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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye goes on inspection tour of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project

YANGON, 8 Sept —

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye who was arriving Mandalay, 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) Real-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, senior military officers, the Mandalay mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, went on in-



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye being welcomed by officials at Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project.— MNA

spection tour of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project yesterday afternoon.

First, they were welcomed by Chairman

of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Com-

mander of No 33 LID Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung and officials and project engineers.

At the briefing hall, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party

heard reports on background history of the project, the chosen site for the project, and pre-engineering works and salient points of the project presented by Minister for

Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, tasks being carried out for building of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) at both Mandalay bank and Sagaing bank by Mandalay bank in-charge Deputy Superintending Engineer U Htay Myint and Sagaing bank in-charge Deputy Superintending Engineer U San Win.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun presented reports on situation of the approach road to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye. In response to the reports, Vice-Senior General

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Construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project in progress.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 9 September, 2004

Strive for emergence of modern airport with set standards

Development of a region or a nation depends on its transport. Good transport ensures not only the regional or national economic development but also the strengthening of friendship among the national people.

Therefore, the Government of the Union of Myanmar has been striving for the improvement of transport by taking systematic measures. Roads running from north to south are being upgraded and at the same time the new ones are being built so that travels between towns and villages in the eastern and western parts of the nation can become smooth and easy.

The construction of Anisakhan airport in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, is one of the projects for building river-crossing bridges, ports, airports and upgrading the old ones.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, together with responsible officials, inspected the construction site of Anisakhan airport in PyinOoLwin on 7 September and gave necessary instructions regarding the work being done.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that Anisakhan airport is to be upgraded to be a modern one with a runway that can be used by jets, that measures are to be taken systematically so that each construction task can meet the standards set.

It was before World War II that Anisakhan airport was built and its gravel runway was 4,445 feet long and 200 feet wide. And it was in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State that the old airport is being upgraded to become a modern one where Boeing jets can land. On completion, its concrete runway will be 10,000 feet long and 200 feet wide.

The construction of Anisakhan airport started in February, 2004, and it is being built by the Ministry of Transport and the Directorate of Military Engineers.

We would like to call on all those responsible of the Anisakhan airport construction project to try as much as they can to meet the standards set so that the airport they are building will become a modern airport that can handle international flights.

Selected poems book comes out

YANGON, 8 Sept — Naing-Ngan Gonyi Literary House published the selected poems book titled "String of Pearls in the Heart" composed by Poet Myimnu Maung Naing Moe who had won National Literary Awards for four times with the aim of enabling Myanmar literature and poems to penetrate international literature world.

It is English and Myanmar versions. A total of 61 poems out of the poet's works were composed between 1965 and 2003 were translated by Saya Amaythar. It is available at K 1,000 each at Naing-Ngan Gonyi Literary House (Tel: 374532-725530) and Tun Oo Sarpay in Mandalay (Tel: 02-39891, 02-39801). — MNA

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

Ministry of F&R continues its coord meeting

YANGON, 8 Sept — Ministry of Finance and Revenue continued its coordination meeting for 2003-2004 and first four-monthly meeting for 2004-2005 for the second day at the meeting hall of the ministry, Setmu-1 Road, Yankin Township, yesterday with closing speech by Minister for F & R Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, and official, heads of Internal Revenue Department in states and divisions, managers and officials concerned.

First, managers of Myanmar Economic Bank and heads of Internal Revenue Department in states and divisions presented reports on accomplishments.

Regarding the reports, the minister gave necessary instructions.

After Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung had reviewed banking services, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe gave supplementary reports. Next, the minister made a closing speech.—MNA

Literacy, Forerunner of Education

- * Education, in this world
Is vital.
- * Only with it's inclusion in this world
Will there be smoothness, success.
- * By the same token, in religion
It is vital.
- * Only with education
Can you step,
Toward heaven.
- * To acquire it you must
First be literate.
- * Only when literate
Can you seek noble education.
- * Literacy as education forerunner
Let's seek it today.

Nwe Cho (Trs)

(Honouring the International Literacy Day)

Education Minister leaves for Switzerland

YANGON, 7 Sept — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Education U Than Aung left here for Geneva, Switzerland, by air yesterday to attend the 17th International Education Conference which will be held from 8 to 11 September.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister at Prime Minister's Office U Than Shwe, Deputy Ministers for Education U Myo Nyunt and Col Aung Myo Min, directors-general of the departments under the Ministry of Education.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun makes closing remarks at the coordination meeting. — F&R

MKF gets new training hall

YANGON, 8 Sept — The new training hall of the Myanmar Karatedo

Federation at Aung San Stadium was inaugurated by Chairman of Myanmar

Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint yesterday.

After the minister unveiled the signboard of the hall, President of the MKF Dr Ye Naing Wynn reported to him on arrangements for Myanmar karatedo athletes to win medals in international karatedo events and future plans.

Next, wellwishers donated cash to the MKF. Mr Huang of ZTE Corp Chief (Yangon Office) presented US\$ 15,000; MKF Vice-President Managing Director of Mingala Co U Zaw Min K 1.05 million, MKF Vice-President K 1.55 million, and Executive of MKF Managing Director of Myanmar Millennium Group U Min Zayar Hlaing K 1.25 million Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

MNA

MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint accepts US\$ 15,000 for Myanmar Karatedo Federation donated by ZTE Corporation Chief (Yangon Office) Mr Huang. — MKF

Cultural performing arts of DPRPW continues

YANGON, 8 Sept — The Fourth Competitions of the Cultural Performing Arts of Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare of the Ministry of Defence continued for the fourth day at No 3 Mobile Public Relations Unit in Mandalay yesterday morning.

Present were Col Nyo Win of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers and members of the panel of judges.

The music solo and music troupe events were held.



1,003 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Sept — As of Tuesday, 7 September, 1,003 members of the US military 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. That count includes 1,000 service members and three military civilians.

The Defence Department's most recent published count, as of Tuesday, 7 Sept, shows 998 US service members dead. Of those, 752 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of non-hostile causes. In addition, the Defence Department lists the deaths of three Defence Department civilians, for a total of 1,001.

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.

According to the military's numbers Tuesday, 860 US soldiers have died since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended. Of those, 643 died as a result of hostile action and 217 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers Tuesday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

— One soldier was killed in a roadside bomb attack Wednesday near Balad.

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

— One soldier was killed when his convoy was hit by a roadside bomb near Baghdad late Monday.

— One soldier died early Tuesday from wounds sustained from a roadside bombing against his convoy a day earlier in Baghdad.

— One soldier died Monday from wounds sustained during an unspecified attack in Baghdad.

— One soldier was killed in a roadside bomb attack near Qayarah, just north of Baghdad.

— Two soldiers were killed in a rocket-propelled grenade strike during clashes in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City early Tuesday.

— One soldier was killed by small arms fire Tuesday in west Baghdad. — *Internet*

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Four US soldiers killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 8 Sept — Guerillas killed four American soldiers in separate attacks in Baghdad on Tuesday, the US military said.

In Baghdad's sprawling Shiite Sadr City slum, guerillas with rocket-propelled grenades killed one soldier and wounded two, the US Army said.

In a separate attack, guerillas armed with small arms killed one soldier in the western part of the city, the military said.

A US Army spokesman said two other US soldiers were killed in the Baghdad area on Tuesday. He did not elaborate. The US death toll in Iraq on Tuesday reached 1,000 nearly 18 months after American-led forces invaded the country, the White House said.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the latest Pentagon figures showed that 997 American troops and three civilian employees of the Defence Department had been killed in Iraq. A defence official confirmed the milestone toll.

With President George W Bush under sharp criticism from Democrats — including presidential candidate John Kerry — for invading Iraq without support from major allies, the milestone is expected to play a major role in debate ahead of the November election.

The rising death toll includes more than a dozen US troops killed in fighting and attacks by guerillas since Friday. Nearly 7,000 American troops have also been wounded since the invasion. — *MNA/Reuters*

Italian women kidnapped in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Sept—Two Italian women working for a humanitarian group in Iraq have been kidnapped in Baghdad.

Witnesses said armed men stormed the offices of A Bridge for Baghdad, abducting Simona Pari and Simona Torretta, both 29, and two Iraqis.

More than 100 foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi held emergency talks with key ministers to discuss the crisis.

They issued a statement saying they had organized a meeting with representatives of the opposition for Wednesday, "convinced that the unity of the country is the way to respond to terrorism".

One of the Iraqis captured was a male engineer who worked for the humanitarian group.

The other Iraqi, a woman, was believed to work for Intersos, another Italian organization. — *Internet*



An Iraqi policeman secures the area as a US military tanker is engulfed in fire after it came under attack on the outskirts of Baghdad recently. — *INTERNET*

Chinese DM says China-Jordan ties to be developed

BEIJING, 7 Sept— China and Jordan should work together to expand bilateral exchanges and cooperation, said Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan here Monday.

Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and state councillor, made the remarks at a meeting with Khalid Sarayreh, chairman of Joint Chief of Staff of Jordanian Armed Forces.

He said that the friendly relations and cooperation between China and Jordan have

developed in a sustained way since the two countries forged diplomatic ties more than 20 years ago.

The two nations have conducted effective co-operation in the fields of politics, economy and culture.

Cao expressed his appreciation for Jordan's adherence to the one-

China policy.

He said that the relationship between the two armies has also grown in recent years, noting that the mutual visits by high ranking officials have helped promote the friendship and mutual understanding between the two armies.

MNA/Xinhua

Kyushu Island bracing for Typhoon Songda

TOKYO, 7 Sept — Japan's southernmost main island of Kyushu was bracing for torrential rain and high winds on Monday, as the third typhoon in three weeks threatened the region.

Typhoon Songda has wreaked havoc in more southerly islands over the past two days, injuring 21 people in and near Okinawa, cutting electricity to about 30,000 households and forcing schools to close.

Songda, the most powerful typhoon to hit Okinawa in several years, stranded tourists in the popular holiday area as flights and ferries were cancelled.

MNA/Reuters

Singapore to spend millions to help disabled children

SINGAPORE, 7 Sept— The Singapore Government will spend a total of 15 million Singapore dollars (about 8.8 million US dollars) over the next five years to fund special early intervention programmes aimed at helping children with special disabilities.

According to local Press reports, this was announced at a symposium on early intervention held on Monday.

The government will also give out some 15,000 CD-ROMs which give basic tips on how to care for children with disa-

bilities from autism to dyslexia.

Last year, the government spent 2.2 million Singapore dollars (about 1.3 million US dollars) to help lessen the financial burden on parents whose children have special disabilities.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi police stand outside the office of the Italian charity Un Ponte Per Baghdad (Bridge to Baghdad). Armed men kidnapped two Italian women working for the charity and two Iraqi aid workers from their Baghdad office recently. — *INTERNET*

Sudan: US to smash us like Iraq

ADDIS ABABA, 7 Sept—Washington's threat of sanctions against Sudan over the Darfur crisis is part of a US conspiracy aimed at destroying the government in Khartoum as it did in Iraq and Somalia, a senior Sudanese official said.

"Sudan is not afraid of the threat of sanctions by the United States, which is using the crisis in Darfur to weaken and destroy the government of Sudan in a similar fashion in which they devastated Iraq and

Somalia," said Angelo Bada, Deputy Speaker of Sudan's parliament.

Bada, speaking at a news conference in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa late on Monday, was referring to the US-led in-

vasion of Iraq in 2003 and US support of a Somalia peace operation that ended in humiliation in 1993. The UN Security Council gave Sudan 30 days to disarm and prosecute Arab Janjaweed militia accused

of killing, raping and driving villagers from their land in an 18-month conflict or face unspecified sanctions. The deadline expired on 30 August.

UN envoy Jan Pronk has called for more pressure to be put on Khartoum but with opinion split among Security Council members after the expiry of the deadline, the United Nations is not expected to take action soon.

US Ambassador John Danforth has warned that the threat of sanctions was not going to go away and the European Union said on Saturday it would draw up sanctions against Khartoum, including possible measures against its oil industry, which could be enacted at the request of the United Nations.

Internet



A car burns in the Sadr City section of Baghdad following clashes between US Army and Iraqi Shiite militia, on 7 Sept, 2004. —INTERNET

Bangladesh achieves significant growth in tourism

DHAKA, 7 Sept—Bangladesh achieved significant growth both in number of tourist arrival and amount of income from them during the first quarter (January-March) period of the current year.

The performance of Bangladesh in the sector is significant because the growth has been achieved virtually without any marketing effort, *The New Nation* newspaper reported Sunday.

According to the statistics available from the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (the Bangladesh Tourist Corporation), the national tourist organization, the total number of tourist arrival into the country during the first three months of the year was 72,944 against a total of 58,258 during the corresponding period last year. This represents an increase of 25.20 per cent.

During the same period, the country earned 21.1 million US dollars compared to 941.9 million (15.7 million dollars) during the corresponding period last year, an increase of 34.39 per cent. —MNA/Xinhua

Panamanian NGO, UNICEF join hands in protecting minors

PANAMA CITY, 7 Sept—A local non-governmental organization, Casa Alianza, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will join their hands in protecting the minors by signing a cooperation agreement, local Press reported Monday.

The agreement, signed on August 24, seeks a more efficient way for protecting children and adolescents under 18 in Latin America and the Caribbean from violence, abuse, abandonment, economic and sexual exploitation, and human trafficking, said a statement issued by the regional UNICEF office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The two sides, according to the agreement, shared the idea that solutions to the social problem affecting the minors should involve the creation of opportunities, namely, public policies on education, health, housing, employment and protection. —MNA/Xinhua

Cuba reiterates threat from US armed aggression

HAVANA, 7 Sept—Cuba's Parliament Speaker Ricardo Alarcon said Monday the Bush Administration of the United States has never ruled out the possibility of an armed attack against the island.

Alarcon, who also oversees the Cuban Government's relations with the United States, reiterated the threat to the local Press.

The Cuban politician called James Cason, Chief of the US Interests Section in Cuba, "a fourth-class bureaucrat," and said "he is in Cuba to cheat."

Alarcon said US Secretary of State Colin Powell left open the possibility of carrying out a military attack against Cuba.

When answering the question of why the United States does not use military force against Cuba as it did against Iraq, Powell did not say that force should not be used at all, but argued that the same strategy cannot always be used, as there are other means, like political and economic pressure and subversion, Alarcon recalled. —MNA/Xinhua

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US military deaths in Iraq pass 1,000

BAGHDAD, 7 Sept—US military deaths in the Iraq campaign passed the 1,000 milestone Tuesday, with more than 800 of them during the stubborn insurgency that flared after the Americans brought down Saddam Hussein and President Bush declared major combat over.

A spike in fighting with Sunni and Shiite insurgents killed eight Americans in the Baghdad area on Tuesday and Wednesday, pushing the count to 1,003. That number includes 1,000 US troops and three civilians, two working for the US Army and one for the Air Force. The tally was compiled by *The Associated Press* based on Pentagon records and *AP* reporting from Iraq.

Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld cited progress on multiple fronts in the Bush administration's global war on terrorism and said US enemies should not underestimate the willingness of the American people and its coalition allies to suffer casualties in Iraq and elsewhere.

"The progress has prompted a backlash, in effect, from those who hope that at some point we might conclude that the pain and the cost of this fight isn't worth it," Rumsfeld told a Pentagon news conference. "Well, our enemies have underestimated our country, our coalition. They have failed to understand the character of our people. And they certainly misread our commander in chief." —Internet

Families flee US bombardment of Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 7 Sept—The Iraqi city of Fallujah is coming under heavy artillery fire, sending families fleeing and causing civilian casualties, hospital sources have said.

Witnesses reported an intense tank and artillery barrage in the southern Shuhada district and industrial zone. US warplanes also bombarded the eastern corridor of the city late on Tuesday evening, residents told *Reuters*.

Aljazeera reported that heavy smoke was seen spewing over the industrial neighbourhood in the city.

The general hospital had received an undetermined number of casualties and panic swept the city, *AFP* reported.

The US military said the bombardment was in reprisal for an earlier attack on US positions.

"We are responding after being under fire. We are hitting enemy posi-

tions in the city since 1830 (1430 GMT). We are using aircraft and artillery fire," said US Marine spokesman Lieutenant Colonel TV Johnson.

However, Iraqi sources said it was civilians who were killed in the barrage on the city.

A central Fallujah hospital official, Dr Muhammad Aboud, said the dead included an eight-year-old child and a 65-year-old man.

Internet



An Iraqi family flee Baghdad's Shiite neighbourhood of Sadr City. Iraq was steeped in blood as a fledgling truce in Sadr City was shattered by fresh fighting. —INTERNET

Drive safely

Kerry vows to withdraw US troops out of Iraq

WASHINGTON, 7 Sept— US Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said on Monday that he would try to pull American troops out of Iraq within four years.

"We want those troops home, and my goal would be to try to get them home in my first term," Kerry told voters at a campaign stop in Pennsylvania.

Kerry, meeting later with mineworkers in West Virginia, said that the United States is carrying the burden in casualties and cost in Iraq.

"This President rushed to war without a plan to win the peace, and he's cost all of you 200 billion US dollars that could have gone to schools, could have

gone to health care, could have gone to prescription drugs, could have gone to our Social Security," he said.

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

As of September 3, 976 US soldiers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003. Of those, 730 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of non-hostile causes, according to the US Defence Department records. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi captors set new conditions for release of French hostages

BAGHDAD, 7 Sept— The Iraqi captors of two French journalists on Monday gave France 48 hours to accept new conditions to free the hostages, according to a statement released on a web site.

The militants listed the new conditions as follows: France accept a truce offered by al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden, pay a ransom of five million US dollars and pledge not to get involved in Iraq militarily or commercially.

The militants said in the statement, whose authenticity could not be con-

firmed, that France has 48 hours to accept or reject the new conditions.

The two journalists, Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, were reportedly kidnapped on their way from Baghdad to the Iraqi Shiite holy city of Najaf on 20 August.

MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka increases domestic gas price

COLOMBO, 7 Sept— The price of a cylinder of 12.5 kilos domestic gas increased by 99 rupees (about 96 US cents) from the previous 690 rupees to 789 rupees, which was effective midnight Sunday in capital Colombo, Shell Gas Lanka Limited said.

The company, one of the main domestic gas distributors in the country, said that it was compelled to revise the price as a result of the escalating price on the global market in the past few months.

This is the second price increase for domestic gas in the country since early

August when the government revoked the subsidy. Since the beginning of this year, the domestic gas price had remained unchanged at 620 rupees (about 6 US dollars) until 2 August when the price increased by 70 rupees (about 68 US cents) to 690 rupees (about 6.7 US dollars). — MNA/Xinhua

Intl meeting on chemical arms opens in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 7 Sept— An international meeting on chemical arms, attended by representatives from over 45 countries, opened here Monday.

The two-day meeting is aimed at addressing the technical questions that are part of the "Convention on Chemical Arms" and their relation with respect to Customs. The Argentine Foreign Ministry said that Government officials will take part in the discussion with representatives of the private sector linked to the chemical industry.

The discussion will be aimed "essentially at the probe of the Customs control on the imports and exports of chemical

substances," said the Foreign Ministry.

Ambassador Rogelio Pflinter, the Director-General of the Organization for the Banning of Chemical Arms (OPAQ), based on The Hague, Holland, opened the meeting at the headquarters of Foreign Ministry of Argentina, San Martin Palace.

The meeting is presided by Ambassador Carlos Di Cerisano, Director for International Security, Nuclear and Space Issues of the Argentine Foreign Ministry, as the host of the event. — MNA/Xinhua



Residents of Sadr City show cars that were run over by US armoured vehicles, Baghdad, on 7 Sept, 2004. — INTERNET



A supporter of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr keeps a homemade rocket launcher ready for US soldiers in Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq, on 7 Sept, 2004.

INTERNET

Iraqi kidnappers free three Jordanians, one Sudanese

AMMAN, 7 Sept— Iraqi kidnappers freed three Jordanians and one Sudanese on Monday, a day after they were reported seized, Jordan's Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher said.

He told reporters in Amman the four truck drivers had been released, but gave no details. Arabic TV station Al-Jazeera said the men had been taken hostage on Sunday by a group

called the Fallujah Mujahedin, which gave the channel a videotape in which it said the drivers had been transporting supplies to US forces.

Since April militants

have turned to kidnapping foreigners in a campaign to force firms and foreign troops to leave Iraq. About two dozen foreign hostages have been killed.

MNA/Reuters

German Volkswagen to establish company in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, 7 Sept— The United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed an agreement with German car maker Volkswagen on Monday to establish a holding company in Abu Dhabi, the official WAM news agency reported.

Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, chairman of the Abu Dhabi Economy Department, announced that the new holding company is for investment in auto and auto-components industry in Abu Dhabi.

The shareholders of the company include Mubadala Development Company (MDC),

Volkswagen and General Holding Company (GHC).

The company will be launched when all the necessary procedures are completed, said Nahyan in his short speech after meeting with a German delegation.

The company will embark on five specialized auto projects at the begin-

ning of 2005 with initial investments worth 546 million US dollars, said Nahyan, adding that the investment will increase to 1.36 billion US dollars at the second phase.

These projects will tap the available energy and raw material resources in the region, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

UN inspectors have no evidence Iraq had developed drones

UNITED NATIONS, 8 Sept — UN inspectors said they had no evidence that Iraq had developed drones capable of delivering chemical or biological weapons, as the Bush Administration contended in making its case for war, according a report obtained on Tuesday.

The existence of the drones before the US invasion of Iraq in March 2003 were used in part by the United States to justify the war. They also created a controversy in the UN Security Council, with US officials arguing then-chief inspector Hans Blix had buried details of a robust unmanned vehicle programme in a 170-page report on Iraqi weapons.

More recently, Charles Duelfer, now heading the US effort on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, told Congress in April that one of the drones went beyond the 97-mile limit set by the United Nations, perhaps as far as 500 kilometres or

312 miles. The new report from Dimitris Perricos, the acting chief of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, or UNMOVIC, said Iraq had experimented with airframe and design changes for small drones from 1999 until March 2003 "within its limited resources and technical constraints."

But the report said "the information available to UNMOVIC so far suggests that the concept of these RPV/UAVs (remotely piloted and unmanned aerial vehicles) was for conventional military purposes such as air defence training,

data collection and surveillance". The report, which the UN Security Council will discuss on Wednesday, also said it had found no evidence that Iraq had "achieved prohibited ranges or of the development of RPV/UAV systems for the delivery" of chemical or biological agents. From an engineering viewpoint, the drones could have been capable of a longer range were modifications made, the report said.

But the commission had no evidence from its documents or past interviews "that such modifications were actually accomplished or planned". — MNA/Reuters

Sustainable energy called for at world conference

SYDNEY, 7 Sept — Delivery of sustainable energy has been called for at the world's principal energy event that opened here Sunday.

World Energy Council Chairman Antonio Del Rosario told the 19th World Energy Congress that energy sustainability "is one of the critical issues facing humanity".

About 2,000 attendants from across the world, including government officials, representatives of world's leading energy executives, are participating in the five-day congress, whose theme is Delivering

Sustainability: Opportunities and Challenges for the Energy Industry.

Del Rosario said developing countries, particularly those with large population, would all the more need sustainable energy development in their pursuit of prosperity.

He pointed to the fact that the price of crude oil has risen from about 10 US dollars a barrel to 50 dollars for the past few

years, stressing on the need of sustainable energy supply.

"The markets are reminding us to anticipate the future sooner," he said.

He called for enhanced exchange of experience, new technology, and policy adjustments to achieve energy sustainability. The World Energy Congress is a triennial event hosted by the World Energy Council,

where major issues facing the global energy industry are discussed. The current congress' programme enlisted 34 discussion sessions with topics ranging from Asia's nuclear energy to ethics in energy.

In a statement released here, Council Secretary-General Gerald Doucet described the grand gathering as "the only global, multi-energy, non-governmental conference which tries to put theory into practice".

MNA/Xinhua



Indian scientists achieve breakthrough in TB treatment

NEW DELHI, 7 Sept — Indian scientists have achieved a major breakthrough in tuberculosis treatment by finding a new molecule to cure the disease, Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal announced here on Monday.

"It is a day to be proud as Indians. We will be recognized as world leaders in pharmaceutical and drug development henceforth," he told reporters here.

"Internationally, efforts are being made to find the new molecules and the breakthrough has come from India," he added. Sibal said the finding "would help reduce treatment time from six-to-eight months to only two months".

The molecule — "Sudoterb" was a result of public-private partnership under the new millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative Project, launched by CSIR LUPIN with other institutions, he said. — MNA/PTI

ASEAN countries recognize China's "market economy" status

BEIJING, 7 Sept — The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has recognized China as a 'market economy', boosting the Communist trading giant's quest to get similar status from countries like India and the US.

The announcement was made in Jakarta shortly after the third consultation between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and China's Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai, *China Daily* reported on Monday.

"Each of the 10 member countries of ASEAN recognizes the full market economy status of China," Indonesian Industry and Trade Minister Rini Soewandi was quoted as saying.

Chinese officials recently said that they have initiated talks with India to accord market economy status to China.

Four ASEAN countries — Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand — have individually announced their recognition earlier this year. ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indo-

nesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Bo said China will make more efforts to increase its trade volume with ASEAN, one of China's most important trading partners and together have promising economic cooperation in the future.

"For the time being, the two-way trade volume between ASEAN nations and China accounts for 11

per cent of China's overall external trade. But I believe this proportion will greatly increase in the upcoming years and probably double," Bo said.

ASEAN's exports to and imports from China reached 47.3 billion US dollars and 30.9 billion US dollars in 2003 respectively. These represent an increase of 51.7 per cent and 31.2 per cent respectively from the previous year.

MNA/PTI

Senior Chinese leader arrives in Portugal

PORTO (Portugal), 8 Sept — Senior Chinese leader Jia Qinglin arrived here Tuesday on a three-day official goodwill visit to Portugal aimed at promoting exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.

In a statement released upon his arrival, Jia, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said that Portugal has made outstanding achievements in its modernization drive while playing a unique role in international and regional affairs. — MNA/Xinhua



A factory worker makes parts at LGMazak, a Sino-Japanese joint venture firm that manufactures digitally controlled machinery in northwest China's Ningxia Hui autonomous region. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has recognized China as a full market economy, Chinese state press reported following a meeting of ASEAN finance ministers in Indonesia. — INTERNET

Arroyo says visit to China highly successful

MANILA, 8 Sept — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said on Tuesday that her state visit to China was highly successful with some "breakthroughs" made in the agreements concerning the South China Sea and military and security cooperation.

Invited to speak at a breakfast forum organized by the local Press organization Manila Overseas Club, Arroyo said she was happy with the visit from September 1 to 3 to China, which she described as "a very very good trip" and "very worthwhile".

She said that with five government agreements and business agreements signed, bilateral relations have enjoyed a big step forward, citing the agreement

between Manila and Beijing to keep high-level visits and prepare for the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries next year.

She said that the two governments also agreed to facilitate visa-issuing process because the Philippines wishes to have China as its "number one tourist guest," as China is a potential huge market for tourism of the country. — MNA/Xinhua

India, Pakistan discuss trade in petro products

NEW DELHI, 7 Sept — The issue of export of diesel to Pakistan from India came up for discussion on Monday during talks on cooperation in the energy sector between the two countries.

"(Diesel imports) have been discussed and we will take it up in detail when petroleum ministers of both countries meet," Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri told newsmen after meeting India's Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar.

Aiyar said he flagged off the issue of export of diesel and other petro-

leum products like petrochemicals to Pakistan but details were not finalized.

"We will work out the details when I meet the Petroleum Minister of Pakistan," he said while declining to give a time-frame when the two ministers would meet.

Pakistan imports 4.5 million tons of diesel every year from Kuwait and other Middle East countries, a requirement that New Delhi has proposed to meet by laying a pipeline from Jalandhar (in northern Indian state of Punjab) to Lahore (in Pakistan). — MNA/PTI



Chinese workers walk past a 1:4 scale mini leaning tower of Pisa in Shanghai, on 7 Sept, 2004. The financial hub of Shanghai in eastern China holds a carnival called 'Roman Holiday' featuring Italian culture, architectures, fashion and food from September 10 to October 24. — INTERNET



Under Myanmar-US cooperation programme, the 9th opium yield survey was conducted from 24 February to 3 March 2003 in Shan State. — MNA



Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force and local people destroy poppy fields in Kyaukme Township, Shan State (North). — MNA



Poppy-substitute perennial crops plantation in Mongma region, Shan State (East). — PBANRDA

Endeavours to fight against the menace of narcotic drugs



Members of Myanmar-US opium yield survey team seen conducting opium yield survey. — MNA



Members of Myanmar-US opium yield survey team conduct opium yield survey in Tanyan Township in Shan State (North) on 25 February 2002. — MNA

The Government has designated the drug elimination as a national task and has been cooperating with NGOs, UN agencies, neighbouring countries and the subregion countries to implement it.



Local farmers in Pinlaung Township, Shan State (South), destroy poppy field. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) project site by boat.— MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye ...

(from page 1)

Maung Aye made a speech on the occasion. In his address he said that Myanmar engineers are

collect data on construction of bridges for the next generation. In doing so, they are to compile experiences in overcoming

bridge.

The main bridge of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) is of steel frame.

The total length including approach bridges from both banks of Mandalay and Sagaing would be 5,614 feet.

It can withstand 60 tons of loads and would be four-lane bridge being implemented by Public Works.

Up to first of Septem-

Myanmar engineers are capable of building bridges including drawing design and every construction phase through their own knowledge and they are to make concerted efforts for ensuring construction of any kind of bridge proficiently and to disseminate their knowledge and experience to the next generation.



Construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) in progress on Sagaing Bank.— MNA

capable of building bridges including drawing design and every construction phase through their own knowledge and they are to make concerted efforts for ensuring construction of any kind of bridge proficiently and to disseminate their knowledge and experience to next the generation. They are to the

difficulties, he added.

Next, Vice -Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected tasks being carried out for building on Mandalay bank and installation of frames at RP 1 and RP 2, went to Sagaing bank by watercraft and inspected installation of frames at RP 7 and RP 8 and progress in building of approach

ber 1997, only Ayeyawady Bridge (Inwa) could be built on Ayeyawady river which is the main artery of Myanmar.

The bridge with rail road and motor road was built on 2nd January 1934 which is now 70 years old. As it is old, there had been obstacles for heavy loaded trucks.

As such, Ayeyawady



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects progress of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon).— MNA

Bridge (Yadanabon) with four-lane which can withstand 60 tons of loads is being built at a distance of 2,000 feet, upstream the present Inwa Bridge.

In the time of the State Peace and Development Council, the present Government is building one bridge after another for ensuring smooth and secure transport.

Nowadays, seven bridges successfully built on Ayeyawady river by Public Works of the Ministry of Construction are Nawaday Bridge in Bago Division, Maubin Bridge, Bo Myat Tun Bridge and Ayeyawady Bridge (Dadeye) in Ayeyawady Division, Bala Min Htin Bridge in Kachin State,

The bridge with rail road and motor road was built on 2nd January 1934 which is now 70 years old. As it is old, there had been obstacles for heavy loaded trucks. As such, Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) with four-lane which can withstand 60 tons of loads is being built at a distance of 2,000 feet upstream the present Inwa Bridge.

Anawrahta Bridge and Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) in Magway Division.

The Ministry of Construction, on its part, is building rail-cum-road Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) which is the largest and the longest one in Myanmar based on such experiences gained

from construction of bridges.

After inspecting progress in building Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon), Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived back Mandalay by car and inspected development tasks of Mandalay.

MNA

Meeting to organize ASEAN-India Motor Racing held

YANGON, 8 Sept — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint this afternoon delivered an address at the meeting of the ASEAN-India Motor Racing Supervisory Committee for organizing ASEAN-India Motor Racing and participation of Myanmarinit, at Padamy Hall of Indoor Stadium-1

in Thuwunna.

Also present were members of the supervisory committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and members of the work committee.

First, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave a speech. Director U Than Zaw of

Sports and Physical Education Department reported on organizing ASEAN-India Motor Racing and participation of Myanmar in the racing.

Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and officials gave suggestions.

After attending to the needs, the minister gave the concluding remarks. — MNA

Domestic Products Expo to be held

YANGON, 8 Sept — Domestic Products Expo to be organized by the Ministry of Cooperatives will be held at Cooperatives Commercial Centre (Saya San Plaza) here from 26 October to 1st November.

Based on "One Village One Product" plan, state/division cooperative societies will display and sell regional products, national races' distinct traditional utensils and their traditional foods at the expo.

Moreover, state-owned, cooperative and private shops will also participate in the expo. Those wishing to participate in the expo can contact Tel: 243854, 243853, 379843, and 558530. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views booths to mark International Literacy Day 2004 and UN Literacy Decade.— MNA

Prime Minister attends...

(from page 16)

For uplift of the education standard of the entire nation, the following measures are carried out harmoniously.

- Enhancement of modern science and technology in each and every sector for the development of the nation,
- Producing more academicians and technicians in all fields,
- Ensuring literacy for all citizens,
- Providing access to permanent learning at any time for people of all ages and standards of education for creating a continuous learning society.
- Widening of the vision to differentiate between right and wrong and the will to contribute to the national interest in a way.

With the aim of upgrading education of the entire nation and Education for All, endeavours to create accessibility of Basic Education for everyone, include systematically drawn up and practically implemented plans for the completion of primary school education for all school-age children and eradicate adult illiteracy.

The Union of Myanmar is endeavouring to enhance education through two parallel streams—Formal Education and Non-formal Education. This is being done by the State with the aims of creating a Learning Society in Myanmar, becoming Lifelong Learners and creating Non-formal Education. With the aim of upgrading education of the entire nation and Education for All, endeavours to create accessibility of Basic Education for everyone, include systematically drawn up and practically implemented plans for the completion of primary school education for all school-age children and eradicate adult illiteracy.

With regards to all school-age children being in schools and retaining in schools, the Education Promotion Programme (Second Phase) 1999 was conducted as a national movement. Therefore, the rate of enrolment of five-year old children has been increased yearly. It was only 91 per cent in the academic year 1999-2000. But in 2004-2005 academic year, it has increased to 96.56 per cent. This is also the outcome of the cooperation and collaboration among the community and the organizations of wellwishers.

In addition to these regular programmes, Non-formal Primary Education Programmes for those school-age children who have difficulties to attend school and Post-primary School Programme for those who have completed primary education are being enhanced and implemented. The Union of Myanmar is carrying out the five rural development tasks for raising the economic and living standards of the rural people, including upgrading of education and health standards. In doing so, Non-formal Education is the most effective educational mode to promote regional and educational developments of the

rural people.

Efforts are made continuously by the Union of Myanmar in cooperation with the entire nationals as national duty for ensuring literacy for all citizens. As a result, the literacy rate has been increased.

The country-wise literacy movement could help increase the literacy rate of adults from 83 percent in 1996 to 92.2 per cent in 2003.

The significance of the year 2004 is that under the guidance of the Ministry of Education literacy programme based on the regional needs was implemented in each state and division in collaboration with regional authorities, social organizations and the community. Specific achievements could be gained by implementing these programmes. As a result, the outcomes of the literacy programmes in 2004 are:

— Over 3,900 persons from remote areas have become literate through “3 Rs” programmes of border areas, Laukkai, Kutkai and Muse townships in Kokang region, Shan State (North); Hopan Township in Wa region, Mongton Township in Palaung region, Monghsat, Mongpyin, Mongkhok, Mongton, Mongyan, Mongphyat, Mongyawn, Tachilek and Kengtung townships in Kengtung region, and Buthidaung Township in Rakhine State;

— Over 71,000 persons have been literate through State-wise literacy programmes in Kayah, Chin, Shan (East) and Shan (North) states;

— Nearly 180,000 persons have become literate through follow-up literacy programmes in the states and divisions which have completed eradication of illiteracy.

These numbers total over 250,000 literate persons from the special summer literacy programme in 2004; and increase the percentage of adult literacy to 93.3%, which is a good result to be proud of nationally.

In conjunction with literacy movement, to upgrade literacy skills, generate more family income and to improve quality of life of the literate people, Continuing Education Programmes are being conducted, and so 481 Community Learning Centres were opened in 2003 and the number of the centres of this kind has now increased to 855. For continuing education rural libraries were opened. At present, there are 7,364 rural libraries.

Furthermore, to realize the plan for the State and Division-based literacy programme in 2004, NFE Online Capacity Building Training Programme which makes use of e-Education system, an innovation in Non-formal Education, was introduced. In this course over 7,000 teachers and personnel from social organizations were trained from 192 e-Learning centres. It is the concerted effort of the government, individuals, organizations of wellwishers, and the people of Myanmar with a profound national spirit that could help achieve the fruitful results of “Literacy for All” and “Education for All” programmes.

The Prime Minister call on the responsible personnel from the education sector and the entire national people to strive for the literacy movement to ensure that all Myanmar citizens become literate persons creating a constant learning Myanmar society.

To promote the literacy skills of the people in the rural areas, opening more primary schools and post-primary schools, and upgrading those schools to middle schools have been done. Thus, 31,225 primary schools, 4,774 post-primary schools, 578 branch middle schools, 2,034 middle schools, 857 affiliated and branch high schools

are now in existence throughout the country. The number of schools from primary to middle school level increased within ten years is 1,669 (4.4%).

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged all responsible personnel

— to make efforts to increase the momentum of the activities for Education for All, with national spirit aiming at upgrading “Literacy for All” and education for the entire nationals.

— to keep on trying to build the Continuous Learning Society by implementing continuing education programmes resulted from literacy movements.

— to make efforts from ensuring literacy for all to striving for the interest of the nation and people, with correct vision and the power to distinguish between right and wrong.

UN Resident Coordinator Mr Charles James Petrie read the message of International Literacy Day sent by UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan; and General Secretary of Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO Rector of Yangon Institute of Education Dr Khin Zaw, the message of International Literacy Day by the Director-General of UNESCO. Next, gold medalist students of Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions presented an entertainment programme singing the song entitled “Zartiman” (nationalistic spirit).

The MEC Chairman presented certificates of honour to first prize winner for International Literacy Day commemorative poster contest (middle school level) to fifth grader Maung Thet Moe Naing of No 2 BEHS in Kyauktan Township, Yangon Division, second prize winner seventh grader Ma Ei Mon Kyaw of No 3 BEHS in Bago, Bago Division, and third prize winner to fifth grader Ma Zin Phu Wai of No 3 BEHS in Myeik, Taninthayi Division.

The Prime Minister also presented certificates of honour for first, second and third prizes for essay contest (high



Yangon Institute of Education Rector Dr Khin Zaw.— MNA



UN Resident Coordinator Mr Charles James Petrie.— MNA

school level) to Ma Toe Pyae Thandar (9th standard, Pyay BEHS No 1 in Pyay, Bago West Division), Maung Zarni Hein (9th standard, Myittha BEHS, Mandalay Division) and Ma Nan Pwint Shwe Yi Phu (9th standard, Hpa-an BEHS No 1, Kayin State); essay contest (institute of education, and education college level) to Ma Kay Zin Oo (2nd year, pre-on-job training (7/02), Toungoo Education

It was the concerted effort of the government, individuals, organizations of wellwishers, and the people of Myanmar with a profound national spirit that could help achieve the fruitful results of “Literacy for All” and “Education for All” programmes.

College), Ma Thu Thu Soe (2nd year, pre-on-job training (7/02), Mawlamyein Education College) and Ma Ei Mo Zar Myint (2nd year, pre-on-job training (7/02), Patheingyi Education College); article contest (open division) to Maung Zaw Lin (Myanmarsar, MA course-A, Kalay University, Sagaing Division), and SAT Daw Khin Mar Kyi (Khin Khin Kyaw-Education), Latha Township BEHS No 2, Yangon Division, and Ma Aye Mya Khaing (BED fourth year, Yangon Institute of Education).

Next, the video film titled “Myanmar Literacy Campaign” was shown. Afterwards, gold medalist students sang the song “Ludaing A-twet Pyinnyayay” (Education for All). After the ceremony, the Prime Minister observed booths on literacy activities to mark International Literacy Day and the United Nations Literacy Decade.

MNA

The Myanmar-US joint opium-yield survey

Lanmadaw Kyaw Khaung

The problem of narcotic drugs is an evil legacy of the colonialists. It is jeopardizing the nation's dignity and social norms, while endangering the whole mankind. As the matter is linked to the sincere hill people of the nation, the Government is drawing up delicate and wider anti-drug plans. The problem of narcotic drugs occurs not only within the territory of Myanmar, but also reaches beyond all national boundaries, and drug trafficking has become a transnational crime. In this regard, the Government has designated the drug elimination as a national task and has been cooperating with NGOs, UN agencies, neighbouring countries and the subregion countries to implement it.

Myanmar has accepted the United State's request to jointly conduct region-wise opium-yield and cultivation survey and production estimation in the country. Myanmar officials have been

regions in Pinlaung Township, and Mong-in region in Hopong Township in southern Shan State during the poppy cultivation season. It was the **first survey**. The **second survey** was launched from 19 to 22 February 1995 in Mongyan Township, Mongphyat Township, Mong-in-Mongshan region in Kengtung Township, and Pantan region in Mongpan Township in eastern Shan State, Shaikhaw, Lonhtan and Mankhopyin regions in Kutkai Township, and Lwepinye and Panlon regions in Kunlong Township in northern Shan State.

The **third one** was carried out from 9 to 13 March 1997 in Mene mountain region in Hopong Township in southern Shan State, Mongkhok region in Monghsat Township in eastern Shan State, and Namtu Township, Tangyan Township, Kokang region, Kongyan Township, Monkoe,

team travelled to poppy fields in Pinlaung Township, Hopong Township, Mongpon region in Loilem Township, and Mongpan region in Langkho Township in southern Shan State, and Waregion, Walin village in Mongmao Township, Myinttan mountain range in Namhkam Township, Moneyaw region in Lashio Township, and Mantong Township in northern Shan State, and collected the opium-related materials, surveyed poppy fields, met with local farmers of the areas, where poppy fields were destroyed, and discussed

and seeds and soil of the regions.

The team toured Mongpauk in eastern Shan State, Monghsu Township in southern Shan State, and Nonghline region in Tangyan Township in northern Shan State, and Panlong region in Hopang Township from 1 to 6 March 2001 during the **seventh survey**, and took samples of poppy pods, leaves and seeds and soil of the regions. The team members also interviewed opium farmers and discussed with officials the alternative crop cultivation in northern Shan State.

From 25 February to 2 March 2002, the team

collected samples of poppy pods, liquid and leaves and soil. In addition, they interviewed opium farmers and discussed with officials the alternative crop cultivation and livestock breeding, treatment of drug addicts and drug eradication in northern Shan State.

During the **ninth survey**, the team visited poppy fields in Hopong Township in southern Shan State, Mongpyin, Mongkhat, Mongpauk and Kengtung townships in eastern Shan State, and Kutkai and Kunlong townships and Wa and Kokang regions in northern Shan State from 24 February to 3 March 2003. The team collected samples of poppy leaves and pods and raw poppy, interviewed opium growers, observed the destroyed poppy fields, and studied the alternative farming.

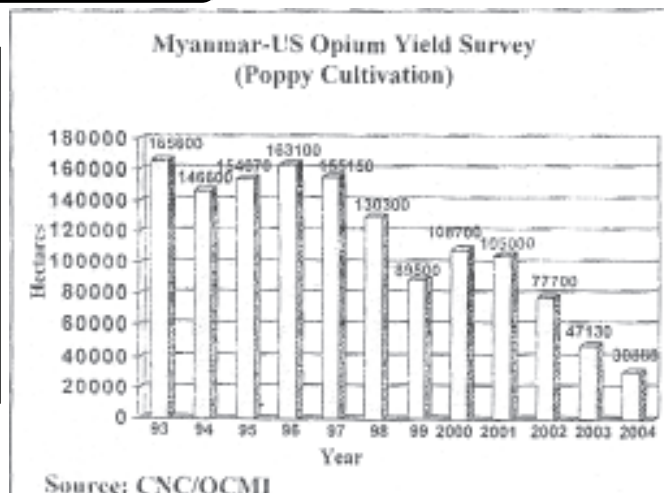
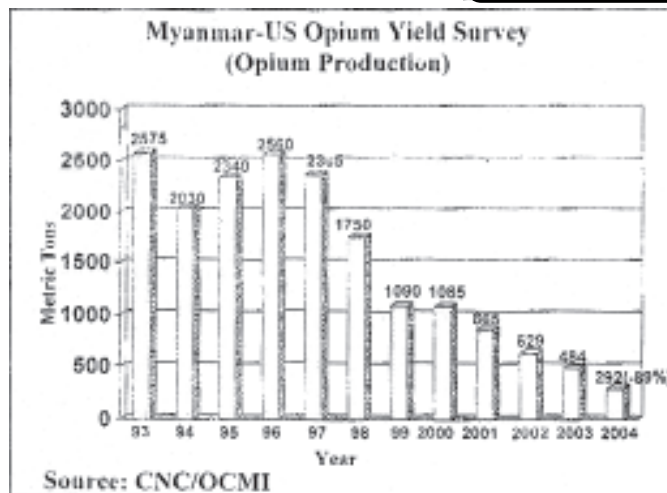
During the period from 3 to 12 March, the team visited Mongpan, Hsihseng, Namsan, Laikha and Monghsu

northern Shan State. During the **tenth survey**, the team collected samples of poppy leaves and pods and raw opium, interviewed poppy growers, observed the destroyed poppy fields, and studied the alternative farming.

According to the Myanmar-US joint opium-yield survey, annually, opium production in Myanmar has been decreasing significantly since 1997. According to US Embassy officials in Yangon, poppy sown acreage in Myanmar in 2004 was 75,984.4 acres (30,888 hectares) and production was 292 tons. If the figure is compared with the yield of 2,560 tons in 1996, there is 89 per cent decrease in poppy yield in the country.

Thus, the results of the Myanmar-US joint opium-yield survey have served as clear and firm proof to Myanmar's endeavours to wipe out opium. Myanmar laid down the 15-year narcotic elimination plan in 1999-2000, and is

Myanmar-US joint opium-yield survey have served as clear and firm proof to Myanmar's endeavours to wipe out opium. Myanmar laid down the 15-year narcotic elimination plan in 1999-2000, and is implementing it at present. Moreover, the nation will continue to conduct the Myanmar-US joint opium-yield survey annually in the coming years.



conducting the survey work in cooperation with the US experts since 1993.

From 13 to 19 February 1993, a team of Myanmar and US experts conducted an opium-yield survey in Tamoeny, Shaikmoeny, Shaikhaw, Lonhtan, Lwepinye and Monesi regions in Kutkai Township, Kamaing and Panlong regions in Kunlong Township in northern Shan State, Hsilu region in Mongyan Township, and Wanla region in Mongkhat Township in eastern Shan State, and Pinlaung and Moebye

Hemoelon and Phaunghsai regions in northern Shan State.

The **fourth one**, lasted from 16 to 21 February 1998, was carried out in Pinlaung Township, Mongpan region in Langkho Township, Mene mountain region in Loilem Township and Laikha Township in southern Shan State, Walin area in Waregion, Panlong region in Hopang Township, and Tangyan Township in northern Shan State.

During the **fifth Survey**, which lasted from 2 to 5 February 1999, the

with them alternative crop cultivation.

During the **sixth survey**, that was conducted from 23 to 27 February 2000, the team studied destruction of poppy fields in Monghsat, Mongpyin, Nonghline, Kunlong (Lwepinye), Laukkai (Mailishuwa) and Walin regions in northern, southern and eastern Shan State, observed the destruction of poppy fields, met with local leaders and opium farmers, and took poppy pod samples of 34 poppy fields, and received samples of poppy leaves

surveyed poppy fields in remote areas, where access was difficult, in Mongshu Township in southern Shan State, Hsenwi, Tangyan, Kutkai and Muse townships in northern Shan State. During the **eighth survey**, the team members also

townships in southern Shan State, Mongpyin, Kengtung and Mongkhat townships in eastern Shan State, and Wa region (Khwinma, Mongmao, Nantit, Lomhtan and Hopang), and Kokang region (Laukkai) and Kutkai Township in

implementing it at present. Moreover, the nation will continue to conduct the Myanmar-US joint opium-yield survey annually in the coming years.

(Translation: TMT)
Myanma Alin+Kyemon:
7.9.2004.

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

UN Resident Coordinator calls on Prime Minister

YANGON, 8 Sept — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt this afternoon received Mr Charles James Petrie, UN Resident Coordinator, Representative of UNDP, at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar here. Also present at the call were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General at the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

At the meeting, Mr Charles James Petrie briefed on the health projects jointly being implemented by Ministry of Health and UNDP.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative Mr Charles James Petrie at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe speaking at coordination meeting to beautify and upgrade Yangon City.— MNA

Coord meeting of Yangon City Beautifying and Upgrading Work Committee held

YANGON, 8 Sept — The Yangon City Beautifying and Upgrading Work Committee held a coordination meeting at the City Hall this afternoon, with addresses by Chairman of the Work Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin.

First, the commander delivered an address, saying that with construction of modern buildings, beautifying housing estate projects, building of modern parks for public relaxation, department stores, broad roads, bridges and growing of flowery plants, Yangon City is being built to have city characteristics of international level in accord with the guidance of the Head of State and close supervision of the Prime Minister. During over one-year period, some modern construction tasks, progress has been made significantly. However, efforts should be made for undertaking some tasks with might and main. That is why departments concerned are to coordinate tasks to meet the target by the end of 2005 so as to achieve success in upgrading the city.

Next, the mayor explained duty and functions of YCDC in beautifying the Yangon City and upgrading tasks. Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than reported on beautifying works at the junction of Sule

Pagoda Road and Strand Road, beautifying of Port and tasks of the discipline enforcement committee in the area of Myanmar Port Authority, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa on functions of the discipline enforcement committee for shops and street vendors along Strand Road and the buildings beautifying work committee, and Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than on performance of the overpasses construction work committee and the bridges security and cleanliness work committee.

Chairman of the Work Committee for Collection of Materials for Upgrading the City Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe explained coordination for availability of the materials.

Officials of the work committee reported on their respective sectors. Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and departmental heads reported on assistance being provided to the beautifying and upgrading tasks. Later, the commander gave the concluding remarks.

MNA

Wellwishers donate over K 1.5m, 129,632 books and periodicals to self-reliant village libraries

YANGON, 8 Sept — The second coordination meeting to open self-reliant village libraries being implemented by Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information in conjunction with the ceremony to donate cash, books and periodicals was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Street yesterday afternoon, with an address by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein.

Also present were directors-general and managing directors of departments, departmental officials, officials of Myawady Literary House and Press Scrutiny and Registration Division, wellwishers of private literary houses, journal and magazine houses, private publishing houses and guests.

First, the deputy minister delivered an address.

Next, Director-General U Chit Naing of IPRD reported on distribution of books and periodicals to self-reliant village libraries. Those present took part in the discussions.

Next, the deputy minister presented certificates of honour to 18 wellwishers who donated cash, books and periodicals in the first donation ceremony held on 17 August.

Afterwards, the deputy minister accepted K 1 million donated by U Maung Maung Aye (Maung Hayma) of Thuwunna; K 100,000 each by Daw San Yi of Latha Township; U Myint Shwe; Daw Aye Aye Thein; and U Win Swe (Chairman of WYZ Private Ltd)-Thiha Thudhama Theingi Dr Daw Yee Yee Hla (Yuwady Khin Oo); K 50,000 each by U Tin Maung Win of Kyimyindine; U Khine Htwe of Bogyoke Street; and U Win Maung of Pakokku; K 30,000 by Dr Mary Phyu; K 20,000 by U Myint Thein (BEHS-1 Dagon); K 18,000 by Daw Pearl (Mya Pale Khin);

(See page 15)

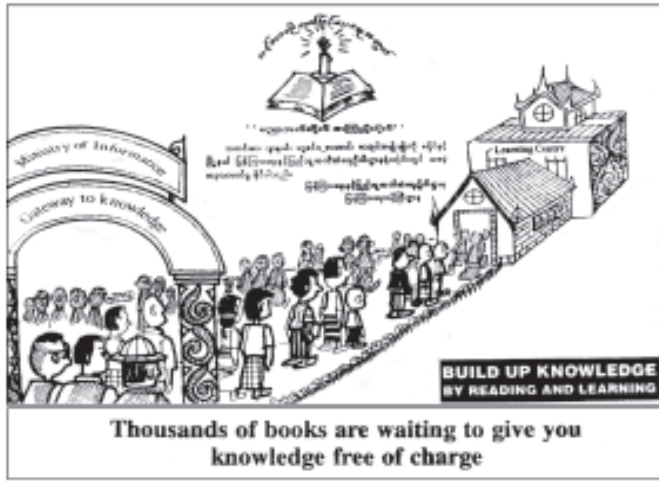
Indian guests call on Minister for Commerce

YANGON, 8 Sept — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone this afternoon received President of Indo-Myanmar federation of chambers of commerce and industry Mr G L Goenka and party at his office here.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Director-General of the Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye, Director-General of the Border Trade Department U Nay Win and officials.— MNA



Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein addresses second meeting to donate cash, books and periodicals to self-reliant village libraries.— MNA



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Amazon cooperation treaty organization to meet in Brazil

BRASILIA, 7 Sept — Foreign ministers from the member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) will meet on September 14 in the Brazilian city of Manaus to discuss the group's Strategic Plan 2004-2012, local Press said Monday.

The meeting will be the first since the ACTO Permanent Secretariat was created in Brasilia 20 months ago. The ACTO groups Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela, former Ecuadorean president Rosalia Arteaga is head-

ing the Secretariat.

According to the group's Public Relations Office, the strategic plan will "respond to the challenges that the Amazon region faces in its sustainable development."

MNA/Xinhua

DONATE BLOOD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (066)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA Voy No (066) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 9-9-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM
 Phone : 256908/378316/376797

Vietnam reports myterious duck deaths

HANOI, 7 Sept — Over 180 ducks in Vietnam's southern Ninh Thuan Province have recently died mysteriously, according to the provincial Veterinary Bureau on Monday.

The 180 ducks out of a flock of some 2,000 in the province's Phan Rang Town suddenly died last week, said the bureau, adding that specimens from the deaths have been sent to the Ho Chi Minh City-based Regional Veterinary Centre for testing for bird flu virus.

While awaiting the testing result, the bureau has isolated unaffected ducks to prevent possible

spread of the unidentified disease.

Vietnam's Department of Animal Health said that bird flu has either killed or led to the forced culling of 2,500 quails in northern Hai Duong Province on August 20, and around 100 chickens in central Quang Tri Province on August 19.

After having reappeared in 11 southern provinces and city since June 2004, bird flu did not activate in 10 out of the 11 localities. The reappear-ance of bird flu has either killed or led to the forced culling of over 44,000 poultry, mainly chickens and quails.

MNA/Xinhua

Rich nation farm subsidies to suffer another blow

GENEVA, 7 Sept — Rich nation farm subsidies are set to suffer another blow on Wednesday when World Trade Organization (WTO) judges reaffirm a ruling against Europe's sugar regime.

The WTO will declare again that the European Union has violated limits set by the Geneva-based organization for the export of sugar produced with subsidies, reiterating its findings of early last month, diplomats said.

While the verdict will be sweet news for producers in Brazil, Thailand and Australia, who brought the case against the European Union, poorer growers in Africa, the Caribbean and parts of the Pacific fear it could cost them dear.

Although subsidies are usually attacked as a threat to developing country ag-

riculture, in this case, EU sugar policy benefits poor nations in the three regions by guaranteeing their exports a market at prices often three times the world rate. The ruling would force the EU, the world's second biggest exporter of raw sugar, to reduce foreign sales.

Owners of huge sugar estates in Brazil, the world's largest exporter, and their allies will celebrate at the prospects of a surge in international sales. But African producers such as Mauritius say their industry may succumb to such competition.

"We cannot compete with Brazil," he added.

The outcome underlines the fact that while trade liberalization and sharp cuts in rich power farm subsidies — two key goals of ongoing WTO ne-

gotiations to reform world farm trade — help the world economy overall, not everyone is guaranteed to gain, economists said.

"We all believe that trade liberalization is beneficial on a global basis and in the longer term, but that does not mean that everybody is going to be a winner," said Sam Laird, a senior researcher at the UN development agency UNCTAD.

Brazil, Thailand and Australia will win again because final verdicts from the trade body never vary much from preliminary ones, diplomats said.

The three hailed the initial condemnation of the EU on August 4 as a victory for free trade and a blow to a system they say distorts the sugar business around the world.

MNA/Reuters

Nigeria seeks full exploration of gold reserves

LAGOS, 7 Sept — The Nigerian Government has called on local and foreign investors to invest in gold mining in the country to enable the nation to achieve full exploration of its abundant gold reserves, said a government official here Monday.

Charles Nwodo, spokesman of the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, told reporters that "Nigeria has proven reserves of 120,000 ounces of gold with 99 per cent still untapped".

He added that the gov-

ernment would welcome

investors in gold mining to maximize returns on the deposits that had high production potentials and could complement oil as major revenue earner in the near future. Gold mining in Nigeria began with the British colonial merchants in 1936 when an appreciable quantity of the deposits was discovered in the southwestern part of the country.

With petroleum resources emerging with strong revenue earning potentials in the 1970s and 1980s, the Nigerian Government and private investors started to pay less attention to the development of gold mining and

other solid minerals.

The official said the government was shifting emphasis now from oil to agriculture, manufacturing and solid mineral development in a bid to diversify the oil-dominated economy.

"Such a shift would entail more fiscal allocations to gold development in the 2005 budget as an important solid mineral in the country," said Nwodo.

He pointed out that some investors including the African Mining and Exploration Company based in London have shown great interest in investing in the mining of the nation's abundant gold deposits. — MNA/Xinhua

Mozambique, Zimbabwe to fight against contraband

MAPUTO, 7 Sept — The Customs authorities of Mozambique and Zimbabwe have agreed to jointly strengthen their fight against contraband, Mozambican media reported on Monday.

The decision was taken during a meeting between the general director of the Mozambican Customs services, Barros dos Santos, and his Zimbabwean counterpart,

Gershem Pasi, held in Maputo last week as part of the trade agreement between the two countries.

At the meeting the two sides discussed particularly the import/export of sugar and cigarettes, delays in the Customs clearance of tanker trucks carrying fuel to Zimbabwe, and the high charges by the Zimbabwean authorities on merchandise in transit. — MNA/Xinhua

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WHO launches new initiative for health of older population

GENEVA, 7 Sept— The World Health Organization (WHO) launched on Monday a new initiative to set guidelines for community-based Primary Health Care (PHC) centres, being promoted as ideal units to provide health care to older people.

The initiative, "Towards Age-Friendly Primary Health Care", is based on qualitative research in five countries, both developing and developed, and focus on more leadership, training and better information for the PHC centres, WHO said in a Press release.

According to the organization, there are 600 million people in the world aged 60 years and over today, and this figure is expected to double by 2025 and to reach 2 billion by 2050.

It said population aging is characteristically accompanied by an increase in the burden of chronic diseases, and early detection, appropriate intervention, management and follow-up of chronic conditions take place mainly at the PHC level.

PHC centres are ideally positioned

to provide the regular and extended contacts and on-going care that older persons need at community-based level, it added.

Opportunities missed by health systems to deal with or manage age-related chronic diseases will lead to increases in the incidence, prevalence and complications of these diseases and thus may take resources away from other priorities, such as child and maternal health, WHO warned.

"An age-friendly health care centre does not favour older people, but instead benefits all patients, in line with the slogan of the United Nations to create 'A Society for All Ages'," said Alexandre Kalache, who coordinates WHO's activities on aging.

MNA/Xinhua

MENA mobile subscribers to reach 52 million by end of 2004

ABU DHABI, 7 Sept — Mobile subscribers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) will reach to 52 million by the end of 2004, due to a rapid growth in the North African markets of Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria, the local *Khaleej Times* reported here Monday.

John Everington, senior analyst of the Middle East and Africa at EMC, the World Cellular Database, said in 2004, the MENA has so far witnessed the liberalization of the region's two largest markets, Iran and Saudi Arabia. The introduction of competition in the region's largest remaining monopolies, as well as prospective new GSM operators in Yemen, Jordan and Oman, will lead to a 34.3-per-cent growth in subscriber numbers in the region, he added.

Meanwhile, the launch

of the region's first 3G networks in Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar is expected to push the market a big leap forward, the analyst was quoted as saying. The region has enjoyed strong growth in mobile subscribers and the number of subscribers has grown to 38.8 million at the end of 2003, an increase of 40.1 per cent of 2002, showed the figures at EMC.

By December 2005, EMC forecasts total subscribers in the MENA region will climb to 40.8

million, rising to 52.1 million by the end of 2006.

Subscribers in the region will reach 61 million by the end of 2007, and 66.98 million by the end of 2008, and 71 million by the end of 2009, according to EMC

MNA/Xinhua

Illegal immigrants boat caught in southern Italy

ROME, 7 Sept— About 150 illegal immigrants aboard a small boat were rescued by Italian Coast Guard off southern Italy Monday and were taken to the island of Lampedusa off Sicily, local media reported Monday.

Authorities said these asylum seekers will be taken to a reception centre in the island.

Lampedusa, closer to the coast of Tunisia than to the Italian mainland, is often in the headlines because of the large number of immigrant arrivals.

Last month 275 immigrants, including 89 children, arrived in Lampedusa. It was the largest single group ever to land there.

MNA/Xinhua

"Frances" fades after smacking Florida for 2nd time

TALLAHASSEE (Florida), 7 Sept— Tropical Storm Frances, a once fearsome hurricane that prompted evacuation orders for 2.5 million people, faded on Monday after smacking Florida for a second time.

More than 6 million people were still without power as Frances rolled ashore in the Florida Panhandle with torrential rains. But the storm's winds, measured at 145 mph (233 kph) in the Atlantic last week, were down to 45 mph (72 kph) as it moved overland into Georgia and Alabama.—MNA/Reuters



A Chinese worker walks past an Italian statue in Shanghai, on 7 Sept, 2004. The financial hub of Shanghai in eastern China holds a carnival called 'Roman Holiday' featuring Italian culture, architectures, fashion and food from September 10 to October 24.—INTERNET



Three female Bengal tiger cubs, with gold, white, and brown fur colours, from left, look from their box on 4 Sept, 2004, in a photo released by the Hollywood and Safari park in Schloss Holte-Stukenbrock, western Germany, on 6 Sept, 2004.—INTERNET

Singapore, India conclude ninth round of trade talks

SINGAPORE, 7 Sept— Singapore and India have concluded their ninth round of negotiations on a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA), which will no doubt expand economic cooperation between the two countries.

According to a joint statement issued by Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry and India's Department of Commerce on Monday, the talks were held in Singapore on September 1-3, covering trade in goods and services, investments and a review of the bilateral double taxation avoidance agreement.

The talks witnessed good progress, with the conclusion of a chapter on e-commerce cooperation. Talks on telecommunications services were also nearing

conclusion.

This is the first time the two countries have held such talks since the

change of premiers in both Singapore and India, and the next round of such negotiations

will be held in the Indian capital of New Delhi by the end of this month.—MNA/Xinhua

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ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသ စာအုပ်များလွှဲဒါနပေးပါသည်။

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SPORTS

Cuban Olympic champion announces retirement from boxing

HAVANA, 7 Sept—Two-time Olympic boxing champion Mario Kindelan of Cuba announced Monday his retirement in spite of considering his discipline as an important part of his life.

Kindelan, 32, who won the gold medal in the 60-kilo category in Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004, assured to the local Press "time for retirement has come. Boxing is my life, but I must retire".

"I became 32 last August 10, but I don't say goodbye because of the age but for the fact that room must be left to new athletes. I believe the moment has come for me to do so," said the two-time world champion.

This technical pugilist said he has obtained permission from his coaches to leave the sport, at least as a boxer.

Mario Kindelan added "I've been away from home for 17 years and I feel a need to be with my people, who have helped me a lot, now." —MNA/Xinhua



Cienciano celebrates after Santiago Arboleda kicks in the winning goal against Boca Juniors in overtime in Ft Lauderdale, Florida, on 7 Sept, 2004. Cienciano beats Boca Juniors 2-1.—INTERNET

Vijay Singh takes over world No 1 from Woods

NORTON (Massachusetts), 8 Sept—Fiji's majestic Vijay Singh took over as world number one from playing partner Tiger Woods after winning the Deutsche Bank Championship by three strokes at the Tournament Players Club of Boston on Monday.

Singh and Woods finished with identical 69s after their showdown but the Fijian had done enough in the earlier rounds as he finished on 16-under-par to eclipse the deposed Woods and defending champion Adam Scott, who tied for second on 13-under.

The 41-year-old Singh, the hottest player of the last 14 months, clinched his sixth PGA Tour title this season, the biggest haul of his career, and his 10th since the start of last year.

"My focus today was really winning the golf tournament and I didn't get out of focus," said a jubilant Singh. "I was very patient, that was the key."

Asked how it felt to be the world number one, he added: "It's great and I can't wait to celebrate."

"I thought I was playing good enough to be number one for a while, but obviously the ranking, I kept telling you guys (reporters), I can't do anything about the ranking."

"Finally, it's turned in

my favour. So, I don't know how long the ranking is going to favour me or anybody else. But it feels great right now and I'm really proud to achieve that."

However, it was a rollercoaster final round as the Fijian took a four-shot lead with a birdie on the first hole that moved

him to 15-under-par before his third bogey at the 14th left him level with Woods at 13-under until he pulled away again.

Woods had monopolized the world rankings for a record 264 consecutive weeks since reclaiming the top spot with his one-shot victory in the 1999 US PGA Cham-

pionship at Medinah.

"I've had a good run and (being number two) isn't too bad, is it?" said Woods, trying to hide his disappointment.

After starting the final round with a three-shot lead it was unlikely Singh would be caught given his recent form.

MNA/Reuters

Gerrard says England may beat Poland

VIENNA, 8 Sept—England will be going out to beat Poland in Wednesday's World Cup qualifier to take the heat off manager Sven-Goran Eriksson, says midfielder Steven Gerrard.

England's 2-2 draw with Austria in Saturday's opening qualifier, after leading 2-0 with 20 minutes to go, has added to the pressure on Eriksson since their Euro 2004 exit.

Though the Swede faces an increasingly hostile British Press, Gerrard: "The players love Sven as a manager and we are 100 per cent behind him."

"We feel he is the right man to stay as England manager. But we do understand if things don't go right on the pitch it is him who is going to take the majority of the blame."

"We as players feel that is unfair because it is us who go out and try and do the job."

"I think that gives us an extra incentive to try and support the manager by doing better."

Though England face a Poland team who have three points on the board after beating Northern Ireland 3-0 in their Group Six opener on Saturday, Gerrard said: "We are not too worried about the situation because we know we can put it right." However, Gerrard believes England's squandered lead against Austria was a reminder they need to find the killer instinct and finish off opponents when they get the chance.

England were 1-0 up before going out to both Brazil at the 2002 World Cup and Portugal at Euro 2004, each time at the tournament's quarterfinal stages.

"Getting knocked out by Brazil in Japan and losing to Portugal in June showed we've still got to prove we can improve to get on to the next level," said the Liverpool captain.—MNA/Reuters

Judge authorizes Maradona to travel to Cuba

BUENOS AIRES, 7 Sept—A judge in Argentina Monday allowed former soccer star Diego Maradona to leave the country and travel to Cuba to receive attention for his addiction to drugs.

Judge Norberto Garcia allowed for Diego Maradona to leave for Cuba "whenever he wants" but accompanied by his father, one of his sisters or his personal physician Alfredo Cahe.

Garcia changed the initial decision he took some months ago for Maradona, 44, to remain hospitalized at Del Parque Clinic, in the western suburbs of Buenos Aires, where he underwent a detox treatment. Last August 12, Maradona, in a visit to President of Argentina Nestor Kirchner, at the

Presidential Residence of Casa Rosada, requested him to be allowed to leave the country, something to which the family of the ex-player opposed (his ex-wife Claudia Villafane, his daughters and his parents).

Judge Garcia told the Press some days ago that he felt pressure around Maradona, in spite of the independence of the state branches in the country.

Diego Maradona lived for three years in Cuba, where he received attention for his addiction to drugs. According to Press versions, Maradona is

about to become a father again, but this time with a young Cuban woman with whom he had a relationship while in the Caribbean country. On March 24, Maradona was urgently hospitalized due to a cocaine overdose that put him on the brink of death, in an event that shocked the world soccer.

His personal doctor, Alfredo Cahe, said the new stage in Maradona's rehabilitation in Cuba will not last less than one year and a half or two, although it all depends on Diego.

MNA/Xinhua

CONCACAF sends US-El Salvador match report to FIFA

NEW YORK, 7 Sept—CONCACAF officials have sent a video of the United States-El Salvador World Cup qualifier to FIFA following Saturday's ill-tempered match between the two teams.

Trinidad and Tobago referee Neal Brizan had difficulty controlling the Group A tie won 2-0 by the US.

The physical game was marred by two sendings-off and several confrontations between the players after El Salvador goalkeeper Santos Rivera appeared to kick US

midfielder DaMarcus Beasley in the face in the 58th minute.

"We have sent a match report and a (video) tape of the game to (world football's governing body) FIFA," CONCACAF spokesman Steve Torres told reporters on Monday.

Torres said the video was sent after the match report detailed the dismissals of El Salvador coach Juan Paredes and forward Denis Alas.

Alas was sent off in the 26th minute for a second

bookable offence, wearing jewellery on the field. Paredes was ordered from the bench minutes later for protesting against the red card. "It was a very odd game," said US Soccer Federation spokesman Jim Moorhouse.

"There were a lot of strange occurrences out there on the field and very little rhythm but in terms of CONCACAF sending a video tape to FIFA, we know nothing about that."

That is completely up to them." —MNA/Reuters

Man United goalkeeper released from US national team

NEW YORK, 7 Sept—Manchester United goalkeeper Tim Howard has been released from the US national team ahead of Wednesday's World Cup qualifier against Panama in Panama City.

Howard, who played in the United States' 2-0 victory against El Salvador in a CONCACAF Group A qualifier on Saturday, has returned to England. US officials said during the team's training session on Monday. New York/New Jersey goalkeeper Johnnie Walker will be the second choice keeper after Kasey Keller for the game against Panama.

The US lead their group with four points from two games followed by El Salvador and Panama, who have three each. —MNA/Reuters



Jennifer Capriati hits a return to Serena Williams during their quarterfinal match at the US Open in New York, on 7 Sept, 2004. Capriati won a titanic struggle with old foe Williams to reach the semi-finals with a 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory after one of the most dramatic battles in the tournament's history.—INTERNET

Wellwishers donate over...

(from page 11)

K 10,000 by Tha Htet Aung Photo Copier Shop; K 5,000 each by Dr Naing Naing Mon of Inya Myaing Road; and Daw Gin Mu; K 3,000 each by Daw Yadana Tint Lwin of Insein and U Tun Kyi of Myawady Bank; 96,000 copies of periodicals by Myanmar Education Research Bureau; 730 copies of magazines by U Maung Maung Myint Aye of Lab Moe Sway Sarpay; 1,500 books by Managing Director Col Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise; 900 copies of journals by Myodaw U Tun Yi; 294 books by Daw Thet Yi (Jacob); 500 copies of magazines by Wah Moe Aung Sarpay; 300 copies of magazines by Professor Daw Sein Sein Myint of Dagon University; 200 copies of magazines by Ma Thin Kyi Hsan; 136 copies of magazines by Theingi Shweyi Silk Textile Shop; 400 books by Cho Zaw Co; 200 books by Loi Hsam Hsit Sarpay; 300 books by Shwe Sarpay; 2,325 books by U Nandasiri by Myayagon Monastery; 100 books by

Padamya Ngamauk Sarpay; 1,200 copies of magazines by Press Scrutiny and Registration Division; 150 copies of novels by Lun Htar Htar (Institute of Medicine); 100 books by Thalun Literary House; 126 books by Yapyay Literary House; 150 books by Myawady Literary House; 120 books by U Kyi Tun (Htan Hlaing); 8,000 copies of journals by Dr Thein Aung; 309 books by Yan Aung Sarpay; 100 books by U Tin Myint Maung (Maung Yay Aye-Harvart University); 200 books by Pu Tu Tu Lay Literary House; 210 books by Empire Sarpay; 100 books by U Saw Lwin (Yawgi Saw Lwin); 859 copies of magazine by U Win Hlaing of Insein Township; 675 books by U Myo Zaw Win of Dagon Myothit (North) Township; 50 books by Dana Tun Literary House; 200 by U Kyaw Kyaw Oo of South Okkalapa Township; 234 books by U San Tun of Mingala Taungnyunt Township; 280 books by Daw Baby Hein of Sangyoung Township; 250 books by Col Min Swe

of Dagon Myothit (North) Township; 300 books by Than Win Shein Sarpay; 812 books by Thiha Yadana Sarpay; 63 books by Myanmar Maritime University; 100 books by Min Shwe Min (Insein); 423 books by Daw Kyu Kyu Win of Tamway Township; 540 copies of newspapers by U Cho Mana Htan; 180 books by U Aung Kyaw Min; 194 books by Dr Tin Nwe Oo; 37 books of Engineering Department (Sewerage) of Yangon City Development Committee; 258 copies of religious periodicals by U Ottamasara; 180 copies of magazine by Dagon Myothit (South) Township Writers and Journalists Association; 86 books by Ma Thaw Thaw Zin; 74 books by Ma Khin Sanda Lin of Kyauktada Township; 62 books by Daw Than Kyi of Sangyoung Township; 600 books of cartoon by Lawkanat Sarpay; 152 books by Daw Kyu Kyu of Latha Township; 375 books by Daung Yin Byan Industry; 410 copies of journal by Botataung WJA; 111 copies of periodicals by Daw Gin Mu (Planning Department); 430 copies of magazines

by Haji U Myint Kyi; 2,800 copies of journals by Health Digest; 1,000 books by U Tin Maung of Sangyoung Township; 50 copies of short story by Mon Sarpay; 274 books by U Aung Kyi Sein; 400 books by Director Maung Shein, 372 books by Department of Myanmar Language Commission; 200 books by Daw San San Yi of Sangyoung Township; 86 books by U Ba Tin of Thuwunna; 400 books by Dr Molar; 175 books by Hein Si Co; 200 books by Dr Daw Mya Mya Win; 392 books by Daw Pearl (Mya Pale Khin); 90 books by Brig-Gen Tin Oo (Air) and family; 67 books by U Than Htut Aung; and 57 copies of magazines by Dr Khin San Maw. Next, certificates of honour were presented to the wellwishers.

Later, the deputy minister thanked the donors.

Today's cash donations for self-reliant village libraries by 15 wellwishers were K 1,544,000 and books donation by 75 wellwishers were 129,632 books and periodicals worth K 4,992,950.

MNA

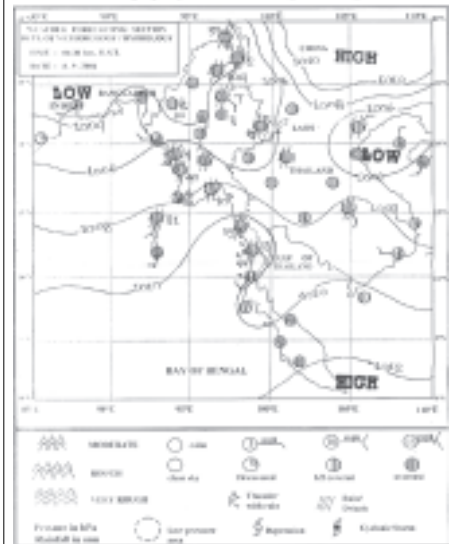
Rainfall on 8-9-2004

- (0.28 inch) at Yangon Airport,
- (0.40 inch) at Kaba-Aye and
- nil at central Yangon.

Total rainfall since 1-1-2004

- 98.08 inches at Yangon Airport,
- 94.65 inches at Kaba-Aye and
- 95.87 inches at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 8 September 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin State and Mandalay Division, scattered in Shan, Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin and Mon States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myitkyina (5.79) inches, Mawlamyine (3.31) inches, and Ye (2.44) inches.

Maximum temperature on 7-9-2004 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 8-9-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 8-9-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 7-9-2004 was 5.8 hours approx. Rainfall on 8-9-2004 was (0.28 inch) at Yangon Airport, (0.40 inch) at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 98.08 inches at Yangon Airport, 94.65 inches at Kaba-Aye and 95.87 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Southwest at 22:35 hours MST on 7-9-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and weak elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 9-9-2004:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Chin State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan, Kayah States, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of thundery conditions in Northern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-9-2004:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-9-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Myanma Port Authority: Warning of Hightide

The Public are hereby informed that exceptionally high Spring of from 20.14 feet to 21.00 feet high above the datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period 14th September to 19th September, 2004.

Myanmar delegation attends ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting

YANGON, 8 Sept—A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Economic Cooperation U Tin Winn arrived back here on 6 September after attending the 36th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 2 to 5 September and related meetings.

They were welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein and officials. On 2 September, the minister and party attended the 7th ASEAN Investment Council Meeting and 18th AFTA Council Meeting. At the AIA Council Meeting, the ministers reviewed the amount of foreign investment in the region.

At the AFTA Council Meeting, the ministers reviewed work to be done under CEPT and trade situation of ASEAN for 2002-2003. ASEAN's trade partners are the US, Japan, European Union, China and Korea. Trade shares for those countries are 14.1%, 13.7%, 11.5%,

7.0% and 4.1% respectively.

After the meeting, a press conference was held and press release was made. On 3 September, President Megawati Soekarnoputri of Indonesia

officially establishment of ASEAN Economic Community in 2020.

On 4 September, the ministers met delegation led by Minister of Trade Mr Bo Xilai of the People's Republic of

China and Korea exchanged views on ASEAN and economic development of Asian countries and discussed promotion of trade and investment for regional economic integration. Matters relating to



Minister U Tin Winn at the 36th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting. —L. AUBOURN

met ASEAN Economic ministers and the ASEAN Secretary-General. The opening ceremony of the 36th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting was held. The meeting continued at Shangri-la Hotel. Minister of Industry and Trade of Indonesia Ms Rini M. Sumarno Soewanto presided over the meeting. The ministers discussed implementation of resolutions passed at 9th the ASEAN Summit, espe-

cially establishment of ASEAN Economic Community in 2020. They met Minister of Trade Mr Kim Hyun-Chong of the Republic of Korea, delegates of ASEAN Economic Ministers+3 meeting and members of ASEAN+3 Consultation with East Asia Business Council. ASEAN Economic Ministers and their counterparts of Japan,

China and delegation led by Minister of Economic, Trade and Industry Mr Shiochi of Japan at the meeting of ASEAN+1. They met Minister of Trade Mr Kim Hyun-Chong of the Republic of Korea, delegates of ASEAN Economic Ministers+3 meeting and members of ASEAN+3 Consultation with East Asia Business Council. ASEAN Economic Ministers and their counterparts of Japan,

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Prime Minister attends International Literacy Day ceremony

Development gap between urban and rural areas, rich and poor countries would become narrow only through enhancement of education for all people in the world

YANGON, 8 Sept.—The International Literacy Day and the United Nations Literacy Decade commemorative ceremony took place at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road here this morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar

of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training

of UN agencies, members from social organizations, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, directors-general and chairmen of departments and boards under the Ministry of Education, rectors, principals of education colleges, State/Division education officers, members of work committee for formal education and work committee for non-formal education, school heads, of township education officers in Yangon Division, prize winners, students and guests. Ma Yadana Aye Min and Ma

Cultural Performing Arts Competitions presented a song titled "Doh In Ar" (Our Strength) to open the ceremony. In his speech, the Prime Minister said that since September 8 was designated as the International Literacy Day in 1967 by the United Nations Organization, the respective member nations have commemorated the Literacy Day every year. The Union of Myanmar has also honoured and celebrated the International Literacy Day annually and these celebrations have become a firm tradition.

In reality, Myanmar



Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the ceremony to mark International Literacy Day 2004 and UN Literacy Decade.— MNA

The Union of Myanmar is endeavouring to enhance education through two parallel streams— Formal Education and Non-formal Education. This is being done by the State with the aims of creating a Learning Society in Myanmar, becoming Lifelong Learners and creating Non-formal Education.



Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman

Board, MEC members, ambassadors of foreign missions in Myanmar, Charges d' Affaires ai, resident representatives

Hauk Khant Dim acted as masters of ceremonies.

The students who won gold medals in Myanmar Traditional

has started her literacy campaign since Bagan era, during which, the tradition of teaching boys and girls at monastic education schools, that were free from any gender discrimination, was born. Thanks to the tradition of women learning education and exchanging knowledge among themselves, while doing household chores and domestic jobs, it has become obvious that Myanmar's literary campaign is earlier than that of many other countries. In this regard, famous literati emerged throughout the successive eras starting from Bagan era to Pinya, Inwa, Toungoo, Hanthawady, Nyaungyan, Konboug and Yadanabon periods.

At this time when every development sector is determined by education, the gap between urban and rural areas and between the rich and poor countries would become narrow only through the enhancement of education for all people in the world.

Moreover, with the belief and hope that a stable world consisting of peaceful developed countries, would come into existence, each and every country is trying very seriously to upgrade the education of its people. The Union of Myanmar is also endeavouring to achieve the national objective for uplifting health, fitness and education standards of the

entire nation. This is being done with the belief that healthy and intelligent citizens with great intellectual power could do for the development of their country and people and for keeping abreast of other nations.

Only if all are educated will their vision to distinguish between right and wrong and deeds and misdeeds improve.

And in addition, with the collective strength of their families and their nation and the people, they will be able to ward off the deceits of others, and the harmful acts of destructive elements to push the nation towards the wrong road, with ill intention.

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Ambassadors and Charges d'Affaires ai of foreign missions view booths on activities of International Literacy Day 2004 and UN Literacy Decade.— MNA