

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 190

13th Waning of Thadingyut 1365 ME

Thursday, 23 October, 2003



Member of USDA Central Panel of Patrons Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greets a participant of Bagan mass rally at the dinner. — MNA

Dinner hosted to participants of mass rallies

YANGON, 22 Oct — Lt-Gen Soe Win, member of the Central Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, hosted a dinner to officials of respective associations and representatives of the people, who will play any role in the successful realization of the seven-point future policy programme of the State, on the lawns of the Bagan Seeza Hotel in the Bagan Archaeological Zone on 20 October evening.

Present at the dinner were the USDA Coordinator, the

secretary-general, members of the secretariat, members of the central executive committee of the USDA, the presiding chairmen of the mass rallies and members, representatives of social organizations, masters of ceremonies of the mass rallies, and outstanding youths of the new generation.

Yesterday morning at the Tharapa Hotel in the Bagan Archaeological Zone, Lt-Gen Soe Win gave a tea party to persons from respective associations and representatives

(See page 9)



Member of USDA Central Panel of Patrons Lt-Gen Soe Win delivers a speech at the dinner hosted in honour of participants of Bagan mass rally. — MNA

Representatives of Bagan mass rally carry out community welfare services in Bagan region

YANGON, 22 Oct — The representatives of the national races from all the states and divisions of the Union of Myanmar arrived at Bagan-NyaungU by car, by train and by air on 19 and 20 October to attend the Bagan mass rally to support the seven future policy programme of the State.

With a view to enhancing friendship and relations and flourishing Union Spirit between the representatives and local people, local authorities made arrangements to provide temporary accommodation to the guests at the homes of local residents.

Under the programme, a total of 100 representatives

from Kachin State put up at Ward 4 and Thahtaykan Village in NyaungU Township. CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Brig-Gen Thein Zaw visited the houses where the representatives were staying and presented gifts to the hosts. The Kachin guests visited cultural heritages and pagodas in Bagan region.

Similarly, altogether 106 representatives from Kayah State put up at Ward 3, and visited Bagan cultural museum and pagodas in Bagan.

Likewise, 51 representatives from Chin State put up at Ward 1 in the town. USDA CEC Member Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko presented gifts to the hosts.

A total of 204 representatives from Sagaing Division stayed at Thantsinkyai Village, Kondangyi Village-tract, NyaungU District. Member of the secretariat of the USDA (Central) Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met representatives from Sagaing Division and local people from Thantsinkyai Village and viewed regional develop tasks being carried out by the representatives. He provided cash assistance for devel-

opment of the villages, publications to rural libraries and sports gear and exercise books to rural people.

The representatives presented gifts to the local residents. They whitewashed the Yayzu Pagoda in the village. In the afternoon of 20 October, football matches and traditional games and Karaoke competition were held for the villagers. Next, prizes were presented to the winners. In the evening, newsreels of documentary films and Myanmar films were shown to the villagers.

USDA CEC Member Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein visited the houses at which fifty representatives from Taninthayi Division were putting up. He presented gifts to the representatives and the hosts. Representatives fishery entrepreneurs from Taninthayi Division presented local products to the hosts.

USDA CEC Member Brig-Gen Kyaw Win visited the representatives from Bago Division (West) who were putting up at Eastern and Western Phwasaw Villages. He presented

(See page 8)

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

INSIDE

Perspectives

Preserve and safeguard progress already achieved
Page 2

Foreign News Pages

3,4,5,6,7,12,13,14

24,265

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 23 October, 2003

Preserve and safeguard progress already achieved

A mass rally in support of the seven-point future policy programme of the State was held at the sports ground in the Bagan Archaeology Zone on the morning of 21 October. At the mass rally, representatives of national races from all the states and divisions across the Union of Myanmar enthusiastically and unanimously approved the two resolutions — the one calling on all the national people to actively and enthusiastically participate with full Union Spirit in any role entrusted for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State and the other to honour the State Peace and Development Council for striving to the best of its ability for the development of the Union of Myanmar and for the Union races to continue to preserve and safeguard the progress achieved.

Moreover, the mass rally announced the Bagan Declaration in which the goals of the people — the perpetuation of the Union, the unity of the national races, the emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation and the building of a new modern nation with discipline-flourishing democracy — are embodied.

U Mya Sein, Chairman of the mass rally, said, in his address, that our national goal — the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation — called for the cooperation between the entire national people and the Government and it was a process that should be systematically and gradually implemented in the right way.

The State Peace and Development Council has been trying as well as it can to bring about peace, prosperity and development — prerequisite for the emergence of a peaceful and developed nation. Moreover, it has been implementing political, economic and social objectives in the interest of national unity and Union Spirit, sine qua non for the perpetuation of the Union.

Due to the efforts of the Government, the plans for national economic development, social development and technological development are shaping up nicely. It is also because of the united strength of national forces and public participation that the Government has been able to put the nation on the right path to development.

We would like to call upon all the entire national people to ward off all the destructive acts that can impede the momentum of development and to preserve and safeguard the progress already achieved.



U Makhaw Gan and Daw Lu Ywe with seized narcotic drugs on 28-9-2003 in Phakant. — MNA



Daw Ma Aye and Ma Shan Pu (a) Ma Aye Hwan with seized heroin on 20-9-2003 in Hopang. — MNA

Second ASEAN+ China and Japan Senior Transport Officials Meeting held

YANGON, 22 Oct — The second ASEAN and China Senior Transport Officials Meeting was held at Sedona Hotel this morning.

Present were senior officials of member of ASEAN nations Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and delegates, officials of ASEAN Secretariat and delegates of senior transport officials of the People's Republic of China and delegates.

Leader of Myanmar delegation Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung presided over the meeting and leader of delegation from the PRC Ms Guo-Mei Tang acted as joint chairman.

Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung spoke on the occasion. He said he would like to report on some salient points regarding the initial part of ASEAN-China cooperation. In the 5th ASEAN+China summit on 16th November 2001, Brunei Darussalam, the leaders identified agriculture, information technology, human resources development, investment and Mekong River Basin Development as five priority areas for cooperation between ASEAN and China. Moreover, the ASEAN and Chinese leaders decided to convene a meeting of ASEAN and Chinese Transport Ministers.

The main objective is to enhance the transportation infrastructure linkages and services between the ASEAN member countries and the People's Republic of China by embarking on mutually beneficial cooperation programme. The guiding principles are (1) To mutually exchange information and best practices in the transport sector; (2) To strengthen policy dialogue and promote project cooperation in the transport sector, and (3) To encourage private sector participation and public-private sector collaboration in the development and implementation of joint ASEAN — China transport cooperation

programs and activities.

First ASEAN and China Transport Ministers Meeting decided to build and integrate transport network for smooth and speedy movement of goods and peoples as a supporting infrastructure to a free trade area between ASEAN and China, he said.

He said the ministers agreed to pursue collaborative activities in land transport infrastructure, facilitation of maritime and river transport, and the expansion of air transport services. Senior officials are to implement mutually beneficial programmes of ASEAN+

November 2002 and the 1st ASEAN+China Senior Transport Officials Meeting held in September 2002, reports of ASEAN Secretariat, draft of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Transport cooperation between China and ASEAN, exchange of views on future tasks, three projects to be implemented under the ASEAN+China transport cooperation programme and agenda for the second ASEAN+China Transport Ministers Meeting.

Next, 2nd ASEAN and Japan Senior Transport Officials Meeting was held at the same venue in the after-

The deputy minister delivered a speech. He said the 1st STOM+Japan Meeting was held on 7-8 May in Tokyo Japan. From that meeting 22 projects have emerged in transport sector for further cooperation between ASEAN and Japan.

He said these projects are tasked to various ASEAN Working Groups to further discuss in detail for prioritization and implementation. Now these projects are grouped by various specialists and 16 projects were laid down.

He said he was convinced that further strengthening and cooperation be-



Ms Guo-Mei Tang holds discussions at the Second ASEAN + China Senior Transport Officials Meeting. — MNA



Mr Mitsuo Nakamoto holds discussions at the Second ASEAN + Japan Senior Transport Officials Meeting. — MNA

China Transport cooperation for assessment in the coming ATM. He said he hoped that matters relating to transport projects, ASEAN+China Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Transport cooperation and potential opportunities for joint co-operation would be focused.

Participants discussed statements, resolutions of the 9th ASEAN Summit held in October 2003, 8th ASEAN Summit held in

noon today.

Present were senior transport officials of 10 ASEAN nations and delegates, officials of ASEAN Secretariat and transport officials of Japan and delegates.

Leader of Myanmar delegation Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung presided over the meeting with leader of delegation from Japan Mr Mitsuo Nakamoto as joint chairman.

tween ASEAN and Japan would be established in order to achieve, safe, secure and quality transport linkages.

Next, those present worked out agreements for implementation of 16 projects on land, water and air and other cooperation. Agenda for the first ASEAN+Japan Transport Ministers Meeting were also discussed. The meeting came to a close in the evening. — MNA

Heroin, opium seized in Hopin, Phakant

YANGON, 22 Oct — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Myanmar Police Force on 20 September seized 0.215 kilo of heroin packed in 17 soap cans from a house of Daw Ma Aye, Ward-10, Takwin Village, in Hopang, Mohnyin Township and arrested her. In connection with the case, the authorities also held Ma Shan Pu (a) Ma Aye Hwan, owner of the drug.

Similarly, the local authorities on 28 September

searched the house of U Makhaw Gan in Thayagon Village, Seikmu Village-tract, Phakant Township and arrested the house owner and his wife Daw Lu Ywe together with 0.411 kilo of heroin packed in 31 soap boxes and 5.715 kilos of morphine.

Action was taken against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by the police station concerned. — MNA

Some US troops don't return to Iraq at end of R&R programme

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct—More than a dozen American troops haven't return to duty after getting a vacation from Iraq, the Pentagon said Tuesday, dismissing suggestions there is any significant AWOL problem.

Sixteen of some 3,000 troops failed to show up at airports in Baltimore and Germany for return flights to the Persian Gulf region, said Army spokesman Joe Burlas. None has been declared "absent without leave" as officials try to sort out the cases.

To give troops some relief from the long and difficult deployments in Iraq and neighboring countries, the Pentagon late last month started giving two-week leaves in the largest R&R programme since the Vietnam War. Some flew to Germany and others to Baltimore free of charge, and they were responsible for flights the rest of the way to their destination. In the first five days of return flights starting on 12 Oct, 28 people didn't show up, Burlas said. After tracking them down, it was learned that 20 had permission or some reason. The other eight were unaccounted for, as were eight who also missed

flights in the last five days.

Some of the problem was a result of the newness of the program Burlas said, adding that numbers kept changing Tuesday and it was impossible to gauge the size of the problem.

Officials found some had received an extension on their leave from their unit commander at home rather than their commander in Iraq, or had informed commanders they'd be delayed but failed to phone proper officials at the airports, and so on, Burlas said.

"The vast majority ... have already been tracked back to guys who missed planes, missed connections — one man's house burned down," said Marine General Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "So there are reasons why they didn't return."

A statement from the US Central Command called the number minuscule.

Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said it won't affect the leave program. Officials said they didn't immediately have statistics on the number of troops normally AWOL. Such cases typically increase in times of conflict. Experts inside and outside the services predicted before the program started that some troops would simply not return to the hot, often dirty and dangerous work of occupying Iraq.

Coalition forces are there trying to stabilize violence that is killing roughly an American daily, while at the same time trying to restart the economy and build a new government. Soldiers are being allowed to come home — rather than receiving leaves to Hong Kong, Singapore and other Asian cities, as was done during the Vietnam War — making it harder for them to return to duty, experts say. —Internet

ထုတ်ဖော်ချက်များကို ဖော်ပြခြင်း

US anxiety over Iraq grows, says poll

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct—A poll suggests Americans' concern about Iraq continues to grow, even with many Americans agreeing with President George W Bush that news reports from Iraq are making the situation seem worse than it is.

Public support for keeping troops in Iraq until the country has stabilised slipped from 64 per cent last month to 58 per cent, according to the poll by the Pew Research Centre for the People & the Press. The percentage of poll participants that want to bring the troops home as soon as possible has grown from 32 per cent last month to 39 per cent.

But nearly four-in-10 Americans say the news media is painting too bleak a picture of Iraq. Bush has complained the news media "filter" is distorting the picture Americans are getting of Iraq. Anxiety about the nation's job market is also increasing, with two-thirds in the poll saying jobs are hard to find in their communities, up from 59 per cent in June 2002 and 44 per cent a year before that. The poll of 1515 adults was conducted October 15-19 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. —Internet



An Iraqi from the restive town of Falluja celebrates as a US Army ammunition truck blazes on Sunday. —INTERNET

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan want Iraqis consent for troops

ISLAMABAD, 22 Oct—Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, two key allies in the US-led war on terror, ruled out on Sunday sending troops to Iraq without the consent of the Iraqi people.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said Iraqis had shown no desire to have foreign peacekeepers in their country.

"This express opinion from the Iraqi people has not been shown to us," he said at a joint news conference with Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri in Islamabad. "Up till that time at least for Saudi Arabia... we will not send any troops."

Kasuri said Pakistan would also wait for an invitation from Iraq before making any decision on contributing troops to a multinational peacekeeping force authorized by a unanimously passed UN resolution on Thursday.

"If the people of Iraq ask for help, Pakistan as a brotherly country will do what it can," he said.

"But we will wait for that to happen and when that happens, I am sure the public opinion in Pakistan will also change."

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has faced strong opposition from the hardline Islamic groups since he threw his weight behind the US-led war on terror in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. —MNA/Reuters

Lower-level European turnout for Iraq donor meet

MADRID, 22 Oct—Many European countries will send lower-level delegations to a donors' conference on Iraq this week compared to the high-powered US team, reflecting persistent European scepticism over the US-led invasion of Iraq.

Secretary of State Colin Powell and Treasury Secretary John Snow will lead the US delegation to the Madrid conference on Thursday and Friday.

Spain hopes the gathering will send a strong signal of international support for Baghdad and raise a substantial sum towards the estimated 56 billion US dollars needed to rebuild Iraq.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, World Bank President James Wolfensohn and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar will also take part, a Spanish official said.

But Powell will see few other officials of equal rank when he surveys officials assembled around the conference table.

Spain, Italy and Japan — all supporters of US policy on Iraq — will send foreign ministers to the Madrid conference.

But prominent European statesmen such as German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, France's Dominique de Villepin or Britain's Jack Straw will be notable by their absence.

Britain, Washington's closest ally during the war, is sending International Development Minister Hilary Benn.

Paris and Berlin, opponents of the Iraq war, are signalling the low priority they place on the Madrid conference by sending relatively minor officials. —MNA/Reuters

Nations hope to catch up with China's tourism development

BEIJING, 22 Oct—Participants at the World Tourism Organization (WTO) 15th General Assembly agreed they must accelerate the development of their tourism industries in order to catch up with China.

"When I first visited China in 1992, which marked the first Visit China Year, the country received barely 15 million foreign tourists. Last year, just a decade after, the figure was 37 million," said Francesco Frangialli, secretary-general of WTO.

"The trend will continue. I have mixed feelings when announcing this, but according to the WTO's prediction, China will become the world's number one tourism destination in 2020, overtaking my own country, France. To the Secretary of State for Tourism of France, I say, 'You must defend yourself'."

China not only introduced fierce competition for visitors, but also unprecedented opportunities. —MNA/Xinhua



US Army soldiers secure the area after a roadside bomb exploded Wednesday on 22 Oct, 2003 in a tunnel in the heart of the Iraqi capital Baghdad as a US military convoy passed by. A US Army officer said two soldiers were injured. —INTERNET

Soldier reported killed in Iraq accident

BAGHDAD, 22 Oct—One soldier from the Army's 377th Theater Support Command was killed and another injured in a maintenance accident Tuesday in a camp north of Baghdad, the US military said.

The accident occurred about at Camp Anaconda in the town of Balad, the US Central Command said in a statement. The latest death brings to 340 the number of American soldiers to die in Iraq since the war began March 20. Of that figure, 218 of the deaths have been by hostile fire. —Internet

Rights group urges US to investigate Iraqi deaths

BAGHDAD, 22 Oct—The US military has failed to conduct proper investigations into the killings of Iraqi civilians by its soldiers in Baghdad, Human Rights Watch said on Tuesday.

The New York-based rights group said soldiers must be held accountable for their actions through thorough investigations in order to remove the "atmosphere of impunity" under which it said the Iraqi capital's occupying forces now operate.

In a new report, the group said it had confirmed the death of 20 civilians at the hands of US forces between May 1, when Washington declared major combat over, and the end of September.

The group said it had collected "credible reports" of 94 civilian deaths in Baghdad which warranted investigation. The US military says it keeps no record of civilian deaths.

"It's a tragedy that US soldiers have killed so many civilians in Baghdad," said Joe Stork, head of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa division.

"But it's really incredible that the US military does not

even count these deaths. Any time US forces kill an Iraqi civilian in questionable circumstances, they should investigate the incident."

The report, "Hearts and Minds: Post-War Civilian Casualties in Baghdad by US Forces", says the military has concluded only five high-level investigations into suspected unlawful deaths.

Army Major Joseph Yoswa, a Pentagon spokesman, said: "Some unintended consequences are inevitable in any conflict, and even one innocent death is a sad fact, something we sincerely regret." US forces went to great lengths to avoid such casualties.

Since the start of the war on March 20, between 7,395 and 9,198 Iraqi civilians are believed to have been killed throughout the country as a result of "military intervention", according to the independent Iraq Body Count project. — MNA/Reuters

ဝက်မုရ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Large explosion in Iraq's Baiji region

BAGHDAD, 22 Oct—Witnesses in the Baiji area of northern Iraq said they heard a large explosion followed by huge clouds of black smoke late on Monday.

The witnesses said the source of the blaze was not clear and they had no way of knowing the cause of the explosion.

Baiji, north of Tikrit and the scene of sabotage attacks in the past, is the site of an oil refinery that receives crude via a pipeline from Iraq's Kirkuk oilfields.

The northern pipeline runs from Baiji to the Turkish Mediterranean coast. That export line is currently being repaired after a sabotage attack and US forces in the region have said they hope to have it pumping vital oil exports again by the end of the month. — MNA/Reuters

UN report says US war on terror radicalizes Arabs

AMMAN, 22 Oct—The US-led war on terror has radicalized more Arabs angry both with the West and their autocratic rulers who are bent on curbing their political rights, a UN-commissioned study released on Monday showed.

The Arab Human Development Report 2003 said Arab countries lagged other regions in dissemination of knowledge. Readership of books was relatively limited, education dictated submission rather than critical thought, the Arabic language was in crisis. The report, launched in Amman, blamed an absence of "effective and peaceful channels for dealing with injustices" for pushing radical political groups to seek change by violence.

Rima Khalaf Hunaidi, the top UN official behind the team of Arab intellectuals who wrote the report, said anti-Arab sentiment in the West after the September 11, 2001 attacks on US cities was a further factor radicalizing Arabs.

The UN Assistant Secretary General and regional director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab states said educational op-

portunities were further limited as an anti-Arab backlash made young Arabs retreat from studying in the United States.

Arab student numbers in the United States dropped between 1999 and 2002 by an average 30 per cent, Hunaidi added.

Arab disenchantment was deepened by autocratic rulers who were given a "spurious justification for curbing freedoms on the pretext of fighting terrorism" by Washington's war on terror.

The report, on Arabs by Arabs, cited wider censorship - from restricting Internet access to suppressing publication of material deemed encouraging to "terrorism".

Non-governmental groups suffered more legal and practical constraints in 2003, while progress towards women's empowerment regressed in some countries and slightly progressed in others. — MNA/Reuters



Iraqi gunmen stand guard as a crowd gathers at the site of an overnight battle that left three Americans and ten Iraqis dead, in a street in Karbala, 110 kilometres (70 miles) south of Baghdad on Friday, 17 October, 2003. The crowd scattered soon after another gun battle with US-led forces broke out in the street. —INTERNET

Orphaned Iraqi boy says he will never understand war

BERLIN, 22 Oct—An Iraqi boy who lost both arms and suffered severe burns in a missile attack in Baghdad in March that killed 16 members of his family said on Monday he hoped to play football and become a doctor.

Ali Ismaeel Abbas, whose armless torso, horrific burns and haunted eyes became a symbol of civilian suffering during the US-led war on Iraq, appeared on German television to thank Iraqi, Kuwaiti and British doctors for saving his life.

"I want to thank the doctors who helped me," 13-year-old Abbas said in an ARD television interview before a "World Award" ceremony in Germany on Wednesday at which he will present Iraqi and Kuwaiti doctors with a "Men of the Year" prize.

"They all put so much energy into helping me and the other wounded children," Abbas said. "It was as if they were taking care of their own sons."

He said he had learnt to play his favourite video games with his feet and still hoped to be able to play football one day. He said his idol, England's David Beckham, had sent him an autographed

jersey which he cherished.

"I hope, with God's help, to be a football player one day," Abbas said. He said he hoped to return to Iraq eventually, but would now like to stay in Britain and go to university there.

Abbas was asleep in eastern Baghdad when a missile destroyed his home and killed most of his family, leaving him orphaned, armless and with burns over 80 per cent of his body.

Abbas was flown to Kuwait in April for treatment for his burns, and later went to London where he was recently fitted with artificial limbs. "They're very nice but they will never replace my real arms," said Abbas, wearing a red tie, white shirt and black sweater.

In another interview with *Bild* newspaper published on Monday, Abbas said he hoped to become a doctor, but above all hoped never to experience war again. — MNA/Reuters

Study shows factory employment falling world-wide

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct—Manufacturing jobs are disappearing around the world resulting from a global trend and not just in the United States, according to a report by the *Wall Street Journal* on Monday.

The paper said that economists at Alliance Capital Management LP in New York looked at employment trends in 20 large economies and found that more than 22 million jobs in the manufacturing sector were eliminated from 1995 to 2002, a decline of more than 11 per cent.

Contrary to conventional US beliefs, the research found that American manufacturing workers were not the biggest losers in the past years, the study said.

The US lost about two million manufac-

turing jobs in the period of 1995-2002, a drop of 11 per cent. But Brazil had a 20 per cent decline. Japan's factory work force shed by 16 per cent of its jobs while China's factory employment also down by 15 per cent.

More and more US manufacturers and congressmen are complaining that American manufacturing jobs are fleeing to low-cost Asian countries including China at the time when US manufacturing sector has gone through 38 grueling months of declining employment. — MNA/Xinhua

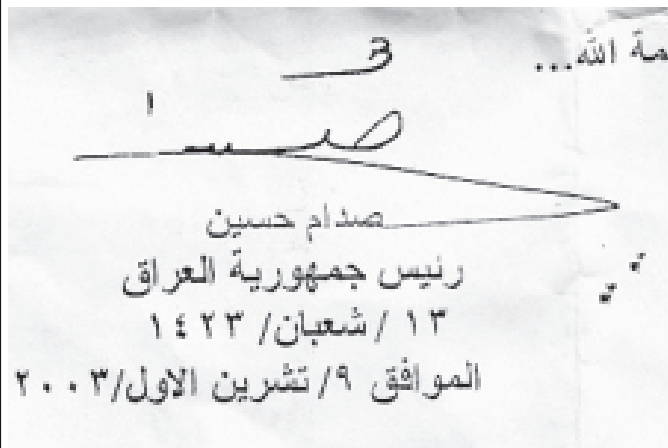
US federal deficit up to a record \$374.2b

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct—The US federal budget deficit hit a record high of 374.2 billion dollars in the fiscal year of 2003 which ended on September 30, the US Government reported Monday.

A report from the Office of Management and Budget of the White House showed the record high of deficit resulted mainly from the increasing costs of the war in Iraq, a new round of tax cuts and economic weakness.

Providing a final accounting of the budget year of 2003, the White House said that the government deficit in the fiscal 2003 was more than double the imbalance of 157.8 billion dollars in the fiscal year of 2002. In dollar terms, the figure easily surpassed the old record of 290.4 billion dollars set in fiscal 1992.

The deficit represented 3.5 per cent of the total economic output in the United States, below the 5 per cent and 6 per cent levels hit in the 1980s during the Reagan administration. — MNA/Xinhua



A scanned image shows the signature on a letter, purportedly written by ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, which urged tribal leaders to launch a holy war against "hated invaders". —INTERNET

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



A US soldier guards an Iraqi detained in a dawn raid at a series of farms north of Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit on 22 October. Soldiers detained ten men suspected of involvement in bomb attacks against US troops. —INTERNET



Soldiers of US Army 4th Infantry Division guard suspects with hands tied behind their backs during a weapon search operation in the village of Hamra, about 20 km (12 miles) northeast from Tikrit, Iraq, on 22 October, 2003. US soldiers detained several suspects believed to be involved in deadly attacks on American troops and uncovered a weapons cache buried in the farming community during raids early Wednesday near Saddam Hussein's hometown. —INTERNET



An Iraqi truck driver, centre, tries to take cover as US Army soldiers secure the area after assailants ambushed a US Army foot patrol outside Fallujah on Monday, 20 October, 2003. One American soldier and two civilians were killed and five others wounded in the second day of attacks. The patrol, from the 82nd Airborne Division, was first hit by an exploding homemade bomb, and then by small-arms fire, the military said. The driver of the white truck, above, was killed as well. —INTERNET



An anti-tank missile is seen next to a busy street in Fallujah, Iraq, on Tuesday, 21 Oct, 2003, 35 miles (60 kms) west of Baghdad. The missile is a leftover from last Sunday, when a US Army ammunition truck was attacked in this city. —INTERNET



Government workers refusing to be searched by US forces hold a protest outside Iraq's ministry of oil in Baghdad on 21 October, 2003. US soldiers fired above the heads of thousands of Iraqi government workers protesting on Tuesday after hearing that the Americans had detained a woman for refusing to be searched using a sniffer dog.—INTERNET



An American soldier and two civilians were killed on Monday after a US Army patrol was attacked in the flashpoint Iraqi town of Fallujah. A US military spokeswoman said a roadside bomb exploded as the patrol was driving past before troops came under fire. Witnesses said two civilians were killed and five people, including a woman and a child, were wounded in the crossfire. —INTERNET

Iraq guerillas renew attacks in Fallujah

FALLUJAH, 22 Oct—Assailants ambushed an American foot patrol just outside Fallujah at midday Monday in the second day of attacks in this anti-US hotbed west of Baghdad. The Americans then raided a nearby mosque in apparent search for the attackers, and detained three Iraqis.

No US casualties were reported immediately, but two civilian trucks were damaged, one left dangling over a bridge at the scene, apparently from what witnesses said was a rocket-propelled grenade strike. It could not be learned immediately whether any Iraqis were injured. No damage to US vehicles could be seen.

The attack occurred about 20 yards from the main bridge leading into Fallujah from Baghdad, 35 miles to the east, when about 30 soldiers on foot, accompanied by five Humvees, were on patrol along the highway.

This was the same general area where a US Army ammunition truck, part of a convoy, broke down on the main road Sunday morning and came under attack. That truck and possibly two other vehicles apparently were hit by rocket-propelled grenades. Dozens of Iraqi youths danced and cheered as the vehicles went up in flames.

After the truck was hit, US troops

withdrew, firing around themselves as they went and wounding five Iraqis, one of whom later died.

"I was fixing my car on the other side of the street, and Americans fired in a circular motion as they tried to leave," said Thaeir Ibrahim, 30, one of the wounded Iraqis. The US command said there were no American casualties in Sunday's attack.

In another development Sunday, Iraq's interim leader called for an immediate mobilization of the old Iraqi army to help the harried Americans.

The United States would "speed the process of relieving the burden on its troops" by recalling the disbanded Iraqi military, said Iyad Allawi, current president of the Iraqi Governing Council. The idea got a cool reception from Baghdad's US-led occupation authorities.

"I don't think there's a vast swath

of people out there who want to serve in the Iraqi army," said a well-placed official of the occupation authority, speaking on condition of anonymity. The Americans are slowly rebuilding a new Iraqi army, having trained only a 700-man battalion thus far.

Attackers killed two US soldiers and wounded a third in a clash outside the northern city of Kirkuk late Saturday. The deaths in Kirkuk brought to 103 the number of Americans killed by hostile fire since President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat on May 1. A total 338 Americans have died since the March 20 invasion of Iraq, 217 of them in combat.

In the attack near Kirkuk, 160 miles north of Baghdad, an American mounted patrol was ambushed by rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire, said Maj. Josslyn Aberle, 4th Infantry Division spokeswoman.

Internet



Jordan reiterates importance of Iraq's independence

AMMAN, 22 Oct—Jordan on Saturday reiterated the importance of enabling Iraqis to run their own affairs and rebuild their national institutions.

Mohammed Halayka, Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Administrative Development, made the remarks while inaugurating a seminar organized by a UN foundation on the UN role in the field of Iraq's rebuilding.

The main problem is "enabling the Iraqis to run their own affairs by themselves," Halayka said.

He expressed his hope that "security situation in Iraq would improve" and Iraq could regain its position on the world economic and political map. The United Nations should play an important role in helping rebuild Iraq and offer humanitarian aid to Iraqis, he stressed.

Halayka's remarks came two days after the UN Security Council adopted by a unanimous vote a US-sponsored draft resolution, calling for the formation of a multinational force for peacekeeping purposes in Iraq.—MNA/Xinhua



Government workers refusing to be searched by US forces hold a protest outside Iraq's Ministry of Oil complex in Baghdad, on 21 October, 2003. US soldiers fired above the heads of thousands of Iraqi government workers protesting on Tuesday after hearing that the Americans had detained a woman for refusing to be searched using a sniffer dog. — INTERNET

A day in Iraq, 43 attacks on US

BAGHDAD, 22 Oct—Assailants ambushed a US Army foot patrol just outside Fallujah at midday Monday, killing one American and wounding five others in the second day of attacks in this anti-US hotbed west of Baghdad, the American command reported.

The patrol, from the 82nd Airborne Division, was first hit by an exploding homemade bomb, and then by small-arms fire, the military said. American troops then raided a nearby mosque in an apparent search for the attackers and detained three Iraqis.

It could not be learned immediately whether there were any Iraqi casualties, although two civilian trucks were damaged in the action, including one left dangling on a bridge, apparently from what witnesses said was a rocket-propelled grenade strike.

The attack occurred about 20 yards from the main bridge leading into Fallujah from Baghdad, 35 miles to the east, when about 30 soldiers on foot, accompanied by five Humvees, were on patrol along the highway.

This was the same general area where a US Army ammunition truck, part of a convoy, broke down on the main road Sunday and came under attack. That truck and possibly two other vehicles apparently were hit by rocket-propelled grenades. Dozens of Iraqi youths danced and cheered as the vehicles went up in flames.

It was one of 43 attacks on Americans all over Iraq on Monday, reports CBS News Correspondent Kimberly Dozier.

The soldier killed Monday was the 339th American to die in Iraq, the 218th to perish in combat. Since May 1, when President Bush declared an end to major combat, 104 US soldiers have been killed by hostile action.

Internet

Bush's popularity among older voters slips

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct — US President George W. Bush's support among older voters has dropped substantially in recent months, a front-paged report in *The New York Times* said Sunday.

Bush's popularity has declined over all since early summer, and some recent polls showed that he lost more ground among voters of 65 and older than he did among younger Americans, the report said, quoting political strategists and analysts.

Older voters are particularly important, according to politicians, because they are much more likely to vote than younger people and because they are heavily concentrated in states that are often presidential battlegrounds, like Florida and Pennsylvania.

A *New York Times*/CBS News poll this month showed Bush has a 41 per cent approval rating among the 65-and-older voters, his lowest among any age group, down from 44 per cent in July and 63 per cent in May. Similar trends were reported in other polls.

Analysts in both the Republican and the Democratic parties cited the economy, the stock market and the situation in Iraq as major factors for the slippage, along with more traditional concerns for older Americans like Medicare and the cost of prescription drugs.

"With low interest rates and a sluggish economy, they're the group that's probably harmed the most. They are not getting the rate of return they would have expected with the savings they have," said Representative Robert T. Matsui, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.—MNA/Xinhua

339 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Oct—As of Monday, on 20 October, 339 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence.

The British military has reported 50 deaths; Denmark, one; and Ukraine, one. On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 200 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defence Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 1,590 US service

members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to US Central Command. Non-hostile injured numbered 337. The latest deaths reported by US Central Command: One 82nd Airborne Division soldier was killed and six were wounded Monday when their patrol came under attack near Fallujah.—Internet



Guerillas killed two American soldiers overnight and blew up a US ammunition truck yesterday as Iraq's Governing Council called for an end to "conspiracies" threatening stability. The US military said a patrol came under small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire late on Saturday near the northern oil city of Kirkuk. Two 4th Infantry Division soldiers were killed and one was wounded.—INTERNET

China's packing industry grows rapidly

BEIJING, 22 Oct — China's packing industry has expanded at an annual rate of 18 per cent in recent years, a national conference of the Chinese Packing Technologies Association (CPTA) heard Saturday in Beijing.

The output of packing products, such as plastic woven bags and metal barrels, was among the largest in the world, according to Han Jiazeng, deputy president of the association.

MNA/Xinhua

The duty defined by the national cause

Ketu Nila

Prime Minister of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt has already explained and declared the seven stages of the programme (roadmap) to build a future nation on 30 August 2003. They are:

- (1) - Reconvening of the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996.
- (2) - After the successful holding of the National Convention, step by step implementation of the process necessary for the emergence of a genuine and discipline-flourishing democratic system.
- (3) - Drafting of a new constitution in accordance with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention.
- (4) - Adoption of the constitution through national referendum.
- (5) - Holding of free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaws (Legislative bodies) according to the new constitution.
- (6) - Convening of Hluttaws attended by Hluttaw members in accordance with the new constitution.
- (7) - Building a modern, developed and democratic nation by the state leaders elected by the Hluttaw; and the government and other central organs formed by the Hluttaw.

The seven stages are also the roadmap in practically and objectively implementing the political, economic and social sectors of the nation.

In other words, they are the work programme to serve the interest of the State and the people based on the changes that occurred in the past, occurring at present, and will occur in the future of the process of the national politics.

The weaknesses and advantages of the historical process in fulfilling the national needs and serving the national interest are the decisive factor for the existence of the political parties and organizations, the governments and the individual leaders. The existence of national road and the national policy serving the basic interest of all the peoples and their countries of the world is the objective condition that cannot be denied or ignored.

The political sector of Myanmar had already seen the fall of the political parties and their leaders due to upholding of the doctrines that veered from the national political road, and the extreme visions of the individual leaders to place self-importance in the fore and to set up individual power.

There have been changes in the national political trend in accord with the process of the history as follows:

- (1) The conviction and the slogan during the BIA and BDA eras of the independence struggle concerning the goals of priority were — Independence first; independence second; and independence third.
- (2) During the anti-Fascist struggle, the Anti-Fascist and People's Freedom League (AFPFL) was formed as the single national political front, with the participation of the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and all the patriotic forces including the Tatmadaw, with the objective — Independence first; democracy second, socialism third. The AFPFL government that took over the State power after independence was regained laid down and followed the original national policy.
- (3) In 1958, the ruling AFPFL party split into two factions — AFPFL (Clean) and AFPFL (Stable). When the

consequences of the split were threatening the nation to face disintegration, Prime Minister U Nu of the ruling AFPFL party transferred the premiership duty to the then Commander-in-Chief at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting and handed over the State duties to the Caretaker Government. After taking into account of the then political forces and the then national situation, the Caretaker Government laid down the national political line — the community peace and the rule of law first; the flourishing of democracy second; and the building of a socialist economy third. It held the free and fair parliamentary democracy election in 1960, and transferred the State power to the winning party — the Pa-ha-sa — on 16 March that year.

- (4) The Pa-ha-sa was not able to lay down and practise the national policy. It was facing factional conflicts; the problem of declaring the State religion; the pro- and anti-demonstrations concerning the issue of the secession of states; the demands of some feudal lords and political parties upholding extreme racial views to allow Shan State to secede from the Union after associating with the SEATO. Because of the multi-problems the Pa-ha-sa was facing there surfaced the danger of losing independence and disintegration of the Union.
- (5) The Tatmadaw formed the Revolutionary Council and saved the nation from breaking up and losing independence on 2 March 1962. It laid down the national political programme to build a socialist society in the nation.
- (6) The Revolutionary Council transferred the State duties to the Burma Socialist Programme Party government in accord with the 1974 Constitution on 2 March 1974. The BSPP practised the national political programme of building a socialist society in the nation.
- (7) Because of the general weaknesses and the repercussions of the changes of the socialist countries of the world, the BSPP was not able to lead the nation any more. Thus, the Tatmadaw has to take over the State duties on 18 September 1988 due to an unavoidable situation. The Tatmadaw Government laid down and practised "Our Three Main National Causes" — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of the national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty — as the national policy.

The future democratic nation must be built in accord with the national policy of the present era and the constitution that has emerged guaranteeing the total democratic rights to all the national races.

Because the Tatmadaw took over the State duties on 18 September 1988 to restore the national situation that was facing deterioration in all sectors and to introduce a genuine discipline-flourishing democracy in the nation.

Soon after taking over of the State duties, the Tatmadaw government strove with might and main to ensure the rule of law, regional peace and secure and smooth transport, and to allow the private and the cooperative sectors in the task of ensuring adequate food, clothing and shelter conditions and to hold the multi-party democracy general election.

(To be continued)
(Translation: TMT)
Myanma Alin: 9-10-2003

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

အရလိုက်ဝက်သက်ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးနှံခြင်း
၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ အောက်တိုဘာလ (၁၉) ရက်မှ (၂၆) ရက်အထိ
(ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း၊ ဧရာဝတီတိုင်း၊ ချင်းပြည်နယ်နှင့်
ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်အတွင်းရှိ မြို့နယ်များအားလုံးတွင်
တစ်ချိန်တည်း တစ်ပြိုင်တည်း ထိုးနှံပေးပါမည်။)
အသက် (၉)လမှ (၅)နှစ်အတွင်းရှိ
ကလေးငယ်များအားလုံး
နီးစပ်ရာ ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုး ခရုပုံများသို့
ပျောက်မကွက် အရောက်လာကြပါ
ကလေးတစ်ဦးလျှင် တစ်ခါသုံး ဆေးထိုးအပ်ဆေးထိုးဖြင့်
တစ်စုံစီဖြင့် ကာကွယ်ဆေး အခမဲ့ထိုးနှံပေးပါမည်။

အဓိကသတင်းအချက်အလက်များ

- ◆ ဝက်သက်ရောဂါသည် ကူးစက်မြန်ရောဂါဖြစ်ပြီး ကလေး
မြောက်မြားစွာ သေဆုံးနိုင်ပါသည်။
- ◆ ဝက်သက်ရောဂါမဖြစ်ပွားအောင် ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးပေးခြင်း
ဖြင့် ကာကွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။
- ◆ အသက် (၉)လမှ (၅)နှစ်အတွင်း ကလေးများအားလုံး
ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးပြီးသည့်ဖြစ်စေ၊ မထိုးနှံရသေးသည့်ဖြစ်စေ
ဝက်သက်ကာကွယ်ဆေး လာရောက်ထိုးနှံရမည်။
- ◆ ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးခြင်းဖြင့် ကလေးများအား မည်သည့်
အန္တရာယ်မျှ မရှိပါ။

Annan welcomes Iran's decision to allow N-inspections

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Oct — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Tuesday welcomed reports that Iran would allow UN inspectors unrestricted access to its nuclear facilities.

A spokesperson for the Secretary-General said that the UN chief "welcomes the declaration agreed in Teheran today by the Iranian Government and visiting EU Foreign Ministers regarding the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

He encourages the Iranian authorities to further cooperate with the Interna-

tional Atomic Energy Agency to resolve all outstanding issues with the Agency".

According to news re-

ports from Teheran, Iranian officials had told foreign ministers from France, Germany and Britain that it would suspend uranium en-

richment and allow unrestricted access for inspectors from the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog.

MNA/Xinhua



THE SIXTEENTH ASEAN SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICIALS MEETING (STOM)
THE SECOND ASEAN+CHINA SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICIALS MEETING (STOM+CHINA)
THE SECOND ASEAN+JAPAN SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICIALS MEETING (STOM+JAPAN)

ATM RETREAT

THE NINTH ASEAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM)

THE SECOND ASEAN+CHINA TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM+CHINA)

THE FIRST ASEAN+JAPAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM+JAPAN)

20-25 OCTOBER 2003

YANGON, MYANMAR

Representatives of Bagan...

(from page 1)

gifts to the hosts. The representatives visited the pagodas in Bagan region.

Putting up at Thiripissaya Ward in NyaungU Township, altogether 112 representatives from Magway Division paid a visit to the pagodas in the region and contributed voluntary services and made cash donations.

USDA CEC Member U Soe Tha also visited the representatives from Magway Division at Thiripissaya Ward and cordially greeted the hosts and presented gifts to them.

The representatives from Mandalay Division lodged at Ward 5 in NyaungU. USDA Secretariat member U Aung Thuang cordially met the hosts at Ward 5 and presented gifts to them. The representatives carried out sanitation work at the Shwezigon Pagoda in the town and made cash donations.

A total of 100 representatives from Mon State put up

at Ward 6 and visited the pagodas in Bagan and donated cash to them.

Altogether 101 representatives from Rakhine State put up at Kyansitha Ward and visited the pagodas and cultural heritage. USDA CEC Member Brig-Gen Khin Maung visited the house where the representa-

tives were put up and presented gifts to the hosts. Temporarily staying at Wetkyi-inn and Taungphi villages in NyaungU Township, 254 representatives

from Yangon Division carried out community health care and social services for the people. They donated over 800 copies of different kinds of publication to the libraries of the villages.

Altogether 100 representatives from Shan State (South), 109 from Shan State (North) and 54 from Shan

operation with the local populace. In the evening, they visited the pagodas and made cash donations there. A total of 105 representatives from Ayeyawady Division lodged at Myinkapa Village in NyaungU Township and performed health care services for the children, social and educational services in the village. They presented souvenirs to the

hosts.

Myawady TV Broadcasting Unit entertained the representatives with Shumawa Anyeint, the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise of the Ministry of Information with the films titled "Kaung-kin-htet-ka-pan-ta-pwint" and "Pan-ta-pwint-phan-sin-chin" and documentary on 18 October evening, "Achit-komway-phwar-chin" and

"Chit-chin-ei-acha-meh-nike" and documentary on 19 October and "Hna-lon-hla-lu-maik" and "Tha-mee-maik" and documentary on 20 October.

The Myanmar Radio and Television and the MRTV-3 under the Ministry of Information held interview programmes with the representatives and local residents. — MNA



Secretariat member of USDA (Central) Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets people from Thantsinkyai village, NyaungU township, and representatives from Sagaing Division. — MNA



A close relationship between local people and representatives of national races. — MNA



A close relationship between local people and representatives of national races. — MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for India

YANGON, 22 Oct — Myanmar delegation led by U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs left here this morning for New Delhi to attend the Foreign Office Consultation to be held at the Ministry of

External Affairs of India.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Directors-General from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Ambassador of the Embassy of

India.

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win was accompanied by Deputy Director-General U Nyan Lynn and Director U Ye Myint of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA



Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and party being seen off at the airport. — MNA

Tong Tah Trade Fair to be held

YANGON, 22 Oct — With the permission of the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair 2003 will be held grandly at the Yangon Trade Centre on Pazundaung Street here from 26 to 30 November.

On sale at the trade fair will be various kinds of textile, cosmetics, plastic ware, foodstuff, electric and electronic appliances, household utensils, stationery, machines, sport gear and other materials.

MNA

Blood bags donated to YGH

YANGON, 22 Oct — Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) yesterday contributed 1,000

blood bags worth K 3 million to Yangon General Hospital. Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr Teik

Wan accepted the bags and presented certificates of honour to Ms Sook Hee Baek of KOICA. — MNA



Medical Superintendent Dr Teik Wan accepts 1,000 units of blood bags worth K 3 million donated by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to the Yangon General Hospital. — MNA

Educational talks on IT launched in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 22 Oct — Under the joint cooperation of the Myanmar Computer Federation and the CICC of Japan, the Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts' Association launched a mobile programme for educational talks on IT at eight places in six townships of Ayeyawady Division on 21 October, and the programme will go on until 27 October.

Officials from computer associations led by Chairman of MCF U Thein Oo will give talks at six high schools and two education

colleges in Danubyu, Hinthada, Yekyi, Myaungmya, Patheingyi and Chaungtha townships in Ayeyawady Division.

Practical demonstration will be given on the application of computer networking systems in education, health, social and economic fields.

Arrangements have been made for students, teachers and computer enthusiasts to explore the Internet. Small computer dictionaries will be presented to every student as well as teacher who attends the talk shows. And

wellwishers — Myanmar Computer Co (MCC), Knowledge Management & Dedication C (KMD), Computer Technical Team (CTT), Geocomp Myanmar Co, Myanmar Compu Mart Co, Queen Star Co, Lucky Bird Co, and Myanmar Millennium Group (MMG) — will provide necessary equipment for installation of the Network to the six high schools and the two education colleges. Moreover, Soft Guide Co Ltd will also donate CDs on nine-grader biology and chemistry. — MNA

Blood Donors Day to be observed

YANGON, 22 Oct — The ceremony to observe the 27th Blood Donors Day will be held here in December.

The blood donors (50 times and above) and the blood donors who won medals for outstanding performance in social fields class I, II or III on 4 January 2003, may enlist together with blood donation certificates and national registration cards at the Central National Blood Bank of Yangon General Hospital from 9 am to 3.30 pm from 21 October to 21 November. — MNA

Commerce Minister meets guests

YANGON, 22 Oct — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyai Sone received Mr Jimmy Teo of JB Resources Pte Ltd, Singapore, and party this afternoon.

MOGE holds coord meeting

YANGON, 22 Oct — The Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy held its third four-monthly work coordination meeting for the 2003-2004 fiscal year at the meeting hall of the ministry on Pyay Road yesterday morning.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi spoke on the occasion.

Next, the minister heard progress reports on exploitation of crude oil and natural gas and gave instructions. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, Director-General of the Energy Planning Department U Soe Myint, Managing Director of the

MOGE U San Lwin and officials also gave additional reports.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions on more production of crude oil and natural gas for local sufficiency, fire prevention measures, and the minimizing of loss and wastage. He also laid down future plans. — MNA

Dinner hosted to participants ...

(from page 1)

who participated in the mass rallies to mark the successful conclusion of the mass rallies for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State, and spoke words of thanks.

Present at the tea party were the USDA Coordinator, the secretary-general, secretaries, members of the cen-

tral executive committee of the USDA, the presiding chairmen of the mass rallies and members, representatives of social organizations, masters of ceremonies of the mass rallies, and outstanding youths of the new generation.

At the tea party, Lt-Gen Soe Win thanked those present for the successful conclusion of the mass rally

for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State in the Bagan Archaeological Zone and called for their active participation with full Union Spirit in the realization of the seven-point roadmap of the State in accord with the Bagan Declaration. Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially met with them. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi addresses the third four-monthly work coordination meeting of the MOGE for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. — ENERGY

Sports Minister arrives back

YANGON, 22 Oct — The Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, after attending the fifth civil sports festival of the People's Republic of China held at Chansa, Hunan Province, the PRC, from 18 to 22 October, arrived back here by air this afternoon.

The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister at the Prime Minister's Office U Ko Lay, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyunt, officials of the Ministry of Sports, members of panel of leading patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, Chinese Amba-

sador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and embassy staff and families.

Members of the delegation Joint-Secretary of MOC Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Than Zaw and member of MOC President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay also arrived back on the same flight. — MNA



Myanmar delegation led by Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint being welcomed at the airport. — NLM

Education Ministry offers Kathina robes

YANGON, 22 Oct — Ministry of Education on 20 October held Kathina robes offering ceremony at Sabbinu Monastery and consecrated the pagoda No 3129 at Bagan in Nyaung U Township.

The ministry also held the consecration ceremony of the Pagoda No 3129. At the robe offering ceremony, Minister for Education U Than Aung and officials offered robes to the monks. The minister and officials presented K 2.2 million donated by the ministry to the monks. At 11 am, the monks consecrated the pa-

goda. Next, the minister and officials offered robes and presented K 2.6 million to

the monks and K 1 million to the trust funds of the pagoda through an official. — MNA



Maha Janaka marionette contest continues

YANGON, 22 Oct — The marionette contest on Maha Janaka drama of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cul-

tural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyauing Street in Dagon

Township this evening.

The Maha Janaka Drama troupe of Sagaing Division took part in the contest with the accompaniment of U Sein Hla Myaing Saing troupe today.

It was attended by members of panel of patrons of the competitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn and wife, Vice-Chairman of the leading committee for holding the competitions Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Chairman of the work committee Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan, Commander of No 4 Military Region Col Yan Naing Oo, officials of the work committee and subcommittees, artists and fans.

Tawwin marionette troupe of Yangon Division will participate in the contest which will continue at the same venue tomorrow. — MNA



A contestant competes in the boys' singing contest (Dhammapuja song) at basic education level (aged 10-15) at the 11th MTCPAC. — MNA

Ma Eint Thara Thu of Yangon Division competes in the girls' piano contest (aged 15-20) at the 11th MTCPAC. — MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin watches artistes of Sagaing Division competing in the Maha Janaka Drama Contest. — MNA

ပန်းမန်သစ်ပင်
လေသန်းစင်၍
ဥယျာဉ်တောတန်း
စိတ်၍လန်း၏။

Ever-greening Lawkananda Sanctuary Park

Article: Ko Tin Hline (Meiktila)
Photos: Lawkananda Sanctuary Park



Star tortoises kept in the Lawkananda Sanctuary Park.

Bagan, a Myanmar ancient historical and cultural site, belongs to Anya region, an arid zone with lots of pagodas, stupas and caves. And it is also lush and green with woods and trees.

Under the reign of King Anawrahta, Bagan underwent affluence and prosperity. Moreover, there flourished Theravada Buddhism in Bagan. According to the stone inscriptions, it is learnt

that the agricultural sector was then successful. Bagan suffered deforestation because of using a lot of firewood cut from the forests of nearby areas.

The Head of State himself made field tours of the arid zone and gave special priority to preservation of forests as well as that of environment. Steps are under way for greening of the central Myanmar.

In line with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, plans were laid down and are being implemented to green such central zones as Sagaing Division, Mandalay Division and Magway Division.

The forest department has established 28 sanctuaries. The Lawkananda Sanctuary Park is among them and is located near Thiripissaya village in NyaungU District.

There are a variety of trees, flowering plants, and animals. The park is now the new one, and it had existed since Bagan era. The park was renovated and opened in 1999 by the forest department with the aim of creating a haven for wildlife, making it a recreation centre for the public and arousing the public awareness of the forest.

Teak, *pyingadole*, *padauk*, *thitya*, *ingyin* and other trees grow thickly in

the park that even the sunlight cannot penetrate them. Moreover, flowering plants are in full bloom. Star tortoises, endangered species, are also kept in the park. The brood of star tortoises are released to the area where they can live naturally so as to deter them from extinction.

To make the park look green and pleasant forever, arrangements have been made to grow more teak trees, mango trees, papaya plants, and other kinds of trees.

Lawkananda Sanctuary Park is the beauty of Bagan. Therefore, the park will no doubt attract not only locals but also tourists. And it will also be a great relief to all of those who pay a visit there.

Translation: KTY
Myanma Alin: 13-10-2003



Young students watch a crane in the Lawkananda Sanctuary Park.



Archway of the Lawkananda Sanctuary Park.

Heho Airport to facilitate the air transport sector

Article by Sein Shwe Hlaing
Photos by Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)



Runway of Heho Airport

Reading the news that Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence made a speech and unveiled the stone inscription of New Heho Airport of Shan State (South) at the opening ceremony on 12 October morning, I happened to remember interviewing in-charge of construction of the airport Monywa-native U Kyaw Zwa Myint of Asia World Co Ltd on my trip to Taunggyi, Loilem, Panglong, Namsang, Inlay pagoda festival, Heho,

Kengtung, Mongla, and Tachilek.

Heho Airport is the entrance to Shan State (South), its capital Taunggyi, and the mountainous touristy place of Inlay lake. Inlay region, situated between the two mountain ranges in Nyaungshwe Township, Taunggyi District, is composed of a large lake, 11 miles in length and 4 miles in breadth, and its surrounding areas complete with strange natural scenes and thriving vegetables plantations on

floating islands of the lake.

Thanks to the favourable climate, gardening is carried out on a large scale, and other handicraft industries such as goldsmith, silversmith, sculpture and textile are also the main enterprises of the region. Inlay longyi, Inlay shoulder bag, silverware and Buddha images are the famous products of the region.

It is also fascinating to see local people of the lake row their boat with the legs. All over the world, there

is no place like Inlay where boats are rowed with the legs. Heya Ywama floating market where shops are opened on boats is another attractive scene. Being a place that is fascinating the foreign tourists, Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda Festival of the lake-region is crowded with foreign tourists taking photos of its beautiful scenes.

Heho Airport facilitates the transport of the region complete with pleasant scenes, interesting cultural heritage, and customs of local national races.

Asia World Co Ltd started the upgrading tasks of the old airport on 27 August 2001, including extension of the 6,000-foot long runway into a 8,500-foot long one, widening of the breadth of the runway from 50 feet to 100 feet, and tarring the tarmac. A 720x300 Sq-feet apron for aircraft and a 300x50 Sq-feet airport building have also been constructed. Western part of Kyahon mountain that was included in the area of the airfield was also levelled, and the 9-foot long and 5,200-foot long entrance way to the airport was extended



The stone inscription

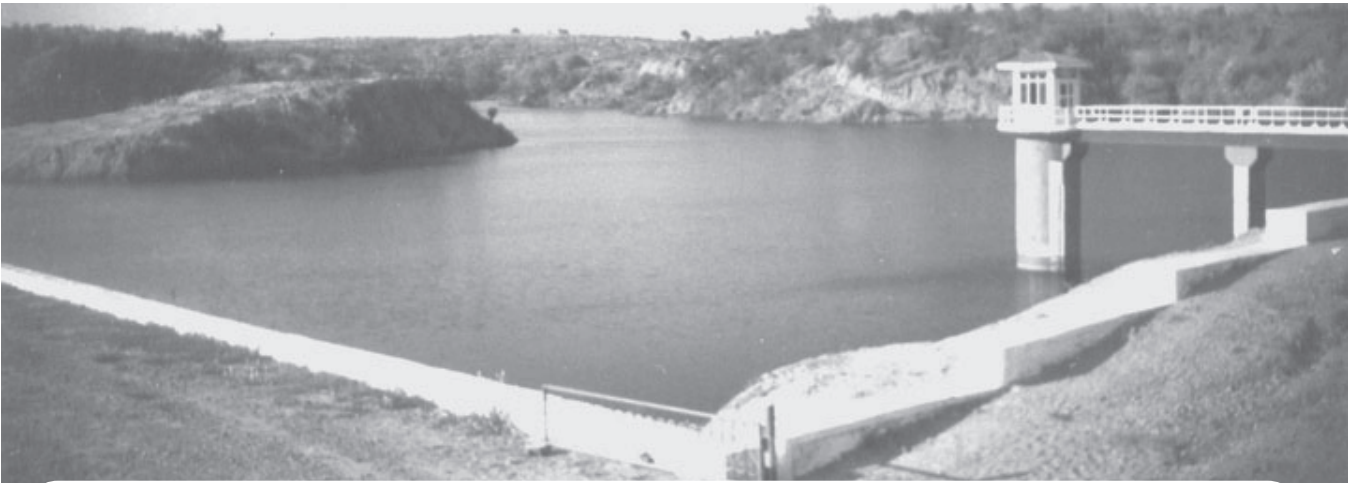
into a 24-foot wide two way lane. An archway with the breadth of 34 feet was also constructed. The upgrading tasks completed on 1 October 2003, allowing Forker F-28 aeroplanes to land at the airport. Plans are under way to further extend the runway into a 10,000x200 Sq-foot one that will allow large aircraft such as Boeing and Airbus.

The air transport sec-

tor of the country has gradually improved while the number of airport has risen from 21 in 1988 to 26 now. F-28s can land at eighteen of them. Increased number of airports that can operate F-28s including Heho airport is sure to facilitate the transport of tourist places like Inlay region.

(Translation: MWT)
Myanma Alin, 17-10-2003

Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country



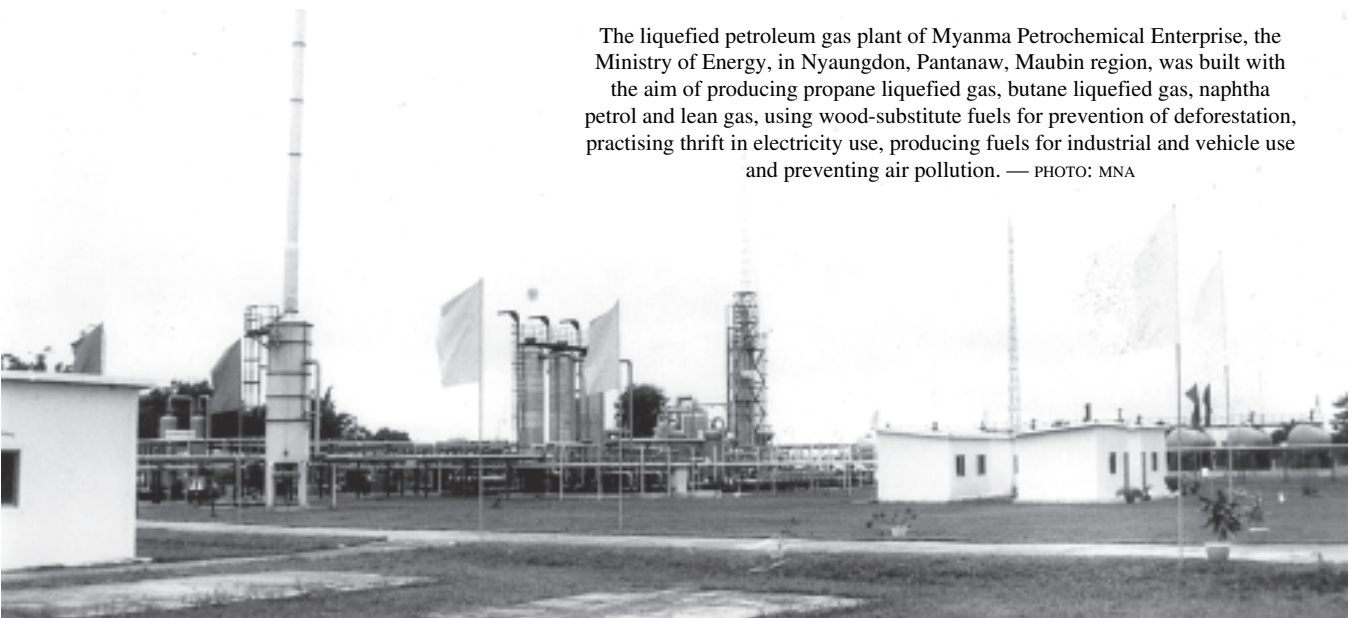
The 1,180 feet long Ngamin dam is situated on Ngamin Creek, 1.5 miles east of Ngamin Village in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division. It was opened on 18 July 1999. The facility was designed to irrigate 4,000 acres of farmland in Taungdwingyi Township.

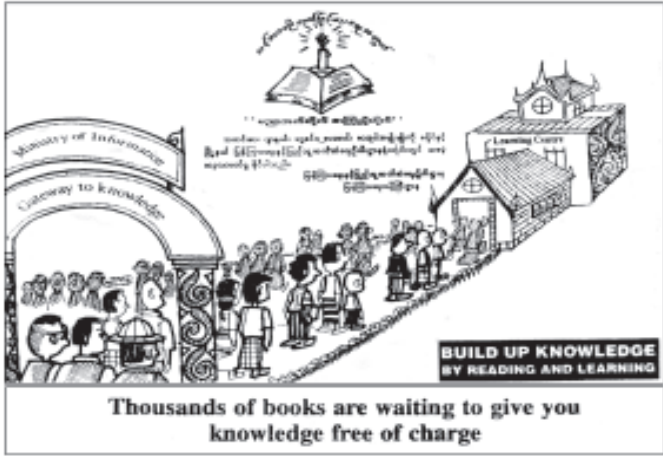
PHOTO: MYANMA ALIN



The 300-foot Langkho Bridge was commissioned into service near Dahseik village in Langkho Township, southern Shan State on 11 September 2003. It is linking Langkho and Mongpan Townships on Namhsan-Monai-Tahsan motorway.— PHOTO: MNA

The liquefied petroleum gas plant of Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy, in Nyaungdon, Pantanaw, Maubin region, was built with the aim of producing propane liquefied gas, butane liquefied gas, naphtha petrol and lean gas, using wood-substitute fuels for prevention of deforestation, practising thrift in electricity use, producing fuels for industrial and vehicle use and preventing air pollution. — PHOTO: MNA





ADVERTISEMENTS

Chinese, Mexican presidents pledge to further ties

BANGKOK, 22 Oct — Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Mexican counterpart, Vicente Fox, agreed in their talks on Monday to further develop the friendly ties between the two countries.

Their meeting took place here prior to the opening of the 11th Economic Leaders' Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Both leaders spoke highly of the progress in relations between the two countries and lauded the bilateral cooperation in a wide range of fields in recent years.

Hu said the Chinese Government attaches great importance to developing an all-round friendly cooperation with Mexico.

He called on the two sides to join hands in fully tapping the potential of bilateral cooperation, support the business circles of both countries and further bilateral ties.

Fox said China's rapid development constitutes a stabilizing force in the region and also provides Mexico with great opportunities for developing its domestic economy.

MNA/Xinhua

Blair rests after heart scare

LONDON, 22 Oct — British Prime Minister Tony Blair scaled back his workload on Monday after requiring five hours of hospital treatment including electric shocks to regulate heart palpitations over the weekend, in the first health scare of his premiership.

The 50-year-old Blair—who has had the toughest year of his six-year rule with the Iraq war and its difficult aftermath—was sending Foreign Minister Jack Straw in his place to report on a European Union meeting to Parliament.—*MNA/Reuters*



Study says sexual identity hard-wired by genetics

LOS ANGELES, 22 Oct — Sexual identity is wired into the genes, which discounts the concept that homosexuality and transgender sexuality are a choice, California researchers reported on Monday.

"Our findings may help answer an important question — why do we feel male or female?" Dr. Eric Vilain, a genetics professor at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine, said in a statement. "Sexual identity is rooted in every person's biology before birth and springs from a variation in our individual genome."

His team has identified 54 genes in mice that may explain why male and female brains look and function differently.

Since the 1970s, scientists have believed that estrogen and testosterone were wholly responsible for sexually organizing the brain. Recent evidence, however, indicates that hormones can-

not explain everything about the sexual differences between male and female brains.

Published in the latest edition of the journal *Molecular Brain Research*, the UCLA discovery may also offer physicians an improved tool for gender assignment of babies born with ambiguous genitalia.

Using two genetic testing methods, the researchers compared the production of genes in male and female brains in embryonic mice—long before the animals developed sex organs.

They found 54 genes produced in different amounts in male and female mouse brains, prior to hormonal influence. Eighteen of the genes

ပြည်တွင်းဖြစ်ကိုအားပေးပါ

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV "MAS SUTRA" VOY NO (045)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAS SUTRA Voy No (045) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-10-2003 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM
Phone : 256908.378316.376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV "FAREAST EXPRESS"
VOY NO (100)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "FAREAST EXPRESS" Voy No (100) which will arrive on 22-10-2003 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD JAPAN
Phone : 256914,256908,256924

Growth of 30% Chinese babies impaired by lack of breast feeding

BEIJING, 22 Oct — Thirty percent of Chinese women are unable to breast feed their babies for various reasons, which impairs the normal growth of their infants at the same percentage, said Ding Zongyi, a celebrated Chinese professor on baby medical science, on Monday.

Heavy workload and life pressures or physical conditions, including the lack of milk, were major reasons leading to young mothers' failure to breast feed, Ding said. Health experts regard mother's milk as the best and most ideal food for newborns because it can help babies improve their immune system.

Though Chinese women have a long tradition of breast

feeding, breast feeding rates in the country, however, dropped greatly over recent years. Many mothers mistakenly believed that using substitutions, such as various kinds of milk powder available on the market, was more nutritious, said experts.

Ding noted that the artificial-formula milk powder fell far short of lactalbumin,

MNA/Xinhua

US doctors say Egyptian twins improving

DALLAS, 22 Oct— One week after doctors separated two-year-old Egyptian twins conjoined at the crown of the head, one of the boys has been taken off a mechanical ventilator and their condition may soon be upgraded from critical to guarded, doctors said on Sunday.

Dr James Thomas, director of critical care at Children's Medical Centre in Dallas where Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim were separated last Sunday, said Mohamed was taken off a ventilator that had helped him to breathe and his brother may be removed from the apparatus on Monday.

"If Ahmed continues to improve, he may be ready to come off the ventilator tomorrow," Thomas said. "Once each twin is breathing on his own without respiratory distress, his condition may be upgraded from critical to guarded."

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မှု

China, US launch cooperation in fighting "AIDS"

BEIJING, 23 Oct — Public health authorities of China and the United States on Monday pledged to work more closely to fight AIDS in China.

Chinese and US health officials and disease control experts inaugurated a Beijing HIV/AIDS office of the Global AIDS Programme, initiated by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The China office would "garner greater national and local government commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS" and "strengthen Chinese efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention and care", said a spokesman for the office.

Describing HIV/AIDS a "very urgent public health issue" in China, US CDC director Julie Gerberding said the programme would provide information and expertise to assist China.

China's Health Ministry estimated that at least one million Chinese are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The annual rate of the increase of HIV carriers has averaged 30 per cent in recent years. Medical experts warned the number of HIV carriers could soar to 10 million by 2010 if no effective measures are taken to control

the disease now.

"The biggest challenge we're facing is how to prevent the disease from transmitting to the general public from high-risk people such as prostitutes," said Li Liming, director of the Chinese Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Vice-Health Minister Huang Jiefu said China would "honour its commitment to take transparent and open-minded measures" to address the problem, and to conduct swift international cooperation.

"China has learned many lessons from the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak, and one of them is international cooperation," he said.

The office will work with the Chinese CDC to strengthen national and local surveillance systems of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. It also aims to develop basic care and treatment models for China's vast rural areas.

MNA/Xinhua

Hu urges efforts boosting Asia-Pacific stability

BANGKOK, 22 Oct — Chinese President Hu Jintao urged here Monday that Pacific Rim countries take steps to boost stability so as to keep the region's momentum of rapid growth seen in past decades.

"The reason why this region has kept the high growth momentum for decades is because it has basically maintained an environment of peace and stability," the Chinese President said in an address delivered at the first-day session of the 11th Economic Leaders' Meeting of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

"We should enhance mutual trust and endeavour to make the Asia-Pacific Region stable," Hu said. "Stability is a prerequisite for development."

"We should cherish particularly this peaceful and stable situation that has not

come by easily," he added.

The Chinese President urged member economies to increase mutual trust on the basis of mutual respect, seek common ground while putting aside differences, and work to resolve whatever problems there might be through dialogue and consultation in a joint effort to maintain peace and stability in the region.

"The Asia-Pacific is a region of rich diversity. Countries are different in history, cultural tradition, political system and economic model, which gives the region its very vigour and vitality," Hu noted.

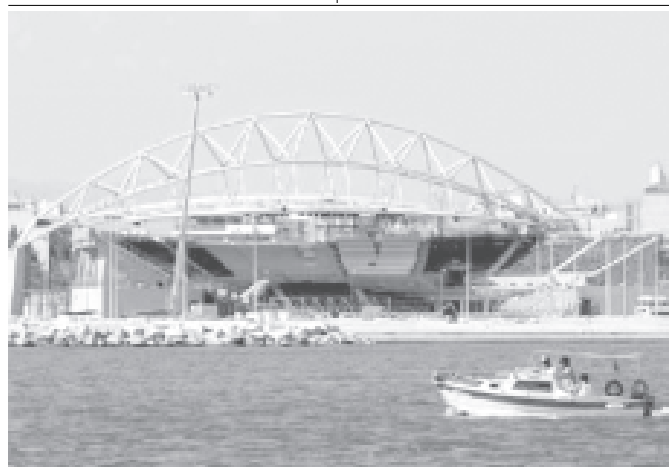
He also urged APEC

members to work together in the fight against terrorism and other non-traditional threats.

"For some time, terrorist attacks have gone on unabated in the Asia-Pacific Region, undermining the economic and social development of a number of countries," Hu said.

"We should respond to that with closer cooperation and stronger measures to address both the symptoms and root causes of the problem, stand rock firm against terrorism and create a more favourable environment for common development and common prosperity," the Chinese President added.

MNA/Xinhua



Less than one in a hundred Greeks thinks hosting the Olympic Games next year is a major national issue, a poll published in Greece's Kathimerini newspaper shows. A file photo shows the newly built Olympic beach volleyball stadium at Faliro coastal zone in Athens. —INTERNET

More than 80% of computers in China hit by viruses

TIJIAN, 22 Oct — Some 85 per cent of computers in China were affected by viruses in 2003, 1.59 percentage points higher than the level in 2002 and 25.57 percentage points higher than the 2001 level, according to a survey released here Monday.

The survey was conducted nationwide in the two months until June 10 by the public information network security supervision bureau of the Ministry of Public Security.

Virus infections this year caused losses to some 63 per cent of users of computers involved in the survey, a slight drop compared with the figure a year ago.

MNA/Xinhua

Uganda gets \$71m from Global Fund for "AIDS" medicine

KAMPALA, 22 Oct — Uganda has got 71.96 million US dollars from the Global Fund to buy anti-retrovirals for three years, reported local daily *The Monitor* on Monday.

Uganda is the biggest beneficiary from this third round of grants released by the Global Fund after a two-day meeting in Chiang Mai in Thailand.

US Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson said a total of 623 million dollars has been given out to 125 countries.

Thompson said that 60 per cent of the grants have been dedicated to HIV/AIDS, 23 per cent to malaria and 17 per cent to tuberculosis (TB).

Global Fund Executive Director Richard Feachem said the money will help increase the number of people on anti-retroviral therapy

(ART) by 200,000, as well as provide 18 million insecticide treatment mosquito nets, and treatment for 760,000 TB patients in the world.

Uganda is expected to use the money to scale up ART for its AIDS patients and the Ugandan Ministry of Health said the money would be used to buy anti-retroviral for three years.

Uganda has 150,000 people with AIDS in urgent need of the life-saving drugs.

Only 10 per cent of these have access to ART, but the government is completing plans to reach everyone who needs the drugs with free combinations. — MNA/Xinhua

Radio development forum opens in Beijing

BEIJING, 22 Oct — Over 150 people involved in the radio industry around the world gathered here Monday for the 2003 Radio Development Forum to discuss the future and development of the industry.

This year was set as "China Radio Development Year" by the State Administration of Radio, Film & Television of China (SARFT), and the two-day forum would provide impetus for mutual exchange, further cooperation and common development, said Hu Zhanfan, deputy director general of SARFT, at the opening ceremony of the forum.

Yang Bo, director-general of China National Radio (CNR), initiator and sponsor of the forum, said at the opening ceremony that the forum aimed to explore creative new ways of running China's radio industry

and offer an international platform for discussing radio development.

During the forum, participants from the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, the European Broadcasting Union, the United States, Singapore and Taiwan will exchange views on future trends of the radio industry, radio station operation, the building of brands and the promotion of new radio technologies.

Xu Guangchun, deputy head of the Publicity Department of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and also director of SARFT, attended the opening ceremony. — MNA/Xinhua

Britain launches security information service for business

LONDON, 22 Oct — British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) launched an initiative Monday aimed at making it more accessible for the British businessmen at home and abroad to the information of security and political risks around the world.

In a Press release, the London-based organization said the service would help industry make the right decisions on anything from employee safety to limiting damage caused by terrorism.

Working closely with the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the FCO drew up the scheme to meet the needs of industry for up-to-date information on countries with which they do business.

British Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Af-

fairs Mike O'Brien said that "our staff based around the world are on the end of a phone or contactable by e-mail to help British business who need information about overseas security and political risk".

Digby Jones, director-general of the CBI, said the initiative would make it easier for businesses operating around the world.

A steering group comprising officials from the FCO, the CBI and Trade Partners

UK, a joint operation of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Foreign Office, will work alongside business representatives, ensuring the government remains responsive to the needs of companies who work abroad, he said.

Security is now an integral part of everyday business life for the largest companies and this trend is spreading to smaller ones and must continue quickly, Digby said.

MNA/Xinhua

Russian spacecraft docks with "ISS"

Moscow, 22 Oct — The Russian *Soyuz TMA-3* spacecraft carrying a three-member crew docked with the *International Space Station* (ISS) on Monday, two days after blasting off from the Russian Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

The docking took place automatically as planned at 11:16 a.m. Moscow time (0716 GMT), the *ITAR-TASS* news agency reported. Aboard the spacecraft are Russian astronaut Alexander Kaleri, NASA astronaut Michael Foale and Spanish astronaut Pedro Duque from the European Space Agency (ESA).

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Ferguson lands two-match ban and fine

LONDON, 22 Oct— Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson was banned from the touchline for two matches and fined 10,000 pounds (16,770 dollars) by the English Football Association on Monday for abusing a match official.

The punishment related to comments directed at the fourth official by Ferguson during the English champions' 2-1 Premier League win at Newcastle United on August 23.

The FA found Ferguson guilty of improper conduct and using insulting language at a lengthy disciplinary hearing attended by Ferguson in Manchester on Monday.

The start date of the ban is still to be confirmed, the FA said in a statement.

Ferguson was sent from the dugout by referee Uriah Rennie after complaining that a penalty was not awarded after a challenge by Newcastle's Andy O'Brien on United winger Ryan Giggs during the game at St James' Park.

The 61-year-old Scot appeared to swear at fourth official Jeff Winter on his way from the dugout. Ferguson watched the rest of the match from Newcastle manager Bobby Robson's office.

MNA/Reuters

Zaccheroni ready to turn Inter Milan around

ROME, 22 Oct— Alberto Zaccheroni has spoken of his enthusiasm for his new job after replacing Hector Cuper as coach of Inter Milan at the weekend.

"I'm perfectly in tune with the environment at the club and with the ambitions of (Inter president Massimo) Moratti," Zaccheroni was quoted as saying in *La Gazzetta dello Sport* on Monday.

"I've got a competitive squad at my disposal. It was an offer I couldn't refuse."

Argentine Cuper was sacked on Sunday, the day after a 2-2 draw with Brescia left Inter in eighth place in Serie A, seven points behind leaders Juventus.

His 50-year-old successor, known in Italy as "Zac", had been out of work since being sacked by Lazio at the end of the 2001-2002 season and can expect a cool reception from Inter fans.

In the 1998-99 season he enjoyed his greatest success when he steered Inter's city rivals AC Milan to the Serie A title.

Three years later he masterminded Inter's most painful defeat of recent years

when, as coach of Lazio, he beat Hector Cuper's side 4-2 on the last day of the 2001-2002 season to dash Inter's hopes of winning their first scudetto since 1989.

It was a blow from which Cuper never recovered and that opened a permanent inquest into his leadership of the club, especially following the bitter defection of World Footballer of the Year Ronaldo to Real Madrid at the start of the following season.

The Brazilian striker cited personal differences with Cuper as the main reason for his departure.

After Inter's 3-1 defeat in the Milan derby two weeks ago, Zaccheroni's name circulated in Italy's sports Press as a possible successor to Cuper, though Lazio coach Roberto Mancini was rumoured to be Moratti's preferred choice.

MNA/Reuters



Woo Sung Yong (C) of South Korea fights for the ball against Vietnam's Le Quoc Vuong (R), Phan Van Tal Em (L), and Nguyen Huu Thang (back L) during their countries' Asia Cup 2004 qualifying match, on 19 October 2003 in Muscat.

Vietnam won 1-0. INTERNET

Vietnam beat South Korea in Cup qualifier

TOKYO, 22 Oct— Striker Pham Van Quyen snatched a 76th-minute winner as Vietnam stunned South Korea 1-0 in an Asian Cup qualifier.

The result of Sunday's game leaves World Cup semi-finalists South Korea on top of Group E on goal difference from Oman, who thrashed Nepal 6-0 in Muscat.

South Korea, missing several overseas-based players for the qualifying competition, have nine points from four games, the same as Oman. The top two teams advance to the 2004 Asian Cup in China. South Korea play hosts Oman on Tuesday.

MNA/Reuters

Newcastle striker Bellamy to have knee surgery

LONDON, 22 Oct— Newcastle United's Welsh international striker Craig Bellamy has flown to the United States to have surgery on his left knee in the next 24 hours, the Premier League club said on Monday.

Bellamy has been suffering with tendonitis in his left knee for several weeks and previously had the same problem in his right knee.

A statement from Newcastle United said: "The problem flared up again during his last international duty and it was felt that following further consultation surgery would be the best option for Craig."

Bellamy will be treated by Colorado surgeon Richard Steadman, who has already helped several players with knee problems.

Newcastle had hoped that by resting the knee and following a special exercise programme Bellamy's injury would settle down.

He played the full 90 minutes in Wales' final Euro 2004 group qualifier against Serbia and Montenegro nine days ago. But United manager Bobby Robson has not pinned any blame on Wales manager Mark Hughes, after the striker was forced to miss his club's 1-0 win at northeast rivals Middlesbrough.

"I have spoken to Mark Hughes at length on Friday and I have no problems with the Welsh FA whatsoever because they have a competent medical staff," said Robson.

Wales face a two-legged Euro 2004 playoff against Russia next month with the first away leg on November 15. The Newcastle statement added that Bellamy will face a strict fitness regime after the operation.

MNA/Reuters

South American soccer round-up

RIO DE JANEIRO, 22 Oct— Uruguay's Clausura championship leaders Penarol lost their unbeaten record to lowly Tacuarembó thanks to goals from Roberto Ravaglia and Horacio Erpen. Atletico Nacional booked a place in the semi-finals phase of the Colombian championship by edging out Tulua in a closely-fought 1-0 win but the football calendar was suspended in Bolivia due to social and political upheavals.

URUGUAY

Second-half goals from Ravaglia and Argentine Erpen gave Tacuarembó a surprise 2-0 win over Clausura leaders Penarol.

Penarol were constantly troubled by the fast-moving interchanges between the pair.

Miramar Misiones, who trail Penarol by seven points, missed a chance to close the gap further by drawing 2-2 at home to Cerro.

Central Espanol's 2-1 home win over Juventud pushed the club into third place, level on 19 points with Miramar Misiones.

Apertura champions Nacional continued their indifferent run of form, dropping points in their 2-2 home draw with Defensor Sporting and slipping down to fourth place on 18 points.

COLOMBIA

Freddy Grisales and Faustino Asprilla were the two central figures for Atletico Nacional who edged out Tulua 1-0 thanks to a

penalty by Robinson Munoz.

Asprilla was in inspired form, and Grisales was equally effective for Nacional as the team secured their place in the semi-final phase of the Colombian championship. Carlos Hernandez gave away the penalty after handling the ball in the Tulua area.

Clinical finishing helped Tolima to a 3-0 win over Millionarios, putting the club within reach of a semi-final place. Arley Dinas opened the scoring with a header and Millionarios' fate was sealed when central defender Oscar Julian Ruiz was dismissed for dissent.

CHILE

Universidad de Chile wiped out a 2-0 deficit to draw with Universidad de Concepcion in a match where both sides had a player sent off. Concepcion's playmaker Jorge Valdivia was sent off after seven minutes when he retaliated to Luis Musri's lunging challenge by elbowing the Universidad de Chile

captain in the face.

The blow left Musri with a bloodied face, but Valdivia played down the incident.

"There may have been contact, but I never meant to hurt Musri. It was part and parcel of the game and I think the officials were too strict with us," he said.

Concepcion reacted by going on the attack and were rewarded when Ricardo Viveros was tripped in the box. Fernando Solis converted the penalty on 17 minutes and Ricardo Viveros added a second goal on the stroke of halftime.

Ezequiel Amaya reduced the deficit with a powerful shot on 67 minutes, but the Argentine then received a red card for an incident off the ball. Fernando Pierucci headed the equalizer. Colo Colo consolidated their overall lead in the Clausura championship, with an emphatic 4-0 win over Temuco.

BOLIVIA

Bolivian football authorities said that six Clausura

championship games that should have been played would be rescheduled for next week.

The most recent Clausura games took place in the country on October 12, although a match between The Strongest and Oriente was postponed on that date due to unrest in La Paz.

The Strongest's mid-week Libertadores Cup encounter with Sao Paulo was also postponed.

PERU

Second-placed Alianza Atletico missed a chance to move top of the Clausura championship race by drawing 1-1 at home to Sporting Cristal.

Midfield substitute Alex Becerra gave Alianza Atletico the lead on 55 minutes, but Luis Bonnet scored a last-minute penalty for the third-placed Brewers. Leaders Alianza Lima could only manage a 1-1 draw at Melgar but remain ahead of Alianza Atletico on goal difference.—MNA/Reuters



Alex, left, of the Brazil's Santos team, and Olsen, of the Peru's Cienciano, fight for the ball, during a match for the 2003 South American Cup, in Santos, Brazil, on 16 October, 2003.

INTERNET

MRTV-3

23-10-2003 (Thursday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

9:00	Signature Tune Greetings
9:02	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06	Making Myanmar Marionette
9:10	Headline News
9:12	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Saute prawn with Asparagus)
9:15	National News
9:20	Myanmar Performing Arts Competitions (Short Drum)
9:22	Cultural Museum (Kengtung)
9:30	National news
9:35	Travelogue (Taunggyi)
9:40	Song "Cherry Present"
9:45	National News
9:50	Pa-na-ma Aae Khan Gita Than (Welcom- ing Music a Curtain

raiser)
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
"Come and See
Myanmar"

23-10-2003 (Thursday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

15:30	Signature Tune Greetings
15:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Pano- rama & Myanma Sen- timent"
15:36	Making Myanmar Marionette
15:40	Headline News
15:42	Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes (Saute prawn with Asparagus)
15:45	National News
15:50	Myanmar Performing Arts Competitions (Short Drum)
15:52	Cultural Museum (Kengtung)
16:00	National News
16:05	Travelogue (Taunggyi)
16:10	Song "Cherry Present"

16:15 **National News**
16:20 Pa-na-ma Aae Khan
Gita Than (Welcoming
Music a Curtain raiser)
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights
"Mingalabar"
(K Ja Nu)

16:30 **National News**
16:35 Electronic Library
(Myin Mu)
16:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Traditional Moun
bine daunt"

16:45 **National News**
16:50 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake (Part-
II)

16:55 Kachin Dance
17:00 **National News**
17:05 Water Hyacinth Furni-
ture

17:10 Songs "Love Boat"
17:15 **National News**
17:20 Myanmar Traditional
Snacks

17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)
19:30 Signature Tune

Greetings
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
19:36 Myaing Hay Wun El-
ephant Camp

19:40 **Headline News**
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Prawn Salad"

19:45 **National News**
19:50 Road to Mingun
19:55 Art of Carving On
Fruits

20:00 **National News**
20:10 Song "Pleasant Tar
Wa, The Beauty of Oak
Thar"

20:12 Ancient City Mrauk U
20:15 **National News**
20:20 Ramayana in Myanmar
(Part-III) (RAAMA
Slays the Demons)

20:25 Song "Glory of
Myanmar"
20:30 **National News**
20:35 Spirulina (or) Blue Al-
gae

20:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Cucumber Salad"

20:45 **National News**
20:50 Ah Mae Ywa Litera-
ture Nursery
20:55 Kayan Dance

21:00 **National News**

21:05 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake (Part-I)
21:10 Song "A Compassion-
ate Love Boat"

21:15 **National News**
21:20 Lobsters Trading
21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Myanma Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"

21:36 Making Myanmar
Marionette

21:40 **Headline News**
21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes (Saute prawn
with Asparagus)

21:45 **National News**
21:50 Myanmar Performing
Arts Competitions
(Short Drum)

21:52 Cultural Museum
(Kengtung)

22:00 **National News**
22:05 Travelogue (Taunggyi)
22:10 Song "Cherry Present"

22:15 **National News**
22:20 Pa-na-ma Aae Khan

Gita Than (Welcoming
music a curtain raiser)
22:25 Song on screen
"Ma Ma Moe"

22:30 **National News**
22:35 Electronic Library
(Myin Mu)

22:40 Myanmar Cuisine
"Traditional Moun
bine daunt"

22:45 **National News**
22:50 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake (Part-
II)

22:55 Kachin Dance
23:00 **National News**
23:05 Water Hyacinth Furni-
ture

23:10 Song "Love Boat"
23:15 **National News**
23:20 Myanmar Traditional
Snacks

23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

ကောသလအကြိုင် (၁၁ ကြိမ်) ဖြန့်ဖြူးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အဝတ်၊ ပြင်ပ

ပြင်ပကုန်ပစ္စည်း ဆက်သွယ်မှု ပြင်ပ အစီအစဉ်များ

နေရာ	(အမျိုးသားပြုတ်တံ)		(အမျိုးသားစာတံရုံ)	(ကမ္ဘောဇစာတံရုံ)	(ပဒုမ္မာစာတံရုံ)
စဉ်	ရက်စွဲ	အဆို	အတီး/ဇာတ်သဘင်	အရေး	အတီး
၁၀။	၂၃-၁၀-၂၀၀၃ ကြာသပတေး နေ့.	ဓမ္မပူဇာတေး (နံနက်) (၁) အဆင်မြင့်(ကျား) အတီးဟောင်း/ ကာလပေါ် (နေ့လည်) (၂) အခြေခံ (၁၅-၂၀)(မ)	ဇနီး (၁) ပညာရှင် (ကျား+မ) (နံနက်) (၂) အခြေခံ (၁၀-၁၅) (မ) (နေ့လည်) ရုပ်သေးစာတံတော်ကြီး (ညဉ့်) ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းတော်ဝင် ရုပ်ရုံသဘင်အဖွဲ့.	အရေးသိချင်-မြိုင်ပွဲ (ကမ္ဘောဇစာတံရုံ) (၁) အခြေခံ (၁၅-၂၀)	အောင်း (၁) အဆင်မြင့် (ကျား+မ) (နံနက်) (၂) အခြေခံ (၁၅-၂၀) (ကျား) (နေ့လည်) (၃) အခြေခံ (၁၀-၁၅) (မ) (နေ့လည်)



View today:

Thursday, October 23

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးတင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်
ဘုရားပြုပြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံသ
မဟာဗုဒ္ဓက အဖွဲ့
အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်
အဘိဓမ္မာပရိယာဇ် အဘိဓမ္မာ
မဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မစာတံကတိဝိသုကဓရ
ဓမ္မာက္ခရာဂါရိက၊ အရာတော်တာပူဇွန်
ဝိဇ္ဇာသုဘိသင်္ခါ
ပရိတ်တရား တော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- Dance of national races

8:05 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am

- Dance variety

8:25 am

- လမ်းပြိုင်ရေလောင်းတံခံ

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Let's Go

10:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Songs to uphold
National Spirit

4:30 pm

- English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm

- ငယ်ပုစွန်ပုစွန် သူ့အသံ

5:00 pm

- အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
- ပထမနှစ် (သင်္ချာ၊ ဓါတုဗေဒ၊
ရူပဗေဒအသုံးပြုများ)
(သင်္ချာ)

5:15 pm

- Cute little dancers

5:30 pm

- မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား

5:40 pm

- Musical programme

5:50 pm

- "ဓမ္မမျိုးတော်ဓမ္မယံ"
ဒုက္ခဗျူဟာလင်၊ ဆောင်း၊ ဖြစ်သွန်း၊
စေး၊ (၁)မြန်မာ-သင်တင်

6:00 pm

- မူပိုင်ခွင့်သိသွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်

6:30 pm

- Evening news

7:00 pm

- Weather report

7:05 pm

- Milo success in soccer

7:10 pm

- နိုင်ငံအစိုးရသစ်တရားပြင်
စီမံကိန်းရေးဆွဲ

7:20 pm

- ဝက်သင်္ကေတပရောဂါရေး
ပိုင်ခွင့်ကုသဆောင်ရွက်ပေး

7:30 pm

- ရေလျှော့အားလျှော့စီမံကိန်း
(ရန်ကုန်မြို့နယ်မြောက်ပိုင်း၊ နယ်စပ်)

8:00 pm

- News

8:05 pm

- International news

8:15 pm

- Weather report

8:20 pm

- ၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ကောသလအကြိုင်
(၁၁ ကြိမ်) ဖြန့်ဖြူးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု
အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အဝတ်၊ ပြင်ပ

8:25 pm

- "မြန်မာ့စာတံပြောစကားအစဉ်"
(ဗိုလ်ကလေးတော်ဆောင်
စီမံကိန်းဆောင်)

8:30 pm

- The next day's
programme



Thursday, October 23

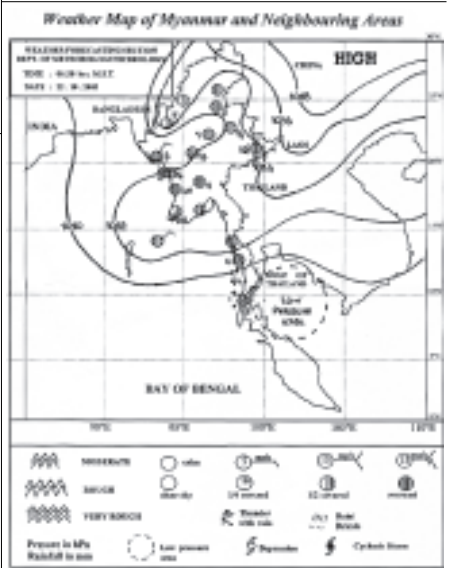
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music
- 8.50 am National news/
Slogan
- 9.00 am Music
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music
-Hello (Evanescence)
-The way she loves me
(Richard Marx)

- 9.00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
-Mrauk-U hotel by
Manager U Zaw Lin
Tun
- 9.10 pm Article/Music
- 9.20 pm Topics potpourri
-NASA launches new
infrared telescope
-Study finds AIDS
drugs after birth block
infection

- 9.30 pm Favourite songs
chosen by "Miss Nan
Long"
-I'm not a girl not yet
a woman (Britney
Spears)
-How deep is your
love (Bee Gees)
-Always (OTT)

- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL



WEATHER

Wednesday, 22 October, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin State, Yangon and Ayeyawady Division, rain or thunder-
showers have been widespread in Mandalay Division, isolated
in Kachin, Mon States, Magway Division and scattered in the
remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay and
Magway Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded
were Pymana (4.14) inches, Taunggyi (2.24) inches, Pakokku
(2.05) inches, Loi Kaw (1.49) inches and Shwebo (1.26) inches.
Maximum temperature on 21-10-2003 was 32.8°C (91°F).
Minimum temperature on 22-10-2003 was 22.5°C (72°F). Rela-
tive humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-10-2003 was 75%. Total
sunshine hours on 21-10-2003 was (4.4) hours approx. Rainfall
on 22-10-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and cen-
tral Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2202 mm (86.68
inches) at Yangon Airport, 2315 mm (91.14 inches) at Kaba-
Aye and 2381 mm (93.74 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum
wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest
at (18:30) hours MST on 21-10-2003.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in Andaman Sea, south
Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Special features: According to the observation at (06:30)hrs
MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over Gulf of Thailand
still persists and move westward slowly.

Forecast valid until evening of 23-10-2003: Rain or thun-
dershowers are likely to be widespread in Mon State, Tainthayi
Division, scattered in Shan State, Mandalay, Sagaing Divisions
and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with moderate to rough
seas are likely off and along Mon, Tainthayi Coast and Gulf
of Mottama. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-40)
mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar
waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of rain
or thundershowers are likely in Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for
23-10-2003:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. De-
gree of certainty is (60%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neigh-
bouring area for 23-10-2003:** Likelihood of isolated rain or
thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

YANGON, 22 Oct — The 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at respective venues for the 9th day today.

The competitions were attended by members of Panels of Patrons and Chairman of the leading committee for holding the competitions Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Vice-Chairman of the leading committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Chairman of the Work Committee for holding the competitions Commander of No-3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, departmental heads, officials of work committees and sub-committees, enthusiasts and tourists.

The song contest was held at the National Museum on Pyay road. Chairman of Panel of Judges Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Mya of MRTV, Secretary Assistant



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe watches the performance of Mandalay Division at the Myanmar orchestra competition (men). — MNA

Engineer Daw May Pyone Khine and work committee members made judgements on the performance of the contestants at the song contest.

At the professional level classic/modern song contest (women), a total of fourteen contestants competed with "shweledaing" song composed by Shwe Pyi Aye. At the basic education level religious song contest (aged 10-15, boys), a total of 17 contestants competed with Arsiya Saya song composed

by vocalist Thein Han Lay.

The higher education level religious song contest (boys) and basic education level classic/modern song contest (aged 15-20, girls) will be held at the National Museum tomorrow.

The competition of songs composed by the basic education level (aged 5-10) contestants were held at the Kambawza Theatre of the Fine Arts Department on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning. Songs entitled "Miba Saya Yothaybar"

composed by the nine contestants were competed with the accompaniment of artistes. Songs entitled "Pyinnnya Yeyint Pweletint" composed by the ten contestants of higher education level song-composing contest were competed with the accompaniment of artistes. Chairman of the Panel of Judges Bogalay U Tint Aung and members made judgements on the competitions.

A total of 11 contestants participated in the amateur level piano contest (male)

with Nyidaw Minnan song.

A total of two contestants participated in the amateur level piano contest (female) with Nyidaw Minnan song. A total of 8 contestants participated in the basic education level piano contest (aged 15-20, boys) with Taw Hnint Taungswa (Yodaya) song.

A total of four contestants participated in the basic education level piano contest (aged 15-20, girls) with "Moe" song.

Chairman of Panel of

Judges for piano contest Sandaya Chit Swe and members made judgements on the contests.

A total of 9 troupes from states and divisions participated in the professional level Saing contest (men).

A total of six contestants participated in the basic education level Saing contest (aged 15-20, boys).

Member of Panel of Judges U Sein Stin and members made judgements on the performance.

MNA



The ministers and deputy ministers from ASEAN nations being welcomed at the airport. — MNA

ASEAN Transport Ministers arrive

YANGON, 22 Oct — The ministers and the deputy ministers of Malaysia, Laos, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei and Vietnam and ASEAN Secretary-General arrived here to attend the 9th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting hosted by Myanmar from 23 to 25 October.

tober.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by ambassadors, military attaches and staff of the respective embassies, Chairman of reception and accommodation sub-committee Director-General of Road Transport Administra-

tion Department U Hla Thauung Myint and members. — MNA

Children of Tatmadawmen of Yangon Command vaccinated against measles

YANGON, 22 Oct — Under the aegis of the Maternal and Child Welfare Association of Yangon Command, the Tatmadawmen's children aged from nine months to five years were vaccinated against measles at the command this afternoon.

Present on the occasion

were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, senior military officers, President of the association Daw Swe Swe Oo and members, MCWA members, and Head of Dagon Township

Health Department Dr Ohnmar Thwin and members.

Dr Ohnmar Thwin reported on arrangements for giving the vaccine to 147 children. The commander viewed the children vaccinated against measles.

MNA

Mid-year Gems Emporium fetches over 15.2m euro

YANGON, 22 Oct — The Mid-year Gems Emporium 2003, which started from 17 October, was successfully concluded at 12.15 pm today. gems, jades and pearl lots were sold at the emporium through tender and competitive bidding systems.

A total of 348 jade lots

worth 6,827,110 Euro were sold from 17 to 19 October, 44 gem lots worth 8,218,435 Euro from 20 to 21 and 44 pearl lots worth 145,349 Euro today totalling 436 jade, gem and pearl lots worth 15,190,894 euro were sold.

The emporium fetched 15,221,255 Euro from the sale of jewellery, jades and gems

including jade sculptures worth 30,361 Euro which were sold at fixed price.

A total of 838 gem merchants—457 from 176 companies of nine countries and 381 national gem merchants from 146 companies at home—attended the emporium and bought the gems, jades and jewellery. — MNA

Gems trading to be extended

YANGON, 22 Oct — With the aim of raising national income by boosting gems trade, the Myanmar Gems Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines holds gems emporiums in March and October yearly by coordinating with local gems merchants.

Moreover, during the period when no gems emporium is held, MGE makes arrangements to sell and export uncut gems and jade of local gems merchants at

Gems Trading Centre opened at the MGE (Head Office) in coordination with the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, the Customs Department and other respective departments.

At present, measures are being taken by MGE to hold more gems emporiums and extend gems trading in Myanmar. The local merchants who takes interest in gems trade may contact the MGE (Head Office).

MNA



Local and foreign gems merchants buy lots of pearls sold through tender system at the Myanmar Mid-year Gems Emporium 2003. — MNA