two contestants competed in the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' guitar contest and 13 in the amateur level (men's) guitar contest. On 28 October, the basic education level (aged 10-15) women's and higher education level (men's) xylophone contests will be held.

At Padonma Theatre, 12 participants took part in the basic education level (aged 10-15) men's solo orchestra contest. Similarly, nine contestants participated in the basic education level (aged 5-10) men's solo orchestra contest. Leader of the panel of judges U Sein Hla Myaing and party supervised the contests. On 28 October, the amateur level dohbet contest and the basic education level (aged 10-15) dohbet contest will be held.

At Kanbawza Theatre, nine Ozi troupes of



U Zin Min Latt and troupe of Bago Division taking part in the amateur level Ozi contest.—MNA

States and Divisions participated in the amateur level Ozi contest and six troupes in the basic education level (aged 5-10) Ozi

contest. Leader of the panel of judges U Sein Ba Maw and party supervised the contests. On 28 October, the basic education level

(aged 10-15) boys' and girls' and higher education level women's and men's mandolin contests will be held.—MNA

166th Dam Thiri Nanda, 167th Dam Thitgyidaw opened in Myaing Township

YANGON, 27 Oct — With the aims of ensuring food sufficiency in Pakokku District of Magway Division, contributing to greening of the district and supplying potable water, Thitgyidaw Dam was opened with ceremony near Thitgyidaw Village, Myaing Township, on 21 October morning.

Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe formally opened the stone plaque of the dam. Next, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint and Col Phone Maw Shwe cut the ribbon to open the dam and inspected it. Thitgyidaw Dam is of earth embankment. It can store 800 acre feet capacity of water and can irrigate 75 acres of farmland.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint and Col Phone Maw Shwe proceeded to Thiri Nanda Dam near Daung O Village in Myaing Township to attend the opening ceremony.

Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint and Col Phone Maw Shwe gave speeches at the opening ceremony. Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint said that out of

11.075 million acres of land, Magway Division has 2.757 million acres of cultivable land and 261,786 acres of irrigated farmland. In 2004-2005, about 600,000 acres of land could be put under monsoon paddy against the target of 605,275 acres. This year, a target was set to put land under 175,047 acres of summer paddy and the plan is under way to meet cent per cent rice sufficiency of Magway Division in accord with the directives of the government.

Pakokku District sets to cultivate 86,604 acres of monsoon paddy and 14,904 acres of summer crop this year. The products can meet only 41.31 per cent of local food sufficiency for over 1.3 million population of Pakokku District though cultivation plan can be implemented. Therefore, Thiri Nanda Dam and Thitgyidaw Dam were built in accord with the directives that plans are to be implemented for construction of small dams, lake and reservoirs so as to contribute towards local food sufficiency and greening tasks in Pakokku District.

Mone Creek Multi-

purpose Dam project being implemented in Sedoktara Township to be opened soon can irrigate 160,000 acres of monsoon and summer paddy and generate 75 mega watt of hydroelectric power. As such, irrigation facilities can ensure local food sufficiency, supply water for extended cultivation and enhance economy of the local farmers.

Next, Col Phone Maw Shwe unveiled the stone plaque and the deputy minister opened the dam. Afterwards, Col Phone Maw Shwe opened the sluice gate.

Thiri Nanda Dam is of earth embankment and it has the reinforced concrete conduit. A total of 18,200 acre feet capacity of water can be stored at the dam.

In the briefing hall, the deputy minister explained implementation of dam and river water pumping projects in Magway Division, raising of paddy sown acreage, water sufficiency in the region thanks to opening of the two dams and prevention of bank erosion and blocking of sand banks in water way. Altogether, 167 dams have so far been opened in the entire nation.—MNA



Maung Win Tun of Kayin State participates in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' solo orchestra contest.—MNA

Exhibition and competitions on traffic rules in December first week

YANGON, 27 Oct — The Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee is going to organize the second exhibition and competitions on traffic rules in the first week of December 2004 here.

It comprises short story, article, cartoon, poster and digital poster competitions (open). Candidates are to send original and a copy for each entry. Word count for short story is limited between 3,000 and 5,000. A candidate may take part in short story and article competitions.

As for poster competition, an entry is to be a 30"x20" size one with the signature of the candidate on its back, not in the front. Entries or digital poster competition are to be created with an appropriate computer and put in a floppy disk or a compact disk (CD-ROM).

Each candidate is to send their entry attached with two passport-size photos, a biography and a written undertaking that the entry is own creation and has not been printed before.

Entries for short story, article and cartoon competitions are to be sent to Road Transport and Administration Department. (Tel: 573106, 573109); for poster competition, to Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon, Eastern Wing of Bogoyoke Aung San Market (Tel: 240966 Ext: 706/707); and for digital poster competition, to U Mya Thein of the University of Computer Studies (Hlane Campus) (Tel: 664254) not later than 3 pm on 1 November.—MNA

**UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER**

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr.No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	14(T)8/MR(S & T)- 2004-2005	- Under Ground Signalling Cable (2.5mm ² x C) - Under Ground Signalling Cable (2.5mm ² x 5C) - Under Ground Signalling Cable (2.5mm ² x 12C) - PVC Insulation Drop Cable (1mm ² x 1 Pair) (500 m/coil)	2000 Meter 17100 Meter 1000 Meter 100 Coil

Closing Date. - 25-11-2004 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 26.10.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext - 602, 605, 612

**Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon.**

(၁) အောင်စံ (၂)အောင်စံနှင့် (၃)အောင်စံ ပလတ်စတစ်ဘူးလင်း (အပုံပါ) ဝယ်ယူလိုခြင်း	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအစား	လိုအပ်ချက်	ပေးသွင်းရမည့်နေရာ
(၁) (1) Oz Plastic Bottle With Cap (Screw Type)	၁၃၀၀၀၀၀-လုံး	မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ	
(၂) (2) Oz Plastic Bottle With Cap (Screw Type)	၂၂၀၀၀၀၀-လုံး	မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ	
(၃) (3) Oz Plastic Bottle With Cap (Screw Type)	၁၁၀၀၀၀၀-လုံး	မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ	

တင်ဒါပေးရန် (၃-၁၁-၂၀၀၄) မှုဒ္ဒဟူနေ့ မွန်းလွဲ(၂:၀၀)နာရီ
မှတ်ချက်။ အသေးစိတ်အကြောင်းအရာများကို မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ၊ ပစ္စည်းစီမံရေးဌာနတွင်
စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပြီး တင်ဒါပုံစံများကိုလည်း ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ (ဆက်သွယ်ရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် - ၆၆၃၄၇၀)

စက်ရုံမှ
မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ

Singapore's CPI up 2% in September

SINGAPORE, 26 Oct — Singapore's consumer price index (CPI) grew 2 per cent in September as compared with the same month of last year.

According to a statement by Singapore Department of Statistics (SDS) on Monday, the rise in CPI in September was attributed mainly to the strong performance by the indices for health, education and stationery.

The health index rose 5.9 per cent in

September while the education and stationery index climbed 3.9 per cent in the same month.

The food index jumped 3.3 per cent, but the housing index fell 0.2 per cent in September.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai fruits to be promoted at "China-ASEAN Expo 2004"

BANGKOK, 26 Oct — The Thai Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and the Ministry of Commerce will jointly promote Thai fruits during the forthcoming "China-ASEAN Expo 2004" early next month.

A Thai delegation from the ministries' Cooperative Promotion Department and Department of Export Promotion will attend the joint Chinese-ASEAN trade fair, scheduled to be held in Nanning of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on November 3-6, bringing with them major Thai fruits and crops to be promoted at the fair, the *Thai News Agency* reported Monday.

They include rice, rubber, oranges,

mangosteens, and seedless guava, the report said. It is the first time that China and the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) jointly organize the trade fair, aimed at strengthening bilateral trade ties and cooperation.

ASEAN now groups Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkey-Greece gas pipeline tender postponed to November

ANKARA, 26 Oct — Turkey has postponed the construction tender of a Turkey-Greece natural gas pipeline project aimed at carrying Iranian gas to Europe through Turkey, the *Turkish Daily News* reported Monday.

The bidding deadline of the project, also known as the Southern Europe Gas Ring Project, was postponed to November 1 from the earlier announced date of September 30, 2004, said the report.

Greece and Turkey in 2003 agreed to build a 300-million-US-dollar gas pipeline between them to carry up to 11 billion cubic metres (bcm) gas a year, of which three bcm for Greece itself and the rest for re-export to Europe.

Turkey's State pipeline company

BOTAS is in charge of the tender work on the Turkish side.

Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Hilmi Guler has said that the maximum volume of gas Turkey will pump to Greece from Iran will be 11 bcm.

The pipe will be 178 miles long with a diameter of 36 inches, and gas transmission is scheduled to start in 2006 with an initial 750 million cubic metres, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

**TRADE MARK
CAUTION NOTICE**
NIN JIOM MEDICINE MANUFACTORY (HK) LIMITED, a company organized under the laws of HONG KONG, and having its principal office at Block A, 16/F, Texaco Industrial Centre, 256-264 Texaco Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories, Hong Kong is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trademarks:-



Reg.No. 4/4159/1995

念慈菴

Reg.No. 4/4160/1995

“NIN JIOM”

Reg.No. 4/4163/1995

Used in respect of:-

“Chinese medicines, in particular Chinese herbal cough syrup”.

Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above marks will be dealt with according to law.

TIN OHNMAR TUN
B.A(LAW)LL.B,LL.M(UK)
P.O. Box 109,
Ph:248108/723043
(For Domnarn Somgiat & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated: 28 October 2004.

Skydiver tangled in tail of plane dies; plane crashes in Illinois

TAYLORVILLE (Illinois), 26 Oct — A skydiver whose parachute deployed prematurely and got tangled in the plane's tail was killed when his head slammed into the wing, a coroner said Monday.

The other four members of the parachuting club, along with the pilot, jumped to safety before the plane crashed into a bean field Sunday near a central Illinois Airport.

Investigators were trying to determine whether the tangled chute caused the crash or the plane had stalled as some of the survivors reported.

Bill Jensen, 38, was jumping from the single-engine *Cessna* with the Mid-America Sport Parachute Club. Coroner Rick Sutton said Jensen's parachute deployed too soon and got tangled around the tail of the plane, jamming the rudder.

**TRADE MARK
CAUTION NOTICE**
TECHNOPIA SDN BHD, a company organized under the laws of MALAYSIA, having its registered office at Level 18, Menara PSCI, 39 Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, 10050, Penang, Malaysia is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trademarks:-

F-FORCE
Reg. No. 4/1858/2004 for Class 3 & Reg. No. 4/1859/2004 for Class 5
TARGET
Reg. No. 4/1860/2004 for Class 3 & Reg. No. 4/1861/2004 for Class 5.
Used in respect of:-

“Bleaching preparations and other substances for laundry use, cleaning, polishing, scouring and abrasive preparations; soaps; perfumery; essential oils; detergents; dish wash liquid; all included in International Class 3”.

“Disinfectants; reparations and substances for destroying vermin; fungicides; insecticides; pesticides; germicides; fumigating pastilles, sticks and coils; insect repellents; insect catching adhesives; insect catching papers and mats; insecticidal aerosol and liquid; all included in International Class 5”.

Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above marks will be dealt with according to law.

TIN OHNMAR TUN
B.A(LAW)LL.B,LL.M(UK), P.O. Box 109,
Ph: 248108/723043
(For Technopia Sdn Bhd, Malaysia)
Dated: 28 October, 2004.

DONATE BLOOD

ပညာရေးနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတိုးတက်ရေး နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်သူ

Doctors say not to use outdated and ineffective TB medicines

PARIS, 27 Oct — Tests and medicines used to diagnose and combat tuberculosis (TB) in poor countries are outdated and ineffective and new treatments must be developed to fight the disease, Doctors Without Borders said on Tuesday.

Strategies being used by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease force medics to work with "archaic tools", said the Paris-based group, also known as Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF).

"Tuberculosis is one of our biggest frustrations," MSF President Jean-Herve Bradol said in a statement. "At the moment, we cannot properly detect and treat the sick."

TB infects an estimated 8.7 million people a year and kills 2 million a year despite widespread control efforts.

WHO's main strategy to control TB, an infectious airborne respiratory illness, is called "Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course" or DOTS, which involves using health professionals to watch patients take their long courses of antibiotics.

DOTS requires sufferers to take drugs — developed 40-60 years ago — over a 6-8 month period and the disease can become resistant if a patient fails to take the full course.

Existing tests used in poor countries to diagnose TB only detected one form

of the disease and in the developing world only show up the TB bacteria in half of the people tested.

MSF wants experts to develop easier to use medicines and to produce new, more effective diagnostic tests, an official said. A stronger detection and treatment plan was also needed to fight the dual TB and AIDS epidemic.

TB is the leading cause of death among HIV sufferers, accounting for about 13 per cent of AIDS deaths worldwide, according to WHO figures. HIV weakens the immune system which makes it more vulnerable to TB and other diseases.

MSF's call for a new anti-TB strategy follows other recent criticism of WHO's plan. Last month, Harvard University researchers said the DOTS plan would have only a modest impact on controlling TB and said new approaches were needed.

The disease is spread by airborne bacteria that settle into the lungs and cause long-term infection. Many people who are infected do not become ill themselves but can spread it.

MNA/Reuters

Mittal Steel emerges as world's largest steelmaker

LONDON, 27 Oct— Non-Resident Indian business tycoon Lakshmi N Mittal-owned Ispat International on Monday emerged as world's largest steelmaker as it announced its merger with The Netherlands-based LNM Holdings and US International Steel Group to form Mittal Steel Corporation.

Ispat said it has agreed to acquire LNM Holdings for 13.3 billion dollars in shares and the International Steel Group for 4.5 billion dollars in cash and shares.

Lakshmi N. Mittal will be the chairman and chief executive of Mittal Steel, it was officially announced.

Simultaneously, Ispat International and International Steel Group Inc announced on Monday that their Boards of Directors have unanimously approved a definitive agreement under which the two entities would merge.

"The combined Mittal Steel will be the largest and most global steel company in the world and will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange and

Euronext Amsterdam," the official announcement said.

LNM Holdings is one of the world's largest and most profitable steel companies and also has substantial mining assets. Its revenues were 9.9 billion dollars and operating income was 3.2 billion dollars in the first nine months of 2004.

The company has annual total raw steel production capacity of over 32 million tons and owns significant mining assets, annually producing about 18 million metric tons of iron ore, 13 million metric tons of coke and 12 million metric tons of coal.

"These transactions dramatically change the landscape of the global steel industry," Lakshmi

Mittal, Chairman of the Mittal Steel said about the merger.

He said the combined company will have excellent positions in raw materials, particularly coal, coke and iron ore, as well as strong positions in key end sectors.

Mittal Steel will be based in Rotterdam and LNM Group will retain control of the company after the deal.

The companies have signed a Letter of Agreement with the United Steelworkers of America and the Independent Steelworkers Union.

The merged entity would have operations in 14 countries on four continents and employ 165,000 people.

MNA/PTI

Spanish boat rescues 36 African migrants

MADRID, 27 Oct— A Spanish fishing boat rescued 36 African migrants from a small launch in trouble off the coast of Fuerteventura, in the Canary Islands, the Interior Ministry in Madrid said on Monday. Thousands of Africans attempt to enter Spain illegally every year by sailing to the Spanish Canary Islands off the coast of Morocco. They often risk their lives in rickety boats and at the hands of traffickers who try to dump their passengers before reaching the shore.

The ministry said a rescue boat sailed out to collect the migrants and take them to temporary holding centres. A Ghanaian woman and her two-year-old baby were taken to hospital, while another Ghanaian mother and baby pair were taken to a Red Cross centre. On Sunday, Spanish police intercepted another small boat making for Fuerteventura with another 36 African migrants on board. —MNA/Reuters



A man passes by an Olympic billboard on a street in Beijing, Britain, whose athletes with the exception of gold medal winners Kelly Holmes and the men's sprint relay, performed so poorly at the Athens Olympics, have turned to China for help in the buildup to the 2008 Beijing Games. —INTERNET

Congolese music star admits smuggling Africans into France

PARIS, 27 Oct— Congolese world music star Papa Wemba admitted in a French court on Monday he had taken part in a scam to smuggle hundreds of Africans into France using his band as a cover.

But Papa Wemba, dubbed the King of Rhumba Rock, argued he played only a small role in the smuggling ring that secured visas for Africans claiming to be part of his band Viva La Musica and was unaware of all that was happening.

"Lots of people profited from my name. They did everything under my name," he told the court in Bobigny, a northern suburb of Paris. Papa Wemba faces up to 10 years in prison if found guilty on charges of aiding illegal immigration.

Papa Wemba, 55, spent nearly four months of 2003 in prison and faces charges in both France and Belgium. Members of his entourage arrested in Belgium in February told police they had paid 3,500 US dollars each for their passage. —MNA/Reuters

Drinking tea may help protect against Alzheimer's

LONDON, 27 Oct— Drinking tea may help protect against Alzheimer's disease, though it is by no means a cure for the brain-crippling illness, British scientists said on Tuesday.

Scientists at Newcastle University in England said their research shows that a regular "cuppa" could slow development of the affliction that fogs the memory of otherwise healthy people.

"Although there is no cure for Alzheimer's, tea could potentially be another weapon in the armoury which is used to treat this disease and slow down its development," lead researcher Ed Okello said.

They found that both green and black tea inhibited the activity of enzymes associated with the development of Alzheimer's disease, but that coffee had no significant effect.

About one million people die from the illness annually and there is no known medical explanation for why it affects humans.

Results of laboratory tests by the university's research team found that green and black tea inhibited the activity of the enzyme acetylcholinesterase (AChE), which breaks down the chemical messenger or neurotransmitter, acetylcholine — Alzheimer's is characterized by a drop in acetylcholine.

The scientists said green and black tea also hindered the activity of the enzyme butyrylcholinesterase (BuChE), which has been discovered in protein deposits found on the brain of Alzheimer's patients.

However, green tea scored better in several tests and had a longer-lasting affect, the research, showed which is published Tuesday in the academic journal, *Phytotherapy Research*.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

WBC heavyweight champ to defend title against Williams

LONDON, 26 Oct — World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko will defend his title against Britain's Danny Williams in Las Vegas, promoters said on Tuesday.

The fight, already confirmed for December 11, will be held at the Mandalay Bay Casino in Las Vegas, said a statement from promoters in New York. Williams' promoter Frank Warren had said earlier in the month the fight would take place in New York.

Former British and European champion Williams has been given a title shot after he caused one of the biggest upsets in boxing when he knocked out former champion Mike Tyson in the fourth round of their fight in July.

"Vitali has made a big mistake by agreeing to fight me," Williams said in the statement. "I knocked out Tyson and I am for real. 'It is time for the world heavyweight championship belt to return to England.'" — MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, pictured, says he is innocent of charges he tried deliberately to hurt Arsenal full-back Ashley Cole during United's controversial 2-0 win at Old Trafford.—INTERNET

Juventus to rebuild new stadium

MILAN, 26 Oct — Leading Italian club Juventus are to follow the example of England's Arsenal and sell the name of their new stadium to a sponsor.

In a statement the 27-times Italian champions said they planned to rebuild their Delle Alpi stadium in the next two years.

Juventus said they had signed a deal with Envision, a division of the Los Angeles based company Wasserman Media Group, to find a new stadium and shirt sponsor.

Envision negotiated Arsenal's sponsorship with Emirates Airlines worth a potential 100 million pounds, the biggest deal in English football history.

"We are particularly happy to be the first Italian company, and among the first in Europe, to pursue naming rights for a stadium," said Romy Gai, Juventus's Chief Sales and Marketing Officer.

"Through this strategy we hope to become a leading example of how to successfully manage and develop a prominent stadium's potential."

The revamped stadium will hold 30-40,000 people, around half its current capacity, and the athletics track will be removed to bring fans closer to the pitch.

Juventus also hopes 200 executive boxes, with space for 2,000 guests, will help boost revenue.

MNA/Reuters

Danish football fan dies

COPENHAGEN, 26 Oct — A 24-year-old Danish football fan died after falling from the top tier of the stands at FC Copenhagen's Parken Stadium during a weekend match against Viborg, news agency Ritzau said.

The man, reportedly from Frederiksberg in Copenhagen, received immediate medical attention but died of his injuries on Sunday.

Copenhagen chairman Flemming Ostergaard told Ritzau the man had apparently been enraged when the referee sent off the home team's Bo Svensson during the second half.

"According to our information, he became angry at the decision and ran down toward the railing and fell over," Ostergaard was quoted as saying.

MNA/Reuters

Turin's mayor orders audit of 2006 Winter Olympics budget

MILAN, 26 Oct — Turin's mayor has ordered an audit of the 2006 Winter Olympics budget after organizers admitted to a 180-million-euro hole in their finances, sparking a fight between Italy's political left and right.

Mayor Sergio Chiamparino said on Monday a team of auditors would inspect the Turin Olympic Committee's books next month. The committee's president last week threatened to quit in a power struggle over the Games.

"(The centre-right) say we are trying to take con-

trol of the Olympics. The city hall and the national Olympic committee have signed a contract with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), all others take the role of partners," ANSA news agency quoted Chiamparino as saying.

A spokeswoman for Turin's organizing committee on Monday confirmed a 180-million-euro hole in the committee's finances, adding that detailed figures would be published this week. Italian media reports say a lack of sponsorship deals and falling sales forecasts have caused a gap between projected revenues and costs.

Newspaper Il Giornale said the committee had contacted only 145 companies for sponsorship compared to a planned 420 and had closed deals with only 15, leading to a 90-million-euro shortfall.

"Today, we don't have enough sponsors," committee spokeswoman Mary Villa told Reuters. The newspaper also said

organizers had had to cut earnings expectations from ticket sales and licensing deals.

Political opponents of committee president Valentino Castellani, a former left-wing mayor of Turin, seized the opportunity to call for more involvement of Italy's centre-right national government in organizing the Games. "Our solution would be to give the government a greater role in the committee," said Mario Tesio, a spokesman for the right-wing Piemonte regional government.

"The Games have been monopolized by the centre-left," said Guido Crosetto, a regional coordinator for Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's party Forza Italia, in a statement.

Berlusconi met the IOC last Tuesday to discuss the Games and appointed Culture Minister Mario Pescante as a supervisor for the Turin committee, angering Castellani so much he threatened to resign. — MNA/Reuters

Real Mallorca sack coach

MADRID, 26 Oct — Real Mallorca have sacked coach Benito Floro after a run of poor results has left the team second from bottom of the Primera Liga, the club said on Monday.

"The board has agreed unanimously to dismiss the coach. We have taken this road because we felt the team needed a change... to regain (some) peace and create a positive atmosphere..." Mallorca chairman Mateu Alemany told the club's web site.

The board gave Floro a vote of confidence at the start of last week but Sunday's 2-1 loss to Real Sociedad has persuaded the club to make a fresh start.

The islanders finished 11th last season but have claimed just one league win since August and suffered five defeats. They have not yet announced a replacement for Floro but coach Tomeu Llombart will step in again as caretaker manager.

Floro, a 52-year-old former Real Madrid and Villarreal coach, joined Mallorca in the close season after Luis Aragones left to coach the national side.

He made his name by steering modest Albacete from the third to the First Division in three seasons during the early 1990s. — MNA/Reuters

Barcelona stay at top of Primera Liga

MADRID, 26 Oct — Barcelona stayed five points clear at the top of the Primera Liga as two goals by Samuel Eto'o and a Ronaldinho penalty sealed a 3-0 home win over Osasuna on Sunday.

Barca, the only unbeaten side in the league, lead the table with 22

points from eight games, Sevilla have 17 and champions Valencia are third, a further three points back after slipping to their second successive defeat.

The victory left Real seventh in the standings, nine points behind arch-rivals Barcelona.

Osasuna, who had not

lost on their last three visits to the Nou Camp, provided stiff resistance to Barcelona in the first half despite missing injured striker Savo Milosevic and suspended midfielder enforcer Pablo Garcia.

But the Catalans never lost their patience and were rewarded when they

grabbed two quick-fire goals just before the break.

Ronaldinho chipped a clever pass over the defence to towards striker Eto'o on the left of the area and the African Player of the Year caught keeper Ricardo Sanzol off guard when he volleyed into the far corner. — MNA/Reuters

Fiorentina sack coach

MILAN, 26 Oct — Fiorentina have sacked coach Emiliano Mondonico, the Serie A club said on Monday. The promoted Florence club drew 2-2 at Udinese on Sunday and Mondonico came in for criticism from Fiorentina supporters.

The former Torino coach said after the game that he no longer felt he had the confidence of the supporters and had asked the club to "reflect" on his position.

Fiorentina said in a statement they were "enormously surprised" by Mondonico's comments, adding that they felt "obliged, with respect to the importance of the project to the city, the players and the fans, to take into account the personal difficulties expressed by Emiliano Mondonico".

The club said goalkeeping coach Sergio Buso would take charge of the side for the game against Reggina on Wednesday. Mondonico took over at Fiorentina midway through last season and guided the team to promotion from Serie B.

After seven games of the season Fiorentina lie 14th in the standings after one win, four draws and two defeats. The Florence club were forced to reform two years ago after the original Fiorentina were declared bankrupt.

MNA/Reuters



Australia's Damien Martyn bats during the first day of the third cricket test match against India in Nagpur, India, on Tuesday, 26 Oct, 2004.—INTERNET

China, Thailand to further improve bilateral relations

BANGKOK, 27 Oct—China and Thailand are determined to further improve bilateral cooperation and exchanges. "China is ready to take the 30-year anniversary next year as a good opportunity to fully push the existing strategic cooperation with Thailand to a height," the visiting Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan said here on Tuesday.

During his half-hour meeting with the Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, the two sides talked about ways to improve bilateral relations.

Based on the current level of high official visits, the two govern-

ments will increase exchange of youth, Press and enterprises of the two countries, improve cooperation in the development of resources, energy and telecommunication, said the Chinese State Councillor.

He also noted that both governments agreed to push forward regional cooperation in Asia and further develop China's relations with ASEAN.

It's Thailand's fixed foreign policy to develop cooperation with China in various fields, said Thaksin. After the two countries' formal diplomatic relationship

entering its 30th year in 2005, the Thai Government will continue its efforts with China to promote regional cooperation, he said.

During their talks, both Thaksin and Tang agreed that the two countries' relations are at the best stage. Last year, the bilateral trade reached a total of 12 billion US dollars in comparison with 8.6 billion-US-dollar trade volume in 2002.

Tang ended his 4-day visit to Thailand on Tuesday. Thailand is the last leg of Tang's Asian trip including India, Pakistan and Malaysia.—MNA/Xinhua

Scientists debate hazards of radon

OFUNA (Japan), 27 Oct—To many scientists, it's a gas so toxic it's almost evil. It's been singled out as the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, right behind smoking. It even killed the woman who discovered it — Madame Marie Curie.

But to Shiro Umeda, sprightly at 74, radon is the best thing since Aspirin.

Every month for the past 10 years, he has come to a radon bath here to soak it up and breathe it in. He's convinced it has helped keep his back pain in check and contributed positively to his overall health.

Undaunted by warnings from the scientific community that the highly radioactive gas is a carcinogen, tens of thousands of health-seekers like Umeda are drawn each year to hot springs in Ja-

pan, spas in Hungary, even mine shafts in rural Montana by claims that radon can cure a wide variety of ills.

"Not a doubt in my mind," Umeda said after a recent session. "It makes me feel better".

The popularity of radon is nothing new.

At the turn of the century, its curative powers were believed to be so strong that products containing radon or radium, its parent element, ranged from toothpaste and beauty creams to nose-cup inhalers and chocolate bars. —MNA/AP

China lashes out at US decision to limit imports

BEIJING, 27 Oct — China on Tuesday lashed out at a US decision to limit imports of socks made in China, saying China will "retain the right to take further actions" within the World Trade Organization framework, according to a Ministry of Commerce spokesman.

The US Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, an interagency group chaired by the US Department of Commerce, said in a statement issued on Monday that the United States will impose a quota on imports of Chinese socks to limit growth of the country's market share.

The quota will be

imposed following US Government talks with China on the issue. If the talks fail to reach an agreement, the quota will last for one year.

The Chinese Government holds that Chinese exports of socks "have not disrupted the US market," and the US industry's appeal for the limit does not meet the minimum condition stipulated by WTO rules, said Chinese Ministry of Commerce spokesman Chong Quan. The United States will further limit imports of Chinese cotton socks, which have been restricted by import quota, citing the "threat of further disruption," he said.

Such an action violates conditions delineated in the legal documents for China's WTO admission and US domestic rules on the procedure, Chong said.

The move also runs counter to WTO's principle of free trade and free textile trade, he said.

This will severely frustrate Chinese companies' and people's confidence in the international trade environment after its WTO accession and sabotage the multilateral trade system, Chong said.

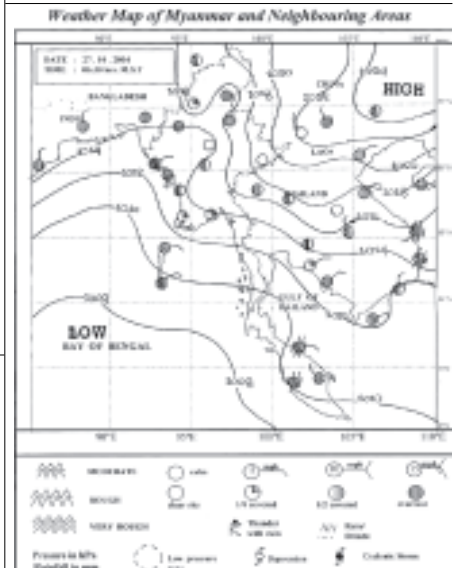
"China retains the right to take further actions under the framework of WTO," Chong said.

Sino-US fabric industries are highly com-

plementary, and the Chinese Government has been striving to promote communication and cooperation between them, Chong said.

"The Chinese Government urges the US Government to handle such cases cautiously and to amend its errors so as to avoid casting a cloud over Sino-US trade and economic ties," he said.

Sino-US trade hit 126 billion US dollars in 2003. Chinese exports to the US market recorded 92 billion US dollars, with 7 billion US dollars of that made up of fabric products. —MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Wednesday, 27 October, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan and Chin States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining states and divisions.

Maximum temperature on 26-10-2004 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 27-10-2004 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 27-10-2004 was 67%. Total sunshine hours on 26-10-2004 was (8.8) hours approx. Rainfall on 27-10-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was (112.24 inches) at Yangon Airport, (106.77 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (109.29 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Northeast at (08:50) hours MST on 25-10-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in South Bay and generally fair in elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 28-10-2004: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country.

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Slight decrease of night temperature in Northern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-10-2004:** Fair weather. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-10-2004:** Fair weather.



Thursday, October 28
View on today:

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:15 am**
2. တိပိဋကဓမ္မ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရီက အဓမ္မဟောပြောတော်မူသည့် အခန်း (သောသမ္မာဓာတ်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါဒ်သဒ္ဓါပါဠိတော်
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. နိုင်ငံတော် သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့ (အဖွဲ့ဝင်) ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း အင်းစိန်မြို့နယ်၊ ရွာမပရိယတ္တိစာသင်တိုက် ဆရာတော် အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ တက္ကသိုလ်လောကသင်တန်းကြီး ဓာတ်ပုံအုပ်စု အသိပညာအခါတော် ဓမ္မ၊ တရားတော်"
- 8:20 am**
5. တာဝန်ရှိရာ သတိပဿနာတော်
- 8:30 am**
6. International news
- 8:45 am**
7. Islands of Dhamma

- 8:50 am**
8. တက္ကသိုလ်လောက (တိပိဋကဓမ္မ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရီက အဓမ္မဟောပြောတော်မူသည့် အခန်း (သောသမ္မာဓာတ်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါဒ်သဒ္ဓါပါဠိတော်)
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. အမှတ်(၃) အခြေစိုက်ညွှန်ကြားမှုဌာနချုပ် အဓမ္မအကြံပေးဌာနချုပ် ဓမ္မစကြာဝဠာတိုက်ကြီး (ပုဂံသင်္ဃာတိုက်) (အထက-၆) နိုင်ငံတော်တော် (အမျိုးသား ဝတ်စုံတော်)
- 4:50 pm**
4. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့ ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်တန်းစာ - ပထမအပိုင်း (သတ္တဗေဒ၊ ရုက္ခဗေဒ၊ အထူးပြုများ) (သတ္တဗေဒ)
- 5:05 pm**
5. Cute little dancers
- 5:15 pm**
6. ဂါထာတော်များ
- 5:30 pm**
7. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာတော်
- 5:40 pm**
8. "ဆေးလိပ်တင်ကုသမှုပညာတက္ကသိုလ်" လွှတ်ချက်၊ မင်းဆက်ကွန်း၊ စာအုပ်၊ ကဏ္ဍတော်၊ နိုင်ငံတော်၊ နိုင်ငံတော်၊ နိုင်ငံတော်၊ နိုင်ငံတော်၊ နိုင်ငံတော်၊ နိုင်ငံတော်၊ နိုင်ငံတော်၊ နိုင်ငံတော်၊ နိုင်ငံတော်

- 5:50 pm**
9. နိုင်ငံတော်သတင်းစာတော် (အင်းစိန်)
- 6:00 pm**
10. Religious song
- 6:15 pm**
11. ဓာတ်တော်တော်တော်တော် (အင်းစိန်)
- 6:30 pm**
12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
14. နိုင်ငံတော်သတင်းစာတော် (အင်းစိန်)
- 7:30 pm**
15. သီတာဗေဒတော် အခြေစိုက်ညွှန်ကြားမှုဌာနချုပ် အသိပညာအခါတော် ဓမ္မ၊ တရားတော်
- 8:00 pm**
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. ဂန္ထဝင် ဓမ္မ၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သတင်းစာတော် (အင်းစိန်)
20. Myanmar Teleplay: "တစ်ခါတည်း" ဓာတ်တော်၊ သီတင်းကျွတ်၊ ဓမ္မ၊ တရားတော်
21. မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော်တော်တော်တော် နိုင်ငံတော်သတင်းစာတော် အခြေစိုက်ညွှန်ကြားမှုဌာနချုပ် အသိပညာအခါတော် ဓမ္မ၊ တရားတော်
22. The next day's programme

PM sends message of sympathy to Japan

YANGON, 27 Oct — Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan, for the loss of life and property caused by the recent typhoon and earthquake in Japan. — MNA

Lt-Gen Tin Aye oversees progress in construction of Patheingyi Bridge

YANGON, 27 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and departmental officials, arrived at the construction site of Patheingyi Bridge on 26 October morning and inspected the completion of tarred approach road, laying of concrete tiles and fixing steel frames.

At the briefing hall, In-charge of the Project Deputy Superintending Engineer U Khin Maung Win reported to Lt-Gen Tin Aye on completion of the construction works and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing on construction of approach roads to Patheingyi-Ngwehsaung and Patheingyi-Chaungtha roads and progress on the development in the region.

Lt-Gen Tin Aye instructed them to carry out the tasks with momentum to complete on time and to meet the set standard and fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the commander and party inspected laterite Patheingyi-Ngwehsaung road construction work being carried out and cordially greeted to the officials. Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye attended to the needs.

Patheingyi Bridge is 2,140 feet long and it is of reinforced concrete and steel frame suspension bridge and eighty per cent of the whole task has so far been built.

On completion, easy and smooth transportation can be achieved for the relations between the regions of Ngwehsaung Beach and Chaungtha Beach in all seasons.

MNA

Minsiter inspects dam projects in Mandalay and Magway divisions

YANGON, 28 Oct — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, accompanied by departmental officials and No 99 LID Commander Brig-Gen Tin Oo Lwin, arrived at the Nyaunggon Dam Project construction site in Meiktila on 24 October.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Director of the Irrigation Department U Myo Tun reported to the minister on the construction of the main dam, conduit, spillway and channels. Afterwards, the minister met departmental officials and local farmers and gave necessary instructions. Next, the minister inspected the earth work of the main dam being carried out with the use of heavy machinery.

The earth dam is 6,400 feet long and 40 feet high and storage capacity of the facility is 3,500 acre feet.

Next, the minister and party arrived at the Kyaukdaga Dam project in Natmauk Township in Magway Division. At the briefing hall, officials reported to the minister on tasks being carried out

(See page 9)

Cooperative Products Exhibition continues

YANGON, 27 Oct — Cooperative Products Exhibition continued today at the Cooperative Trade Centre (Saya San Plaza) in Bahan Township.

Cooperative societies from states and divisions, private companies and economic enterprises display their products including foodstuff, personal products, textiles and garments and finished-wood products and furniture.

Moreover, Ministry of Industry-1 and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation also keep open the shops at the exhibition. The exhibition which involves a lot of entertainment programmes will last till 1 November.

MNA



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects water storage of Taunggyi Dam in Kyaukpadaung Township. — AGRI & IRR

Myanmar government gives highest priority to better tackling issue of trade in people

Senior Officials Meeting for the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) opens

YANGON, 27 Oct — The Senior Officials Meeting for the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) was kicked off here today with an opening address by Minister for Home

Affairs Col Tin Hlaing.

It was also attended by deputy ministers, the director-general of the Myanmar Police Force, departmental heads, senior officers of MPF, senior

officials from the People's Republic of China, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam, officials of the UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Great Mekong Sub-Region and guests.

In his opening address, Minister Col Tin Hlaing said: trafficking in persons, especially women and children is not a new phenomenon. Trade in people has existed for many hundreds, if not thousands of years. What is different today is the magnitude, the form, and the impact it has on people. Following the end of the Cold War, trafficking in persons became one of the top global issues amongst transnational organized crimes. We are becoming increasingly aware of the terrible pain and injustices suffered by victims of trafficking around the world. That is the reason why we are gathered here today to forge a political consensus and work out a detailed plan of action on how to better address this issue. At the end of the two days of the Senior Officials Meeting, we hope to have come up with a Regional Plan of Action which will reflect the spirit of the political will be expressed in the COMMIT Memorandum of Understanding.

All of us living in the Greater Mekong Sub-region have experienced the harsh realities of trafficking in a variety of ways: as a country of source, transit or destination.

(See page 8)



The Second Senior Officials Meeting of Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) in progress. — MNA