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Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to PRC President

YANGON, 7 Sept — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China for the loss of life and property caused by the recent floods and landslides in some parts of Southwest China. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye looks into Ye Ywa Hydropower Project. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Anisakhan Airport Construction Project, Ye Ywa Hydropower Project

YANGON, 7 Sept— Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Com-

mander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe

Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung

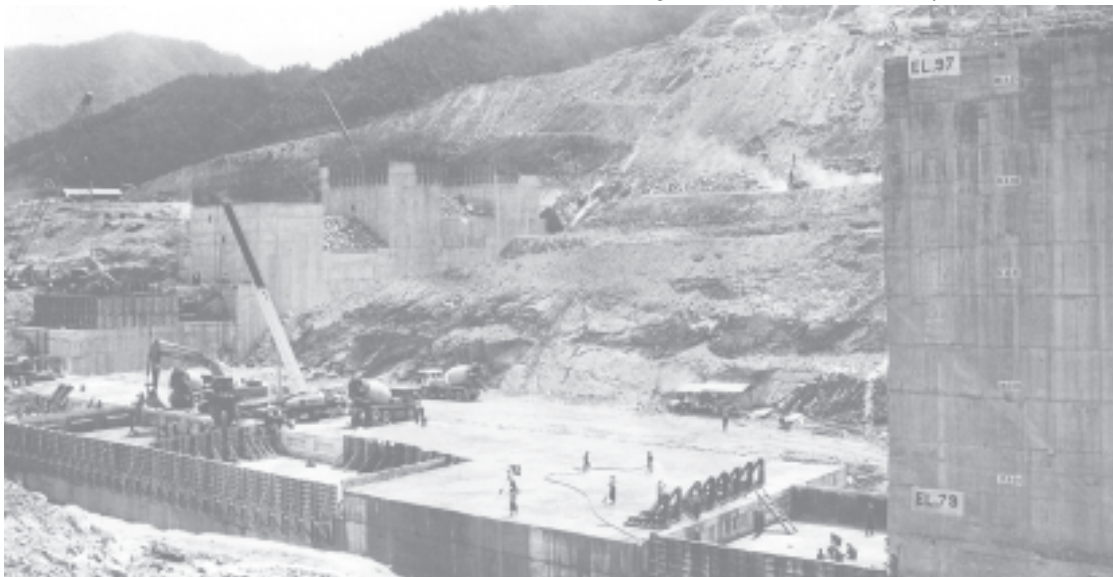
Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chair-

man of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, senior

military officers, and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, inspected PyinOoLwin Station yesterday morning.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party looked into the Anisakhan Airport Construction Project in PyinOoLwin Township at 7.30 am today. Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe reported on background history of the Anisakhan Airport being

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The construction site of Ye Ywa Hydropower Project. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 8 September, 2004

Strive for cent per cent literacy through mass literacy activities and campaigns

Today is the International Literacy Day on which ceremonies to mark the literacy day are held all over the world. At such a time, Myanmar has been able to take pride in and show off her literacy rate.

The intellectual might of the citizens plays a vital role in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation, for it is an inexhaustible resource. Hence, the government has laid down lofty aims of enriching the people with knowledge and is implementing them for perpetuation of the State and its people.

Myanmar is among the Asian nations enjoying higher school enrolment rate of all school-age children and literacy rate. It is not only the success of teachers and parents, people, social organizations and local authorities who are collectively taking part in the education promotion programme but that of the education sector. Education, since the early days, has been highly regarded in Myanmar. In the course of history, Myanmar stood with high cultural standard. Myanmar enjoyed the higher literacy rate before she was under the yoke of colonialists.

In 1886 when Myanmar was under servitude, the literacy rate in Myanmar was over 85 per cent. In 1948 when Myanmar regained her independence, the literacy rate dropped to 35 per cent as Myanmar education was suppressed by colonialists during their rule. In other words, the illiteracy rate was 65 per cent. But Myanmar was able to make efforts for bringing down the illiteracy rate to 43 per cent in 1963 and to 21.3 per cent in 1983 through mass literacy campaign. In other words, Myanmar was able to secure 78.77 per cent of literacy rate.

This being so, UNESCO awarded Myanmar the Mohamed Reza Pahlavi Prize in 1971 and the Noma Prize in 1983.

Nowadays, continued literacy activities and campaigns are being launched in Myanmar, thereby bringing the adult literacy rate to 91 per cent in 2000, 91.4 per cent in 2001, 92.2 per cent in 2003 and 93.3 per cent in 2004. The entire national people will have to make concerted efforts through mass literacy campaigns to bring about the adult literacy rate to 95.5 per cent in 2005 across the nation. Efforts will have to be made for the emergence of a constant learning society through literacy. In this connection, the Ministry of Information in cooperation with well-wishers is making strenuous efforts to set up self-reliant libraries in every village-tract in 2005-2006.

Hence, the entire national people are to actively take part in literacy activities and campaigns with national outlook to achieve cent per cent literacy.



Let's render help to establish self-reliant libraries at every village

Up to 7 September 2004, altogether 7,364 self-reliant libraries were opened nationwide

Books and periodicals can be donated at District/Township Information & Public Relations Departments
Ministry of Information
Information and Public Relations Department

People's Desire

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

Minister inspects factories

YANGON, 7 Sept — Together with Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win and officials, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung arrived at the bicycle factory (Yangon) of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries in Satsan Ward, Mingala Taung Nyunt Township this morning and inspected Maung Myanmar brand bicycles, trishaws and wheel chairs and their parts.

Next, the minister and party inspected construction progress of the extended building where chair wheels, dynamos, cranks, saddles and supports will be assembled. They also inspected 13 kinds of parts of 28-inch bicycle, 18 kinds of parts of 26-inch bicycle and

spare parts of children's bicycle.

At the factory briefing hall, General Managers of MGMI U Thaung Nyunt and U Nyunt Aung reported to the minister on extension of factory buildings and conditions of imported machinery. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun gave a supplementary report.

The minister and party went to the biscuit factory (Branch) of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries in Ward-14 in South Oakkalapa Township and inspected production line. Later, the minister and the deputy ministers inspected sales of products at South Oakkalapa Win Thuza Shop and warehouses and left necessary instructions there. *MNA*

Minister U Tin Winn and party being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA



Minister U Tin Winn arrives back from Indonesia

YANGON, 7 Sept — Minister for Economic Co-operation U Tin Winn, who attended ASEAN Economic Ministerial Meeting and related meetings held from 2 to 5 September, 2004 in Indonesia arrived back here by air yesterday

evening.

The minister was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minis-

ter for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein and departmental officials under the Ministry of Labour. Adviser U Maung Maung Yi of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Director U Khin Maung Nyo of the Prime Minister's Office and Deputy Director Daw Tin Tin Htwe of National AFTA Unit also arrived back. — *MNA*

Deputy Foreign Minister signs Book of Condolences

YANGON, 7 Sept — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win signed the Book of Condolences at the Embassy of the Russian Federation for the victims of terrorist attack on a school in Beslan, Russian Federation, last week in which hundreds of innocent people including young school children, were killed or injured.

MNA



Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win signs the book of condolences. — MNA

Smash and throw out evil legacy

To be fully educated, qualified
People of the world endeavour.
Fully educated and with good heart
Free from anger, the world village.
Various qualities of different sectors
Full of these, is the learned.
Man's stage, covered by education
Knowledge Age, picking up momentum.
Healthy, robust and wise
Prosperous are the citizens.
School reopening time, each his own
Work for timely enrolment in school.
Acquire by each standard, learn
Excursions are also helpful.
No rural, urban disparity
Compassionate with e-education.
Adult uneducated use the cross
Must learn how to read and write.
Three R's in plains and hills
Education has covered almost cent-per-cent.
Keep on learning forever
There'll be no worry, big or small.
The colonial brand of evil legacy
Smash, throw it out, celebrate victory.
Human resources of knowledge Age
Build the bright new democracy.

*(Hailing the International Literacy Day)
Kyaw Saw Han (Trs)*

UEY English students pay respects to teachers

YANGON, 7 Sept — The students of the English Department at the University of East Yangon paid respects to their teachers this afternoon. On the occasion, the students paid respects to UEY Rector U Kyi Win, Pro-rectors U Kyi Win and Dr Maung Win, Professor Daw Khin Aye Nwe, Associate Professor Daw Thin Thin Mu, and faculty members. Afterwards, the rector, the pro-rectors and the professor spoke words of advice and gave counsel to the students. The ceremony came to a close with songs and dances entertained by students who won prizes at the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. *(H)*

Seven US Marines killed in Iraq ambush

BAGHDAD, 6 Sept—Seven US Marines and three Iraqi soldiers have been killed by a car bomb on the outskirts of Fallujah in Iraq, the US military says.

The ambush on the military convoy was the single deadliest strike on US forces since May.

Fallujah, 65km west of Baghdad, has witnessed some of the strongest resistance to US-led forces.

US troops have not patrolled inside the city since April after a three-week siege there in which hundreds died.

The US military has launched several air strikes on suspected insurgents in the city in the past few months, with reports of many Iraqi casualties.

The attack took place at Saqlawiya, some 15 km (nine miles) north of Fallujah.

"The vehicle-borne improvised explosive device

which killed both Iraqi National Guard personnel and Marines was detonated late this morning near Fallujah," a US military statement said.

"The explosion killed seven marines who were assigned to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and three Iraqi National Guard soldiers."

A military official told the *Associated Press* that the strength of the blast sent the engine from the vehicle used in the bombing flying "a good distance" from the site.

The deaths raise to at least 985 the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq since the US-led forces invaded the country in March 2003.—*Internet*



US soldiers stand at the site of a massive car bomb attack on the outskirts of Fallujah, 40 miles north west of Baghdad, on 6 Sept, 2004. —INTERNET

Kerry says "The wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time"

LEVELAND, 6 Sept—Senator John Kerry and President Bush clashed repeatedly over Iraq on Monday, with Mr Kerry branding it "the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time" and saying he wanted all American troops home within four years, while Mr Bush defended the war as "right for America then and right for America now."

Their conventions behind them, the candidates spent Labour Day, the traditional start of the fall campaign season, doing what they have done for months: trading round-house punches over Iraq, job losses and health care.

Mr Kerry, who campaigned before blue-collar workers in suburban Pittsburgh and coal miners in West Virginia and in an African-American neighbourhood in Cleveland, unveiled a new attack on Mr Bush, saying voters needed to decide between the president's "wrong choices and wrong direction for America" and his own promises to create jobs, strengthen the

economy and expand access to health care.

"The W stands for wrong," Mr Kerry said in a riff on the president's middle initial at a labour picnic in Racine, W Va.

But it was Mr Kerry's responses to two questions about Iraq that set off a flurry of attacks by Mr Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney.

Asked his timetable for pulling troops out of Iraq, Mr Kerry told a few hundred people in Canonsburg, Pa.: "My goal would be to get them home in my first term. And I believe that can be done." He said he would make it clear that "we do not have long-term designs to maintain bases and troops in Iraq." Mr Kerry has said he could replace most, but not all, American troops with foreign forces within four years by offering new inducements to other countries. "When they talk about a coalition - that's the phoniest thing I ever heard," Mr Kerry said of the current array of foreign soldiers deployed in Iraq. "You've got 500 troops here, 500 troops there, and it's

American troops that are 90 percent of the combat casualties, and it's American taxpayers that are paying 90 percent of the cost of the war.

"It's the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time," he said.

Internet

Int'l Meeting on Permafrost Projects opens in N-W China city

LANZHOU, 6 Sept — More than 150 experts and scholars from seven countries and regions Sunday gathered in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province, to exchange experiences on building projects on earth that has frozen for a long period of time.

They are here attending the three-day sixth International Meeting on Permafrost Projects, which opened here on Sunday. The meeting was sponsored by the Glacier and Permafrost Institute of China Geography Society.

MNA/Xinhua

English-Tibetan versions of Shakespeare's works hit Tibet market

BEIJING, 6 Sept—A Tibetan scholar has translated two of William Shakespeare's most popular dramas, "Hamlet" and "Romeo and Juliet" into Tibetan language for the first time, the state media reported on Sunday.

The bilingual translations are the first of Shakespeare's famous plays to be translated directly from English into Tibetan, *Xinhua* news agency reported from Lhasa, Tibet's capital.—*MNA/PTI*

Studies say pollution triggers bizarre behaviour in animals

NEW DELHI, 6 Sept—Environmental pollution is not only causing problems for people residing in urban areas but also affecting the behaviour of animals and their reproductive capabilities, two studies have suggested.

"Animals around the world are increasingly behaving in bizarre ways and the culprit is environmental pollution," a report

published in *New Scientist* said.

Biologists, for decades, have known that chemicals and range of heavy metals could bring a change in the behaviour of wild animals. But it is now evident that pollutants can also cause gender-bending effects by altering animals' physiology, particularly their sexual organs, it said.

Scientists at the

Amherst College in Massachusetts, United States and Konrad Lorenz Institute of Comparative Ethology in Vienna carried out separate studies on animals as to how the environmental pollution change their behaviour and concluded that the chemicals pose much greater impact on animals' behaviour than anyone had suspected.

MNA/PTI



A supporter of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr checks his RPG launcher before beginning a patrol of al-Sadr's militia controlled territory in Sadr City, Iraq, on 6 Sept, 2004.—INTERNET

စတုတ္ထမြောက် မိုးကြိုး

990 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 Sept—As of Monday, 6 September, 990 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count based on Defence Department records and AP reporting from Iraq.

The Defence Department's most recent published count, as of Friday, 3 Sept, shows 976 US service members dead. Of those, 730 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of non-hostile causes.

The AP count of 990 includes five additional names released by the Defence Department plus nine fatalities since Friday who have not been identified.

The British military has reported 64 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, 10; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 838 US soldiers have died - 621 as a result of hostile action and 217 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers Friday. There was no update provided Monday because of Labour Day.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

— Seven Marines were killed Monday in a car bomb attack near Fallujah, Iraq.

— Two soldiers were killed Sunday in a mortar attack on a multinational force base near Baghdad, Iraq.—*Internet*

Iraq militants set deadline over French hostages

DUBAI, 7 Sept— A purported statement by Iraqi militants holding two French journalists hostage demanded a US \$ 5 million (NZ \$ 7.8 million) ransom and set a 48-hour deadline.

The statement, posted on an Internet site in the name of the Islamic Army in Iraq, punctured a mood of cautious optimism in France that Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot would be freed soon.

The militants had previously planned to release the men but attacks

had prevented them from doing so, said the statement.

"We always take this type of information seriously...we are trying to check its authenticity which is not established at this time," said French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin.

He told RTL radio the

situation in Iraq was "worrying" but added: "Nothing is calling into question the confidence we have in a favourable outcome of the situation."

Video tapes in the name of the Islamic Army in Iraq have been sent to the Arabic television station Al Jazeera showing the two men since they

were seized on 20 August.

The statement also called for a truce with al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and a promise of no military and commercial dealings with Iraq - demands which appeared to be directed at France.

The statement said the group would accept just one of its demands being met, but issued a warning against any attempt to attack it.

"We warn you not to bombard us as you did...on the day when we intended to deliver (the hostages) to you," it said. Scores of hostages from dozens of countries have been seized in the past five months as part of a guerrilla campaign to undermine Iraq's US-backed interim government. More than 20 have been killed.

Internet



The crew of a US Striker armoured vehicle keeps watch over the site of a car bomb explosion in Mosul, Iraq, on 6 Sept, 2004. An US armoured vehicle was reportedly damaged in the blast.—INTERNET

Hope for new drugs against amoebiasis

NEW DELHI, 6 Sept— In a development that may lead to new "targeted" drugs against amoebiasis, intestinal infection common in poor countries, Indian scientists have identified a crucial gene in the parasite and hope to block it by further work.

"The gene has a role in parasite's cell functions and replication," Dr Alok Bhattacharya from the School of Life Science, Jawaharlal Nehru University, whose lab has carried out the work, told PTI.

"The gene produces a protein called EhCaBP1. When this protein is blocked, the parasite cannot replicate. Cell growth is also affected,"

he said.

EhCaBP1 blocked parasites, when kept with red blood cells, were found to be deficient in engulfing them, he said adding it suggested that the protein is involved in pathogenesis of the disease. However, the detailed mechanism by which this protein functions needs further investigation.

The team is now trying to find a new drug against

this disease which would block this protein. It has also identified another protein in the parasite which is important for its growth and proliferation. The structure is being identified.—MNA/PTI

Thousands celebrate Sri Krishna Festival in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 7 Sept — Thousands of citizens in Nepal's capital Kathmandu are celebrating the Sri Krishna Janmastami Festival Monday morning.

Men and women wearing their traditional dresses worshipped the temple of Lord Krishna in Patan Durbar, the old palace in Kathmandu Valley.

The birthday of Lord Krishna is being celebrated by the Hindus throughout the Himalayan kingdom. Lord Krishna is considered the incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the protector of human beings from evils, injustice and devilish forces.—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Vice-Premier meets guests to attend IAA

BEIJING, 7 Sept — Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi met here Monday with a group of guests who will attend the 39th World Congress of the International Advertising Agency (IAA).

Wu expressed welcome to them and appreciation of their efforts in the sphere of initiating the IAA world congress and promoting the development and exchanges of the world's advertising businesses.

She briefed the guests on China's economic and social progress and the development of advertising sector.

Wu hoped overseas and domestic advertising sectors to learn from each other's creative ideas and management models, strengthen exchanges and cooperation and jointly promote the development and prosperity of the world's advertising industry.—MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်သနေ့အား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

FM says Jordanian hostages released in Iraq

AMMAN, 6 Sept—Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Moasher announced the release of four hostages, including three Jordanian nationals, abducted in Iraq.

"A short while ago the hostages were released. They are four, a Sudanese national and three Jordanians," he told a news conference on Monday.

Moasher identified the Jordanians as Mohammad Beshir, Kassem Gharibi and Nabil Mussa Mohamad. An Iraqi militant group had announced in a videotape aired Sunday by Al-Jazeera television that it had taken four Jordanian drivers hostage.

A group calling itself "Shura Council of the Mujahedeen of Fallujah," named after a Sunni Muslim bastion of the anti-US insurgency, said the four "were ferrying material to US forces in Iraq."

The group said it was issuing "a final warning to all those who cooperate with US forces in Iraq," said the Qatar-based news channel, which aired footage of the presumed hostages with a hooded man behind them.

Jordan secured the release of eight of its citizens kidnapped in Iraq in July and August through mediation efforts and in some cases a ransom was paid by relatives of the hostages in exchange for their freedom.

Several Jordanian drivers have also been abducted and then released by militant groups in Iraq over the past weeks.—Internet

Turkish hostage released in Iraq after firm stops operations

ANKARA, 6 Sept— A Turkish driver taken hostage in Iraq was freed by his captors on Monday, Turkey's Foreign Minister said. The release came a day after the driver's company said it would withdraw from Iraq in line with kidnappers' demands.

Mithat Civi, who was captured on Saturday, was released in Iraq "as a result of our intense efforts," Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul told reporters in Ankara.

The Turkish transport company that employed Civi, Renay International, said on Sunday it was withdrawing from Iraq in an effort to save the life of the 48-year-old hostage, whom Iraqi militants had threatened to behead.

Ghassan Jasim Abbel, whose Kuwait Falcon Co contracted with Renay International for some hauls in Iraq, said Monday he had seen an Arab TV report of Civi's release and was hopeful, but was awaiting a call from the driver to be sure.

"God willing, it will be confirmed," Abbel told *The Associated Press*.

"We did not pay any money for his release," he added, saying the announcement to stop doing business in Iraq — made Sunday — was apparently

enough. Civi, a father of three, had been working in Kuwait and had left for Iraq a month ago.

Renay, a company based in the southern

Turkish city of Antakya, was the latest in a series of Turkish companies to pull out of Iraq to try to secure the release of captured employees.—Internet



A US Army soldier spreads barbed wire as an Iraqi protester shouts during a demonstration against terrorism outside the so called Green Zone which contains the US Embassy in Baghdad on 6 September, 2004.—INTERNET

US troops suffer heavy casualties in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 6 Sept — About 1,100 US soldiers and Marines were wounded in Iraq during August, by far the highest combat injury toll for any month since the Iraq war began in March 2003, the *Washington Post* reported Sunday.

The sharp rise in battlefield injuries results from more than three weeks of fighting by two Army and one Marine battalion in the southern city of Najaf and other cities, the report said.

American units frequently faced combat in a sprawling Shiite Muslim slum in Baghdad and in the Sunni cities of Fallujah, Ramadi and Samarra, all of which re-

main under the control of guerillas two months after the transfer of political authority.

Najaf and the neighbouring town of Kufa, about 90 miles south of Baghdad, have been quiet since a peace deal was brokered in late August by Shiite Muslim's top leader Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani.

But American forces continued to clash with

Sunni Muslim guerillas and foreign-born fighters west and north of Baghdad. Since the start of the Iraq war, 979 US troops have died in the country and almost 7,000 have been wounded, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis survey a destroyed car following clashes between the US Army and Iraqi guerillas in the centre of Baghdad, on 6 September, 2004. —INTERNET

Iraq thanks Kuwait for humanitarian aid

KUWAIT CITY, 6 Sept — Iraq has expressed thanks to Kuwait for its supportive stands and continuous humanitarian aid to Iraq, the *Kuwait News Agency* reported.

Iraqi State Minister Qassem Daoud expressed the thanks during his on-going visit to Kuwait, noted Mohammed Dhaifallah Sharar, Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister for Cabinet and National Assembly (parliament) Affairs.

Daoud arrived here on Saturday for a three-day visit.

The visiting Iraqi official thanked the humanitarian aid Kuwait offered to Iraqi city of Najaf and its support for the Iraqi infrastructure, Sharar was quoted as saying.

He revealed that Daoud would deliver a letter to Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from his Iraqi counterpart Iyad Allawi, without giving details about the letter.

Daoud would also meet with top Kuwaiti officials and visit Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) during his three-day stay here, added Sharar.

Kuwait decided last week to offer 5 million US dollars to provide necessary humanitarian needs for the people of Najaf. The Kuwaiti Cabinet has earlier approved to allocate 60 million dollars to help neighbouring Iraq build education and health institutions in various areas.

MNA/Xinhua

France remains hopeful French hostages will be freed

PARIS, 6 Sept — France remained hopeful on Sunday that two French hostages in Iraq would be freed and a religious fatwa issued in Iraq demanded their release.

The announcement of the edict by a hardline Sunni Muslim cleric, Sheikh Mehdi al-Sumaidaie, offered some encouragement after Foreign Minister Michel Barnier returned from a Middle East mission empty-handed to brief President Jacques Chirac.

"We have serious reasons to believe both of them are in good health and that a favourable outcome is possible," Barnier told reporters after discussing the crisis over journalists Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot with Chirac.

"Our top priority today remains to secure their release. Our priority is their safety," he said. "We are working hard, calmly, cautiously and discreetly."

Sunni militants have held the two journalists since August 20. Comments by French Government officials have grown more cautious since hopes that they would be released on Friday proved unfounded.

In Iraq, Sumaidaie, who represents the Supreme Authority of Daawa and fatwa issuing, said: "We've issued a fatwa saying that these two French hostages must be released quickly."

Barnier, who returned from Amman late on Saturday after drumming up support among Arab and Muslim leaders, spent an hour with Chirac before meeting

Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin and senior Cabinet members.

A Muslim delegation that went to Iraq to try to help the hostages said the main obstacle seemed to be difficulties in arranging a safe handover. It returned to Paris on Saturday.

French leaders are aware that efforts to secure the two men's release could easily be upset, and fear fresh violence in Iraq could complicate efforts to secure their release.

In a discouraging sign for France, Iraqi police said on Sunday the body of an Egyptian who was kidnapped in Iraq last month had been found in northern Iraq.

But another group, the Black Banners Division of the Islamic Secret Army, said it would stop kidnapping people seen abetting US forces in Iraq if Sunni Muslim scholars issued a fatwa forbidding hostage-taking, Al Arabiya television reported.

Scores of hostages from dozens of countries have been seized in the past five months, and more than 20 have been killed, as part of a campaign to undermine Iraq's interim government.

MNA/Reuters

Kuwait targets five million BPD of crude by 2020

KUWAIT CITY, 6 Sept — A senior Kuwaiti official said one of the country's strategic goals is to increase its oil production to 5 million barrels per day (BPD) by 2020, the *Arab Times* reported on Sunday.

Essa Al-Oun, under-secretary of the Kuwaiti Energy Ministry, said another goal is to increase oil refining capacity to 2.5 million BPD.

He pointed out Kuwait

is planning to expand its oil exports to Asia, particularly to China, India, and Korea.

In the first five months of the current fiscal year, Kuwait's oil income reached 11.5 billion US dollars, exceeding revenue estimates for the whole year.

Al-Shall Economic Consultants, an independent think-tank, estimated that the state's oil revenues would touch 28 billion dollars this year if the average oil price remains unchanged.

Kuwait's OPEC production quota was raised to 2.087 million BPD on August 1, but the country has been producing at full capacity of 2.4 million BPD.

MNA/Xinhua

Frances moves to Florida's west coast

COCOA (Florida), 6 Sept — Storm-weary Floridians emerged from east coast hurricane shelters on Sunday as weakened Tropical Storm Frances moved to the state's west coast after whipping off roofs, washing sailboats ashore and cutting power to 4 million people.

Frances virtually shut down the fourth-largest US state, home to 16 million people, for two days and promised damage not only to buildings but to the state's economy on the usually busy Labour Day weekend, normally an end-of-summer bonanza for Florida's 53 billion US dollars tourism industry.

The state's largest population centre and big Latin American business hub, Miami, escaped the worst of the storm but the impact on Orlando, the main tourist playground, was uncertain as massive Frances lumbered across central Florida.

The citrus industry, badly damaged by Hurricane Charley three weeks ago, was likely to take another hard blow as the storm moved across the state's best growing regions.

Forecasters downgraded the large and slow-moving storm, from which 2.5 million people had been urged to flee, from a hurricane to a tropical storm on Sunday afternoon as it edged toward Tampa on the west coast and residents of eastern towns emerged from their hurricane cocoons to survey the damage.

MNA/Reuters



Smoke rises after explosions inside the heavily guarded Green Zone, the headquarters of the US Embassy and Iraq's interim government, in Baghdad, on 6 September, 2004. —INTERNET

Turkish company withdraws from Iraq to save hostage

ANKARA, 6 Sept — Turkey's Renay International Transportation Company announced to withdraw from Iraq on Sunday, after one of its employees was kidnapped in Iraq Saturday, *Anatolia* news agency reported.

The Islamic militant group Nu'man Brigades kidnapped the company's truck driver Mithat Civi and released a videotape on Saturday, asking the company to withdraw from Iraq within 48 hours or kill the driver.

Edip Rende, one of the shareholders of the company, held a news conference on Sunday, saying they evaluated all risks and decided to withdraw from Iraq for the release of Civi and thus they have accepted the demand of the guerrillas, according to *Anatolia*.

"Mithat Civi who was taken hostage

in Iraq, is our driver. We were asked to end our activities in Iraq for the release of Civi. We announce that we are ending our activities in Iraq. We hope our driver would return to our country soon and reach to his family," Rende was quoted as saying.

Rende also asked for the help of Turkish Government for Civi's release.

The company, based in the southern Turkish city of Antakya, was the latest in a series of Turkish companies to pull out from Iraq to secure the release of kidnapped employees. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Chinese Vice-Premier stresses equality among all countries

BEIJING, 7 Sept — Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju said here Sunday that countries, big or small, strong or weak, are all equal members in the international community.

Huang, also member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks while meeting with a delegation of the Democratic Party of Cyprus (DPC) headed by its acting chairman Nicos Cleantous. They have attended the third International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in Beijing.

During the meeting, Huang expressed his hope that the two sides will make joint efforts to further the friendly cooperation in all areas. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Deaths of cancer diseases increase in southern Basrah

BAGHDAD, 6 Sept — The rate of deaths resulting from cancer diseases is increasing in Iraq's southern city of Basrah, *Azzaman* newspaper reported here Saturday.

The increase of pollution rate and the scarcity of medicine and human aids concerning cancer diseases led to the increase of deaths, Dr. Kareem Abdul Sada, head of Basrah Health Department was quoted as confirming.

According to the report, the department of environment protection in the Basrah governorate has revealed the contamination of wide areas with radiation resulting from hundreds of destroyed weapons remaining from former wars. Many of the weapons contain radioactive materials that are hazardous for public health and might lead to cancer and other ambiguous diseases, said the report. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Public Healths Minister says Thai children lack exercise

BANGKOK, 7 Sept — Lack of exercise has put almost two million Thai children at risk of cancer and diabetes, Public Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan on Monday was quoted by *Bangkok Post* as saying.

Only 64 per cent of Thai children and adults aged 6-24 exercised regularly and played sport, the minister quoted a 1998 survey result as saying.

Though 36 per cent of 6-11 year-old children did

exercise, only 23 of the 12-14 year-olds exercised regularly, said Sudarat.

She warned that the 12-14 year-olds who did not exercise were more liable to heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer and diabetes when they get older.

Concerned with the prospect, the health authorities were campaigning to get children to exercise for 30 minutes a day at least three times a week.

The target was under the government's goal of encouraging 33 million people to exercise regularly this year.

In a way to promote the public's attention to sports and exercise, leading officials such as Sudarat and Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra took part in mass body building exercise annually in recent years.

MNA/Xinhua

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A US soldier keeps watch as Iraqi citizens shout slogans against the rising insurgency in Iraq, during a demonstration in Baghdad on 6 Sept, 2004. — *INTERNET*

OPEC President predicts drop in oil price

JAKARTA, 7 Sept — Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) President Purnomo Yusgiantoro said Monday oil price will see a decline in the September-December period, assuming that the US presidential election will run smoothly and the Iraqi crisis will meet a settlement.

Purnomo Yusgiantoro, who is also Indonesia's Energy Minister, said crisis in the Iraq-based oil giant YUKOS will be settled to allow a decline in oil price.

"I've got report from the futures trading that oil price will be in the downtrend in from Sep-

tember to December. The US presidential election and the crisis in Iraq and YUKOS are expected to end soon," Purnomo was quoted by Detikcom online news service as saying.

During the period, he said, there will be an excess oil supply of 1.5 mil-

lion barrels per day in the world market while OPEC alone will have two million barrels per day in excess.

Purnomo, however, did not elaborate to what extent oil price will decline.

OPEC groups Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

MNA/Xinhua

Strong earthquake hits western Japan

TOKYO, 6 Sept — A second strong earthquake measuring 7.3 on the open-ended Richter Scale hit western Japan on Sunday evening, just hours after the region was rocked by a similarly intense quake, public broadcaster NHK said.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, but the Meteorological Agency warned that tsunami — water waves generated by seismic activity — could hit broad areas on the Pacific Coast in central to western Japan, NHK said.

The broadcaster said a tsunami measuring up to three feet may have already hit the Pacific coast.

The quake was felt just before midnight (1500 GMT). Earlier in the evening, an earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter Scale hit western Japan on Sunday, setting off tsunami waves along the Pacific coast, but there were no reports of serious damage, NHK said.

Two people were slightly injured in the city of Kyoto, although some of the strongest tremors

were felt in the area of Nara, the ancient capital of Japan where there are many temples.

Tsunamis measured up to 50 centimetres (20 inches) in some areas, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The agency initially said the quake measured 6.8 on the Richter Scale and estimated the largest tsunami at 60 centimetres. Train services including bullet-train runs were temporarily suspended after the quake struck shortly after 7 pm (1000 GMT).

The focus of the quake, which measured five on the Japanese intensity scale of seven, was in the seabed off the Kii Peninsula about 310 miles southwest of Tokyo at a depth of about six miles, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

MNA/Reuters

Egypt, Russia share identical views on Mideast issues

CAIRO, 6 Sept — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit said Saturday that Egypt and Russia have shared identical views on the Middle East issues.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Abul Gheit said they discussed the Middle East peace process, the Iraqi issue and the Darfur crisis in Sudan.

He said that Egypt has supported Russia's hosting of an international conference on Iraq, adding that Egypt believes such a conference will be a positive step, if tangible results could be achieved to help restore Iraq's stability. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A destroyed vehicle lies at the site of a massive car bomb attack on the outskirts of Fallujah, 40 miles northwest of Baghdad, on 6 Sept, 2004.

INTERNET

Myanmar track and field team, the winner of gold and silver medals at S'pore T&F Championship

It had been many a year that the track and field sports of Myanmar had not been successful. In 2004, a new executive committee led by Chairman U Teza of Htoo Trading drew short-term and long-term plans to promote the track and field sports in Myanmar. In doing so, they seek some advice from former selected athletes, provide the athletes with

including Myanmar took part in the tournament. Japanese athletes also jointed the tournament.

Securing nine gold medals, Myanmar track and field athletes brought honour to the country. Seven Myanmar athletes participated in the tournament, and all of them won medals. Myanmar gold medalists were Aung Thiha, who won two gold at the men's

Article by **Thaung Win Bo**

Photos by **Ko Ko Soe Nyunt**

required nutrition, and award handsome prizes to athletes who secure medals in sport events. As a result, Myanmar track and field sports has made a considerable progress since a few months ago.

Singapore hosted the 66th Singapore Track and Field Championship Tournament on 4 and 5 September. Ten countries

5000 metres event and at the men's 10000 metres event; Kay Khine Lwin, who won two gold at the women's 400 metres event and at the women's 200 metres event; Myint Myint Aye, who won two gold at the women's 1500 metres event and at the women's 800 metres event; Kay Khine Myo Tun, who won one gold at the women's 5000 me-



Victorious Myanmar team seen arriving back at the airport.

tres event; and Phyu Wa Thet, who won one gold at the women's 5000 metres event. In the relay event, Yin Yin Khine, Myint Myint Aye, Leh Leh Win and Kay Khine Lwin won gold for the Myanmar women's team.

Myanmar women athletes also bagged four silver medals: two by Leh Leh Win at the women's 200 metres event and the women's 400 metres event, one by Phyu Wa Thet at the women's 1500 metres event, and one by Yin Yin Khine at the women's 800 metres event.

The tournament attracted more than 200 track and field athletes, according to Myanmar team manager U Kyaw Khin. U Min Thein, leader of the Myanmar team, also explained that the prospect of Myanmar team was encouraging, adding that the team could win a series of victories if they continued trying.

Daw Nu Nu Yi, trainer for the women's team, also expressed her delight at the success of the Myanmar track and

field team, saying that she felt the same excitement when she won gold in her past athlete life.

Another Myanmar track and field team left Yangon by air on 7 September for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to take part in the 81st Malaysia National Track and Field Championship Tournament to be held from 9 to 11 September.

The Myanmar Track and Field Federation selected 29 athletes as tentative ones, who have now been under intensive training since March 2004, to enhance their sporting skill and ability.

Therefore, the bright future of the Myanmar track and field sports that will promote the dignity of the country is now in sight.

Translation: **KTY**



The Myanmar track and field team that bags nine gold and four silver.

Victorious track and field team arrives back

YANGON, 7 Sept — The victorious track and field team which comprised manager, coaches and athletes totaling 11 members led by Vice-President of Myanmar Track and Field Federation U Min Thein, which secured a total of 11 medals— 9 gold medals and 4 silver medals after participating in the 66th Singapore Track and Field Event held in Singapore on 4 and 5 September arrived back by air at Yangon International Airport this morning. The victorious team was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Sports, members of panel of patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, the president of the federation and executives, athletes and their families and relatives. **MNA**

1.55 kilos of heroin seized in Mohnyin

YANGON, 7 Sept — A combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit, Special Anti-Drug Squad and Myanmar Police Force, acting on information, searched a hut in the south-west of Loneton, Inndawgyi Region, Mohnyin on 8 August and seized Yan Chun Kyi (a) Ar Si who was in the hut, son of U Yan Shin Htan of Shoutaw village, Kutkhaing with 1.55 kilos of heroin put in 110 soap containers.

In connection with the case, action was taken against the arrest under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Myanmar Police Force.

MNA



Yan Chun Kyi (a) Ar Si with seized heroin in Mohnyin Township on 8-8-2004. — **MNA**



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears a report by Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut at Ye Ywa Hydropower Project. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye ...

(from page 1)

constructed by the Civil Aviation Department of the Ministry of Transport and the Directorate of Military Engineer of the Ministry of Defence, programmes for construction of a concrete runway for jets, launching of ground survey since February 2004 and work progress. Director of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Tin Tun reported on pre-engineering tasks for the project,

are to be implemented under the constant supervision of respective officials for minimizing loss and wastage. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye signed in the visitors' book.

At the same venue, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on arrangements being made by the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications for erection of a microwave station in PyinOoLwin Township. Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected work

The project is being implemented on Dokhtawady River at a place 31 miles south-east of Mandalay. Its generation capacity will be 790 megawatts. Thirty-one per cent of the project have been completed at present.



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspect the tunnel at Ye Ywa Hydropower Project. — MNA

Anisakhan Airport is to be upgraded to a modern one with a runway that can be used by jets. Measures are to be taken systematically so that each construction task can meet the standards set.

progress of work, measures for diverting the directions of Sitha and Hsingaunggyi Creeks to be free from the project area, conditions of the heavy machinery, and stockpiling of construction materials. Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo gave a supplementary report.

The Commander-in-Chief (Air) reported on types of aircraft which can land at the airport on completion.

In response to the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that Anisakhan Airport is to be upgraded to a modern one with a runway that can be used by jets. Measures are to be taken systematically so that each construction task can meet the standards set. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye called for concerted efforts and systematically keeping of the records related to the project to set up a standard of quality and expenditure for construction of other airports. Tasks

being done and progress of implementation of the project, stockpiling of construction materials and sand, and use of heavy machinery.

The gravel runway of old Anisakhan Airfield built before World War II was 4,450 feet long and 200 feet

wide. The airport is now being upgraded to a modern one for jets in accord with guidance of the Head of State. On completion, it will be a 10,000 feet long and 200 feet wide concrete runway.

On arrival at Yeywa Hydel Power Project, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party were welcomed by Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut and officials. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye heard a report on progress in implementing the project and building of the No 1 and No 2 diversion tunnels, final touches of the two tunnels and construction of concrete walls, and plans to produce pozolan and plans to construct a power intake and subpower stations.

Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut explained the construction of a road linking Hsinmin Cement Factory in Kyaukse Township and the project, progress in building the Dokhtawady Bridge (Yeywa) that can bear up to 60 tons of loads in the project area, the distances between subpower stations in Shwesayan and Belin from the project, plans to erect power cables and benefits that will emerge when the project is completed.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug and Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint gave supplementary reports. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye spoke of the need to build the facility in accord with the set standard. Officials will have to make

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Ye Ywa Hydropower Project site. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye ...

(from page 8)

supervision to ensure that cash and materials are being used systematically, he said. He presented a basket of fruit to Project Director Mr P Fischer of Colenco Power Engineering Co Ltd. The company is taking part in implementing the project. He cordially greeted the project officials.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected samples of rock and soil and pozolan of the region. Maj-Gen Tin Htut and party conducted them round the project. They also inspected work related to the main dam, gathering of construction materials, and construction of the bridge. Later, they inspected a tunnel that will be linked with No 1 Diversion Tunnel. They passed through the No 2 Diversion Tunnel by car.

The project is being implemented on Dokhtawady River at a place 31 miles south-east of Mandalay. Its generation capacity will be 790 megawatts. Thirty-one per cent of the project has been completed at present.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Anisakhan Airport Construction Project in PyinOoLwin Township. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents a fruit basket to Project Director Mr P Fischer of Colenco Power Engineering Co Ltd. — MNA



Anisakhan Airport Project being implemented in PyinOoLwin Township. — MNA

PBANRDA Minister tours Kayin, Mon States

YANGON, 7 Sept — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt toured Hpa-an, Mawlamyine, Mudon, Paung and Kyaikhto from 5 to 6 September and inspected regional development affairs tasks and fulfilled the requirements.

First, the minister, together with Kayin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Khin Kyu and officials, on 5 September arrived at Basic Education Middle School of Phayagon Model Village in Hpa-an Township and presented school uniforms and exercise books for students through the headmistress

and teachers. Next, he also gave gifts and clothes to U Phado Aung San of the model village.

Later, the minister went to Kamawut Village in Mudon Township and inspected the site chosen to build the domestic science school (Kamawut) and left instructions. The minister met the staff of the ministry at Mudon Township Development Affairs Committee and gave instructions.

Afterwards, the minister also inspected the garden of Mudon Township Development Affairs Committee, water supply tasks of Azin Reservoir and power supply station in the township.

The minister and party yesterday inspected the

Shwenattaung water supply project and Thanlwin Garden of Mawlamyine Township DAC. He also saw over the greening tasks, extension of road and construction of ditches being carried out by Mawlamyine Township DAC. Afterwards, Minister Col Thein Nyunt and party went to Paung Township DAC and

fulfilled the requirements for the progress of the region. Similarly, the minister attended to the needs when he arrived at Kyaikhto Township DAC. Moreover, the minister and party inspected beautifying tasks and extension of Pyidawtha Road in Kyaikhto Township and left necessary instructions.

MNA

Members of panel of alternative chairmen of National Convention Plenary Session meet

YANGON, 7 Sept — Members of panel of alternative chairmen of the National Convention Plenary Session held a coordination meeting in the meeting hall of the work committee for convening the National

Convention on Kyaikkasan Ground this morning.

Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw presided over the meeting together with Daw Khin Nu, U Tun Yin Law, U Yaw Aye Hla, U Maung Hla (a) U Hla

Myint, U Mya Aye, Dr Myo Thant Tin and Maj-Gen Aung Thein. Also present were Joint-Secretary-2 of the work committee Dr U Thaung Myint and members U Ba Han and U Than Tun, Director U Than Aung and deputy directors of supporting committees.

At the meeting, the papers on sharing of powers concerning legislation submitted by the eight delegate groups at the National Convention convened from 17 May through 9 July were scrutinized.

Then the meeting concluded in the afternoon.

tor-General U Myint Tun and directors, deputy directors of State/Division offices, deputy directors and assistant directors of the Central Office. Director U Maung Maung Kyaw reported on progress of work carried out by the science, research, training and security department; Director-General U Tun Hla Aung, on tasks of the BSI.

The minister delivered a speech, saying that the Bureau of Special Investigation is an organization mainly responsible for investigation of losses to the State and the people. So respective officials are to be free from partiality, to investigate cases correctly and present them as soon as possible, especially to expose avaricious merchants who are hampering the State's economy, to actively discharge national defence duties with security vigilance and intelligence awareness, to avoid acts that can be a burden to the people, to actively participate in implementing the State's seven-step policy programme, and to make endeavours with might and main whatever role they are in in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The meeting continues until 10 September. — MNA

MNA



The meeting of members of the panel of chairmen of National Convention Plenary Session in progress. — MNA

Myanmar way to Literacy for All

U Thaung Tut

Education by its nature looks to the future and forecasts it. But the future is unknown. And it is uncertain also: Yet we try to foresee the future. The possible future is generally shaped by the present and past experiences. In this way we attempt to plan the existing present for the better future based on the realities of the past and the situation of the present. In other words the future is forecast, created and built with the present available resources: — human, materials and money and the experiences of the past.

Nowadays, every country of the world has agreed and accepted that the present century is "The Age of Knowledge". Many studies have proved that education is the vital and effective key not only to physical capital and economic development but to social, cultural, moral and human resources development also. It is a fundamental human right for all people too.

It is widely seen that ICT (Information and Communication Technology) plays a dominant role. Whether we like it or not, we are under the influence of the ICT. The problem is that it is difficult for a person — more difficult for an illiterate — to grasp, to know, and to access this unbelievable rapid progress and development of ICT changes. Hence these changes bring forth "the digital divide" (the gap between the technologically advanced country, society and the individual and the less ones) and "the education gap". This division is increasingly becoming wider and wider.

This situation calls for the attention of all nations of the world to come to acknowledge that "to create a learning society" is the must for every nation and for all people. At the heart of creating a learning society, inevitably lies "Education for All".

This is reflected in the Declaration of the World Conference on Education for All, held in Jomtien, Thailand in 1990 and in the World Education Forum, held in Dakar, Senegal in 2000. At the Dakar Forum, all countries reaffirmed the common agreement that "Literacy for All" (LFA) must be seen as a minimum prerequisite to Education for All (EFA). To realise this common determination, the Dakar Framework for Action set the goal "to achieve a 50 percent improvement in levels of adult literacy by the year 2015".

Since then both developed and developing countries in the world give special attention to the eradication of adult illiteracy and have launched literacy campaigns and programmes in accordance with their own national policy and conditions. The United Nations also join this noble but a very difficult task to wipe out the problem of illiteracy in the world. In the words of the UN General Secretary "the UN is urging stepped-up efforts to close the education gap, which is a fundamental inequality in our globalizing world." To give impetus to the untiring efforts of the countries, the UN has already designated "the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012)" starting from the year 2003. The main goal, in the words of UN, is "to energize work towards reaching the goal of increasing literacy levels by 50 percent by the year 2015 as agreed by all nations".

Education, since the early days, has been highly regarded in Myanmar. If one studies the history of education in Myanmar, he or she will find that the problem of illiteracy has been noted since the early post-independence years by the governments. In 1948 the government tried to tackle this problem of adult illiteracy by introducing Mass Education Act. The Mass Education Council, an autonomous body according to the Act, undertook to open literacy classes in some areas. Unfortunately, after a few years, due to internal strife and insurrection, the attempt disappeared from the scene.

Again this problem of illiteracy was seriously considered and started launching a literacy mass movement throughout the year in 1969 after four

years of experimenting literacy classes in some areas during 1965 to 68 four summers based on a pilot scale in 1964. As a result of political strong will with voluntary mass participation and the contribution made by students mostly from universities, colleges, institutes and local literate people and by well-wishers, much success was gained. This significant, noble and great achievement was recognized by Unesco which awarded Myanmar two literacy prizes: the Mohamed Reza Pahlevi Prize in 1971 for the voluntary mass participation of students and youths and the Noma Prize in 1983 for post-literacy literature and activities.

Based on the past experiences — achievements and shortcomings — the Myanmar Naing-Ngan Education Committee started launching literacy campaigns in 1996. To realize 'Literacy for All', (LFA), the Myanmar Naing-Ngan Education Committee has set its own strategy and way by linking (LFA) with Universalisation of Primary Education" and "Continuing Education"

Myanmar Way to Literacy for All' is

To launch Literacy for All programmes by

The Community with

Community participation utilizing

Local available resources on

Voluntary basis in

Selected regions and townships under

The guidance of Literacy Committees concerned.

Since 1996 literacy campaigns are being launched by selected Township Literacy Committees under the guidance and supervision of their respective District and State/Divisions Non-formal Education Committees. It is heartening to see that more emphasis and attention have been given to the remote and border areas where most of our ethnic groups were left for many years access to have the skills to read and write. The main theme of the strategy is to organize self-sustaining community-based literacy campaigns with their own financial, materials and human resources linked with a nationwide network of formal and non-formal education endeavours of the nation.

The achievements made by these literacy campaign townships in 2004 (Summer) are mentioned below:

Achievements of Literacy Campaign

State / Division	No. of newly literates
1. Kachin	7863
2. Kayah	16176
3. Kayin	17732
4. Chin	14537
5. Sagaing	2870
6. Taninthayi	4738
7. Bago (East)	3535
8. Bago (West)	5158
9. Magway	4065
10. Mandalay	2082
11. Mon	8658
12. Rakhine	28548
13. Yangon	14116
14. Shan (South)	62917
15. Shan (North)	29330
16. Shan (East)	15605
17. Ayeyawady	17654

Total **255584**

Source: Department of Myanmar Education Research.

The admirable achievements are in fact the result of concerted and tireless efforts made by local community including volunteers from local teachers and literate people, various Departments and social organizations such as the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), Myanmar Naing Ngan National Committee for Woman Affairs

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MESSAGE ON INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

8 September 2004

The following is the message of the UN Secretary-General on the International Literacy Day:

The theme of this year's International Literacy Day, gender and literacy, highlights the obstacle of gender inequality in our work for literacy for all.

In this second year of the United Nations Literacy Decade, more than 500 million women make up the majority of adult illiterates around the world, while girls constitute the majority of children who are not in school. At the same time we know, from study after study, that there is no tool for development more effective than the education of girls and women. No other policy is as likely to raise economic productivity, lower infant and maternal mortality, improve nutrition, promote health — including the prevention of HIV/AIDS — and increase the chances of education for the next generation. For millions of women, literacy activities can offer a rare opportunity to learn a new vocabulary of possibility, opening up a new world beyond their immediate existence and that of their families. And what is true of families is true of communities — ultimately, indeed, of whole countries.

In other words, literacy is not only a goal in itself. It is a prerequisite for a healthy, just and prosperous world. It is a crucial tool in our work to translate into reality the 'Millennium Development Goals' — adopted by all the world's governments as a blueprint for building a better world in the 21st century. Equally, literacy is a human right, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which spells out everyone's right to education. It is unconscionable that 20 per cent of the world's adult population are still denied that right.

There is no time to lose if we are to meet the goal agreed by the world's Governments to increase world literacy rates by 50 percent by the year 2015. Although literacy campaigns have succeeded in increasing literacy worldwide, an enormous task lies ahead. That means we must go beyond efforts of the past, and apply lessons learnt from past mistakes. We must build on the most successful approaches we know — those based on community action which take into account local context and conditions. We must work in partnerships bringing together Governments, civil society, the United Nations family and other international organizations. And we must place the needs of learner communities — especially women — at the centre of our efforts.

The United Nations Literacy Decade gives us an opportunity to step up our commitment and investment. The cost of building a literate society is relatively low compared with the cost of failure, in terms of prosperity, health, security and justice. On this International Literacy Day, let us rededicate ourselves to our mission of literacy for all — women and men alike.

Librarianship Multiplier Course concludes

YANGON, 7 Sept — A ceremony to close Librarianship Multiplier Course (1/004) organized by Information and Public Relations Department of Tachilek was held at the hall of the Union Solidarity and Development Association on 31 August.

Present on the occasion were the secretary of Tachilek District Peace and Development Council and members, local authorities, course instructors and altogether 40 trainees. Afterwards, Secretary of District Peace and Development Council Major Min Zaw presented the first prize to U Kyaw Lwin Oo, the second to Daw Le Le Thin and the third to Daw Phyu Phyu Hlaing. Next, District Staff Officer U Soe Soe presented completion certificates to the leader instead of trainees. — MNA

Message from Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of International Literacy Day

The following is the message from Director-General Mr Koichiro Matsuura of UNESCO on the International Literacy Day.

On 8 September each year for almost the last four decades, the world has celebrated International Literacy Day. Our celebration is particularly significant as this annual international event has gained valuable momentum following the 2003 launch of the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD). Together, we must capitalize upon this important opportunity to reflect on the world's progress in literacy and to move forward.

Despite notable advances in many countries, over 860 million adults are illiterate and over 100 million children have no access to school. Moreover, countless children, young people and adults who attend school or other educational programmes fall short of the required level to be considered literate in today's increasingly complex world. This should be a major preoccupation in light of the international community's commitment to the fourth

goal agreed by the participants in the World Education Forum on Education for All (EFA) held in Dakar, Senegal, in April 2000. This Dakar goal focuses upon "achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults."

The emphasis within the fourth Dakar goal on women's literacy leads us to the theme of this year's International Literacy Day, namely, 'literacy and gender'. In a situation where almost one in seven people is illiterate, this injustice is compounded by the fact that two-thirds of the world's illiterate adults are women. There is a clear need for literacy programmes that address the groups of learners that most need special attention—notably women and girls who are not in school. Where men and boys lack access quality learning opportunities, they too need special attention. Promoting gender equality in literacy education does not mean pitting women against men. It means giving special attention to the more vulnerable groups

of learners.

National and local government as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) must ensure that literacy is high on their agenda. Equally important is the quality of the literacy programmes. One of the most important factors influencing literacy provision is gender sensitivity. They means that programmes have to recognize women and men as equal member of society and as valuable citizens. Programmes must move away from the traditional and stereotypical and offer equal life opportunities and choices. I call on all countries, rich and poor, partner agencies in the United Nations, bilateral and private donors and, indeed, private citizens everywhere, to rise to the occasion and take on the challenge to make sure that the word "illiterate" is eradicated from our vocabulary.

A literate world is a possible and desirable one. There are enough resources. What is now needed is the collective will of the international community to ensure that the necessary support is forthcoming.

Myanmar way to ...

(from page 10)

(MMCWA), Myanmar Naing-Ngan Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA).

It is gratifying to note that the Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Department along with Basic Education Departments takes keen interest and work extensively in literacy campaigns in the remote and border areas.

More happy to learn that according to the latest statistics, the literacy rate of the country is now 93.3 per cent which stands among the top positions in Asia. Moreover, Community Learning Centres are being formed by the local community with the technical assistance from the Myanmar Education Research Department (MERD) to sustain literacy of newly literates and to encourage and enhance post-literacy activities of the community. With this rate of momentum of literacy campaigns with tangible achievements, Myanmar will realize "Literacy for All" even before the target year of 2015 as set by the United Nations and Unesco. Let's move ahead unitedly.

Coord meeting held for organizing Fourth World Buddhist Summit

YANGON, 7 Sept — A coordination meeting of the work committee and the greening subcommittee for organizing the Fourth World Buddhist Summit was held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs at 10 am today with an address by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, departmental heads and members of the work committee and subcommittees. First, the minister delivered an opening speech. Those present reported on greening tasks for holding the summit. Next, the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the minister.

The minister, accompanied by the deputy minister and officials inspected greening tasks being implemented on Kaba Aye Hill and upgrading of Maha Pasana Cave and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Cultural performing arts of DRPRPW continues

YANGON, 6 Sept — The 4th competitions of cultural performing arts of Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Welfare under the Ministry of Defence continued for the second day at theatre hall of No 3 Mobile Public Relations Unit, Mandalay Division yesterday morning.

Present on the oc-

casion were senior military officers, members of board of judges, competitors and audience.

The competitions of Men's and Women's oldies and modern songs were held in the morning, Men's and Women's modern songs and Men's and Women's dance, in the afternoon and Anyeint, in the evening. — MNA

Delegates of member countries of ASEAN and PRC arrive

YANGON, 7 Sept — The delegates of member countries of ASEAN and its dialogue partner, the People's Republic of China arrived Mandalay by air yesterday via

Yangon to attend the workshop for People-to-People Exchange Programme ASEAN Cultural Interaction at Grassroots, Phase III which will be held in Mandalay, Myanmar.

They were welcomed at Mandalay International Airport by the officials of the Department of Cultural Institute, Fine Arts Department and the Department of Archaeology under the Ministry of Culture.

MNA

43rd SEAMEO Tropmed Network Governing Board Meeting commences

YANGON, 7 Sept — The opening of the 43rd SEAMEO Tropmed Network Governing Board Meeting organized by Ministry of Health and the Seameo Tropmed Network took place at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were officials from the ministry, UN agencies, SEAMEO Tropmed Network and GBM Secretariat and SEAMEO Secretariat, representatives of Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Australia and Germany, officials from Asian Centre of International Parasite Control (ACIPAC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan International Corporation of Welfare Services (JICWELS), and distinguished guests.

The minister in his speech said that he was glad for Myanmar to grab the opportunity to host the 43rd SEAMEO Tropmed Network Governing Board Meeting. Consisting of ASEAN members and friendly nations, the SEAMEO Tropmed pays its top priority to the education and health sectors and is providing research works. The minister expressed his belief that the association will be able to accomplish the tasks effectively.

Health development tasks play a key role in taking measures for development of a nation and contributes towards tasks for elimination of poverty.

The Union of Myanmar has been striving for promotion of education and health sectors, environmental conservation, better transportation and economic development. And it will be able to speed up implementation of community health care services and make greater progress in translating the projects into action by cooperating with the SEAMEO Tropmed.

Next, Secretary-General/Coordinator of the SEAMEO Tropmed Network Professor Dr Sornchai Looareesuwan, Chairman of the 42nd SEAMEO Tropmed Network Governing Board Meeting Dr Mario R Festin and Director of SEAMEO Secretariat Dr Arief S Sadiman also delivered addresses. Afterwards, SEAMEO Tropmed Network was introduced with the use of audio-visual aids. The meeting began at 10 am.

The meeting continues till 10 September.

MNA

Seven-Point future policy programme of the State lectured

YANGON, 7 Sept — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein gave lectures to 200 trainees of Basic Organizational Multiplier Course No 14 organized by Taikkyi Township USDA on successful realization of the Seven-Point future policy programme of the State from 12 noon to 4 pm today.

MNA

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★ Magnificent Myanmar (1988-2003) published by the Ministry of Information presents a panoramic view of development in various sectors of Myanmar from 1988 to 2003, illustrated with photographs, charts, statistical data and dates of historical events.

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★ Readers are advised to buy the book while they are still available because only limited number of copies has been printed.

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PURCHASES OF 5 BOOKS AND ABOVE WILL BE DELIVERED TO ANY ADDRESS WITHIN YANGON ON REQUEST.

The Objectives of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

- * To vitalize patriotism and nationalism in all citizens
- * 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

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All the goods of the aforementioned groups of specifications are to be manufactured, imported and/or sold by/or on behalf of the corporation in the Union of Myanmar.

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KHIN MAUNG MYINT B.A. (Law), LL.B., Advocate
For FOLLOW ME SDN BHD, Malaysia.
561, 1/F, Merchant Street, Ktda, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel : 95-1-706846/ 384382
E-mail: kmm-lawyer @ myanmar.com.mm
Dated: 8 September 2004.

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Dated: 8 September 2004

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in respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations" (Int'l Class 5)

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WIN MU TIN M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L for Mitsubishi Pharma Corporation
P.O Box 60, Yangon
Date 8 September 2004

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ပအသေးစား

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All the goods of the aforementioned groups of specifications are to be manufactured, imported and/or sold by/or on behalf of the corporation in the Union of Myanmar.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark will be dealt with according to the existing laws of the Union of Myanmar.

KHIN MAUNG MYINT B.A. (Law), LL.B., Advocate
For TOHTONKU SDN BHD, Malaysia.
561, 1/F, Merchant Street, Ktda, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel : 95-1-706846/ 384382
E-mail: kmm-lawyer @ myanmar.com.mm
Dated: 8 September 2004.

GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF FORESTRY MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE

Dated. 6-9-2004

TENDER NO. 01/2004-2005(MUSE)

Myanma Timber Enterprise will hold a tender sale as follows.

Commodity : Teak Conversions
Tamalan Conversions
Hardwood Curving (Elephant)
Date : 30-9-2004 (Thursday)
Time : (10:00) am
Place : Assistant Director Office, Muse, District Forest Department, Homon Quarter, Muse
Earnest Money : US\$ 10000

Please contact the Marketing Unit (2) of the Export Marketing and Milling Department of the Myanma Timber Enterprise for further details.

ချိတ်မိတ်တင်ခါ ခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာစက္ကန့်တောဗေဒလုပ်ငန်း ကြီးကြပ်မှုအောက်ရှိ စက်ရုံများအတွက် အောက်ပါပစ္စည်းများအား မြန်မာစက္ကန့်တောဗေဒလုပ်ငန်း ကြီးကြပ်မှုအောက်ရှိ စက်ရုံများအတွက်

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ပို့ရန်/အချိန်
1.	Ejectors	2 items	၂၀-၉-၂၀၀၄ (နေ့လည် ၁၂:၀၀ နာရီ)
2.	Steel Plate	24 Nos	၂၀-၉-၂၀၀၄ (နေ့လည် ၁၂:၀၀ နာရီ)

၂။ သိရှိလိုသည့် အချက်များရှိပါက ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်-၅၄၃၃၆၅ သို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။
မြန်မာစက္ကန့်တောဗေဒလုပ်ငန်း

Latam, Caribbean countries to set up information network

LIMA, 6 Sept — Fourteen Latin America and the Caribbean countries have decided to create a Latin American information network to fight against crimes in the region, according to reports from Bolivia's capital La Paz.

The decision was made at a three-day meeting on public security, which

concluded Saturday in Bolivia's eastern city of Santa Cruz aimed at protecting societies in a more efficient way. Ministers, secretaries, and heads of police forces from 14 countries in the region attended the meeting.

The participants pledged to curb crimes through joint projects, including the introduction

of community police scheme.

They also agreed to facilitate information exchange on criminal groups operating in their respective territories and combat crimes such as terrorism, paedophilia, child pornography, car-theft, and migration of criminals.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့
ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဩဂုတ်လ ၂၅ ရက်
ချိတ်မိတ်တင်ခါ ခေါ်ယူခြင်း
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံး အတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါပစ္စည်းများကို ဌာနအရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ပေးချေဝယ်ယူရန် ချိတ်မိတ်တင်ခါခေါ်ယူခြင်း ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
(က) စက်ယန္တရားအရန်ပစ္စည်းများ
(ခ) ရေတွန်းစက်အရန်ပစ္စည်းများ
ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပတ်ရက်မှာ ၁၆-၉-၂၀၀၄ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀) နာရီမှစပြီး ဈေးနှုန်း တင်သွင်းလွှာပတ်ရက်လျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင် တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်စေလွှတ်ရောင်းချရန် ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချ ရေးဌာနတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်-၂၀၂၅၃၄ ၂၀၁၁၂ (ရင်းခွဲ) ၂၃၅ တို့သို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MANDALAY" Voy No 134/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon Port on 6-9-2004 and will be berthing on about 7-9-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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သစ်တောစွမ်းမြင့်
စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်။

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Patients warned against herbal remedies not approved by FDA

WASHINGTON, 6 Sept — Patients in the United States are being warned against herbal remedies not approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

The Washington Post on Sunday cited the instance of two people who died after taking PC-SPES, a "natural" herbal remedy for trouble with the prostate gland.

It turned out that the PC-SPES had been mixed by the manufacturer, BotanicLab, with the herb improperly mixed with

pharmaceuticals, including an anti-inflammatory drug, an artificial estrogen considered so dangerous it was pulled from the market years ago, the paper reported.

The company sold at least eight other herbal supplements that eventually proved to contain undisclosed prescription

drugs. Those products are now off the market, and BotanicLab has closed.

But many other similar laboratories are operating, claiming to provide herbal medicine, the paper said.

While BotanicLab may be history, said The Post, the regulatory system that allowed the company to go into business with little oversight has not changed much.

The government subjects herbal remedies to far less scrutiny than pharmaceuticals, a hands-off policy that has allowed the 20 billion dollars supplement industry to flourish, growing to 1,000 manufacturers shipping 29,000 products. Polls show that most people think the products are safe and assume the government is testing them to be sure.

MNA/PTI

scientist says babies can recognize mother at aged 15 hours

EXETER (England), 6 Sept — Beauty may not be just in the eye of the beholder after all because a sense of visual attraction is hardwired in the brain at birth, a British scientist said on Monday.

Psychologist Alan Slater of the University of Exeter in south-western England told a British science conference that babies can recognize their mother from as little as 15 hours after birth and also show a preference for looking at photographs of physically attractive people.

"Beauty is not in the eye of the beholder but in the brain of the newborn infant," he told the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

In a series of experiments, he and his colleagues have shown that

although babies enter the world visually naive, all their sensory system are functioning.

Infants show several spontaneous visual preferences. They like watching moving rather than stationary objects, prefer to look at three-dimensional stimuli and find faces fascinating.

When given a choice of two facial photographs to look at, babies usually prefer and spend more time gazing at the person who is better-looking.

"Infants prefer to look at the more attractive of two faces," said Slater.

MNA/Reuters



Edwin Parra (L) and sister Kimberly Parra walk through the debris on 6 September, 2004 in the Hairmaster's Styles hair salon after the roof was torn off by Hurricane Frances in Port St Lucie, Florida. The Parras were attempting to salvage what was left of the shop's supplies with their mother, who works at the shop.—INTERNET

Rare green jade discovered in northwest China

URUMQI, 6 Sept — A large, rare piece of green jade weighing approximately 60 tons was spotted in Qiemo County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the largest ever discovered in Xinjiang, said jade experts.

The huge semi-precious stone was discovered in the bed of the Tashishayi River west of the Altun Mountains some 300 kilometres away from the seat of Qiemo County, according to a Press release by the county government.—MNA/Xinhua

Spill of toxic metals into river investigated in Romania

BUCHAREST, 6 Sept — Romanian environmental officials on Sunday investigated a spill of toxic heavy metals into a river in the north of the country that has reportedly caused neighbouring Ukraine to cut water supplies to five towns.

"A faulty hydro-transport pipeline at the Baia Borsa gold mine in Romania had broken and started to spread sludge containing zinc, lead and copper into the Cislă River," an official from the regional environment authority told Reuters.

The spill occurred in northern Romania, some 60 miles from the border with Ukraine, Romania's Environment Ministry said. Cislă is a tributary of the Viseu River, which flows into the Tisa River which flows into Ukraine

and then into Hungary.

The incident, which occurred at midnight on Saturday, is being investigated by a commission of experts, the regional official said. "We moved quickly and managed to pump 80 cubic metres of polluted water off the (Cislă) River and the situation was under control... we found no dead fish," the official said, adding that the spill did not spread into Viseu or the Tisa River.

"We notified environment authorities from Ukraine and Hungary in due

course," the official said.

MNA/Reuters

Peru, Bolivia set up joint commission to export natural gas

LIMA, 6 Sept — Peru and Bolivia set up a joint commission to facilitate the export of Bolivian natural gas to North America via a Peruvian port, said Peruvian Energy and Mining Minister Jaime Quijandria on Saturday.

The creation of the commission was agreed upon during the first bilateral ministerial meeting on the issue, which concluded Saturday at the Peruvian city of Cusco, said the official.

The commission will guide the work of three sub-commissions, which coordinate the actions of the ministries of energy, economy, production and transportation in both countries, he said.

A lot of work awaits the commission, said Quijandria.

It will first of all strive to "establish the position

of the Bolivian gas in the international market and pass the Law on Hydrocarbon Resources", he said.

In the first week of last August, Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo and his Bolivian counterpart Carlos Mesa, signed a strategic agreement to export Bolivian natural gas through the Peruvian port of Ilo in the Pacific Ocean.

Bolivia is a country with rich natural gas and its proven natural gas reserves amount to 54.8 trillion cubic feet.

MNA/Xinhua

(၇) (၈) (၉) (၁၀) စာသင်သားများအတွက်
သင်ရိုးညွှန်းတမ်းနှင့်အညီ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ သင်ခန်းစာများပါရှိပါသည်။

JUNIOR LEADER



အတွဲ (၆) အမှတ် (၂၄) ဖြန့်ချိလိုက်ပါပြီ

သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုဒ်ဇာဝေမီဇာနီစာအုပ်ဆိုဒ်နှင့်သတင်းစာ
ကိုယ်စားလှယ်များထံတွင် လက်လီဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

The New Light of Myanmar

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ တိုးတက်လိုသူတိုင်း၊ ဂျူနီယာလီဒါကို ဖတ်ကြည့်ပါ။
Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

ကျေးဇူးတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်ရှိရပါသည်။



ကျေးဇူးတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များနှင့်ပူးပေါင်း၍ ဖတ်ကြားသောအခါ အသုံးပြုနိုင်ပါသည်။

ကျေးဇူးတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသ စာအုပ်များလှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာ့ကျေးဇူးတိုင်းစာကြည့်တိုက်အဖွဲ့ချုပ်

SPORTS

Guatemala come from behind to beat Costa Rica 2-1

GUATEMALA CITY, 6 Sept—Substitute Juan Carlos Plata scored twice in the second half as Guatemala came from behind to beat 10-man Costa Rica 2-1 and hand the Ticos another World Cup qualifying defeat on Sunday.

Costa Rica, trying to reach their second successive World Cup, are bottom of Group B in the second stage of the marathon CONCACAF qualifying tournament with no points from two games. Guatemala, who extended their unbeaten run to nine games, top the group with a maximum six points. Honduras are second with four points and Canada third with one.

Costa Rica, beaten 5-2 at home by Honduras two weeks ago, had striker Andy Herron sent off after only 16 minutes for a reckless challenge on a defender. Despite the setback, midfielder Alonso Solis put them ahead in the 24th minute as he pounced on a defensive blunder.—MNA/Reuters



Spain's Joaquin (R) flies past Quasihe (L) of Scotland in their friendly match in Ciudad de Valencia Stadium in Valencia which was abandoned after 59 minutes due to floodlight failure with the score 1-1. The Scots next take on Slovenia at Hampden Park on 8 September, their first World Cup qualifier with defeat unthinkable for under-pressure manager Berti Vogst.—INTERNET

Capriati set up quarterfinal showdown with Serena

NEW YORK, 6 Sept—Jennifer Capriati set up a mouth-watering quarterfinal showdown with former champion Serena Williams at the US Open after she battled to a 7-5, 6-2 victory over 12th seed Ai Sugiyama on Sunday.

The American came from 5-3 down in the first set and saved a set point at 4-5 before storming back, winning 10 of the last 12 games to take her place in the last eight.

Capriati was broken in the first set but when Sugiyama put a forehand long on set point, the eighth seed grabbed her chance and broke the Japanese again to take the set.

Lifting her game from her first three rounds, a confident Capriati then ran through the second set for victory in one hour, 10 minutes.

The American's meeting with Williams in the quarterfinals will be their 17th clash, with the third seed leading 10-6.—MNA/Reuters

Brazil power to 3-1 win over Bolivia

SAO PAULO, 6 Sept—Ronaldo and Ronaldinho were both on target as Brazil powered to a 3-1 win over Bolivia in their World Cup qualifier on Sunday.

Bolivia fielded four defenders and four defensive midfielders in an attempt to keep the world champions at bay but their plans were shattered as Brazil romped to a 2-0 lead in only 13 minutes.

Adriano, who scored seven goals in the Copa America when Ronaldo was rested, added the third just before halftime.

Bolivia brought on even more defenders after

the break and pulled one back through midfielder Luis Cristaldo while their goalkeeper Leo Fernandez pulled off several world class saves to deny Brazil further goals. Brazil went back to the top of the 10-nation South American group with 16 points from eight games while Bolivia stayed bottom with six.

Bolivia have conceded 11 goals in their previous two visits to Brazil and were quickly in trouble as they left Ronaldo unmarked to fire home from close range after only 55 seconds, his seventh goal of the qualifiers.

The visitors were in further trouble when Cristaldo upended Roque Junior in the penalty area and Ronaldinho fired home from the spot in the 13th minute.

Brazil turned on the style to the delight of the 72,000 crowd, Ronaldinho firing over in the 26th minute after a flowing move down the right. Sometimes too clever for their own good, Brazil added a third before halftime when Adriano outjumped the defence for his first goal of the qualifiers.

MNA/Reuters

Ibrahimovics' hat-trick helps Sweden 7-0 demolition of Malta

TA'QALI (Malta), 6 Sept—New Juventus signing Zlatan Ibrahimovic slammed in four goals including a 10-minute first half hat-trick to help Sweden to a 7-0 demolition of Malta in their Group Eight World Cup qualifier on Saturday.

The former Ajax striker netted after four, 11 and 14 minutes to crush the Maltese resolve early on and set up an easy victory. Arsenal winger Fredrik Ljungberg notched his first minute after halftime and Ibrahimovic scored his fourth after 71 minutes.

Ljungberg scored again three minutes later and Barcelona striker Henrik Larsson completed the thrashing on 76 minutes before missing a penalty in stoppage time.—MNA/Reuters

Uruguay back on track by beating Ecuador 1-0

MONTEVIDEO, 6 Sept—Uruguay got their World Cup qualifying campaign back on track by beating Ecuador 1-0 on Sunday thanks to a Carlos Bueno goal that their opponents claimed did not cross the line.

The breakthrough came in the 58th minute when Bueno met substitute Fabian Estoyanoff's cross from the right with a header that was pushed away by goalkeeper Edwin Villafuerte.

The ball went straight

back to Bueno, whose second header was brilliantly saved but referee Gilberto Hidalgo ruled that the ball had gone over the line while furious Ecuador players surrounded the linesman to protest.

Uruguay, who had lost

their previous three qualifiers, moved level with Ecuador on 10 points from eight games in the 10-team South American qualifying group.

Ecuador were playing their first game under new coach Luis Fernando Suarez, who omitted 36-year-old captain Alex Aguinaga from the squad, left striker Ivan Kaviedes at home for indiscipline and gave Villafuerte his debut.

Uruguay forward Alvaro Recoba, jeered by local fans at a training session last week, had crashed one of his trademark left-foot shots against the bar in the first minute.

Bueno was also close with an inswinging free kick that Villafuerte tipped over but Uruguay lost momentum when striker Dario Silva limped off injured in the 25th minute.

Ecuador nearly went ahead just before halftime when Carlos Tenorio burst through the middle of the Uruguay defence but Sebastian Viera saved with his feet.—MNA/Reuters

Agassi to wrap up victory on fourth match point

NEW YORK, 6 Sept—Twice champion Andre Agassi sent out an ominous warning to his rivals for the US Open title on Saturday with a ruthless 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 third-round demolition of Czech Jiri Novak.

The 34-year-old, champion in 1994 and 1999, kept the ball rolling for the older generation with a 92-minute victory, firing 11 aces past the 25th seed to move into the last 16 for the 14th time in his career.

Novak had no answer to the power and precision of Agassi's groundstrokes as 29 winners flowed from the American's racket. Eleven Agassi aces kept Novak on the back foot, with the Czech only able to break serve once.—MNA/Reuters

Togo go top of African zone group one

LOME, 6 Sept—Togo's unexpected run of success in their qualifying campaign for the 2006 World Cup continued on Sunday with a 2-0 win over Congo.

Togo, who have already beaten Group favourites Senegal, went top of the standings in African zone Group One, advancing to seven points.

They lead Zambia and Senegal on goal difference.

Togo were in the lead at halftime in Lome after Congo defender Fabry Makita-Passy turned an effort from Togo striker Kader Coubadja-Toure into his own net in the 39th minute.

MNA/Reuters

Paraguay crush Venezuela 1-0

ASUNCION, 6 Sept—Veteran defender Carlos Gamarra headed a second-half goal to give Paraguay a hard-fought win 1-0 over Venezuela in their World Cup qualifier on Sunday.

Gamarra, who took part as an over-age player at the Olympic Games where Paraguay finished runners-up to win the nation's first-ever medal in any sport, outfoxed the Venezuela defence in the 53rd minute.

The 33-year-old, who played in the 1998 and 2002 World Cups, got free from his marker and rose unmarked to meet Diego Gavilan's corner with a powerful header that Venezuela goalkeeper Gilberto Angelucci could only push it into the roof of the net.

Paraguay have 14 points from eight games in the 10-nation South American qualifying group while Venezuela, who have lost momentum after winning three games in a row earlier in the tournament, are stuck on ten.

The Venezuelans have failed to score in their last three qualifiers which followed their sensational 3-0 win away to Uruguay in March.

Paraguay made a lively start and midfielder Carlos Paredes shaved the post with a fierce shot from the edge of the area after Venezuela lost possession.

MNA/Reuters



Security personnel surround Chinese Olympic gold medalist hurdler Liu Xiang as he signs autographs for fans at a Hong Kong seaside promenade, on Tuesday, 7 Sept, 2004. China's 32 Olympic gold medalists fanned out across Hong Kong on Tuesday in a charm offensive analysts say is aimed at boosting support for pro-Beijing candidates in a legislative election just days away.

INTERNET

MRTV-3



**8-9-2004 (Wednesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 9:06 Lacquerware made from Porcelain and glaze
- 9:10 National News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Oyster Curry"
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Melodious Myanmar Harp (Myitta)
- 9:25 Scenic Beauty of Falam and Cultural Dance
- 9:28 Kayin Traditional Weaving Industry
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 King Alaung Min-taya's Palace Site
- 9:40 Songs On Screen "Still Waiting in sleep"
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 Mandalay, A Close distance
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**8-9-2004 (Wednesday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Lacquerware made

- from Porcelain and glaze
- 15:40 National News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Oyster Curry"
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Melodious Myanmar Harp (Myitta)
- 15:55 Scenic Beauty of Falam and Cultural Dance
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 King Alaung Min-taya's Palace Site
- 16:10 Songs On Screen "Still Waiting in sleep"
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 Mandalay, A Close distance
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 Ship Building of Myanmar
- 16:40 Progressing Cultivation in Northern Shan State
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 The Excellent Photographs in Shan State
- 16:55 A Song of the "Nat" Spirit
- 16:58 Inlay Blacksmith Craftsmanship
- 17:00 National News**
- 17:05 Marine Products in Myeik
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Secret Love"
- 17:12 Myanma Paintings of Successive Periods
- 17:15 National News**
- 17:20 Preservation and Reproduction of Sea Turtle
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and see Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune Greeting

- 19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 19:36 Ancient Htoke Kan Thein Temple
- 19:40 National News**
- 19:42 School for the Blind
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 Kan-Peik-Ti Border Town in Kachin State
- 19:55 An Exulting Male Dance
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Let's have fun watching Chinlone Games
- 20:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Mesmerize Your Longing Wish"
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 Enchanting Buddhist Treasures Exhibition
- 20:25 Myanmar Modern Song "No right to love, Yet"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments (String Instruments) (Myanmar Harp)
- 20:40 Endeavours for Greening Mount Tantkyi
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 Dry Dockyard in Pattet Island, Taninthayi Division
- 20:55 Rakhine Traditional Cultural Dance Honouring Buddha
- 20:58 Kengtaung Waterfall
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 National Kandawgyi Gardens
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern Song "I'll remain in Shwe Myaing"
- 21:15 National News**
- 21:20 Indulge yourself with Traditional gourmet at Yangon's chic "Green Elephant"
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"

- 21:35 Lacquerware made from Porcelain and glaze
- 21:40 National News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Oyster Curry"
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Melodious Myanmar Harp (Myitta)
- 21:55 Scenic Beauty of Falam and Cultural Dance
- 21:58 Kayin Traditional Weaving Industry
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 King Alaung Min-taya's Palace Site
- 22:10 Songs On Screen "Still Waiting in sleep"
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 Mandalay, A Close distance
- 22:25 Myanmar Modern Song "No Matter In Whichever Country You Are Remember You are Myanmar"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 Ship Building of Myanmar
- 22:40 Progressing Cultivation in Northern Shan State
- 22:45 National News**
- 22:50 The Excellent Photographs in Shan State
- 22:55 A Song of the "Nat" Spirit
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- 23:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and see Myanmar"

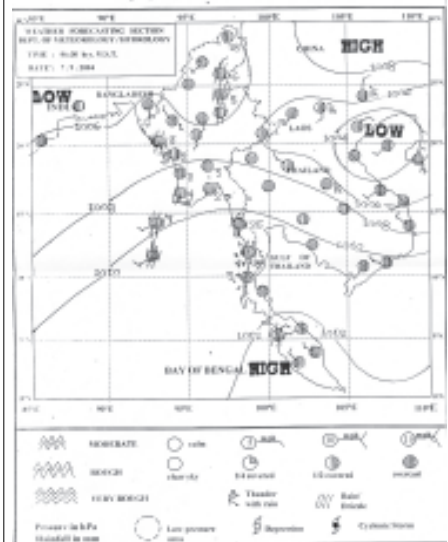
Rainfall on 7-9-2004 was

- nil at Yangon Airport,
- 0.08 inch at Kaba-Aye and
- nil at central Yangon.

Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was

- 97.80 inches at Yangon Airport,
- 94.25 inches at Kaba-Aye and
- 95.87 inches at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 7 September 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan, Chin and Kayah States, Mandalay Division, scattered in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (1.54) inches and Co Co Island (1.26) inches.

Maximum temperature on 6-9-2004 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 7-9-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-9-2004 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 6-9-2004 was 5.2 hours approx. Rainfall on 7-9-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, (0.08 inch) at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 97.80 inches at Yangon Airport, 94.25 inches at Kaba-Aye and 95.87 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from South-west at 12:50 hours MST on 6-9-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is generally weak in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 8-9-2004:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Shan, Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and scattered in Kachin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of the withdrawal of the South-west monsoon from the northern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-9-2004:** Sunny period with one or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-9-2004: Partly cloudy.

"Earthquake report"

(Issued at 09:00 hrs MST on today)

An earthquake of strong intensity (6.3) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (2752) miles northeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (06) hrs (07) min (04) sec MST on 7th September 2004.



Wednesday, September 8

View on today:

- 7:00 am**
1. ကော့ရှင်မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အကွဲတော်ဆောင်ချယ် အဘိဓမ္မာဟောရှုစုရ အဘိဓမ္မာရ မဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓာတ်တ၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရီ၊ ဆရာတော် တက္ကသိုလ်ဘာသာရပ်သင်္ဂါယန ဝရိတ် တရားတော်
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. မင်္ဂလာနိဂ္ဂဟာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဓမ္မပုဗ္ဗိမ္မာနိဂ္ဂဟာ (တတိယ ဓာတ်ပုံနိဂ္ဂဟာ) (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 7:55 am**
5. Nice and sweet song
- 8:10 am**
6. "မိမိမြို့နယ်"
- 8:30 am**
7. International news
- 8:45 am**
8. Learning English the Easy and Happy Way for the Children & Beginners
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
5. အစောဆုံးတက္ကသိုလ် ယဉ်ကျေး ချစ်မြတ်သောအသံအနုပညာ - ဒုတိယနိဂ္ဂဟာ (သမ္မာ၊ စာတည်း၊ ရုပ်ပုံ၊ အသံ၊ အသံ၊ အသံ) (သမ္မာ)
- 5:15 pm**
6. Song of national races
- 5:30 pm**
7. ၂၀၀၄ ခု ခုနစ် ၃၂၂ နှစ် အထိ အကြိမ် (၁)ကြိမ်မြောက်မြန်မာ့နေ့ကျမ်းအတို အတိုအစုအဝေးအတိုမြို့ပြပွဲတော်အခမ်းအနား နိုင်ငံတော်မဟာဂီတ (ဂီတအဖွဲ့အစည်း အမျိုးသား၊ အမျိုးသမီး)
- 5:45 pm**
8. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာတော်

- 5:55 pm**
9. Classical song
- 6:10 pm**
10. ရွယ်လုံသံအသံ အစီအစဉ်
- 6:20 pm**
11. Discovery
- 6:30 pm**
12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
14. Strong and healthy Myanmar
- 7:20 pm**
15. Musical programme
- 7:35 pm**
16. ကော့ရှင်မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် အလှူအတန်း
- 8:00 pm**
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. ကော့ရှင်မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် (သမ္မာ) မြန်မာ့ နိဂ္ဂဟာတော်ကျမ်းအတို အတိုအစုအဝေးအတိုမြို့ပြပွဲတော်အခမ်းအနား (ရုပ်ပုံ၊ အသံ၊ အသံ) (ရုပ်ပုံ၊ အသံ)
21. The next day's programme



Wednesday, September 8

Tune in today:

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: Viva La Radio
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: Eerie meenic, miney, mo
- 8:50 am** National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music - Kissy
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music: - Book of love
- 9:15 am** News/Slogan
- 9:20 am** Lunch time music - You drive me crazy
- 9:25 am** -The sound of goodbye
- 9:30 am** Variations on a tune "Hello Darling"
- 9:35 am** Article/Music
- 9:40 am** Music at your request
- 9:45 am** -I only want to be with you
- 9:50 am** -I take you with me
- 9:55 am** -A deeper love
- 10:00 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:05 pm** PEL

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of sympathy to Vice-President of the PRC

YANGON, 7 Sept — Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to Mr Zeng Qinghong, Vice-President of the People's Republic of China for the loss of life and property caused by the recent floods and landslides in some parts of Southwest China. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of sympathy to Premier of the State Council of the PRC

YANGON, 7 Sept — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China for the loss of life and property caused by the recent floods and landslides in some parts of Southwest China. — MNA

Sanitation and upgrading tasks of Yangon City inspected

YANGON, 7 Sept — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor of Yangon City Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected the sanitation work and upgrading of roads in Yangon City and fulfilled the requirements.

They inspected paving of stone slabs on the pavements, dredging of drains, beautifying tasks and tarring of roads in Pabedan, Kamayut, Mayangon and Bahan townships. Officials concerned reported to them on work being carried out. The commander and the mayor attended to the needs.

They also inspected tarring at Parami Overpass which is being constructed by the Ministry of Rail Transportation. Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than reported on progress of work.

MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects Ngamoeyek Bridge (Kamakyi) Construction Project.

YGN COMMAND



Workshop on People to People Exchange Programme ASEAN Cultural Interaction at Grassroots, Phase III opens

YANGON, 7 Sept — Workshop on People to People Exchange Programme ASEAN Cultural Interaction at Grassroots, Phase III hosted by Myanmar was opened yesterday at Swan Hotel in Mandalay, Myanmar, with an opening address by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung.

Speaking on the occasion, Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung said the People-to-People Exchange Programme initiated since 2000 and undertaken with respective themes would contribute Cultural Interaction at the Grassroots level in ASEAN region. This is aimed at bringing together the people from grassroots level to

exchange ideas and share experiences in various aspects of culture and life ways, in common folk knowledge, cottage industries. Myanmar will promote a better mutual understanding of Asian arts and crafts. We will have opportunity to share expertise on traditional herbal medicine, he added. After the opening ceremony, Mayor of Mandalay City Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Commander of the Central Command Brig-Gen Nay Win and delegates from ASEAN member countries and its partner People's Republic of China had a documentary photo taken.

Next, they viewed the Myanmar arts and crafts

including the origami, personal goods, silverware, licquerware, ceramics, handicrafts, gold embroidery, traditional costumes and herbal medicines.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Chairman of ASEAN-COCI of Myanmar Department of Cultural Institute U Myint Thein Swe, Director-General of the Department for ASEAN Affairs U Aung Bwa and officials concerned, delegates from ASEAN member nations and People's Republic of China. ASEAN consists of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam. — MNA

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

- * In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.
- * The use of natural gas can not only save fuel oil but also extend engine duration.
- * Natural gas exploited at home can be used effectively and safely.
- * Natural gas burns cent per cent and is environment-friendly.
- * Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.



Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and delegates pose for a documentary photo. — MNA