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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

Performing Arts Competitions continue for third day on grand scale

YANGON, 15 Oct — The 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the designated places, here, the third day today.

Present on the occasions were members of the panel of patrons of Organizing Committee for the Performing Arts Competitions, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Member of the Panel of Patrons Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa,

Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan and members, officials of sub-committees, maestros and enthusiasts.

At 9 am, Chairperson of the Panel of Judges Assistant Director (Music) Daw Tin Tin Mya, Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and members supervised the singing contest at the National Theatre.

Seven contestants from States and Divisions took part in the professional level men's classical song contest, and 11 persons in the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls' classical song contest. On 16 October, the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' religious song contest and the professional level



Maung Soe Thein and troupe representing Rakhine State taking part in higher education level men's orchestra team contest.— MNA

men's classical/modern song contest will be held at the same venue.

At the National Theatre, 13 competitors took part in the amateur level men's dancing contest, and 16 students in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' dancing

contest. Chairman of the Panel of Judges Wunna Kyaw Htin U Sein Aung Min and members supervised the contest. The higher education level men's dancing contest and the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' dancing contest will continue tomorrow. A total of nine contestants took part in the basic education level (aged 15-20) song composing contest at the State School of Fine Arts, and 11 persons in the higher education level song composing contest. The contest was supervised by Chairman of the Panel of Judges Bogale U Tint Aung and members. On 16 October, the basic education level (aged 5-10) and the professional level song composing contests will be held. (See page 8)

INSIDE

On the other side, former Czech President Vaclav Havel and Bishop Desmond Tutu are shouting that Myanmar is worse than the world's worst countries, urging the UN to take action against her as she may spill trouble to the rest of Asia. Instead of presenting the report, they should mind their own business.

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AUNG THU MOE (MYINGYAN)



Yedash U Sein Tin Aung of Bago Division participates in professional level men's donmin contest.— MNA



Ma Aye Mya Thida of Mon State takes part in basic education level (aged 15-20) girls' classical song contest.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 16 October, 2005

Collectively participate in prevention of blindness

The ceremony to observe the 2005 World Sight Day, jointly organized by the Health Department and World Health Organization, was held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road in Yangon on 13 October 2005, attended by departmental officials of the Ministry of Health, the WHO Resident Representative, representatives of UN agencies, officials of social organizations and health staff.

At present, there are estimated 45 million blind people globally. The aim of the ceremony was to eliminate avoidable blindness and to promote blindness prevention activities.

As Myanmar is a WHO member country, it is actively participating in the health programmes laid down by WHO.

Myanmar has been launching World Sight Day since year 2000. Since then, four new secondary centres for prevention of blindness were established at Kyaukpadaung, Gangaw, Myaing and Taungdwingyi during the period of five years. New district level eye treatment centres were established at Bhamo, Toungoo, Maubin, Loilem, Pyinmana and Hinthada. Those facilities were equipped with microsurgical instruments.

In Myanmar, trachoma was the primary cause of blindness in the central part of Myanmar in the past. Trachoma control project was launched in 1964, and after 30 years of activities active trachoma rate was brought down from 43 per cent in 1960 to 1 per cent at present.

The Ministry of Health has been taking systematic measures to prevent the recurrence of trachoma and is giving priority to treatment of cataract and glaucoma, which is the main cause of blindness.

The number of ophthalmologists increased from 130 in the past to 200 to date. Moreover, ophthalmic nurses and opticians were trained, and basic health staff and voluntary health workers are being trained to fully engage in eye health care services.

Centres for prevention of blindness, state and division eye centres, basic health care centres and social organizations are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for the success of blindness prevention.

At a time when the Ministry of Health is taking systematic steps for prevention of blindness, which is a noble task, it is incumbent upon the entire national people including local authorities, health staff and social organizations to lend themselves to the drive.

Lucky Bird organizes computer technological demonstration

YANGON, 15 Oct — Lucky Bird Computer Sales & Service Centre gives a technological demonstrations at the sales centre, No 355, Theinbyu Street, Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon and the sales centre of Room No-38, third floor, Yadanabon Market in Mandalay, from 12 to 31 October as a special programme of the Thadingyut Festival.

Those interested may visit the sale centres, and during the period of technological demonstrations, computer and accessories can be available 5% to 50% off. — H

People's Desire

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

Cultivation methods demonstrated in Hlegu Township

YANGON, 15 Oct — The demonstration of cultivation methods was held in the field of special zone (500 acres) near Malit Village in Hlegu Township this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

The commander inspected paddy fields which can yield 130 baskets per acre.

He was conducted round by Managing Director of Myanma Agriculture Service U Ohn Than and Division Manager U Aung Hsan and officials.

The commander greeted officials and



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe views 500 acres of paddy plantations near Malit Village of Hlegu Township.— MNA

farmers, and told them to study agricultural methods and cultivate high quality paddy strain to exceed the target.

The commander also

inspected paving of 12 miles road linking Nos 1, 2 and 3 Highways. Division Superintending Engineer U Soe Tint and officials reported on

progress of work.

He called on officials concerned to finish the work as soon as possible.

MNA

Archers under training to take part in SEA Games

YANGON, 15 Oct — Selected sports athletes are undergoing intensive training in order that they can win gold medals in the XXIII SEA Games to be held in the Philippines from 27 November to 5 December 2005.

Myanmar archery team will participate in the archery contest of the SEA Games in which 'compound' and 'recurve' men's and women's events.

Officials of the Sports and Physical Education Department and President Dr Khin Shwe, vice-presidents and the secretary of Myanmar Archery Federation are giving necessary assistance to the archers.

Myanmar archery team comprises leader U Tint Hsan, Vice-President of MAF, manager U Kyaw Oo, Assistant Director of SPED and Secretary of MAF, assistant managers U Than Kyaing and Daw Thidar Win technical expert Mr



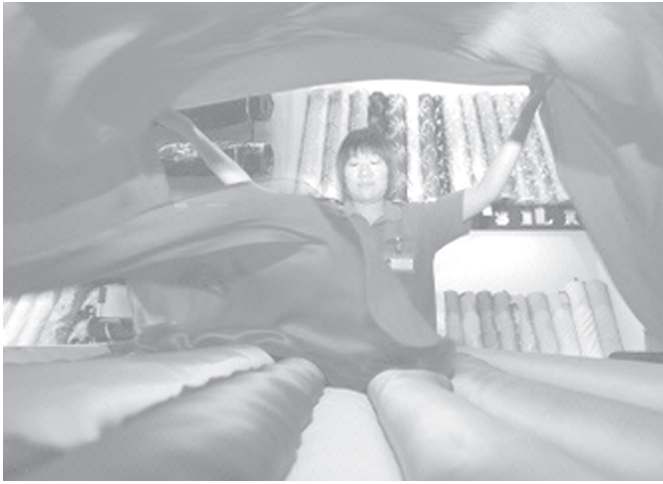
Myanmar selected archers seen in training at shooting range.— NLM

An Seung Bum, coaches U Aung Thura, Daw Than Than Yu, Daw Myat Thuzar Myint and Daw Thi Thi Win and archers Nyi Nyi Tun, Tun Lin Aung, Zaw Win Htaik and Zaw Min Tun, Nam Mo Hwan, San Yu Htwe, Aung Ngein, Nan Htay Hlaing, Paw Oo, Myo Aung Hsan, Lin Naing, Ye Min Swe, Yu Nandar Htaik, Kathy, Mary San and Tin Zin Ei.

NLM

Myanmar entrepreneurs group leaves for Guangzhou

YANGON, 15 Oct — At the invitation of Guangzhou Trade Fair Organizing Committee, a Myanmar entrepreneurs group led by Mandalay Division Merchants and Industrialists Association Joint-Secretary U Ba Kyi Sein and Executive U Kyaw Min (Sein & Mya Mattress) left for Guangzhou, the People's Republic of China, by air this morning to attend the 98th Guangzhou Trade Fair to be held from 15 to 20 October. They will make excursion tour to Hong Kong and Bangkok.— MNA



A shop assistant measures fabric on sale in Nanjing, on 13 Oct, 2005.

INTERNET



China-ASEAN Eminent Persons Group Meeting closes in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 Oct — The Second Meeting of the China-ASEAN Eminent Persons Group Meeting closed here Thursday.

The meeting recalled and reviewed the development course of China-ASEAN relations and experiences, and proposed relevant policy recommendations on the future relations between two sides in the coming 15 years.

The meeting also adopted the China-ASEAN Eminent Persons Group Report and decided to submit the report to the Ninth China-ASEAN Summit,

which will be held in Malaysia in December this year.

The meeting opened here Wednesday. Former Chinese vice-premier Qian Qichen, who is also the eminent person from the China side, and other ten eminent persons from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) side attended the two-day meeting.

MNA/Xinhua

Bomb blast near Durga puja pandal in Bangladesh

DAKHA, 14 Oct — Two bombs exploded near a Durga puja pandal (a makeshift temple constructed during the Hindu festival of Navaratri) in Bangladesh's eastern Narsinghdi District, but none was injured, a report said on Thursday.

The bombs exploded on Wednesday night at Ghoradia Purbapara in the district causing a wall to collapse, a private TV channel reported.

The government tightened security in 22,000 pandals across Bangladesh for the festival which ends Thursday with the immersion of idols of Goddess Durga in rivers criss-crossing Bangladesh.

Hindus constitute some 12 per cent of Bangladesh's 130 million people. — MNA/PTI

US troops starving Iraqis, says UN

GENEVA, 14 Oct—A United Nations human rights investigator has accused the US and British forces in Iraq of breaching international law by depriving civilians of food and water in besieged cities.

But the US military denied the charge and said that while supplies were sometimes disrupted by combat, food was never deliberately withheld.

Jean Ziegler, a former Swiss sociology professor who is UN special rapporteur on the right to food, said on Friday that the Geneva Conventions banned military forces from using "starvation of civilians as a method of warfare". But he said that in Falluja, Tal Afar and Samarra, Iraqi and US-led forces had cut off or restricted food and water to encourage residents to flee before assaults on entrenched Sunni fighters over the past year. "A drama is taking place in total silence in

Iraq, where the coalition's occupying forces are using hunger and deprivation of water as a weapon of war against the civilian population," Ziegler told a news briefing in Geneva. Geneva Conventions

Two 1977 protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which lay down rules of conduct in armed conflicts, ban using deprivation of food or water as a weapon of war. They also prohibit destruction of food stocks or interruption of food supply lines.

Ziegler said he understood the military rationale of the US-led forces that were "facing such a horrible enemy - these insurgents who do not respect any law of war and who use the civilian population of cities like Falluja or Tal Afar as human shields, who keep them as hostages". But he said their actions were nevertheless a "flagrant violation of international humanitarian law".

Ziegler said he hoped the General Assembly would "condemn this strategy of the coalition forces" when he presents his report on the right to food in New York on 27 October.—Internet

CIA says US ignored forecasts of Iraqi ethnic turmoil

WASHINGTON, 14 Oct — The Bush Administration paid scant attention to prewar US intelligence on Iraq predicting the ethnic and tribal turmoil that now threatens the future of the country, a newly released 2004 CIA report said.

The report said US policymakers instead concentrated more on the agency's assessments of Iraq's weapons programme, which helped them make the case for the March 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq but which turned out to be flawed and misleading.

"Intelligence assessments on post-Saddam issues were particularly insightful," said the report.

But it added: "In an ironic twist, the policy community was receptive to technical intelligence (the weapons programme) where the analysis was wrong, but apparently paid little attention to intelligence on cultural and political issues (post-Saddam Iraq), where the analysis was right."

Administration officials justified the 2003 invasion in part on assertions that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and was a threat

to the region and the United States. No such weapons have been found and investigations have blamed the CIA for huge lapses in its prewar intelligence.

The report, published in the current issue of the quarterly CIA magazine, "Studies in Intelligence", was commissioned by former CIA director George Tenet. He resigned last year after fierce criticism over the faulty Iraqi weapons assessments.

The report said the agency was largely correct in its estimate of cultural and political postwar issues and "accurately forecast the reactions of the ethnic and tribal factions in Iraq".

The Bush Administration suggested early in the Iraq war that American forces would be greeted as liberators by a grateful Iraqi people. President George W. Bush initially took a cavalier approach

to the insurgency, suggesting it would be no threat to US forces there and declaring: "Bring 'em on!"

But more than two years later the country is gripped by a deadly Sunni Arab insurgency against the Shiite and Kurdish-led government and US troops and nearly 2,000 US troops have been killed.

Presented in July 2004, the report said prewar Iraq intelligence also concluded accurately that Saddam had no operational or collaborative ties with al-Qaeda and calculated the war's impact on oil markets.

The CIA report, produced by a team led by former CIA deputy director Richard Kerr, was issued as the last in a series of three reports on Iraq intelligence. It is unclassified but has not been released publicly until now. The two earlier reports remain classified.

US involvement in Iraq

also came under fire on Wednesday from former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter, who said the CIA's faulty WMD intelligence only provided the pretext for a long-standing US policy of regime change.

MNA/Reuters

RAF "Tornado" crashes off Scottish coast, crew safe

LONDON, 15 Oct — A Royal Air Force (RAF) Tornado fighter jet plummeted into the sea off the east coast of Scotland on Friday, the Ministry of Defence said, adding that the two crewmen ejected and had been rescued. The plane crashed 10 miles southeast of its base, RAF Leuchars, shortly after take-off, an MoD spokeswoman said. The reason for the crash was not known.—MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi man looks at US soldiers securing the site of a road side bomb attack that targeted a US military convoy in Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 Oct, 2005.

INTERNET

China, Iran to discuss development of bilateral ties

BEIJING, 14 Oct— China and Iran will discuss the further development of bilateral ties during Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki's visit to China, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan here Thursday.

Mottaki arrived here Thursday morning on a two-day official visit as guest of Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

Kong said at the regular Press conference that Chinese leaders will meet Mottaki and the two foreign ministers will hold talks.

The two sides will focus on furthering bilateral relations under the new circumstances and exchange views on international and regional issues of common concern.

He said the Iranian nuclear issue will be another topic between the two sides and China holds a supportive attitude

toward the negotiations between Iran and the three European countries. China hopes all parties will properly settle the issue within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency through peaceful negotiations, especially about finding a long-term solution, said Kong.

He said China hopes Iran, the European Union and other parties concerned will break the deadlock with patience, flexibility and concrete and pragmatic steps, and resume dialogues, consultations and negotiations on this issue as early as possible.

MNA/Xinhua



US troops stand guard at a base on Okinawa recently.—INTERNET

Iran rejects British charge of Teheran's support for Iraqi riots

TEHERAN, 14 Oct— Iran on Thursday rejected as “unfounded” the British allegation that Iran had played a role in current insurgency in southern Iraq.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi denied the allegation which was renewed recently by British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, reported the official IRNA news agency.

Straw on Wednesday in a TV programme renewed London's accusation that Iran had been supplying explosives and training personnel for the guerillas in Iraq.

“The British Government criticizes others without providing any proofs to cover its failure and scandal caused by two

of its soldiers arrested in southern Iraq,” Asefi was quoted as saying.

In September, the British troops launched a raid on an Iraqi police station to free two British soldiers arrested in the southern city of Basra, which caused riots among local residents.

Asefi denounced that the British Government should be responsible for the deepening crisis in Iraq, warning that no country would benefit from confrontation with Iran.

“Britain, instead of

repeating awkward accusations, had better think of a plan to withdraw its troops from Iraq,” Asefi added.

Britain had earlier accused Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of supplying explosives tech-

nology to guerillas in Iraq who had killed several British soldiers in bombing attacks.

Teheran has termed the charge as “lies”, saying Iran is playing just constructive roles in Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

Heavy rain kills 22 in southern India

HYDERABAD, 15 Oct — Heavy rain and strong winds have killed at least 22 people in southern India this week and another 10 were feared dead, many of them washed away or electrocuted, officials said on Saturday.

Eleven people, including four women, were killed along the coast of Andhra Pradesh state over the past 24 hours while 11 others have died in neighbouring Tamil Nadu since Wednesday.

Another 10 people were feared dead in Andhra Pradesh, as the

region was hit by heavy rains triggered by a depression in the Bay of Bengal, officials said.

The state's cyclone warning centre said heavy rains and winds with speeds of 50 km (30 miles) per hour were likely to continue in the region into Sunday.

Several housing

colonies were flooded in the coastal town of Ongole, also in Andhra Pradesh.

More than 75 people were killed due to electrocution, house collapses and drowning in Andhra Pradesh last month after a storm caused heavy rains and flooding.

MNA/Reuters

ter's national relief fund to help us help those in need,” Singh said.

The Indian central government is giving all cooperation and assistance to India-controlled Kashmir government to provide relief and enable rehabilitation, he said, adding that the government also offered help to Pakistan. The central government had promised to give 6.42 billion rupees (148 million US dollars) as relief fund to earthquake victims.

Meanwhile, according to NDTV, India will send the second consignment of relief material to Pakistan on Thursday. About 82 tons of relief supplies like blankets and tents will be sent from Delhi to Wagah border in Punjab Pradesh.

MNA/Xinhua



US Marines, searching for improvised explosive devices in the city of Haditha, Iraq, on 12 Oct, 2005.—INTERNET

Five people die in collapsed Barcelona building

MADRID, 15 Oct— Five people died when a three storey 18th century building collapsed in Barcelona, northeastern Spain, on Saturday, officials said.

Twelve Moroccan men were in the building at the time, state radio

quoted a government official as saying.

Emergency services rescued two seriously-injured people from the ruins and another two people escaped unhurt. Firemen were still searching for survivors.

MNA/Reuters

Tucson Marine dies after being wounded in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 14 Oct—A US Marine from Tucson has died of wounds he sustained in Iraq three months ago.

Master Sgt Kenneth E Hunt, Jr, 40, died Wednesday at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Hunt died from wounds received 24 July when the vehicle he was riding in struck an anti-tank mine while conducting combat operations against guerilla force in Al Taqaddum, Iraq.

Hunt sustained burns over 60 percent of his body. He is the 57th Arizona soldier to die in the Iraq war. Five Arizona soldiers have died in Afghanistan.

Internet

India's Prime Minister to visit Russia in December

NEW DELHI, 14 Oct—India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will pay a two-day visit to Moscow from December five for summit-level talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin to further consolidate the new momentum in the strategic partnership between the two countries.

To prepare the ground for the annual summit, External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh will undertake a three-day trip to Moscow from 26 October, official sources here said.

Natwar Singh will co-chair with his Russian counterpart the meeting of the Inter-Government Commission for Commercial, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural cooperation aimed at giving further impetus to bilateral ties in new areas.

During their September 16 meeting in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, Putin had hoped that the Prime Minister

Singh would be able to undertake the visit in December. The Prime Minister will be attending the two-day SAARC Summit in Dhaka in the second week of November and later that month travelling to Malta for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. —MNA/PTI



Fort Riley soldiers killed in traffic accident in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 14 Oct—Two Fort Riley soldiers are dead after their military vehicle collided with a civilian

vehicle and overturned in Iraq.

The victims of Wednesday's crash have been identified as Sergeants Donald Furman and Lorenzo Ponce Ruiz. Furman was 30 and lived in Burton, South Carolina; Ponce was 26 and lived in El Paso, Texas.

The Pentagon announced their deaths Friday.

Both soldiers were assigned to the 24th Transportation Company, 541st Maintenance Battalion.

The deaths bring the total number of Fort Riley soldiers killed in Iraq to 58.—Internet



People watch the launching of China's second manned space mission in Hong Kong on 14 Oct, 2005.—INTERNET

United Airlines flight delayed by flat tires in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 14 Oct—A United Airlines (UA) flight was delayed Thursday afternoon due to two flat tires in Pudong Airport of Shanghai, sources with the airport said.

Flight UA 858, a Boeing 747-400 aircraft scheduled for San Francisco, was sliding on the runway to take off at 1:50 p.m. when the pilot found the aircraft was hampered in swerving and the metre showed the alarm signal.

After checking, the pilot found two flat tires in the back row of the under-carriage. Then the aircraft was stopped for emergency repair and some 300 passengers were asked to get off the aircraft.

The incident did not affect other flights, sources with the airport said.

UA is a large airline company based in Chicago.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Australia hold 9th defence strategic consultation

BEIJING, 14 Oct—China and Australia convened the ninth defence strategic consultation here Thursday to discuss international or regional security issues of common concern.

Xiong Guangkai, deputy chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), chaired the consultation.

He pointed out that the annual bilateral consultation enables the two countries to exchange

ideas over issues of common concern in the spirit of mutual respect and equality.

The consultation is conducive to the mutual understanding between the defence departments and military forces of both countries, further enhances their extensive communication and friendly cooperation, and promotes the overall development of bilateral relations, he said.

Ken Gillespie, Vice Chief of the Australian Defence Force, said during the consultation talks that Australia is willing to develop a strong relationship with China in an open and friendly manner.

The Australian side expressed their hope to strengthen military ties with the PLA through more mutual high-level visits, strategic consultations and exchanges

among military institutes from both countries.

The two sides also made consultations on combating terrorism, the prevention of weapons of mass destruction and participation in United Nations peace missions.

The China-Australia defence strategic consultation has been conducted once a year consecutively in Beijing or Canberra since 1997.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi man checks a boy who was wounded by a road side bomb that targeted a US military convoy in Baghdad recently.—INTERNET

Pakistan quake brings US, Iranian airmen together

RAWALPINDI (Pakistan), 14 Oct—Old distrust was put aside at a Pakistani airfield on Thursday when US airmen jumped in to help unload an Iranian military plane that flew in with a mobile hospital for victims of a massive earthquake.

An international airlift is underway to help some 2.5 million people made homeless and an estimated 50,000 injured in the 7.6 earthquake and teams from across Europe, the Middle East, China, Japan and the United States are part of the effort.

MNA/Reuters

Iranian President defends nuclear policy as wise, logical

TEHERAN, 14 Oct—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has defended his Cabinet's nuclear policy as wise and logical, the official IRNA news agency reported on Thursday.

"In order to secure the Iranian nation's interests in the nuclear field, the government has moved wisely, patiently and based on a well-devised planning," Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying at a joint meeting of the government and the Majlis (parliament) on Wednesday.

In reaction to criticism that his Cabinet "acted hurriedly" over the nuclear issue, Ahmadinejad said Iran "would not take even a single step back from our logical and precisely adopted stands", stressing the country was "more resolute and logical than ever before".

"Today, the country's foreign policy regarding the nuclear issue is solid, fully harmonized and satisfactory in a way that our officials have full command

over making initiatives actively," he said. He hailed a nuclear proposal he presented in mid-September at the UN General Assembly in New York as an offer having "disarmed Iran's enemies and promised to put forth genuine and new initiatives in confronting any new situation".

In this proposal, Ahmadinejad suggested that Iran involve foreign companies in its uranium enrichment programme as a new confidence-building measure to guarantee peaceful and transparent nature of the programme.

Ahmadinejad also reiterated that Iran "welcomes resuming negotiations on its nuclear programme patiently".

MNA/Xinhua

Landing field prepares for return of "Shenzhou-6"

SIZIWANG BANNER (Inner Mongolia), 14 Oct—The last drilling is to be staged at the main landing field in Inner Mongolia on Thursday night to ensure the safe landing of China's second manned spacecraft, according to official sources.

At the landing field, located in Siziwang Banner (county) of Inner Mongolia, six helicopters and 14 special vehicles are ready for the recovery and rescue of the re-

entry module. Staff workers keep daily regular testing of the command, recovery, communication and climate systems.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Netherlands have great potential in tech cooperation

EINDHOVEN (The Netherlands), 15 Oct — China and The Netherlands which share increasingly close trade ties have great potential in scientific and technological cooperation, a Dutch official said on Wednesday.

Chris Buijink, director-general for Enterprise and Innovation department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, said China has registered the most rapid economic growth in the world, and attaches more importance to technological innovation. The country's investment in scientific research will probably surpass that of the European Union (EU) by 2010, according to the bloc's estimates.

China's growth provides a huge market for Dutch enterprises, and a great potential for the two sides to cooperate in technological innovation and scientific research, said Buijink.

Buijink was attending a Sino-Dutch economic forum here which attracted the participation of some 100 representatives from the Dutch Government, enterprises and scientific institutions. The official added the

Dutch Government has set up a scientific and technological office in Beijing to promote bilateral exchanges, and take an active part in technological cooperation programmes between China and the EU.

The bloc also hopes to strengthen technological cooperation with China for win-win results, said Buijink.

Forum organizer Chen Yusen said lots of Dutch enterprises are

eager to gain access into the Chinese market due to low manufacturing costs and flexibility in scientific research there.

Chinese scholars and engineers in The Netherlands can help them, especially the medium or small-sized ones, to improve their understanding of China and promote bilateral trade and technological cooperation, Chen said.

MNA/Xinhua



An Indian woman tries a gold necklace at a jewellery exhibition in New Delhi on 14 October, 2005.—INTERNET

US rejects Katrina meals, offers them to others

WASHINGTON, 15 Oct —The United States on Friday offered needy countries more than 330,000 packaged meals donated by Britain to feed Hurricane Katrina victims but rejected due to a US ban on British beef.

State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said the "Meals Ready to Eat," or MREs, had been held in a warehouse in Little Rock, Arkansas, for more than a month after US Agriculture Department officials said they could not be distributed in the United States because they contained British beef products.

"We are certainly, for our part, looking to dispose of these MREs that were offered in the spirit of friendship and charity. We are looking to dispose of them in the same way," Ereli told a State Department briefing.

The United States bans the import of products containing British beef because of fears of mad cow disease, a chronic, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of cattle.

An additional 33,000 MREs from Germany, Russia, Spain and France had also not been distributed to hurricane victims because of US legal restrictions, Ereli said without elaborating. More than 100 nations offered assistance to the United States after Hur-

ricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and other US Gulf Coast communities on 29 August. The US relief effort to help victims of the hurricane was criticized as too slow and inefficient and bogged down by bureaucracy and infighting among govern-

ment departments.

Early on, there was a need for about 500,000 readily packaged meals and the State Department asked its embassies worldwide to seek food donations. Britain was among the first countries to offer MREs.

MNA/Reuters

Regional craft village fair to be held in Vietnam

HANOI, 15 Oct — Vietnam will organize the first Vietnam-ASEAN traditional craft village trade fair in December, the Trade Ministry told Xinhua on Friday.

The fair slated for 2-6 December in southern Ho Chi Minh City will mainly showcase handicrafts, woodwork,

bonsai, food and foodstuffs produced by the 10-member ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations), China, Japan, South Korea and India at some 500 booths.

During the fair, seminars, including those on fostering woodwork production and export, and developing craft villages, as well as traditional art activities will also be held.

The event will help preserve and develop traditional craft villages, boost handicraft exports and promote tourism, said the ministry.

Vietnam shipped abroad handicrafts worth of 410 million US dollars last year, up 11.9 per cent from the year earlier, mainly to Japan, South Korea, Chinese Taiwan, Germany and Australia.

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

Last year, the block's total exports rose by nearly 20.6 per cent to 550.6 billion dollars, and imports surged by over 26.6 per cent to 492.3 billion dollars, according to the ASEAN Secretariat.

MNA/Xinhua

Chavez accuses US of harbouring terrorists

SALAMANCA (Spain), 15 Oct — Venezuela used an Ibero-American forum to bash the United States on Friday, increasing the anti-Washington flavour of the summit expected to back stronger criticism of the US embargo on Cuba.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez accused the United States of harbouring terrorists as controversy swirled over a Cuban-backed resolution on terrorism and a second resolution calling for an end to the US trade embargo on Cuba in tougher language than used at past summits.

Cuban President Fidel

Castro, a veteran foe of the United States, stayed away from the summit but Chavez made up for his absence by lambasting capitalism and US policies.

"(The United States), which says it fights terrorism, which invades countries like Iraq using the excuse of the war on terror ... protects terrorists on its own terri-

tory," Chavez said as he was mobbed by reporters and flag-waving supporters at a Salamanca hotel. Chavez was referring to a former CIA operative Venezuela wants extradited over the 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner.

Cuba put a controversial resolution before the summit supporting Posada's extradition from the United States. Foreign ministers approved a general resolution

on extraditing terrorists, but a Spanish Government spokesman said the precise reference, sought by Cuba, to the Cubana de Aviacion bombing was left out.

The ministers also agreed on a resolution criticizing the US trade embargo of Communist Cuba in stronger language than used before, calling it a blockade instead of an embargo. — MNA/Reuters

Italian diplomat found dead in Pakistani earthquake

ISLAMABAD, 15 Oct — The body of a senior diplomat of the Italian Embassy was found on Wednesday from the rubble of Margalla Tower in Pakistani capital Islamabad, The News reported on Friday.

Alberto Bonanni, aged 45, was the first secretary at the Embassy of Italy who had lived in Islamabad for about one year. His body will be handed over to the embassy on Friday, and later back to Italy.

Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) spokesman Dr Waseem Khawaja said the cause of diplomat's death was cardiac failure.

Dr Khawaja also said that a team of Italian diplomats has confirmed the identity of Alberto and the PIMS administration has issued a death certificate.

Alberto Bonanni was so far the first foreign diplomat found dead in Pakistan during the devastating earthquake. Saturday's M7.6 earthquake has claimed lives of about 25,000 Pakistani people in the quake-stricken areas. — MNA/Xinhua



The flooding Ramapo River roars over a dam under reconstruction in Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, on 14 October, 2005.

INTERNET

Wish all distinguish between words of goodwill and words of ill will

Aung Thu Moe (Myingyan)

There is a big dhammayon in our ward. The former members of the board of trustees of the dhammayon instead of giving priority to raising the trust fund for the building's long-term development only concentrated on the routine task of holding the annual religious festivals. At every annual meeting to elect a new board of trustees were quarrels, disputes and disagreements that made the residents of the ward feel uneasy.

Now the ward people do not need to hold any board member election. They have formed the board with six members including myself, who have always systematically worked according to the rules for five years during which the amount of trust fund has increased to kyats countable in hundreds of thousands. At first, we faced a lot of criticism and slanders and even vandalism. But those disturbances gradually disappeared when all the people saw the marked development of the dhammayon. The ward people can now hold annual religious festivals joyfully and the aged can practise vipssana or meditation with peace of mind.

Here, I do not mean that the situation of our dhammayon and that of Myanmar is exactly the same. What is required for our nation is the understanding and seeing things most objectively.

Myanmar was left behind in industrial and economic development as she had lived for over 100 years under colonial rule. And soon after she regained independence in 1948, there broke out multi-coloured insurgency for nearly 40 years during which it destroyed the productive forces including industries and public property and lives. The law of scientific political economy says that productivity changes according to the ups and downs in the productive forces. According to the law, judicial, legislative, social, education, health, economic and cultural sectors depend on the productivity.

Because of the laying down and the following of the wrong single party system and centralized economic system, the nation had to face political and economic hardships that ignited the 1988 unrest. In the absence of the administration during the unrest gave birth to anarchy and gang wars in which innocent people were killed and public property looted, and the nation was about to lose her independence and sovereignty. As the Tatmadaw could not remain indifferent, it had to take over the State duties and the task of solving the political and economic hardships.

During the unrest, the people were clamoring for multi-party democracy and open-door economy, and the conviction of the Tatmadaw was that only the flourishing of democracy would guarantee national modernization and progress. Thus, the people and the Tatmadaw held the same view. Soon after it assumed State duties, the Tatmadaw made efforts for development of both infrastructure and superstructure, essential for political, social, education, health and cultural development. It made peace with 17 armed

groups, an unprecedented achievement in the post-independence history of Myanmar. Thus the Tatmadaw's development endeavours have reached the entire nation including border areas.

Professor David Steinburg of Georgetown University, Professor John Bashley, Professor of political science of Singapore U Kyaw Yin Hlaing and resource person Morten Pedersen who have studied Myanmar's changes for over 40 years attended the talks on the review of US-Myanmar relations held in Washington on 25 March 2004. Based on their experiences, the four pointed out that the US economic sanctions and pressures on Myanmar were neither constructive nor a support to democracy transition, but further worsened the people's situation.

On 5 April 2005, Professor Robert Taylor and Mr Morten Pedersen, experts in Myanmar affairs, presented an independent report "Supporting Burma/Myanmar National Reconciliation Process: Challenges and Opportunities" for the European Commission. The summary of the report is as follows:

During the past 25 years, 88 countries launched the democratization drives, but 12 returned to their own single party camp. Although elections have been held in Myanmar's neighbours there has been no significant changes in leadership. It cannot be actually stated that a government representing the wishes of the majority could not emerge just holding an election.

The EU must recognize that achieving democracy in Myanmar is a long-term process, not a one off event, and revise its aims and strategic objectives accordingly. Whether we like it or not, the military government in Myanmar is part of the solution, and the failure to effectively understand and work with the government undermines the EU's strategic and humanitarian objectives. Developing a long term, evolutionary approach to reform is needed to move the country forward to civilian government and economic strength.

It is proposed that the EU should undertake the following steps to achieve national reconciliation in Myanmar:

On the diplomatic side:

1. Adopt the official name of the country.
2. Resume regular EU high level visits at a sufficiently senior level to ensure access to the upper levels of government.
3. Revise the use of sanctions, making them clearer with realistic benchmarks and obvious reciprocity.
4. Encourage the establishment of new institutions which, overtime, may become independent agents of change.

In connection with the assistance Robert Taylor and Morten Pedersen said:

1. The Commission and Member States should develop an assistance strategy with associated funding.
2. Appoint a senior EU representative tasked with ensuring that the assistance strategy is appropri-

ately implemented according to EU guidelines.

3. Lift the remaining political constraints on aid. In implementing assistance, it is necessary to prioritize with attention to macro-economic reform as well as key sectors vital to poverty alleviation and broad-based growth.
4. Encourage a normalization of the role of IFIs and UN agencies in the country in order to promote economic and governance reforms.
5. Assist a comprehensive study by government officials and local economists to establish a national economic reform programme and identify assistance needs.
6. Re-establish the Myanmar Aid Group and secure financial support for structural adjustments, including exchange rate unification and privatization.
7. Give technical and financial aid for capacity building in economic ministries and institutions, supported by scholarships to European and Asian universities.
8. Initiate direct policy dialogue with the government and civil society in EU assistance priority areas including small scale agriculture, basic education, and community development. The European Union has a unique opportunity now to lead in a renewed and effective effort to help the people of Myanmar fulfil their aspiration for a freer and better life.

Asia-EU economic ministers meeting was scheduled to be held in September 2005 in the Netherlands. But when EU did not issue visa for Myanmar economic minister, all other ASEAN nations did not send their ministers to the meeting. They downgraded the meeting to official level. Concerning the matter, the Japanese foreign minister slammed the EU, and the Malaysian prime minister also criticized it, saying that the unity and sovereignty of each and every ASEAN member country had been protected; and that priority had been given to peaceful means in solving disputes and problems. China, Russia, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and Pakistan supported the ASEAN stance. In reality they showed the unity of Asia.

On the other side, former Czech President Vaclav Havel and Bishop Desmond Tutu are shouting that Myanmar is worse than the world's worst countries, urging the UN to take action against her as she may spill trouble to the rest of Asia. Instead of presenting the report, they should mind their own business. The government opponents inside and outside the nation were showing support to the two men's slanders. Havel and Tutu in reality are playing the same old tune of the external and internal opponents and the western powers wishing to install a puppet government in Myanmar, exaggerating as usual the so-called problems of prisoners, the 1990 election results, drugs, AIDS, refugees and the remnant racial armed groups. In my view their report will lead to fueling our nation's problems as it totally lacks the objectives — unity, mutual understanding and national consolidation.

In this regard, I draw a conclusion that the report of political experts including David Steinburg and Robert Taylor who have systematically studied Myanmar affairs for three-to-four decades is constructive, based on objective conditions and compiled with goodwill; and that the report of Havel and Tutu on the other hand just represents the destructive attitude of internal and external opponents, and is compiled with ill will to cause destruction to the nation.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon: 15.10.2005.

During the unrest, the people were clamoring for multi-party democracy and open-door economy, and the conviction of the Tatmadaw was that only the flourishing of democracy would guarantee national modernization and progress. Thus, the people and the Tatmadaw held the same view. Soon after it assumed State duties, the Tatmadaw made efforts for development of both infrastructure and superstructure, essential for political, social, education, health and cultural development. It made peace with 17 armed groups, an unprecedented achievement in the post-independence history of Myanmar.



Objectives of 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

- To vitalize patriotism and nationalism;
- To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage;
- To perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts;
- To preserve Myanmar national character;
- To nurture spiritual development of the youths;
- To prevent influence of alien culture; and
- To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit.

Vidhura Drama Contest continues for second day

YANGON, 15 Oct — Maung Nyan Win and troupe representing Yangon Division took part in the Vidhura Drama Contest of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions held for the second day at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street this evening.



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe watches Vidhura Drama Contest of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions at the National Theatre. —MNA

Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Performing Arts Competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, member of the panel of patrons of the Organizing Committee Minister for Culture Maj-

Gen Kyi Aung, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Com-

mander Col Tint Hsan, members of the work committee and subcommittees, maestros and enthusiasts enjoy the contest.

Leader of the panel of judges U Chit Oo Nyo and party supervised the

contest. The Vidhura Drama Contest will be held for the third day and the drama troupe representing Mandalay Division will participate it at the same venue tomorrow evening.—MNA

Performing Arts Competitions continue...

(from page 1)

Similarly, the music contest continued at Padonma Theatre. Three teams competed in the higher education level men's orchestra team contest, and eight teams in the amateur level men's orchestra team contest. U Sein Sten and members of the panel of judges made supervision for the contest. The amateur level men's dobet contest and the basic education level (aged 10-15) men's dobet contest will be held at the same venue tomorrow.

Six contestants participated in the professional level men's donmin contest at Kanbawza Theatre, two women in the professional level women's donmin contest, four students in the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys' donmin contest, and the two girls in the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls' donmin contest, three boys in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' donmin contest, and seven persons in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' donmin contest. Chairman of the panel of judges Gita Lulin U Ko Ko and party supervised the contest. On 16 October, the amateur level men's xylophone contest and the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' xylophone contest will be held. — MNA

Course on praise of Three Gems concludes



Yangon Division WAO Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay addresses the course on praise of the Three Gems. MNA

YANGON, 15 Oct—The conclusion of the course on praise of the Three Gems organized by the working group of social affairs and culture under Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization took place at the organization on Banks Street here this morning.

It was attended by Patron of the organization Daw Khin Thet Htay, Chairperson Daw Khin Myo Thu and members, patrons of district WAOs, chairpersons and members of district and township WAOs, course instructors and trainees.

The patron of the Division WAO delivered a speech.

On behalf of the trainees, Daw Aye Sabei Htwe

of Thakayta Township expressed thanks.

Daw Khin Thet Htay presented K 216,700 for the four-storey-building used as Dhamma training courses for laity, and K 216,700 for renovation of Shin Samanhe Dhamma Building through the officials.

Altogether 300 members of WAOs in the division completed the 5-day course. — MNA

Maung Kyaw Lin Naung of Shan State participates in dancing contest (men's) at amateur level.

MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung attends 2nd China-ASEAN Eminent Persons Group Meeting

YANGON, 15 Oct— Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung left here by air for Malaysia on 11 October to attend the 2nd China-ASEAN Eminent Persons Group Meeting (EPG) to be held in Kuala Lumpur on 12 and 13 October.

That evening, the minister attended the dinner hosted by Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Hamid Jaafar Albar in honour of EPG members at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

On the occasion, the Malaysian minister and meeting joint-chairman former Chinese Deputy Prime Minister Mr Qian Qichen extended greet-

ings.

Minister U Aung Thaung attended the preliminary meeting of the EPG member held at 8 am and the 2nd China-ASEAN Eminent Persons Group (EPG) held at 10 am on 12 October at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Tan Seri Dato Musa Hitam and Mr Qian Qichen jointly presided over the EPG meeting.

At the morning session, EPG members dealt with the report (draft) that was compiled based on resolutions passed at the first China-ASEAN EPG meeting and was to be submitted to the ASEAN-

China Summit. Minister U Aung Thaung presented the Myanmar delegation's attitude to the report (draft).

In the afternoon, the members with one voice approved of the report to be submitted to ASEAN and Chinese heads and signed it.

The ex-Malaysian PM and the ex-Chinese PM delivered concluding remarks.

The Malaysian EPG member and the Malaysian co-chairman hosted a dinner in honour of the attendees at KLCC Petronus Twin Tower on 12 October evening.

MNA

Myanmar delegation arrives back



Myanmar delegation led by U Aung Thaung arrive back after attending 2nd China-ASEAN EPG meeting.— MNA

YANGON, 15 Oct— A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, who had attended the 2nd China-ASEAN Eminent Persons Group (EPG) held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 12 and 13 October, arrived back here by air this morning.

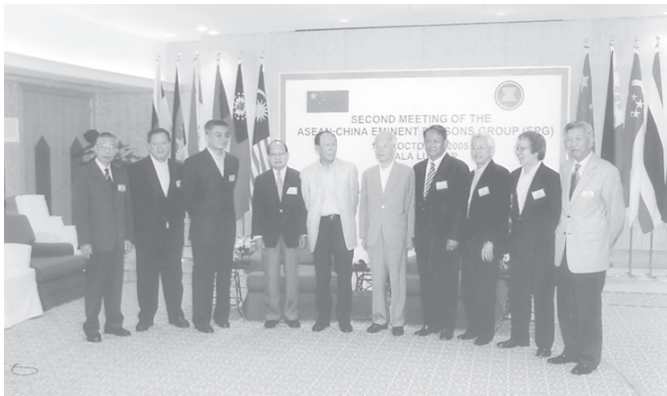
They were wel-

comed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises.

Deputy Minister

for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, advisor U Kyaw Myint to Ministry of Industry-1, deputy factory manager U Phyo Myint Swe of Myanmar Textile Industries and head of session Daw Myat Thida Aye also arrived back at the same flight.

MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung pose for documentary photo together with those attending the meeting.

MNA

Completely Rich 13th

- * The National Traditional Performing Arts Competitions
- In progress gloriously, the 13th.
- * From Upper and Lower Myanmar, left and right
- All assembled here, the 13th.
- * Brethren hold a get-together
- All unitedly, the 13th.
- * Show Myanmar's capabilities to the world
- We have plenty, the 13th.
- * True patriotism, true national spirit
- Shows the correct path, the 13th.
- * True tradition, heritage
- Open out and show, the 13th.
- * Myanmar music, Myanmar dance
- So much of variety, the 13th.
- * National character
- Always safeguarded, the 13th.
- * Mind developed for youth's interest
- Much can be done, the 13th.
- * Not to be eclipsed by foreign culture
- Quickly prevent, the 13th.
- * For unity of nationals
- Union Spirit on the rise, the 13th.
- * Honour of the 13th, never unending verse
- Show you are fully capable.

Dr Than Oo (Trs)

(Honouring the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.)

Tourism development, food promotion discussed

YANGON, 15 Oct— Chairman of Myanmar Chiefs Association Mr Oliver E Soe Thet and Culinary Ambassador of the association U Than Lwin arrived back here yesterday after attending the 2nd National Congress of the Indian Federation of Cooks held in India from 2 to 5 October.

The chairman of MCA and the culinary ambassador took part in the discussions with the title, 'Tourism in Food-Food in Tourism' and exchanged the views on development of industry and food production between the two countries.

MNA

Coord meeting for performing arts competitions held

YANGON, 15 Oct— The work coordination meeting of the Work Committee for Organizing the 13th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions was held at No 1 Transit Centre on Bayintnaung Road in Hline Township this evening with an address by Chairman of the work

committee Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan.

Committee and subcommittee members, and team managers discussed the matters on the competitions sectorwise and Committee Chairman Col Tint Hsan attended to the needs.

Next, medicines

donation continued and the chairman of the committee accepted 500 boxes of provimin medicines worth K 150,000 of Assistant Manager U Chit Thein of the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 donated to contestants of the competitions.—MNA

Theingi Shwe Wah Silkware Boutique launched

YANGON, 15 Oct— Theingi Shwe Wah Silk Textile Enterprise of Amarapura Town opened its third branch Theingi Shwe Wah Silkware Boutique at No 24 on

Narnattaw Street in Kamayut Township, Yangon, this morning.

Available at the boutique are a wide range of modern silk sarongs (men's and wom-

en's wears), scarves, and cloths. It opens from 9 am to 7 pm daily.

Those who want to purchase the quality products may dial 01-539346. — MNA



Theingi Shwe Wah Silkware Boutique (Third branch) of Theingi Shwe Wah Silk Textile Enterprise of Amarapura Town, being opened in Kamayut Township. — MNA

Commander, Mayor attend 14th Mayor's Cup Walking Race for the Blind

YANGON, 15 Oct — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended the 14th Mayor's Cup Walking Race for the Blind to mark the International White Cane Day at the People's Square on Pyay Road in Dagon Township this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw

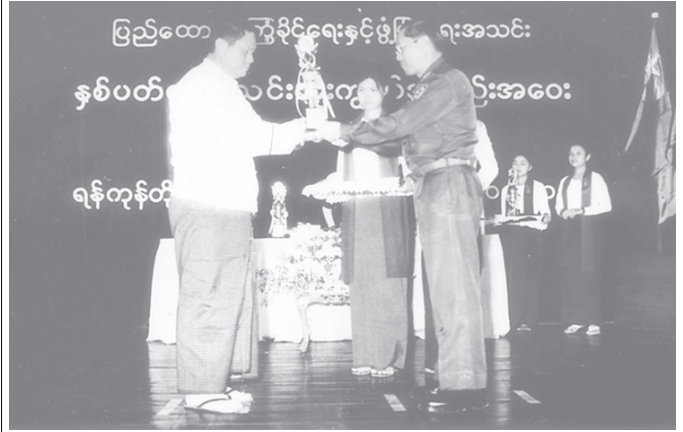
Myint and officials, Director-General U Thauing Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department and officials, Secretary of YCDC U Tin Soe and members and officials. A total of 598 contestants took part in the competition.

The contestants started their competition at the People's Square and finished at the City Hall through Pyay Road, Phonegyi Road, and Maha Bandoola Street. Departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people along their route in Dagon, Lanmadaw, Latha,

Pabedan and Kyauktada Townships gave encouragement to the contestants.

At the prize presentation ceremony, the mayor gave a speech. Next, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint presented prizes and gifts to those who took part in the 14th Mayor's Cup Walking Race. Officials accepted the prizes and gifts and gave away souvenirs to the mayor and the deputy minister.

The wives of the mayor and the vice-mayor wore pairs of glasses to



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents outstanding prize to Acting Secretary U Zaw Lin of Mingala Taungnyunt Township. (News on page 16) — MNA

the blind children, student Ma San San Htwe of Kyimyindine School for the Blind spoke words of thanks.

Next, students from

schools for the blind presented entertainment to the audience.

After the ceremony, officials sent students from schools for the

blind and blind persons to Shukhintha Amusement Park and the modern playground in Thakayta Township for their relaxation.

MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin wears a pair of glasses to a blind child. YCDC



The photo shows 598 blind persons taking part in 14th Mayor's Cup Walking Race for the Blind.— YCDC

Work coord meeting of NPED Ministry held

YANGON, 15 Oct — Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development held work coordination meeting at National Archive Department yesterday, attended by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for NPED Col Thurein Zaw, directors-general, deputy directors-general and officials of the departments and enterprises under the

ministry. First, the minister made a speech. Afterwards, officials reported on measures being taken and future plans and the

deputy minister gave a supplementary report.

Next, the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the minister. MNA

Two aftershocks happen in less than 9 hours in northern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 15 Oct — Another aftershock, the second in less than nine hours, shook areas of northern Pakistan on

Thursday, but there was no report of any casualties, the earthquake centre said on Friday.

The intensity on Richter Scale was recorded at 5, the metrological department said.

The epicentre was 200 kilometres north of Peshawar, it said.

Aftershock hit the already most affected areas in Mansehra District at about 10 pm Thursday night.

The first aftershock hit many parts including Islamabad at 1:25 am on Thursday morning, forcing the people to spend night in open.

MNA/Xinhua

Basic course on breeding fresh water prawn concludes

YANGON, 15 Oct — The basic course on breeding fresh water prawn concluded at the Myanmar Fisheries Federation attended by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

President of MFF U Htay Myint made a speech and Chairman of Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association U Hla Maung Shwe reported on the course.

Next, the minister presented the completion

certificates to the trainee leaders on behalf of the trainees and a trainee expressed thanks. Later, the minister gave a concluding remark. Altogether 71 trainees attended the 3-week course.

MNA

တေရသမအကြိမ် (၁၃ ကြိမ်) ပြန်ဟာရီရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ ဖြိုင်ပွဲတိုင်းပရော ဆက်ကော်မတီ၏ ဖြိုင်ပွဲအစီအစဉ်ဇယား

နေရာ	(အမျိုးသားပြိုင်တိုက်)	(အမျိုးသားဇာတ်ရုံ)	(ပန်ဂျာကျောင်း)	(ကမ္ဘောဇဇာတ်ရုံ)	(ပဒုဗ္ဗာဇာတ်ရုံ)	
စဉ်	ရက်စွဲ	အဆို	အက/ဇာတ်သဘင်	အရေး	အတီး	
၄။	၁၆-၁၀-၂၀၀၅ တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့	ဓမ္မဗျူဟာ (နံနက်) (၁) အခြေခံ (၁၀-၁၅) (မ) ခေတ်ဟောင်း/ကာလပေါ် (နေ့လယ်) (၂) ပညာရှင် (ကျား)	အမျိုးသားအက (နံနက်) (၁) အဆင့်မြင့် အမျိုးသမီးအက (နေ့လယ်) (၂) အခြေခံ (၅-၁၀) ဝိဇ္ဇာတော်တော်ကြီး (ညပိုင်း) မန္တလေးတိုင်း ဦးတင်ထိန်း ဇာတ်အဖွဲ့	အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များ သီချင်း လေ့ကျင့်ခြင်း (၁) အခြေခံ (၅-၁၀) (နံနက်) (၂) ပညာရှင် (နေ့လယ်)	ပဏ္ဍိတ (၁) ဝါသနာရှင် (ကျား) (နံနက်) (၂) အခြေခံ (၁၀-၁၅) (မ) (နေ့လယ်)	ဒိုးပတ် (၁) ဝါသနာရှင် (နံနက်) (၂) အခြေခံ (၁၀-၁၅) (နေ့လယ်)

သတိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

၁။ သီတင်းကျွတ်ကာလနှင့် တန်ဆောင်တိုင်ကာလများတွင် ခြောက်ဆုံး၊ ခိုးမှုနှင့် ခိုးမှုများ (ရွေးချယ်) ပစ်ဖောက်ခြင်းဖြင့် ပြည်သူများအထိတ်တလန့်ဖြစ်စေခြင်း၊ မသမာ သူများက ရုပ်ရွာ အေးအေးသာယာယာနှင့် လုံခြုံရေးကို ထိခိုက်အောင် လုပ်လာနိုင်ခြင်း တို့ကြောင့် ခြောက်ဆုံး၊ ခိုးမှုနှင့် ခိုးမှုများ (ရွေးချယ်) တို့ ပစ်ဖောက်ခြင်းကို တားမြစ်သည်။

၂။ ယင်းလို တားမြစ်ထားသော်လည်း ယနေ့စွဲ ၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ် သီတင်းကျွတ်ကာလနှင့် တန်ဆောင်တိုင်ကာလများတွင် ခြောက်ဆုံး၊ ခိုးမှုနှင့် ခိုးမှုများ (ရွေးချယ်) များအား -

(က) ထုတ်လုပ်ရောင်းချခြင်း အရေးယူမှု (၂၀၀၅) ခုနှစ် တရား (၂၀၀၅) ဦးအား အနည်းဆုံး ထောင် ၁၀ (၂) နှစ်မှ အများဆုံး ထောင် ၁၀ (၃) နှစ်အထိ ဈာတ်အရေးယူခဲ့သည်။

(ခ) ခြောက်ခြင်း၊ ပစ်လွှတ်ခြင်းများပြုလုပ်သဖြင့် အရေးယူမှု (၁၀၀) ခုတွင် တရား (၁၆၀) ဦးအား အနည်းဆုံး ထောင် ၁၀ (၂) နှစ်အထိ ဈာတ်အရေးယူခဲ့သည်။

၃။ သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ ယခုနှစ် ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် သီတင်းကျွတ်ကာလနှင့် တန်ဆောင်တိုင်ကာလများတွင် ခြောက်ဆုံး၊ ခိုးမှုနှင့် ခိုးမှုများ (ရွေးချယ်) များအား ထုတ်လုပ်ရောင်းချခြင်း၊ ပစ်ဖောက်ခြင်းများ ပြုလုပ်ပါက ယနေ့စွဲများနှင့် တွေ့ဆုံရပါက အတိုင်းအရေးယူလျှားမည် ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေး နိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

(က) ထုတ်လုပ်ခြင်း ရောင်းချခြင်းများပြုလုပ်ပါက တည်ဆဲဥပဒေအရ အများဆုံး ထောင် ၁၀ (၂) နှစ်အထိ ဈာတ်အရေးယူမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

(ခ) ပစ်လွှတ်သည့်အမှုများ အနီး အဝေး အနိမ့်နှင့် အမြင့် တို့တွင် ပေါက်ကွဲစေ တတ်သော ခြောက်ဆုံး၊ ခိုးမှုနှင့် ခိုးမှုများ (ရွေးချယ်) များအား ထုတ်လုပ်ရောင်းချခြင်းမရှိမီ ဥပဒေအရ အများဆုံး ထောင် ၁၀ (၂) နှစ်အထိ ဈာတ်အရေးယူမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

(ဂ) သတင်းအချက်အလက် ထုတ်ဖော်ခြင်းမရှိမီ ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ရန်ကင်းတိုင်းအရေးအခင်းကာလနှင့် ပုံ၊ ဖြူရေးကော်မီ

After a heart attack, many continue to smoke

NEW YORK, 15 Oct — Fewer than half of cigarette smokers quit after experiencing a first cardiac event, according to a survey of Europeans. One in five continue to light up despite personal advice from their doctor to stop smoking, the survey shows.

It is "unbelievable" that so many people continue to smoke after a life-threatening event for which smoking is a major risk factor, Dr Wilma Scholte op Reimer said in a statement. She wonders whether they are "truly aware of the risk that they are taking".

Clearly, there is still a need to develop effective smoking cessation programmes, she and colleagues note in the latest issue of the *European Heart Journal*.

For the survey, researchers interviewed 5,551 heart patients in 47 hospitals in 15 European countries more than one year after the event or condition that landed them in the hospital, namely heart bypass surgery, balloon angioplasty (for clogged arteries), a heart attack, or a type of worsening chest pain called unstable angina.

The interviewers asked participants whether they had smoked in the 30 days prior to being admitted to the hospital and whether they currently smoked.

Those who denied smoking took a breath test

for carbon monoxide, just to be sure. Scholte op Reimer, from Erasmus Medical Centre in Rotterdam, and colleagues report that nearly one quarter (21 per cent) of the 5,551 survey subjects were still smoking after the cardiac event.

Virtually all (99 per cent) of the 2,244 individuals who smoked before the heart event had been advised by their doctor to stop, but only 48 per cent actually stopped.

Smokers younger than age 50 were less likely to quit than older smokers. Those with angina (chest pain) were also less likely to give up smoking than were those who had suffered a heart attack.

This latter finding is worrisome, Scholte op Reimer said, because it hints that chest pain patients may not be aware that they are at heightened risk of suffering a heart attack.

In reality, the long-term risk of death in chest pain patients is comparable to that of heart attack patients.

MNA/Reuters

Next Bond to be revealed, ending months of mystery

LONDON, 15 Oct — The next man to play super spy James Bond is due to be revealed on Friday, and Englishman Daniel Craig is favourite to take over from Pierce Brosnan on Her Majesty's Secret Service.

Craig, 37, who would be the first blond Bond, is one of dozens of actors linked to the role of the world's most famous secret agent. The announcement in London will end months of speculation over the casting.

Other contenders have included Britons Clive Owen and Jude Law, Australia's Hugh Jackman and Croatia's Goran Visnjic.

Irishman Brosnan has not been ruled out, but recent comments about his surprise at being dropped make it likely that the most successful 007 to date at the box office will be hanging up the famous black tuxedo.

The 52-year-old described the news that Bond film makers had decided not to retain him for a fifth movie as a "body blow".

"I was looking forward to making it edgier and grittier, and for all of that to go down in one phone call was highly disappointing," he was quoted as saying by the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Only five actors have played Bond since the first film, "Dr. No", more than 40 years ago. Sean Connery and Roger Moore were well-loved mainstays as the secret agent while George Lazenby and Timothy Dalton were less successful.

MNA/Reuters



Oscar-winning director Roman Polanski receives a Lotus Award at Bangkok's World Film Festival at Sala Chalerkrung Theatre in Bangkok on 14 October, 2005.

INTERNET

Mysterious disease hits waterfowl in Iran

PARIS, 15 Oct — A mysterious disease hit waterfowl in west Iran, leaving thousands of dead birds, the cause is still unknown, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) said here on Thursday.

"A high mortality has been observed among wild waterfowl in Poldasht (in West Azerbaijan Province)" said the Paris-based organization on its web site. It noted that there was no pathological agent identified nor particular lesion appeared at the autopsy and that weakness and death are only signs of this affection.

The OIE said a total of 3,673 wild waterfowl had died since the phenomenon was found on 2 October, said the Iranian authorities, which have quarantined the region.

Iranian veterinary services are asked for test over bird flu research and further information about the disease. —MNA/Xinhua

Arthritis drug effective against psoriasis

LONDON, 15 Oct— A drug for rheumatoid arthritis can relieve the suffering of patients with moderate to severe psoriasis for a year, researchers said on Friday.

They found that infliximab, which is marketed under the name Remicade by Johnson & Johnson in the United States and by Schering-Plough Corp in other markets, improved symptoms of the chronic skin condition that affects 2 per cent of the population in western countries.

"This is the first study to show that the very rapid and dramatic improvement that you see with psoriasis can, in the majority of patients, be maintained over at least the medium term — over the course of a year," said Professor Christopher Griffiths, of the University of Manchester in England.

Previous trials have only looked into the impact of the drug on psoriasis over a short period of about 12 weeks. The study published in *The Lancet* medical journal also showed patients saw a significant improvement in one of the most disturbing features of psoriasis: nail disease.

"Up until now it has been extremely difficult to treat," Griffiths told *Reuters*. He and his colleagues compared the effects of the intravenous treatment to a placebo, or dummy drug, on 378 patients with the illness. Each patient was given three intravenous infusions of the drug or a placebo over six weeks and then every eight weeks for nearly a year. After less than 3 months on the treatment, 80 per cent of the patients showed at least a 75 per cent improvement, compared to three per cent in the placebo group.

MNA/Reuters

Air-conditioner unit, possible source of Toronto disease outbreak

OTTAWA, 15 Oct — A roof-top air conditioning unit is likely the source of the deadly legionnaires' disease outbreak that has killed 17 in Toronto, Canadian health officials said on Thursday.

An air conditioner could easily spread illness as the bacteria could spread through condensed water droplets that form during the cooling process, Dr David McKeown, the city's medical officer of health, told reporters.

"That aerosol, including the bacteria, could get sucked into a building's air conditioning system or could float down on the street in front of a building and be inhaled by someone passing by," McKeown said. He briefed reporters on the development of the investigation into the cause of the disease at Seven Oaks, Home for the Aged in East Toronto.

Air conditioning units at the nursing home and a nearby seniors' apartment building have been taken off line for investigation. Test results are expected to be ready

in about a week, said McKeown.

McKeown's comments came less than 24 hours after the city's health department announced that two patients with no connection to the nursing home are now recovering from legionnaires' disease. McKeown asserted that the risk of a further outbreak of legionnaires' disease is "extremely low", because the new cases are part of the same outbreak in the nursing home. The outbreak at Seven Oaks began in late September and sickened more than 100 people, including residents, employees and visitors to the nursing home.

There have been no new deaths since last Friday, but the home remains closed to new admissions and most visitors.

MNA/Xinhua



Bollywood actress and model Katrina Kaif smiles after she was announced the winner of Blistex-India's Most Beautiful Lips contest-2005, in Mumbai, India, late on 13 Oct, 2005.

INTERNET

Research findings show Mexico immuned from bird flu attack

MEXICO CITY, 14 Oct— Research findings by a group of Japanese experts showed that Mexico does not have the conditions whatsoever for a possible outbreak of bird flu, Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, Cattle and Rural Development in a communique on Wednesday.

Japanese experts drew their conclusion after a three-day site investigation in Mexico's poultry husbandry section, during which they inspected the preventive and controlling measures taken by Mexico.

They praised Mexico's experience in this regard and confirmed that the country has rid itself of the epidemic.

The communique said Mexico prohibits the import of poultry products such as chickens, hens, eggs and turkeys from infected countries.

It also said Mexico, the world's fourth largest producer of poultry, is home to more than 3800 poultry farms, where 260 million chickens are hatched every 45 days on average.

In order to protect this sector, Mexico has drawn up plans to prevent the outbreak of bird flu in all the 32 states.

According to the pact on economic union signed by Mexico and Japan, the two countries trade with each other poultry, eggs and poultry vaccine, barring live poultry which might spread bird flu viruses.—MNA/Xinhua

Turkey culls over 7,000 poultry to rein bird flu

ANKARA, 14 Oct— The Turkish Agriculture and Rural Affairs Ministry said on Thursday that 7,626 poultry have been culled since bird flu cases were reported in Manyas Town of northwestern Balikesir Province.

The ministry said it will file a complaint against people who still refuse to cull their poultry in the region after compensation has been increased to 752,000 US dollars.

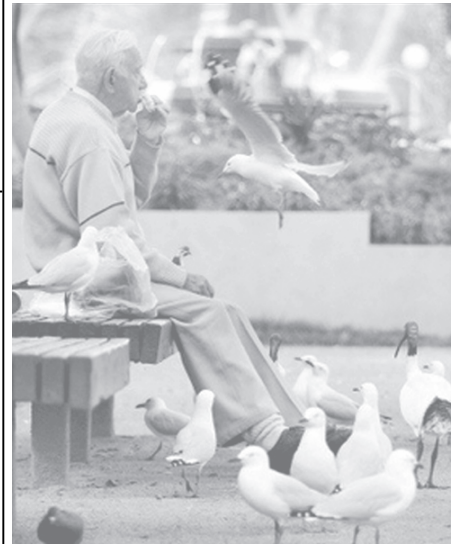
No new bird flu cases have been reported in Turkey so far, the ministry added.

Bird flu was firstly reported in Turkey when a total of 1,800 turkeys died in a farm in Kiziksa hamlet

of Manyas starting from 1 October.

Turkey has culled thousands of poultry and established quarantine zones last Sunday to stop the spread of the flu.

Bird flu cases have been found in the Far Eastern countries for the past two years and the H5N1 bird flu strain has killed more than 60 people in Asia since 2003.—MNA/Xinhua



An elderly man on a Sydney park bench. Passing the age of 50 might make you feel stressed and overwhelmed by day-to-day problems but the good news from an Australian study is that life gets better after 75.—INTERNET

Panic prevails as thick smoke engulfs Lagos

LAGOS, 14 Oct—Lagos State Governor Bola Tinubu on Wednesday ordered immediate closure of all public schools as a result of thick smoke that engulfed a large section of Lagos, the commercial capital of Nigeria.

In a statement, Tinubu also called for temporary suspension of academic activities in all public and private primary and secondary schools with boarding facilities.

The gas, which was whitish in colour, discomfited the eyes and made breathing difficult when inhaled.

He appealed to companies and institutions to permit their staff with respiratory problems to go home immediately and take care of their health while the smoky situation persisted.

He also appealed to all Lagosians to ensure effective ventilation of their homes and work places by opening their windows and doors so that the smoke would not concentrate in them.

The governor said the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) had dispatched teams of officials to various parts of the city to measure the gas content in the air and trace the source of the high smoke.

According to the LASEPA, the source of the discomfiting gas is from the Atlas Cove which hosts Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation jetty from where imported fuel is pumped to the southern part of the country.

In a televised broadcast in Lagos, LASEPA General Manager Adebisi Adesina appealed to the public to be calm and assured that the agency was doing everything possible to trace the origin of the gas.—MNA/Xinhua

Global cooperation urged in fighting against bird flu

SINGAPORE, 14 Oct— US and WHO officials on Wednesday stressed the need of global cooperation in fighting against bird flu, which has killed in Asia some 50 people and millions of fowls.

Speaking at a Press briefing in the US Embassy here, US Under-Secretary of State for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky said that countries need to work together again to face the latest avian flu threat.

"The threat is both real and formidable but we need to face it successfully. And to do so, we must face it together," said Dobriansky.

She added that this includes the rapid sharing of samples for testing and information, as well as enhanced surveillance for a bird flu outbreak.

The US official also stressed the importance of transparency in reporting bird flu cases.

On the same occasion, Lee Jong-wook, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), said that over the

past three years, they heard of the avian flu in Thailand, Vietnam and now Indonesia. Then it went to Romania, Russia and Kazakhstan. They all saw these tell-tale signs and have been working on it, but now they need concrete actions.

MNA/Xinhua

Bird flu found in Romanian duck samples

BUCHAREST, 14 Oct—A strain of avian influenza has been detected in samples from Romanian ducks, the country's chief veterinarian said on Thursday.

Chief veterinarian Ion Agafitei said scientists detected the H5 bird flu virus in samples taken from three ducks found in the Danube delta.

"We eventually isolated the avian flu virus in the samples taken from the three ducks," Agafitei told Reuters by telephone.

Agafitei declined to elaborate on the findings because he was headed for an emergency meeting related to the issue.

The finding contradicts comments from the European Commission on Wednesday, which said bird flu had not been found in Romanian ducks and will raise fears that the deadly virus has finally reached Europe.

Preliminary tests last week on three ducks in Romania's Danube delta near the Black Sea proved positive and raised fears that the disease had entered Europe.

The Commission also

announced on Wednesday that it would extend until next April its ban on imports of poultry products and pet birds from Turkey, where avian influenza was discovered at the weekend at a farm near the Aegean and Marmara seas.

Test results due on Friday were expected to show whether Turkey has a low-risk strain or the more serious H5N1 virus, which has killed or forced the slaughter of millions of birds across Asia and killed more than 60 people.

The EU executive also said that Thailand, whose poultry sector has been ravaged by bird flu, had offered its assistance to the EU.

Bird flu began sweeping through Thai poultry flocks in late 2003, all but wiping out markets for what was then the world's fourth largest poultry exporter.

MNA/Reuters

Hungarian police bust euro coin forgery operation

BUDAPEST, 14 Oct— Hungarian police have broken a euro coin-forging operation, arresting two people and seizing coins and equipment, the country's National Investigation Bureau said on Wednesday.

Department chief Istvan Orosz told a news conference that the raid on 6 October on a building outside the capital Budapest netted 2,659 two euro coins, together with 15,540 centrepieces for the coins, plus machines and plates.

A Hungarian and a Romanian were arrested and police also found plates for 50 euro cent coins, he said.

Most of the coins were marked as originating in Austria and Germany, and an official from the Hungarian Central Bank said that the coins would have fooled ordinary people, but not coin machines.

MNA/Reuters



A visitor to the Science Museum in London studies a Fangtooth fish on 14 Oct, 2005.—INTERNET

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



Two Renault mechanics watch a monitor during the first practice session for the Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai on 14 October, 2005. — INTERNET

China's 3G not to follow international standards

CHONGQING, 14 Oct — China should focus on mobile communication market development and technological renovation without pursuing international 3G standards, say experts at the ongoing 2005 Global Mobile Congress held in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality.

"In a broad sense, the industrial standard and the international standard are two standards recognized worldwide," said Lu Wei, a Chinese mobile communication expert.

"The corporations which lead an industry to dominate the establishment of the industrial international standard, however, are determined by their prestige in the world," explained Lu.

"If China leads the world in mobile communication, its industrial standard will be acknowledged as the international standard. This has been a consensus among developed countries," added Lu. According to the expert, China's

homegrown technology standard for 3G, TD-SCDMA, has good prospects. If all of Chinese mobile phone holders use this technology, it will become a virtual international standard, because foreign companies which want to share China's vast mobile communication market will have to accept this standard.

China, which has the world's biggest mobile phone market with 35 million users, has been pushing for development of its 3G standard TD-SCDMA as one of the three international 3G standards. The other two are WCDMA in Europe and CDMA2000 in the United States.

MNA/Xinhua

China reaches world level in spacecraft-recovery technology

BEIJING, 14 Oct — China is able to ensure a safe return of its second manned spacecraft *Shenzhou-6* as it has reached the world level in recovery technologies, Hou Ying, chief designer of the manned spacecraft landing system, said on Thursday.

The landing system has been upgraded along with the development of the manned spacecraft, Hou said in an exclusive interview with *Xinhua*.

When China launched *Shenzhou-1* an unmanned spacecraft in 1991, there was only one landing field, and an emergency landing ground was added for *Shenzhou-2* ten years later.

In March and December of 2002, when China launched *Shenzhou-3* and *Shenzhou-4* space vehicles respectively, a standby landing field and offshore landing sites for emergency landing.

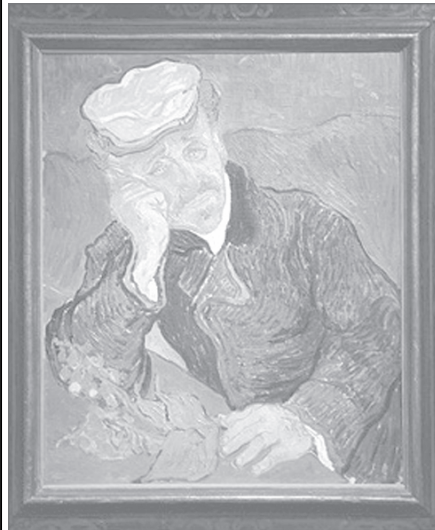
When *Shenzhou-5* was put in orbit two years ago, the landing system had been quite perfect, Hou said. The rescue squad arrived at the landing field in less than half minute after the spacecraft landed, he said.

Currently, the landing system is composed of the main landing field, the standby landing field, and a number of other emergency landing sites, which are equipped with advanced radio measuring systems to help monitor the movements of the return capsule.

These sites have aerial

rescue squads equipped with helicopters, land rescue squads equipped with special vehicles, and medical squads consisted of medical experts.

According to officials, the last drilling for the recovery of *Shenzhou-6* re-entry capsule will be conducted in the main landing field in Siziwang Banner (county) of Inner Mongolia, Thursday night. — MNA/Xinhua



Van Gogh's 'Doctor Gachet's Portrait' is displayed during the exhibit titled 'Melancholy: Genius and Madness in the West' at the Grand Palais museum in Paris. — INTERNET

Japan mulls joint development of new 'Kliper' spacecraft

TOKYO, 14 Oct — Russia has asked Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAEA) to participate in its new *Kliper* spacecraft development programme, a senior JAEA official said on Thursday.

Kiyoshi Higuchi told reporters that the JAEA has started collecting information on the programme and will decide by the end of the year whether to accept the request.

He hinted that the agency is willing to participate in the basic development, which will start in January next year.

The *Kliper*, a successor to the *Soyuz* spacecraft, will be able to accommodate six astronauts, up from three for the *Soyuz*, and allow them to be in space for about 10 days.

The new spacecraft is chiefly designed to transport people to and from a

space station, while being used also for scientific purposes and space tourism.

The European Space Agency is also considering to take part in the joint development and Japan's participation would enable Russia, Japan and European nations to operate an international space station without relying on the United States, the official said.

The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration has said it will retire the space shuttle by 2010, and plans to return astronauts to the moon by 2018 in a vehicle designed to replace the space shuttle. — MNA/Xinhua

Big stars are born near Milky Way's black hole

WASHINGTON, 14 Oct — Dozens of massive stars, destined for a short but brilliant life, were born less than a light-year away from the Milky Way's central black hole, one of the most hostile environments in our galaxy, astronomers reported on Thursday.

On Earth, this might be a bit like setting up a maternity ward on the side of an active volcano. But researchers using the Chandra X-ray Observatory and other instruments believe there is a safe zone around black holes, a big dust ring where stars can form. Black holes, including the one at the centre of our galaxy, are monstrous matter-sucking drains in space, with gravitational pull so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape once it comes within the hole's grasp.

These young stars, however, are just far enough away to be held in orbit

around the hole much as planets are kept in orbit around the sun, according to Sergei Nayakshin of the University of Leicester, Britain. At less than a light-year's distance, the 50 or 100 massive young stars are quite close to the black hole, but not close enough to be drawn in, Nayakshin said in a telephone interview.

A light-year is about six trillion miles (10 trillion kilometres), the distance light travels in a year. By comparison, Earth is about 26,000 light-years from the galactic centre where the black hole lies.

MNA/Reuters

A dog sits in a model toy car during a dog show in Dortmund on 14 October, 2005. More than 6,200 dogs met to compete for the title of the best pedigree hound. — INTERNET



SPORTS

Former Real Madrid president Sanz buys Parma

ROME, 15 Oct— Former Real Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz should be confirmed as the new owner of Parma in the next few days after handing over a cheque for 20 million euros (23.98 million US dollars), the Serie A club has announced.

Parma have been searching for a buyer since their parent company, Italian food group Parmalat, collapsed in December 2003 amid an accounting fraud scandal. The hunt seemed to be drawing to a close last month when Sanz made an initial payment of 7.5 million euros on the full price of 27.5 million, but he will not be officially declared the owner until the new cheque clears.

"The transfer of ownership of the shares in Parma FC will not take place until the cheque is cashed," said a statement on the club's web site on Friday.

If the deal goes through, Sanz would become the first non-Italian owner of a Serie A club.

The 52-year-old was president of Real Madrid from 1995 to 2000, during which time the team won the Primera Liga in 1997 and the Champions League in 1998 and 2000. Parma's fans will hope he can revitalize their side's fortunes.

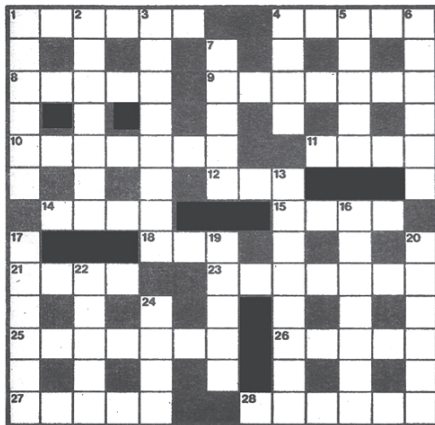
The personal wealth of the Tanzi family, which owned dairy company Parmalat, made Parma one of the strongest clubs in Italy during the 1990s when they were twice runners-up in Serie A and won the UEFA Cup in 1995 and 1999.

The demise of Parmalat, founded by Calisto Tanzi, led to the departure of many of the club's top players and hit results on the pitch.

Last season Parma came dangerously close to losing their top-flight status, beating Bologna in an end-of-season playoff to avoid relegation.

They have struggled again this term and are 16th in the 20-team top division with four points from six matches.—MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

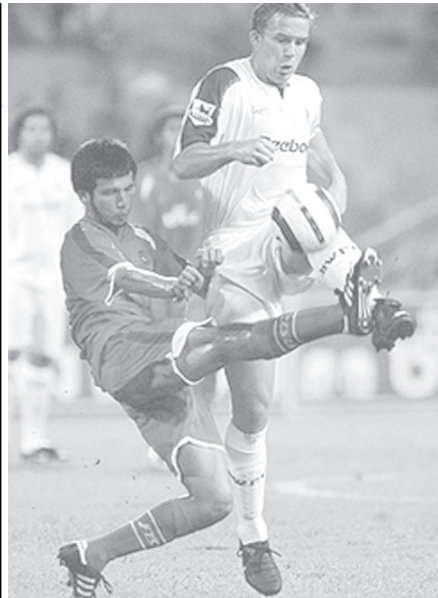


ACROSS

- 1 An alternative to "Mary"
- 4 Hurry
- 8 Military decoration
- 9 Loan
- 10 Priest's residence
- 11 Hill, mountain
- 12 Slender stick
- 14 Rim
- 15 Shoal or bank
- 18 Deprive
- 21 Host
- 23 Madman
- 25 Remark
- 26 Make void
- 27 Kingly
- 28 Prepared for publication

DOWN

- 1 Recollection
- 2 Lost weight
- 3 Observer
- 4 English south coast resort
- 5 Scorch
- 6 Vigour
- 7 Greek wood-god
- 13 Habitual drinker
- 16 Dead
- 17 Mallet
- 19 Outspoken
- 20 Climbed
- 22 Coin
- 24 Grinding machine



Kevin Davies (R), pictured in July 2005 vying with Thailand's Prat Samakrat, could not have a better opportunity to prove his case that he can be the target man England should take to next summer's World Cup.—INTERNET

China display skill in play with Germany

WUXI, 15 Oct— Despite the defeat of 0-1 to Germany, China's national soccer team displayed "skillful tactics" that were rarely seen in previous competitions of men's soccer in China, said a senior Chinese soccer official here on Thursday.

China played with Germany in the western city of Hamburg, Germany, in a friendly on Wednesday and was defeated by the latter 0-1.

The game took place in high speed and strong offensives from both sides and Chinese players presented a performance with high skills, said Xie Yalong, head of Chinese soccer governing body.

Although the play was in early morning Beijing time, "the excellent game dispelled my sleepiness", he said.

Some Chinese players, who are playing in foreign clubs, showed quality of professional soccer players and their performance had a model role for their teammates, said the official.

Some players who are playing in China also had good presentations. Xie praised Zheng Zhi, the core of Chinese midfield, saying he had several "creative" passes in speedy confrontations with rivals and "looked somewhat like a football star".

MNA/Xinhua

Pitch invasion halts replayed Brazilian match

RIO DE JANEIRO, 15 Oct— The replay of a Brazilian championship match declared void by a match-fixing scandal was itself abandoned after a pitch invasion which followed a controversial penalty.

Santos fans ran onto the field at the Vila Belmiro stadium after Carlos Alberto converted the kick to put Corinthians 3-2 ahead in the 89th minute of Thursday's game. Santos, the defending champions, had won the original game 4-2 but the result was declared void after the referee, Edilson Pereira de Carvalho, was suspended on allegations that he took bribes from an

illegal gambling ring to manipulate results.

All 11 Brazilian championship games at which Carvalho officiated are being replayed, even though public prosecutors say that he did not attempt to swing every match he refereed.

Corinthians coach Antonio Lopes blamed Santos midfielder Giovanni for the confusion on Thursday.

When Santos re-started the game after the third Corinthians goal, Giovanni juggled the ball and then hoofed it into the crowd in an apparent sign of protest.

"He incited the supporters against the referee", said Lopes. Almost immediately, Carlos Alberto was sent off for clashing with Santos goalkeeper Saulo, who was not dismissed, and fans invaded the pitch, forcing the teams to flee to the dressing-rooms.

Corinthians returned a few minutes later but Santos did not come back out and the referee abandoned play when more fans ran onto the field.

Brazilian media said fans clashed with police outside the ground, damaging cars. Around 20 people were reported injured, none seriously.

Santos claimed Thursday's match, which began amid a tense atmosphere, should never have been played in the first place and director Mario Mello said the club were considering pulling out of the championship.—MNA/Reuters

Shanghai win women's eight at National Games' rowing

NANJING, 15 Oct— Shanghai crews won the women's eight to notch their second rowing gold at the 10th National Games here on Friday.

The Shanghai crews cooperated well and finished in 6:14.19 to touch the line first.

With several members from the national team, Shanghai displayed their talents and class during the course to overshadow major competitors.

Fujian took the silver with 6:16.89 and bronze medalist Guangdong clocked a time of 6:18.58.

"We have taken golds at the World Rowing Championships and the World Cup, and the only thing we haven't claimed is the Olympic tilt. We hope to realize this dream in 2008," said a confident Shanghai crew at the Press conference.—MNA/Xinhua

Ferguson tells Blatter to get his priorities right

MANCHESTER (England), 15 Oct— Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson believes FIFA president Sepp Blatter should concentrate on more important issues than the behaviour and handling of striker Wayne Rooney.

Blatter, speaking in a BBC radio interview on Thursday, said Rooney should be called to order for his lapses of discipline and that Ferguson and England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson should take a harder line in dealing with the teenager.

"I think they (FIFA) are quite happy to take up smaller issues, like talking about a player at Manchester United who is 19 years of age, rather than pursue the really important issues in the game at this present day," Ferguson told reporters on Friday.

Rooney had an on-field spat with England captain David Beckham in a match against Northern Ireland last month before being sent off for sarcastically applauding the referee in a Champions League match against Villarreal.

Ferguson, however, believes Blatter and soccer's world governing body have more important matters to consider.

"He is in a very influential position and I think people do listen to what he has got to say," Ferguson said.—MNA/Reuters



Veteran Jonas Bjorkman, seen here in September 2005, won his eighth straight match clinching a 7-5, 7-6 (9/7) second round win over fourth seeded Croatian Mario Ancic at the 680,250-euro Stockholm Open.

INTERNET

Criminal suspects arrested for spreading information on Internet

BEIJING, 15 Oct — One hundred and one criminal suspects have been arrested since Chinese police started to crack down on what it deems to be obscene Internet activ-

ity this August, according to a Press release from the Ministry of Public Security here on Thursday.

The release said the Internet has been exploited by illegal chat rooms that

recruit for sex movies.

"This behaviour has severely polluted the Internet environment, done harm to juvenile's physical and mental health and caused strong public anger," the Press release said.

The special crackdown was jointly initiated by the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Information Industry and the Information Office of

the State Council in August.

To date, 1,568 pieces of evidence have been obtained, from which 76 criminal cases have been put on file, yielding the 101 apprehended criminal suspects.

Chinese police authorities are intensifying their crackdown on Internet "obscurity" to purify the Internet environment. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Member of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board U Chit Myaing accepts K 100,000 donated by Daw Mya May and family of No 134, Myoma Ward of Mogok recently, in memory of late U Thuang. — H

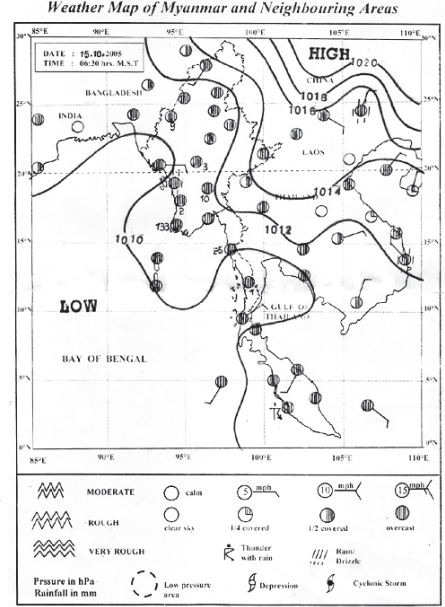
Standard Chartered donates \$1m to earthquake victims in Pakistan

HONG KONG, 15 Oct — Standard and Chartered (Pakistan) will donate one million US dollars to relief earthquake

victims in Pakistan, the Group announced in a Press release reaching here on Friday.

Half of the donations will be given to the Pakistan relief efforts and the remaining money will be used to support rehabilitation activities over the coming months, it said.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Saturday, 15 October, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Sagaing, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, widespread in Chin State, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Magway Division and isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Patheingyi (5.24) inches, Kalay (2.80) inches, Pakokku (2.60) inches, Kyauktaw (2.40) inches, Minbu (1.89) inches, Pyaw (1.81) inches, Nyaung-U (1.65) inches, Magway (1.38) inches, Monywa and Dawei (0.98) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 14-10-2005 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 15-10-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 15-10-2005 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 14-10-2005 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfalls on 15-10-2005 were (0.08) inch at Mingaladon, nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (96.77) inches at Mingaladon, (96.54) inches at Kaba-Aye and (100.67) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from North at (11:20) hours MST on 14-10-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over Southwest Bay still persists. Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16-10-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon State, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, Bago Division and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-10-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-10-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 40%.



Sunday, 16 October
View on today

- 7:00 am**
 - ကျေးဇူးရှင် ဓင်းကျွန်း ဆရာတော် တွေးကြံ၊ မိုင်းဝင်းတင်ယုမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပေး၊ အတိစေမဟာရဋ္ဌရုရု၊ အတိစေမဟာ သဗ္ဗရု စောတီတ၊ တီပီဂုဏဝရ၊ ဓမ္မတာဏှာဂါရီတ၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိမိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ဖန်တီးရေးတော်
- 7:25 am**
 - To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
 - Morning news
- 7:40 am**
 - "မဟာဝသမြတ်ဗုဒ္ဓ" (ပထမပိုင်း)
- 8:00 am**
 - Nice and sweet song
- 8:15 am**
 - ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ပြာမင်္ဂလာ
- 8:30 am**
 - International news
- 8:45 am**
 - Say it in English
- 11:00 am**
 - Martial song
- 11:10 am**
 - ငါ့လျှောက်ထားများ
- 11:25 am**
 - Roundup of the week's international news
- 11:40 pm**
 - နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဓာတ်ပုံအဖွဲ့အစည်းအဖွဲ့" (အပိုင်း-၄၇)

- 12:15 pm**
 - အခြင်သစ်အသွင်သစ်တို့ ကျေးဇူး (ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်(တောင်ပိုင်း)၊ ရပ်စောက်မြို့နယ်၊ ပင်ဖြစ်ပင်ဖြစ်ကျေးရွာ)
- 12:30 pm**
 - Teleplay: "ရတနာပုံစံအသွင်အပြောင်း" (ဇော်လင်း၊ အံ့ကျော်၊ မြတ်သစ်၊ နေမျိုး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်နှင်းမိုး)
- 1:30 pm**
 - ဓမ္မဗျူဟာတေးအစီအစဉ်
- 1:45 pm**
 - "ထူးထူးခြားခြား" ထင်ရှားစာနိဂဗျူဟာ
- 1:55 pm**
 - အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:10 pm**
 - "သတင်းကောင်း"
- 2:35 pm**
 - (၃)ခြံခြံခြံခြံ အရုဏ်တော် အရ အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်မည့် မြန်မာ အားကစားသမားအဖွဲ့များ၏ ခြံတင်ပြိုင်ဆိုင်ပွဲများ (တောင်တောင်)
- 2:45 pm**
 - International news
- 4:00 pm**
 - Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
 - Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
 - ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း၊ အဖွဲ့တော်(၃) အခြေခံပညာပို့ပေးခြင်း၊ (ဆွမ်းအဖြစ်) ဓမ္မစကြာဝင်ဂ္ဂတော်အဖွဲ့(ပထမအဖွဲ့)(အထက(၄)တန်း) (အမျိုးသမီးဝတ်စုံအဖွဲ့)
- 4:50 pm**
 - သာယာချိုအေး (၃၈)ပြာမင်္ဂလာတေး
- 5:00 pm**
 - အထူးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ပညာရေးရပ်ခြင်းသင်ကြားသင်ခန်းစာ

- ပထမနှစ်(ရုပ်ပေးအဖွဲ့) (ရုပ်ပေး)
- 5:10 pm**
 - Song of national races
- 5:20 pm**
 - ငါ့လျှောက်ထားများ
- 5:35 pm**
 - Agricultural force Country's Development
- 5:45 pm**
 - Sing and Enjoy
- 6:30 pm**
 - Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
 - Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
 - နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းတွဲ "စိမ်းလုံးကျွန်းကန်သာယာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)
- 7:35 pm**
 - ကမ္ဘာ့စာနိဂဗျူဟာ၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ် "စာနိဂဗျူဟာလှည့်ရေး တွေ့ဆုံဆွေးနွေး ပြည်ဆည်းပေး" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)
- 7:45 pm**
 - ဓာတ်တော်ဦးဆောင်ပွဲတော် (အပိုင်း-၁၆)
- 8:00 pm**
 - News
- 16. International news**
- 17. Weather report**
- ၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ် တွေ့ဆုံဆွေးနွေး (၁၃) ခြံခြံ မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အထက၊ အရေး၊ အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ**
- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ထပ်ဆင့်ဆွေးနွေး" (အပိုင်း-၁၇)**
- The next day's programme**



- Sunday, 16 October**
- Tune in today:**
- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music: -Wake me up before you go
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music: -She has been making me blue
- 8.50 am** National news, 12 Objectives & People's Desire
- 9:00 am** Music: -Peace easy feeling
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Cultural Images of Myanmar -Signs of Thidingyut
- 9:20 am** Music
- 1:30 pm** News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Children's delight -Story for children "Investment for the wealth" -Songs for children
- 9.00 pm** Weekly news review
- 9.10 pm** Article
- 9.20 pm** World Food Day Talk
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

Annual General Meeting 2005 of Yangon Division USDA held

YANGON, 15 Oct— Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association held the Annual General Meeting 2005 at its hall this morning, with an address by Patron of Yangon Division USDA Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were USDA CEC member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Secretary of Yangon Division USDA U Aye Myint and executives, secretaries and executives of township USDAs in the



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addresses Annual General Meeting 2005 of Yangon Division USDA.— MNA

Thain Lin gave a speech.

Afterwards, the commander gave away prizes to outstanding persons — Acting Secretary

gade of Latha Township, and Regimental Sergeant Major Cho Mar Than of Shwepyitha Township Red Cross Brigade.

Sone, three-distinction winners Maung Thant Zin Soe and Ma Yin Yin Shwe, two-distinction winners Ma Ni Ni Tha Win, Maung Kyaw Sithu and Maung Pyay Phyo Kyaw and one distinction winner Ma Zar Zar Oo.

Likewise, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave away certificates of honour to U San Maung-Daw Kyi Kyi Than and family, U Than and family, Daw Lwin Lwin Oo and family and U Myo Min Zaw-Daw Kyi Kyi Mar and family who accepted and accommodated Japanese youth at their homes.

Next, the cash donation ceremony followed. CEC member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Yangon Division USDA Secretary U Aye Myint, Joint-Secretary U Tha Win and officials accepted K 3,440,000 from wellwishers.

Afterwards, the second session of the Annual General Meeting followed. Division Secretary U Aye Myint presided over the meeting together with members of the panel of chairmen Joint-Secretary U Tha Win and Division Executive U Tin Maung Win. First, Meeting Chairman U Aye Myint gave an opening address. Division Executive U Min Thein submitted the Yangon Division USDA Executive Committee report, and Daw Lin Lin Naing of Dawbon Township the report on

prevention against dangers posed by internal and external destructive elements through the united strength of the people.

Representatives of districts and townships took part in the discussions, and Division Executive U Aung Myint reviewed their suggestions.

The meeting passed four resolutions, approved one matter and put four matters on record. Later, the meeting chairman gave the concluding remarks and the meeting ended with the chanting of the slogans. — MNA



CEC member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin accepts cash donation from a wellwisher.— MNA

division, members of social organizations and wellwishers.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered an address. Next, CEC member (in-charge of Yangon Division) Mayor Brig-Gen Aung

of Mingala Taungnyunt Township USDA U Zaw Lin, Organizer U Htein Win, Daw Soe Soe Moe and Daw Mar Mar Cho of Twantay Township, Deputy Commanding Officer Ye Kyawswa Aung Hla of Auxiliary Fire Bri-

At the ceremony to honour offspring of executives at division, district and township levels, the commander presented prizes to five distinctions winner Maung Hat Htet Min, four distinctions winner Maung Hein Pyay

New Rainfall Record

YANGON, 15 Oct—The amount of rainfall 66 mm (2.60 inches) observed at (09:30) hours MST on 15th October 2005 at Pakokku is the 24 hours new maximum rainfall record of the station for the month of October during last (9) years. The former record was 60 mm (2.36 inches) on 15th October 2003. — MNA

Sales of jade lots attract gems merchants

YANGON, 15 Oct — Patron of the Leading Committee for Myanmar Gems Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Chairman of the Leading Committee Deputy Minister U Myint Thein visited the sales of jade lots of the Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning for the fifth day.

Gem merchants purchased 78 jade lots through competitive bidding from 3 pm to mid-night yesterday. A total of 114 jade lots were sold yesterday and another 55 jade lots today.



Sales of Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium in progress.— MNA