

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 149

13th Waning of Wakhaung 1366 ME

Sunday, 12 September, 2004



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye bids farewell to Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Somdhat Attanand before his departure for Thailand.— MNA

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San see off Thai Supreme Commander and wife and party

YANGON, 11 Sept — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San saw off Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Somdhat Attanand and Madame Khunying Suppanapa Attanand and party, who had completed their goodwill tour, at Yangon International Airport this morning.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Members

of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and their wives, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, Thai Military Attaché Col Kasam Nakpun and officials also saw off the Thai Supreme Commander and wife and party.

At 8 am, the Thai Supreme Commander and wife and party arrived at the airport. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San cordially greeted the guests at the VIP Lounge.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented a photo album and video tapes on the goodwill visit to the Thai General.

When the special aircraft of Royal Thai Army carrying the Thai Supreme Commander and wife and party took off, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and party waved to the guests.— MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sees off Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Somdhat Attanand at Yangon International Airport.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 12 September, 2004

Boost production and export of oil and gas

The Union of Myanmar is rich in terrestrial and marine resources, and natural gas, an energy resource, can be exploited on a commercial scale not only in its interior regions but also off the coasts.

The Government has been making concerted endeavours for strengthening the State's economy by fulfilling local demand of oil and gas and exporting the surplus.

With respect to the oil and gas sector, the State is expanding the scope of exploration of oil and natural gas through its own investment and technology as well as mutual-interest-based co-operation with foreign companies at Mottama, Taninthayi and Rakhine offshore oil and gas blocks in addition to those in interior regions.

Recently, large gas deposits have been discovered at Rakhine Offshore Block Nos A-1 and A-3. Now, new oil wells have been drilled successfully at Yedagun Offshore Oil and Gas Field in Taninthayi Division, producing crude oil and natural gas.

Plans are well under way to increase export of natural gas to Thailand and to pipe the condensate, a by-product of the project, to Thanlyin Oil Refinery, and these plans will make significant contributions towards serving the interest of the State.

Yedagun Offshore Oil and Natural Gas Field was set up at No 1 Test Well in November 1992 and 12 more wells were drilled. These new wells produce 145 million cubic-feet of natural gas a day.

In response to the growing natural gas demand of Thailand, efforts are being made with added momentum to boost production of oil and natural gas at Yedagun Offshore Oil and Natural Gas Project. As a result, four new wells had been drilled successfully at the end of August 2004. So far, total output of the project has reached 500 million cubic-feet a day. Therefore, the natural gas export to Thailand is going to be increased to 400 million cubic-feet per day.

Thanks to successful implementation of such oil and natural gas projects, supply is exceeding the local demand and more foreign currency can be earned by means of exporting the surplus.



UMFCCI President U Win Myint sees off Vice-President U Win Aung and party before their departure for Thailand. (News reported)—UMFCCI

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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

Delegates to Workshop for ASEAN Cultural Interaction at

Grassroots served with dinner

YANGON, 11 Sept—Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung delivered an address at the dinner hosted by Chairman of ASEAN-COCI National Committee Director-General U Myint Thein Swe of the Department of

Cultural Institute to delegates who attended the Workshop for People-to-People Exchange Programme ASEAN Cultural Interaction at Grassroots, Phase III held in Mandalay.

It was also attended

by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Retired Ambassador U Win Lwin, Departmental

Heads and Officials of Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the delegates of ASEAN countries and partner the People's Republic of China and guests. Next, Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung delivered an address and presented souvenirs to the delegates.

Afterwards, those present were served with dinner. During the dinner, artistes entertained dances and songs to the audience. Next, the leader of the Cambodian delegation presented a flower basket to the artistes.

Later, those present and artistes sang the song titled "ASEAN Song of Unity" in chorus.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung delivers an address at the dinner.—MNA

Minister for Mines leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 11 Sept—The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint left here by air this morning to attend the Bangkok Gems and Jewellery Emporium 2004 to be held in Bangkok, Thailand.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by

Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, heads of the department, officials and their families.

The minister was accompanied by Managing Director of No 2 Mining Enterprise U Hla Thein and Director of Myanma Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe.

MNA

Myanmar delegation led by Chief Justice leaves for Cambodia

YANGON, 11 Sept—The Myanmar delegation led by Chief Justice U Aung Toe left for Phnom Penh by air this morning to attend the 25th General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) to be held in Cambodia from 12 to 17 September.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing, Supreme Court Judge U Khin Maung Aye, Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hul Phany, Director-General of the Supreme Court U Soe Nyunt and officials of the Supreme Court and Attorney-General's Office.

Chief Justice U Aung Toe was accompanied by Legal Adviser U Thauung Nyunt and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin. —MNA

H&T Minister receives Thai guests

YANGON, 11 Sept—Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw received the Thai delegation led by Mr Suparerk Sooran Gura, President of Association of Thai Travel Agents (ATTA) at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism this morning. During their meeting they discussed matters related to promotion and cooperation in tourism sector between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and officials.

MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents championship shield to Ayeyawady Division (B) in 10th Inter-State/Division Sepak Takraw Tournament on 10-9-2004.—NLM

Costa Rica quits Iraq war coalition

SAN JOSE, 11 Sept — Costa Rican Foreign Minister Roberto Tovar on Thursday requested the United States to remove his country's name from the list of nations backing the occupation coalition in Iraq.

This petition was presented in a diplomatic note addressed to US Secretary of State Colin Powell in compliance with the resolution of Costa Rica's constitutional court, which was issued on Wednesday.

In the diplomatic note, Tovar said Costa Rica, respectful of the rule of law and the independence of the branches of the

state, abides by the decision of the high constitutional tribunal.

"As a consequence, my government requests the government of the United States to exclude the name of the Republic of Costa Rica from the list of allies in the Coalition or Alliance," said the diplomatic note, which has been presented to the US Embassy in San Jose.

The constitutional court, the top judicial body of Costa Rica, unanimously declared Wednesday night as unconstitutional the moral support given by Costa Rica to the United States in its invasion of Iraq, and ordered the government to remove the name of the Central American country from the list of the coalition.

The decision of the court also stressed that the act "went against the Constitution, the Principle of Perpetual, Active and Non-Armed Neutrality (of Costa Rica), the International Law, and the United Nations System."

Nonetheless, the Foreign Minister reiterated that the Costa Rican Government never declared war to Iraq or supported the invasion of Iraq.

In previous occasions, President Abel Pacheco and Foreign Minister Tovar had indicated that Costa Rica's support was not for the invasion of Iraq, but for the combat, headed by the United States, against international terrorism.

MNA/Xinhua



Local residents assess damage caused to business establishments after an US offensive in Sadr City, Baghdad, on 10 Sept, 2004.

INTERNET

Iraq Survey Group to report within two weeks

LONDON, 10 Sept — The Iraq Survey Group is to confirm during the next fortnight that Saddam Hussein's regime had no stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction when it was invaded last year, the Guardian newspaper said.

In a front-page report, it said it has learned that the team — charged with finding proof of Saddam's quest for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons — will deliver its report "in two weeks' time".

"It will draw the final conclusion that there are no WMD in the country, although the threat of Saddam was real," said the Guardian, which did not

identify its sources.

The Iraq Survey Group, comprising more than 1,000 mainly US intelligence and weapons experts, fanned out across Iraq in July 2003, four months after the US-led invasion that toppled Saddam.

In an interim report in October last year, its chief David Kay told the US Senate it had yet to find stocks of WMD, but added

that it was not at a point where it could say definitely that such weapons did not exist.

Kay reiterated his position when he resigned three months later.

The Guardian said that the release of definitive conclusions in the next two weeks would put British Prime Minister Tony Blair in an awkward position, just as his governing Labour Party holds its annual conference.

To a greater extent than US President George W. Bush, Blair sought to justify taking Britain into the Iraq war by citing the threat of Iraqi WMD and the danger they might fall into terrorist hands.

In July, a British inquiry into pre-war intelligence said Iraq — which under Saddam defied a string of UN resolutions on WMD — most likely possessed no useable weapons of mass destruction before the March 2003 invasion.

Internet

UNSG "extremely" concerned about hostages in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Sept — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Wednesday he is "extremely" concerned about the fate of all civilians held hostage in Iraq and repeated his call for their immediate and unconditional release.

"The abductions of two French journalists and two Italian humanitarian aid workers and their Iraqi colleagues are but the latest incidents in a tragic pattern of violations committed against innocent civilians in Iraq," Annan said in a statement issued through his spokesman.

Two female Italian aid workers were seized from their offices in central Baghdad on Tuesday after an attack by a group of armed men. Two Iraqis, a man and a woman, were also kidnapped in the raid. — MNA/Xinhua

ထိုက်တိုက်နှင်းစိုက်ခြင်း

1,008 members of the US military killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 Sept — As of Friday, Sept. 10, 1,008 members of the US military have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 762 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

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

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 867 US military members have died — 650 as a result of hostile action and 217 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers.

Internet

Schroeder defends stance on Iraq War

BERLIN, 10 Sept — Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder reasserted Germany's right to disagree with the United States over Iraq, adding that it would be wrong to interpret his country's opposition to the war as anti-Americanism.

His comments came at an event marking 10 years since US, British and French troops left reunited Berlin at the end of the Cold War, a departure that stood for the return of Germany's sovereignty and the end of five decades of Allied tutelage after World War II.

Schroeder paid tribute to the protection that Allied troops gave to West Berlin and West Germany, the influence of American culture and democratic ideals on post-Nazi society, and what he portrayed as a spirit of optimism in the United States that Germany could learn from today.

But he defended his decision to side with France and Russia in opposing last year's US-led invasion of Iraq, which chilled his relationship with President Bush for months.

"It does have to be possible to ask critical questions about a decision, or even reject it, without immediately being put under, as it were, a blanket suspicion," Schroeder said Thursday to an audience that included prominent German and US diplomats and business leaders.

Polls have generally shown that majorities in European countries,

including Germany, reject the US policy in Iraq.

But, Schroeder argued, cultural and business ties, along with shared values such as opposing terrorism, still make for strong bonds.

"What I ask you to respect is this: Not to describe every divergent opinion as anti-Americanism," he said.

Schroeder spoke at the 10th anniversary of the American Academy, a Berlin institute that promotes US-German academic and cultural exchanges and is housed in a former US military recreation center.

Internet



The door of a shop is pockmarked with machinegun bullets after an US, offensive in Sadr City, Baghdad, on 10 Sept, 2004.

INTERNET

Armed groups begin to control more areas in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 Sept— Armed groups and foreign terrorists have established new camps in central Iraq as government forces attack rebels in the north and south, officials say.

The reports follow an admission by US central command chief Gen John Abizaid that there are more areas in Iraq under rebel control today than there were last year.

The revelations could be damning for the government of US appointed interim prime minister Iyad Allawi who has promised to uproot armed opposition to the nascent government.

New camps have been reported in the 'Sunni triangle' zone that includes Falluja and Ramadi. Iraqi and western sources say the camps have been established recently and fortified in the past couple of months.

Reports are coming in of new armed groups organising themselves in parts of the country earlier thought safe, as fighting escalates in other parts of Iraq. Over the past few days fighting has erupted again in many parts of the country including Falluja and Mosul in the north and Sadr City in Baghdad.

US forces have said they targeted houses used by followers of Abu Musab Zarqawi, the Jordanian-Palestinian believed to be the al-Qaeda leader in Iraq.

US warplanes have also attacked Tal Afar near Mosul in the north in an attempt to smash arms smuggling. Local medical sources say at least 27 people were killed and 70 wounded. US military officials said they believed 57 insurgents had died.

US troops also entered the central city Samarra Thursday for the first time in weeks in an attempt to establish local government and force militiamen out.

"They are mostly Baathist groups, but there are some foreign terrorists as well," Ahmed Chalabi, leader of the Iraqi National Congress says, referring to the Baath Party that ruled Iraq under Saddam Hussein. "They have sophisticated military organisation, are well trained, well armed, and have lots of money."

His assertion is backed by other Iraqi politicians with close connections among the people.

"There are terrorist camps. They have stored lots of arms and ammunition. They have equipment for forging documents and passports," says Ismail Zayer, editor-in-chief of the independent daily Sabah al-Jedid. "They have positioned themselves to have contacts with people in places like Ramadi and Falluja, as well as with people in the south."

The groups are said to have established some military camps in Mahmoudiye-Latifiye-Yousefiye along the Baghdad-Najaf highway. Many foreign journalists and aid workers have been kidnapped in this area. Convoys of Iraqi officials have been attacked.

The number of armed militiamen is not known. Most Iraqi sources speak of hundreds; some say it could be close to a thousand. —Internet

Former enemies say Iraq fuelling America's Vietnam War obsession

HANOI, 10 Sept— America's increasingly drawn-out campaign in Iraq is the reason the Vietnam War remains such a contentious issue in the US presidential election race, retired Vietnamese generals say.

The elderly officers interviewed by AFP said they were not surprised the war, which left more than 58,000 Americans dead, had become a key battleground between President George W. Bush and his Democratic challenger John Kerry.

"Americans, rich and powerful, have still not come to terms with their defeat at the hands of smaller, poorer people," said General Hoang Minh Thao, a respected historian of the Vietnamese army.

For many here, the Vi-

etnam War quagmire has resonance today in Iraq, where the US military death toll this week passed the grim milestone of 1,000. "The lessons of the (Vietnam) war still have historical, military and moral validity," he said.

From the very start of the Iraq war in March last year, Vietnamese generals forecasted that their former adversaries had a long, bloody struggle ahead.

As was the case in Vietnam, they predicted that the US military would face heavy losses as they became drawn into a guerrilla conflict without the support of the population.

In June, US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld compared the violence facing US forces in Iraq with the Tet Offensive of 1968 in which communist forces mounted a series of daring attacks against US forces across South Vietnam that highlighted the hollowness of Washington's claims it was winning the war. For the generals, the similarities between the two conflicts are evident.

Internet



An Iraqi soldier guards the road near radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's office in Najaf, Iraq on 9 Sept, 2004. —INTERNET

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှာ

Five police officers abducted in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 Sept— Five Iraqi police officers have been kidnapped and held hostage in Iraq, four of them in Najaf and the fifth in Baghdad, CNN reported.

Police believe the Baghdad abduction may have been staged by the same group that kidnapped two female Italian aid workers. In both incidents, the abductors wore National Guard uniforms and drove similar vehicles.

The Iraqi police officer was abducted by four people who attacked a police station in Baghdad.

The Najaf hostage takers threatened to kill the four officers in 72 hours if police do not stop chasing the "mujahedeen and harassing Muqtada al-Sadr," the radical Shiite cleric, the Arab television news network Al-Jazeera reported.

Video shows the four hostages being held by masked men, identified by Al-Jazeera as members of a previously unknown group called the Contributing Forces for the Annihilation of Agents and Spies.

Internet



Shiite men hold up a portrait of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, in Baghdad, Iraq on 10 Sept, 2004. Thousands of Shiite men congregated from all over the city in Baghdad's Kadhamiya district, to show their support for al-Sadr. —INTERNET

Russia welcomes outcome of Indo-Pakistani talks

Moscow, 10 Sept— Russia on Thursday described the outcome of talks between the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan as an "important step" in development of a bilateral composite dialogue and said it attached "high value" to the agreements between the two countries to continue contacts at high levels.

"We highly value the agreements to continue contacts at the summit and high levels, particularly about the meeting of the Prime Minister of India and President of Pakistan in September on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly," a Russian Foreign Ministry statement said while welcoming the outcome of the just-concluded talks be-

tween External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid M Kasuri.

It noted the readiness of both the sides for "frank and non-confrontational" discussions on the outstanding issues in their bilateral relations and expressed "optimism" at the plans for regular contacts between the border au-

thorities and on nuclear CBMs at experts' level.

"We view the talks as an important step in the development of dialogue between New Delhi and Islamabad poised at resolving the whole complex of bilateral issues in spirit of Simla Accord and on the basis of the UN Charter," the Russian statement said.

MNA/PTI

US airstrikes killed at least five Iraqi civilians including children

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 10 Sept — US airstrikes killed at least five Iraqi civilians in the town of Fallujah overnight, doctors and witnesses said on Thursday.

Dr Mushtak Talib said three men and two women were killed, members of three families. Another doctor said at least 14 people were wounded, among them children under the age of four. Two children were said to be in critical condition.

Witnesses said two houses were destroyed in the strikes, which were launched at around 2 am (2200 GMT). It was the third successive night of air strikes on the town.

US Marines have been

fighting guerillas for three consecutive days in the town west of Baghdad, a centre of resistance to US troops which is controlled by guerillas.

A US military statement said multinational forces had carried out a "precision strike" on a site used by supporters of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian militant who the Americans say is a key al-Qaeda operative.

He is the United

States' most wanted man in Iraq, accused of masterminding major attacks including suicide bombings.

"The target was a building frequently used by terrorists," the statement said. "Three Zarqawi associates were reported to be in the area, no other individuals were present at the time of the strike."

The US military has launched several airstrikes on buildings in Fallujah, and in one case

a truck lot, which it linked to Zarqawi. On each occasion Fallujah residents said civilians were killed and that Zarqawi was not in the area.

Bloodied children lay on hospital beds after Wednesday night's attack and residents with flashlights searched for more victims in the rubble.

MNA/Reuters

Annan for "immediate and unconditional" release of hostages

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Sept — Concerned over increasing reports of hostage-taking in Iraq, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has asked for "immediate and unconditional" release of all those abducted in Iraq.

"The Secretary-General is extremely concerned about the fate of all civilians held hostage," his spokesman, Fred Eckhard, told reporters on Wednesday.

"The abductions of two French journalists and two Italian humanitarian aid workers and their Iraqi colleagues are but the latest incidents in a tragic pattern of violations committed against innocent civilians in Iraq," he said. —MNA/PTI

17 killed in heavy clashes in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 Sept — Seventeen people were killed and some 50 others wounded in heavy clashes overnight between US and Iraqi forces and guerillas in Iraq's northern town of Tall Afar, witnesses and medical sources said on Thursday.

The clashes erupted at 2:00 am (2200 GMT Wednesday) and continued for several hours as US and Iraqi forces launched a fresh offensive against the town, in a bid to force the guerillas out of the area, witnesses said.

"Multi-National Forces and Iraqi security forces initiated operations to restore control of Tall Afar to legitimate Iraqi government officials," the US military said in a statement.

Tall Afar, some 390 kilometres north of Baghdad, has witnessed fierce fighting between coalition forces and guerillas during the past few days.

On 4 September, clashes between US forces and guerillas erupted in Tall

Afar as US tanks rushed into the town, intending to conduct searches in the area.

Thirteen Iraqis were killed and more than 50 others wounded in the fighting, medics said.

A US military helicopter was also forced to land near the fighting scene, a US military spokesman said, adding that two aboard the aircraft were injured.

Meanwhile, 12 Iraqis were killed and nine others wounded in an overnight on Wednesday US air raid on the Iraqi flashpoint city of Fallujah.

It was the third successive overnight air raid on the city. The US military said in a statement

that multinational forces had carried out a "precision strike" on a site allegedly used by supporters of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. —MNA/Xinhua



A US army soldier inspects the highway running north into Tikrit on 9 Sept, 2004. —INTERNET

Most Britons lose trust in ministers

LONDON, 10 Sept — Most Britons have lost trust in British ministers to tell the truth since the war on Iraq, the British *The Guardian* newspaper quoted a latest detailed survey as reporting on Thursday.

The survey, which questioned 1,000 people, found that 60 per cent of the British people had lost trust in ministers since Prime Minister Tony Blair joined the US-led war against Iraq in March last year.

Forty-two per cent were swayed by the revelations over the handling of the war by the Hutton inquiry and about 23 per cent cited the "dodgy dossier", with its false claim that former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein could launch an attack with weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes, the poll showed.

The poll, commissioned by the anti-sleaze watchdog, the committee on standards in public life, found that 70 per cent of those interviewed did not trust ministers to tell the truth, while 24 per cent believed what they said.

Lawmakers fared little better, the poll revealed, with about 65 per cent of those polled believing that they were untrustworthy and 27 per cent thinking they were generally honest. The survey also showed that ministers and lawmakers were believed to be less trustworthy than television news journalists, doctors, police officers, judges, as well as journalists on the British newspapers *The Guardian*, *The Times* and

Daily Telegraph.

According to the paper, the anti-sleaze watchdog's report on the survey says the ruling Labour Party's reputation for spin and the opposition Conservative Party's record on sleaze had also left an indelible mark on public opinion. —MNA/Xinhua

British tourist killed in delta plane crash

ANKARA, 10 Sept — A British tourist was killed and a Turkish pilot was injured when a delta plane they were taking crashed in the Aegean city of Fethiye in Turkey on Thursday, semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported. The delta plane fell on the rocks shortly after it took off because of reverse air current, said the report.

British national Michael Wackrow, who was with the plane for a parachute jump, lost his life on the way to hospital and Turkish pilot Mehmet Karaca is under medical treatment in the same hospital, added the report. —MNA/Xinhua

France voices solidarity with Italy over hostage-taking in Iraq

PARIS, 10 Sept — France voiced solidarity with Italy after the kidnapping of two Italians working for an NGO, French Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

"France learnt with a strong emotion the kidnapping of Simona Torretta and Simona Pari who work for a humanitarian organization," declared Herve Ladsous, spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry.

"(France) wants to voice its solidarity with Italy as well as their families in this trial," he added. The two female Italian aid workers and two Iraqis were seized by gunmen from their central Baghdad office on Tuesday afternoon. Since the US-led war on Iraq in March 2003, more than 100 foreigners have been abducted by guerillas. Two French journalists, Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, were kidnapped on 20 August with their Syrian driver Mohamed al-Joundi, by a group called itself Islamic Army of Iraq. —MNA/Xinhua



Women carry supplies for the home as the crew of a US army's Bradley Fighting Vehicle keep watch, at Sadr City, Baghdad, on 9 Sept, 2004. Fierce clashes in Sadr City in the last few days have claimed the lives of dozens of people. —INTERNET

Thailand to hold ASEAN meeting on bird flu vaccination

BANGKOK, 10 Sept — Thailand will host an ASEAN meeting on November to discuss the use of vaccination in face of uneased avian influenza outbreak, local Press reported on Thursday.

The meeting, to be held on 25-26, November is expected to bring together public health ministers and related officials from the 10 ASEAN member nations and China, Japan and South Korea, said the state-

run Thai News Agency (TNA).

The use of vaccination against bird flu spreading through the region would be the key topic of the ministers and officials, Thai Public

Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan was quoted as saying.

Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia were hard hit by the fowl epidemic in the beginning of this year and 24 people in the region died in the first wave of outbreak.

The latest report showed that one more person died of the disease in Vietnam last week and Malaysia was also hit by the epi-

demio.

While the countries are still haunted by the disease, whether to use vaccination to curb the spread has become a controversial issue.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Office to Asia and the Pacific earlier said it is the top task for countries threatened with bird flu outbreak to prevent further spread of the disease by culling poultry or injecting vaccine.

However, many poultry importing countries have declared ban on product injected with vaccine for fear of harmful residues.

Thailand has banned the use of vaccine while the disease is still monitored in 14 provinces.

MNA/Xinhua



Doctors try to revive baby Abdul Khalil after he sustained fatal injuries during an air raid in Fallujah, Iraq on 9 Sept, 2004. Dr Ahmad Thair of the Fallujah General Hospital said five people were killed, including two women and a child, and nine others injured in the strike. —INTERNET

Double-lane Dhaka-Chittagong Highway attracts investment

DHAKA, 10 Sept — The construction work of Bangladeshi double-lane Dhaka-Chittagong express highway, which is going on in full swing for completion in scheduled time, will help attracting more foreign investment and increasing export earnings.

The road would facilitate smooth and quick transportation between the capital and the port city as well as link with the proposed Asian Highway, according to *The New Nation* Thursday.

Sources of the Roads and Highways Department said that the construction work is being financed by the Asian Development Bank. The project comprises of two components — Corridor Improvement Component (CIC) and Road Maintenance Component (RMC).

Under the CIC to be implemented at a cost of 3.657 billion taka (61 million US dollars), a 113-kilometre double-lane would be constructed.

The second phase of development of

the highway would begin under RMC on completion of CIC which is scheduled to be completed by June 2006.

Under the RMC, maintenance work of some 111-kilometre road would be completed at a cost of around 1.94 billion taka (32 million dollars).

The express highway reportedly would bring about "a revolutionary change" in the national economy as it would also link Dhaka-Chittagong Highway with the proposed Trans-Asian Highway at Teknaf, bordering Myanmar.

It would be in line with the present government's "look-east" policy for boosting the country's economic growth.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangkok slum drug boss sentenced to life imprisonment

BANGKOK, 11 Sept — A slum drug boss in Bangkok was sentenced to life imprisonment on Thursday for drug trafficking on circumstantial evidence, local Press reported on Friday.

Supap Sidaeng, 34, also known as Sayam Sapworasith, was found guilty of methamphetamine trafficking and violating drug laws. Supap, a well-known underworld leader in the Bangkok downtown slum community of Klong Toei,

was sentenced to life imprisonment for conspiring with Suchart Pamthachote, sentenced earlier to 33 years and four months in jail for selling drugs. The prosecution said Supap, also known as "Pap 70 rai", conspired with Suchart and various

other suspects to sell 12,000 speed pills to a customer in January 1998. He sent the drugs to Suchart to sell to drug dealer Udon Mabangkhu, who was arrested and convicted by the Southern Bangkok Criminal Court. — MNA/Xinhua



Indian aviation to allow private carriers to fly to ASEAN

NEW DELHI, 10 Sept — The Indian Civil Aviation Ministry is soon going to move the Federal Cabinet on the proposal to allow private domestic carriers, now operating to SAARC countries, to fly to ASEAN nations.

The Ministry is considering granting air services rights to these private carriers on the basis of certain formulae, including their domestic route network, the number of destinations they are operating and economically unviable but strategically important sectors such as the northeast, official sources told *PTI* here.

Indian Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel is likely to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh next week to discuss certain issues, including allowing private domestic carriers to fly to the ten South-east Asian nations. The matter may come up at the Cabinet meeting this month-end.

Asked about the number of flights Indian carriers, including the private ones, would be allowed to operate to ASEAN, they said the Ministry could consider the domestic route dispersal of all Indian carriers.

The sources said the Civil Aviation Ministry would seek "in-principle" approval of the Cabinet to its proposal to allow private carriers to operate to ASEAN nations including most sought after destinations like Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. — MNA/PTI

ADB approves loan to develop road network in south China

MANILA, 10 Sept — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday approved a 312.5-million-US-dollar loan to develop the road network in the western part of Hunan Province, south China.

The project supports the Chinese Government's strategy to develop the country's western region by supplying a vital section of the Changsha-Chongqing corridor — one of eight prioritized western corridors in the 10th Five Year Plan, the ADB said in a statement.

The project will construct a 173-kilometre, four-lane toll expressway from Changde to Huaihua, and upgrade 517 kilometres of local roads servicing 404 poor villages. It will also provide consulting services and training to enhance construction quality, road safety, and project monitoring and evaluation, the ADB said.

The development of the road network in western Hunan will help transmit the benefits of the eastern region's economic growth to the poor western region. Some 1.9 million people, or 68 per cent of the total population in the project area, will directly benefit from the project. Around 42 per cent of these are from ethnic minorities.

The project area is largely rural and moun-

tainous, and road infrastructure is inadequate to support economic growth, a necessary prerequisite to tackle poverty in the area.

Not only will transport providers, such as bus and

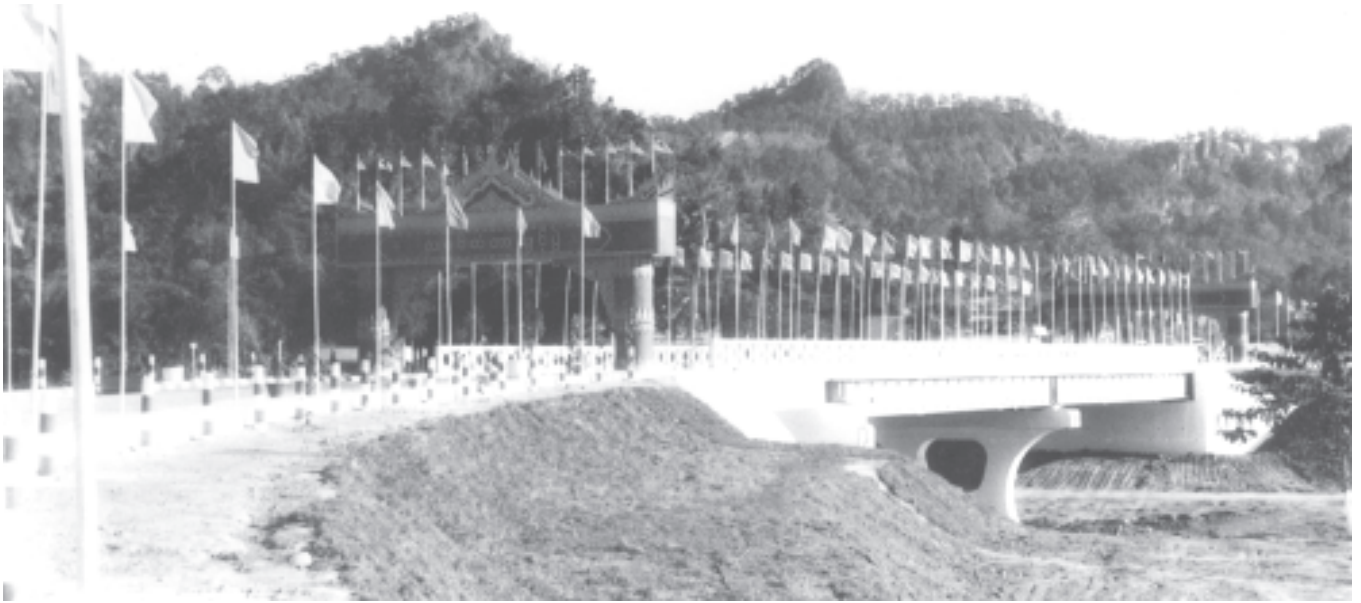
truck operators, benefit, but also passengers and traders who will all enjoy speedier, more comfortable travel and improved road safety, the statement added.

MNA/Xinhua



A Filipino worker weighs a sashimi grade yellow fin tuna being auctioned at the fish port complex in General Santos city, southern Philippines on 10 Sept, 2004. — INTERNET

Better transport helps strengthen national unity



Lapin Bridge in Kalaywa Township, Sagaing Division. — MNA



Sanepauk Bridge on Yangon-Kyaunkpyu Road in An Township, Rakhine State.



Langkho Bridge, 290 feet long and 24 feet wide, in Daseik, Langkho Township, Shan State (South).

Thai Supreme Commander and wife visit Shwedagon Pagoda



Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Somdhat Attanand and wife Madame Khunying Suppanapa Attanand accept picture of Shwedagon Pagoda from members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.—MNA

YANGON, 11 Sept — Visiting Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Somdhat Attanand and Madame Khunying Suppanapa Attanand and party, accompanied by Brig-Gen Kyaw Han of the Ministry of Defence, Myanmar Military Attaché Col Ko Ko Maung and Thai Military Attaché Col Kasam Nakpun and officials, arrived at Shwedagon pagoda at 10 pm yesterday.

The Thai Supreme Commander and wife and party were welcomed there by members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Khin Maung Myint and U Ohn Myint and officials. They explained the history of the pagoda and religious edifices to the Thai guests.

Next, the visiting Thai General and wife and party paid homage to Jade Buddha Image on the platform of the pagoda's western stairway and offered flowers, lights and joss sticks to it.

Afterwards, the Thai General and wife signed in the visitors' book and presented cash donations. The members of the pagoda board of trustees accepted the donations and presented picture of the pagoda and the book on history to hoist umbrella atop the pagoda as Dhamma gifts to the General and wife. Later, the guests paid homage to the pagoda and viewed round religious buildings.—MNA

Minister inspects trial run of CNG motor vehicles

YANGON, 11 Sept — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin yesterday evening arrived at No 1 Automobile Factory (Yangon) of Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries and inspected a test run of compressed natural gas vehicles that have been converted from the ones with diesel engines.

At the factory, the minister first inspected machines parts assembled by No 1 Automobile Factory and other automobile factories to be used in manufacturing the CNG vehicles. MADEI Managing Director U Soe Thein and Factory General Manager U Hlaing Thein conducted the minister round the factory.

Next, the minister inspected the test run of a CNG TE truck and the CNG buses of the Ministry of Rail Transportation and the Ministry of Industry-2 and gave necessary instructions to officials.

So far, No 1 Automobile Factory (Yangon) has assembled four CNG TE trucks and two CNG buses.

MNA



Daw Mya Mya San bids farewell to the wife of the Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces at the airport before her departure for home. (News on page 1)—MNA

Commander addresses ceremony to mark Yangon Division World First Aid Day

YANGON, 11 Sept—The ceremony to mark the Yangon Division World First Aid Day for 2004 was held at the Institute of Nursing on Bogyoke Aung San Street here at 11 am today, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Patron of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay.

Also present on the occasion were military region commanders and their wives, Secretary of Yangon Division PDC Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, CEC members of Myanmar Red Cross Society, members of Panel of Patrons of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint, the Chairmen of District Peace and Development Councils, social organizations, members of Yangon Division Red

Cross Supervisory Committee, outstanding Red Cross members and guests.

In his address, Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that the first aid means to give a helpful hand to those hurting suddenly not only to alleviate pain but to save life before they received medical treatment at a clinic or hospital.

He called on Red Cross members to make earnest efforts for successful realization of the three tasks of Red Cross Society—to boost the health, to prevent the disease and to help those who are in trouble—as the society is based on humanitarian affairs.

Next, Chairman of Yangon Division Red Cross Supervisory Committee Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint presented the championship flag for competitions to mark the World First Aid Day and Secretary Dr Aung Win the championship shields for competitions to mark

the World First Aid Day to Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

This was followed by the prize-presentation ceremony.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented prizes and certificates of honour to outstanding Red Cross members. Patron of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay presented prizes to townships that are outstanding in organisational tasks.

After that, member of Yangon Division PDC Yangon Division Commissioner U Hla Soe presented prizes to outstanding Red Cross members.

Next, Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint presented prizes to Red Cross members who won prizes in the first aid competitions held in commemoration of the Yangon Division World First Aid Day for 2004, after which the ceremony came to an end.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Chairman Dr P Krishnan Raju and Director Professor Dr Arun Tiwari of Care Foundation of India at Zeyathiri Beikman. (News on page-16) — MNA

Parami Overpass is located at the junction of Parami Road and the circular railroad between Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Waizayanda Road. It will be 1,175 feet long and 48 feet wide four-lane overpass. The pedestrian ways will be four feet wide on both sides of the overpass which will be 14 feet high. As construction tasks were completed cent per cent, it will be opened soon.

Construction of Parami Overpass ...

(from page 16)

renovation of the airport building and extension of the runway presented by Managing Director U Tun Myint Naing of Asia World Co Ltd.

Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Myo Tint at the Ministry of Transport reported on the plan to build the new warehouse of the Customs Department at the airport and upgrade the airport. Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe gave a supplementary report.

After leaving necessary instructions, the General inspected driving of bored piles, laying of concrete on the floor and extension of the apron.

Next, the Prime Minister saw over the lounge of the airport and renovation and decoration of the halls at the airport building. Furthermore, the General inspected preparations for building the new warehouse and gave instructions.

On arrival at the site of Parami Overpass Project being implemented by Myanmar Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaug Lwin and officials welcomed the Prime Minister and party and conducted them round the project site.

After giving necessary instructions, the Prime Minister left the construction site in the morning.

Parami Overpass is located at the junction of Parami Road and the circular railroad between Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Waizayanda Road. It will be 1,175 feet long and 48 feet wide four-lane overpass. The pedestrian way will be four feet wide on both sides of the overpass which will be 14 feet high. As construction tasks were completed cent per cent, it will be opened soon.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects completion of Parami Overpass being built by Myanmar Railways.— MNA

NCCC, Work Committee ...

(from page 16)

forthcoming National Convention; that steps are to be taken for growing trees and flowery plants at Nyaungnapin Camp where the National Convention will resume, and for timely completion of construction and renovation measures.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein called on officials concerned to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for success of the forthcoming National Convention like the one that was successfully held.

Afterwards, Vice-Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung reported on arrangements being made

for matters to be presented by the Work Committee at the National Convention when it resumes.

Next, those present dealt with matters related to laying down of detailed basic principles to be

included in the drafting of the State constitution to be adopted at the National Convention and to successful holding of the National Convention.

The meeting ended at 4 pm.

MNA

- * NCCC, Work Committee, the Panel of Chairmen have already completed tasks to be carried out regarding the National Convention
- * Work is being carried out for matters to be discussed by the commission members and papers to be presented by the work committee at the forthcoming National Convention
- * Steps are to be taken for growing trees and flowery plants at Nyaungnapin Camp and for timely completion of construction and renovation measures.



NCCC Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses coordination meeting of National Convention Convening Commission.— MNA

Isolating the regime in Myanmar is not the answer

David I. Steinberg

The following is a reproduction from the article "Isolating the regime in Myanmar is not the answer" by David I Steinberg from the International Herald Tribune published on 28-1-2004.—Ed

The opinion article by Senator Mitch McConnell and Bono ("A heroine of democracy, left far too lonely," Views, Jan. 19) misses the point. Most of the world would like to see the regime in Myanmar release the Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest. We would like freedom for political prisoners, the participation by all Burmese in the political process and some form of democracy in Myanmar, previously known as Burma. The issue, however, is not these goals, but finding the best way to achieve them.

The United States has, in effect, called for the "unconditional surrender" of the military regime - get out of office and then we will talk. Even in war this can be a questionable means, but as a political and diplomatic strategy it is doomed to failure.

Although U.S sanctions and the freezing of Burmese assets, together with the authors' wish to see tourism to Burma halted, may make some feel morally superior, this is not a reason on which to base a foreign policy.

There are three main shortcomings to the approach advocated by McConnell and Bono. First, direct confrontation and denigration of the regime in Burma inevitably lead to its nationalistic response, as it would in any country.

The military government is forced to stand up to the United States or any country in the face of such attacks.

They make compromise more, rather than less, difficult. Second, sanctions may hurt the

regime, but they will not bring about its demise. This is essentially a pre-industrialized state that can limp along on its own. No neighboring states, nor the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, approve of sanctions against Burma. Sanctions and the lack of a tourist industry in the end only hurt the hundreds of thousands of people who depend on jobs related to foreign investment and travel. It helps to consider how effective sanctions on Cuba have been.

Third, for the United States to base its policies on the status of a single individual is a major error—whether that person be President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan, Vladimir Putin of Russia, Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain or Aung San Suu Kyi.

"Unwavering, uncompromising international support," as the McConnell and Bono article advocates, will further compound America's mistakes and prevent Washington from achieving its goals. America did this with the shah of Iran, among others, in the past.

McConnell and Bono call on Burma to be a top priority of the Bush administration. U.S. policy toward Burma, in fact, is one of the lowest priorities of all Asian countries, and nothing is going to change that, at least until the presidential election in the United States. The perception of America's national interests are too circumscribed and Washington is too involved in other issues, such as terrorism. The U.S has a one-track foreign policy in Burma—human rights.

That should be an element of any U.S. policy, but it should be pursued in relation to a range of other U.S. interests.

We need intelligent discourse on policy toward Burma. For now, there is a lack of nuance, and substance is in short supply.

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Workshop for ASEAN Cultural Interaction at Grassroots, Phase III concludes successfully

YANGON, 11 Sept—The delegates of ASEAN and partner country China attending the Workshop for People-to-People Exchange Programme ASEAN Cultural Interaction at Grassroots, Phase III, accompanied by ASEAN-COCI National Committee Chairman

Director-General U Myint Thein Swe of Department of Cultural Institute, Director-General Col Soe Win of Cooperative Department and officials visited Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay on 8 September morning.

Next, they went to

Saungda Weaving Training School of Department of Cottage Industries in Amarapura Township. They observed weaving of longyi, blanket and bed sheet. Next, they visited Suvanna Bhummi Museum and Sales Centre.

On arrival at

Traditional Medicine University of the Ministry of Health in Aungmyethazan Town-ship, Rector Dr Myat Moe and faculty members welcomed them. The rector explained academic and management matters of the university, functions of traditional medicine hospitals in States and Divisions and growing of herbal plantations. Afterwards, the delegates visited Embroidery Industry of U Sein Myint in Aungmyethazan Township and observed process of the tapestry.

In the evening, the artists of Fine Arts Department (Mandalay) presented a concert to the delegates at the National Theatre. Also present were retired ambassador U Win Lwin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director-

General U Myint Thein Swe of DCI and officials. On 9 September morning, they visited Mawriya Traditional Medicine Factory and 3,967 feet long U Pein Bridge in Amarapura. Next, they passed through Sagaing Bridge crossing Ayeyawady River. In Sagaing, they studied works of a private silver smith industry. Afterwards, they went to Rajamanigula Kaunghmudaw Pagoda in Sagaing.

Next, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein hosted a luncheon in honour of the delegates at Pyigyimon Phaungdaw of Mandalay Kandawgyi Lake. At Yadanapura Myanma Handicraft and Arts Beikman of Mandalay Division Cooperative Syndicate on

78th Street in Mandalay, the delegates viewed silverwares, lacquerwares, glasswares, embroidery works and other handicraft.

The final day programmes of the Workshop continued. Leader of Malaysian delegation Mohd Kamil Mohd Ali presided over the workshop. Supervisor was ASEAN-COCI National Committee Secretary Director Daw Nanda Hmoon of DCI. The workshop chairman delivered an address. Next, leaders of respective delegations submitted the reports to review their excursions. Afterwards, the workshop chairman gave the concluding remarks. The workshop ended in the evening successfully.

MNA



The Workshop for People-to-People Exchange Programme ASEAN Cultural Interaction at Grassroots, Phase III in progress at Swan Hotel in Mandalay.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents a photo album and video tapes of goodwill visit to Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Somdhat Attanand.— MNA

Cash and kind donated to hail International Day for Older Persons

YANGON, 11 Sept — As a gesture hailing the International Day for Older Persons which falls on 1 October 2004, a ceremony to establish a trust fund and donate medicines was held at Kayan Home for the Aged in Kayan Township this morning. On the occasion, Chairman of the work committee for observing the International Day for Older Persons Director General of Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaing explained the purpose of the donation.

At the ceremony, the work committee, wellwishers and the working group for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation donated cash to Kayan Home for the Aged. After the ceremony committee members and wellwishers greeted the elderly.

MNA

Some big nations, taking advantages of superiority in military power, technology and wealth, are bullying small developing countries through various media, trying to influence them
First and second four-monthly work coordination meeting of MPF for 2004 held



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses coordination meeting of Myanmar Police Force.— MNA

YANGON, 11 Sept— The first and second four-monthly work coordination meeting of Myanmar Police Force for 2004 was held at the MPF Headquarters of the Ministry of Home Affairs this morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Police Force Management Reform Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi, the directors-general of departments under the ministry, Police Brigadier-Generals, police commanders of States and Divisions, principals of police training schools and commanding officers of police battalions.

Secretary of Myanmar Police Force Administrative Reform Committee Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi reported on measures taken by MPF, reduction of ten major crimes from 1996 to August 2004, security measures for territorial waters and river mouths, prevention against human trafficking and illegal working in foreign countries, laying down two strategies and three tactics in control of narcotic drugs, implementation of 15-year drug elimination project in cooperation with neighbouring countries, salient points of anti-narcotic drugs, work done by six subcommittees of Myanmar Police Force

Duties of the police force are great because it is responsible for community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order. Therefore, the Head of State had given guidance to reform the police force to be a systematic one loved by the people and a reserve force of the State.

Administrative Reform Committee, strength of MPF and implementation of 17 future tasks.

In his address, Chairman of Myanmar Police Force Administrative Reform Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein said Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi had explained functions and duties of MPF and he would explain the requirements. Duties of the police force are great because it is responsible for community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order. Therefore, the Head of State had given guidance to reform the police force to be a systematic one loved by the people and a reserve force of the State. He spoke of the need for officials to make efforts to become a patriotic, capable police force.

He said senior police officers present are those who lead the respective organizations of MPF. He spoke of the need for them to cultivate themselves to be fully-qualified ones to improve the police force in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, to try to become the ones with high morale and to serve the interests of the people. Only then, will they become good qualified leaders. As a good leader, he must have political, economic, administrative and military outlooks and he is to cultivate himself to be one with correct outlook forever. Only when there is correct outlook and right view, can he take up his duties and manage departments under him and members of the MPF correctly, he added.

He also spoke of the need to realize the world events, conditions of the country, the government's endeavours and individual tasks correctly.

Concerning the State defence, he said, the world events today show that some big nations taking advantages of superiority in military power, technology and wealth, are bullying small developing countries through various media and trying to influence them. They invaded and occupied small countries with the use of military power, he noted.

Considering the above-mentioned events, he spoke of the need for the country to build political

(See page 15)

ADVERTISEMENT

နိုင်ငံတော်ခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာစက္ကန့်နှင့်တရားဗေဒလုပ်ငန်း ကြီးကြပ်မှုအောက်ရှိ စက်ရုံများအတွက် အောက်ပါပစ္စည်းများအား မြန်မာကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူလိုကြောင်း ကြေငြာအပ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါပိတ်မည့်ရက်/အချိန်
1.	Linear Alkyl Benzene Sulphonic Acid (LAS)	10 MT	၂၃-၉-၂၀၀၄ (နေ့လည် ၁၂:၀၀ နာရီ)
2.	Copolymer Dispersion Alkyd Resin (L.O.L)	20 MT	၂၃-၉-၂၀၀၄ (နေ့လည် ၁၂:၀၀ နာရီ)
3.	Duplex Paper (white)	25 MT	၂၃-၉-၂၀၀၄ (နေ့လည် ၁၂:၀၀ နာရီ)
		55 MT	၂၃-၉-၂၀၀၄ (နေ့လည် ၁၂:၀၀ နာရီ)

၂။ သိရှိလိုသည့် အချက်များရှိပါက ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်-၅၄၃၃၆၇ သို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာစက္ကန့်နှင့်တရားဗေဒလုပ်ငန်း

China's western region to increase cooperation in tourism

CHENGDU, 11 Sept—Representatives attending the West China International Tourism Development Forum vowed to join hands in promoting regional tourism.

With 71 per cent of China's land space and a population of around 400 million, China's western region is cited as the origin place of the Chinese nation. It has been prestigious as the world's natural and historical museum for its amazing scenery and unique culture.

Since China implemented the strategy of developing the west, its tourism has been developing rapidly. Last year, overall tourism revenue reached 166 billion yuan (approximately 20 billion US dollars) in the west, one third of that

of the entire nation.

The 12 western administration areas, including provinces, autonomous regions and one municipality, have different tourism resources. Increasing regional tourism cooperation is a strong trend, which can help sharpen tourism's competitive edge, promote exchanges with the east and catch up with the international tourism market, said Liu Peng, deputy secretary of Sichuan provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Tourism cooperation is a global trend, based on economic cooperation and can also lead the economic development, said Wang Xingbin, a professor of Chinese Tourism Institute.

MNA/Xinhua

Cyprus Airways to reduce flight destinations

NICOSIA, 10 Sept—Cyprus Airways (CY), the island's national carrier, is getting ready to axe three destinations and cut back flights to four others for the winter period as it gears up to sell off two of its Airbus A320s, local media reported on Thursday.

Flights to Warsaw, Budapest and Birmingham are to be axed completely and those to Jeddah and Riyadh are under review, said the report.

As part of the new plan which will come into effect on November 1, flights to Frankfurt, Milan, Amman and Damascus are also expected to be reduced.

CY is implementing fleet reduction as part of a strategic plan to save the airline's future.

The plan is currently under discussion between management and unions

as it also calls for staff cuts and pay reduction. Cutting the fleet is likely to lead to staff cuts as fewer crew will be needed to operate flights.

CY last week announced a 60-million-US-dollar pre-tax loss for the first six months, saying prospects for the rest of the year were bleak.

Unless CY can initiate a turnaround in the next few months, the airline will have run out of cash by November and fold by the end of the year, the government has warned.

MNA/Xinhua

Bulgaria joins EU's drug monitoring centre

BRUSSELS, 10 Sept—The European Union (EU) and Bulgaria initialled a cooperation agreement on drug monitoring and testing here Thursday in an effort to strengthen cooperation in the field.

Under the agreement, Bulgaria will be allowed to fully participate in the work of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). Bulgaria is the EU's third candidate country to have signed such an agreement following Romania and Turkey. "Participation of the candidate countries in Community Agencies is an important part of the enhanced pre-accession strategy in that it involves the candidate countries with the European Union's policies," said a Press release issued by the European Commission, the executive arm of the EU.

The EMCDDA, based in Lisbon, is one of the EU's decentralized agencies. It was established in 1993 to collect and analyse data on drug use, effects, and responses from policymakers and practitioners in health and criminal justice and to disseminate information. Its main findings are published through its annual report and publications.—MNA/Xinhua

NRI Affairs Ministry renamed

NEW DELHI, 10 Sept—After more than three months of confusion, the Ministry of Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Affairs, headed by Jagdish Tytler, was renamed as the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to which the NRI division in the External Affairs Ministry is being transferred.

A notification on renaming the ministry was issued by the Rashtrapati Bhawan, it was officially stated here on Thursday.

The decision also comes in the wake of a report of a group of ministers which had recommended delegation of a number of subjects including NRI-related issues to this ministry. These included issues relating to admission of NRI/PIO (Persons of Indian Origin) students in educational institutions in India, scholarships for them under different schemes, general policy regarding employment assistance to PIOs

coming from various countries, organization of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (NRI Day) and representation in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board and Foreign Investment Implementation Authority. This was also followed by a report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee which hoped the new ministry would

lead to greater interaction with the NRIs and PIOs and their problems and concerns addressed in a more effective and meaningful way. Official sources said the NRI division in the External Affairs Ministry is being transferred to the new ministry. Tytler is a Minister of State with independent charge of it.—MNA/PTI

CCS gives go ahead for revival of AWACS project

NEW DELHI, 10 Sept—Five years after a setback to its indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AWACS) programme, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Thursday gave the go ahead for the revival of the project setting a timeframe of seven years for its development at a cost of 18 billion rupees.

Apparently buoyed by the recent breakthroughs in radar technology by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), the CCS cleared the project for an indigenous AWACS at an hour-long meeting presided over by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

"The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Air Force will jointly cooperate in the development of

the system," Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said. He also said the CCS accorded an ex-post facto approval to a wide-ranging defence agreement between India and Brazil.

The revival of the AWACS project comes after five years DRDO's HS-748 technology demonstrator aircraft crashed killing some DRDO scientists and technicians in the southern state of Tamil Nadu in 1999.

MNA/PTI

မြည်တွင်းမြန်မာအေးပေးပါ

TRADE MARK CAUTION
Claude Montana B.V., a company incorporated in The Netherlands, of Smeewijklaan 3051, 1077 ZX Amsterdam, The Netherlands, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

Montana

Reg. No. 646/1990
in respect of "Perfumes, essential oils, cosmetics, hair lotions, toilet soaps, shaving creams and soaps, pre and after shaving lotions, deodorants preparations, tooth-paste"

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Reg. No. 647/1990
in respect of "Soaps, perfumes, cosmetics, toiletry articles, corporal deodorants."

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.I.
for Claude Montana B.V.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 12 September 2004

INVITATION TO TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by the Department of Health, Central Medical Stores Depot for the supply of Medical Equipment.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the office of the Deputy Director (Medical Stores), Central Medical Stores Depot, No.57, Sakawa Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, commencing from (14-9-2004).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office of the Deputy Director (Medical Stores), Central Medical Stores Depot, not later than (28-9-2004) 14:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraphic/ telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Deputy Director (Medical Stores) Phone No. 371969.

Central Medical Stores Depot
Department of Health

Wen Jiabao foresees widening of Sino-Gabonese trade links

BELING, 10 Sept—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here on Thursday that China and Gabon should further tap into the potential of bilateral trade and economic cooperation by improving the scale and quality of such cooperation.

Wen said the two countries should further strengthen cooperation in such areas as economy, technology, trade and personnel training.

Wen made the remarks during his meeting with Gabonese President El Hadj Omar Bongo

Ondimba, who is in Beijing for a state visit to China.

Wen said bilateral trade and economic cooperation have enjoyed a sound basis and great future prospects. He praised Gabon as a reliable friend of China in Africa, stressing that China places importance on the development of bilateral relations with Gabon. He said China is willing to continue to push forward bilateral relations in an all-round way and on the basis of equality and mutual benefits. Wen said China supports the reasonable requests that African countries put forward in the new round of multilateral trade talks.—MNA/Xinhua

Helicopter crash in Czech Republic kills six British soldiers

PRAGUE, 10 Sept—A British military helicopter crashed in the Czech Republic Thursday afternoon killing six British soldiers, the head of the rescue service Jan Slezak said.

The soldiers, who were taking part in a military exercise, died in the fire that erupted when the helicopter crashed at Kuroslepy Village, south Moravia, two kilometres south of the Namest military base, said Slezak.

The military exercise, which was originally to last until September 17, was suspended immediately after the accident.

A Czech Air Force spokeswoman said the killed British soldiers were members of an anti-aircraft defence unit stationed in Germany.—MNA/Xinhua

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Tallest wooden pagoda to have firefighters on guard

TAIYUAN, 10 Sept — China plans to form a fire brigade to protect its oldest wooden pagoda — nearly 1,000 years old and believed the tallest of its kind in the world — from possible flames.

According to the tentative plan, more than 20 firefighters and a fire engine will guard Yingxian Wooden Pagoda, a Buddhist heritage site built in 1056 in north China's Shanxi Province.

The pagoda will also have a lighting rod installed. Earlier this year an ancient temple in Shanxi, famous for its ancient Buddha statue, was damaged by lightning. The nine-storey octagonal pagoda stands 65.86 metres, equal to a 22-storey building; its first two stories have begun to lean northeastward in recent years. The pagoda is 115 years older

and 11.36 metres taller than the renowned Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy.

Guo Yimin, head of Shanxi provincial fire brigade, said the pagoda is highly flammable because it's made entirely of wood. Even a burning match could destroy the whole building, he said.

Until now, no local fire station has existed in Yingxian County. It takes at least half an hour for the nearest fire brigade in the neighbouring county to reach the scene in case of fire, which would be too late, Guo said.

MNA/Xinhua

11 kilos of hashish, 3 kilos of opium seized in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 10 Sept — The Pakistani police have recovered 11 kilos of hashish and three kilos of opium at Uthal check post in the southwestern Baluchistan Province.

The Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Thursday reported that four drug peddlers were nabbed in the police raid late on Wednesday.

APP detailed that working on a tip-off, police personnel on patrol duty stopped the suspects aboard a passenger bus and recovered the contraband. A case has been registered and further investigations are underway, said APP. — MNA/Xinhua

China, Mexico set up trade workgroup

XIAMEN, 10 Sept — Chinese and Mexican commerce departments on Thursday signed an agreement on setting up a high-level workgroup to facilitate trade and investment.

The workgroup, composed of officials from both governments, is responsible for evaluating and analysing trade and investment development situations, making proposals and exploring and seeking ways to enhance bilateral cooperation. The group will convene once per year.

Prior to the signing ceremony with Mexican Secretary of Economy Fernando Canales, Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai said the establishment of the workgroup would help tackle the problems emerging from trade between China and Mexico.

China and Mexico enjoy extensive cooperation in trade and invest-

ment, said Bo, adding that the two countries should further promote trade cooperation in energy and mineral products.

Canales said trade between Mexico and China recorded rapid growth in the first five months of this year, with up 50 per cent from the same period last year. The two countries should work together to develop a cooperative trade strategy, he said.

Despite disagreeing with China on whether to end textile quotas on January 1, 2005, the Mexican Government will keep its promises and make efforts to liberalize textile trade, Canales said.

MNA/Xinhua

UN Chief hails progress in India-Pakistan dialogue

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Sept — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan welcomed on Wednesday the progress made at the weekend meeting between Indian and Pakistani foreign ministers, which agreed on a series of proposals to boost the nine-month-old peace process.

Natwar Singh of India and Khurshid Mohammed Kasuri of Pakistan met on Sunday and Monday in New Delhi and agreed on a timetable for talks in the next few months on issues such as nuclear and conventional weapons, and Coast Guard cooperation.

Both sides also agreed that Pakistani President

Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will meet on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York later this month.

Annan "is heartened that the two sides continue to make steady progress toward resolving outstanding issues and improving their bilateral re-

lations," UN spokesman Fred Eckhardt told reporters. "The Secretary-General attaches great importance to the success of these efforts, which would have a highly salutary effect not only on the lives of the peoples of the two countries but also on regional and global stability," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

First China SMEs fair to lead SMEs to int'l market

BEIJING, 10 Sept — First China Small-and-Medium-Enterprises Fair, slated for October 18 to 22 in Guangzhou, will provide a platform for Chinese

SMEs to enter the international market, a local official said here on Thursday.

Preparation for the SMEs Fair, the first of its

kind in China, is well underway. Vice-Governor of Guangdong Province You Ningfeng said at a Press conference in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

You said business organizations from the United States, Japan, Britain, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Macao have made active responses to invitations to the fair. Carrefour and a number of other international retail chain companies have already confirmed their participation.

Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong, is the birthplace of private businesses in the southern coast of China.

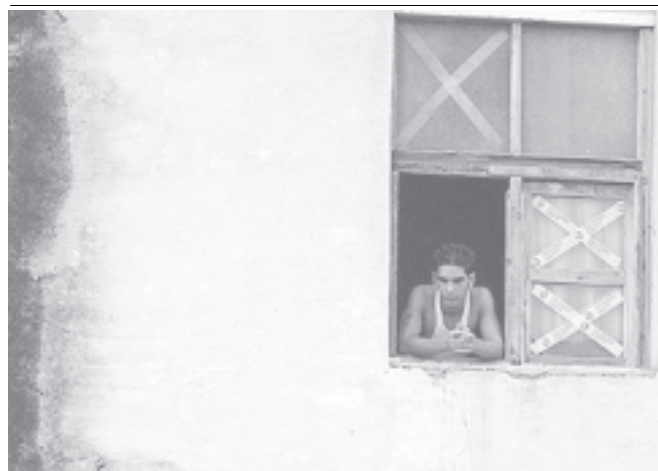
You said the fair will be staged at the same time as two other large-scale export commodity fairs in Guangzhou and Shenzhen, which will draw a large number of guests from overseas. The hosts will attract more foreign visitors to the SME Fair to provide a platform for SMEs to have direct contact with foreign clients.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese youths dance during a cultural festival in Xian, the capital of Shaanxi Province in central China, on 9 Sept, 2004. The so-called 'civilized and happy community' festival was held to encourage local residents to improve their living environment.

INTERNET



A young Cuban is seen at his house with the windows already secured in preparation for the arrival of Hurricane Ivan. — INTERNET

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SPORTS

US rescued from shock defeat after 1-1 draw against Panama

PANAMA CITY, 10 Sept—Cobi Jones struck deep into injury time to secure the United States a 1-1 draw against Panama in their CONCACAF region Group A World Cup qualifier on Wednesday.

Jones turned last-minute saviour from nine metres out after teammate Landon Donovan had pushed the ball away from a mass of bodies in the penalty area. The goal rescued the US from a shock defeat after Panama had been given a 70th-minute lead by Roberto Brown's tap-in following a goalmouth scramble.

Brown's goal was due reward for Panama after they had pushed forward for most of the second half.

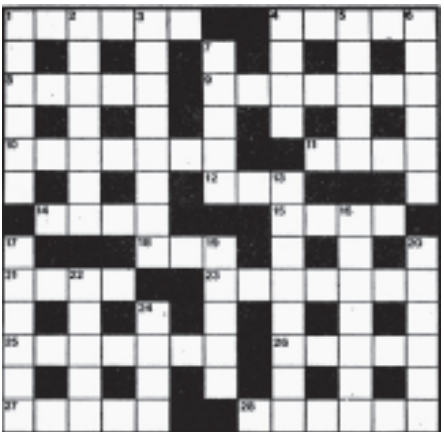
But the Americans also went close through Clint Mathis in the 26th minute and Greg Vanney midway through the second half.

The US has five points from three qualifying games while Panama has four.—MNA/Reuters



Mike Weir (from Canada, chips up onto the green during second round of play at the Canadian Open golf tournament in Oakville, Ontario, on 11 Sept, 2004. Weir finished the round at 9-under par.—INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Corn grinder
- 4 Linger
- 8 Golf stroke
- 9 Fishing vessel
- 10 Assuage (anag.)
- 11 Threesome
- 12 Inexperienced
- 14 Ban
- 15 Crooked
- 18 Tear
- 21 German white wine
- 23 Late
- 25 Incentive
- 26 Nearby pub
- 27 Work dough
- 28 Edge

DOWN

- 1 Unpretentious
- 2 Free time
- 3 Lift
- 4 Hard wood
- 5 Overlord
- 6 Milfoil
- 7 Guide
- 13 London rail terminus
- 16 Down in price
- 17 Become smaller
- 19 Composure
- 20 Underground storeroom
- 22 Spinney
- 24 Fastener

Paralympic Flame lit in Athens, torch relay starts

ATHENS, 10 Sept—The Flame for Athens Paralympic Games was lit here Thursday evening in the centre of Athens below the world famous Acropolis, starting the 9th torch relay in Paralympic history.

Addressing the lighting ceremony which started at 7:40 pm local time, President of Athens Organizing Committee (ATHOC) Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki invited the whole world to the Paralympic Games, which will be hosted by Greece for the first time in its history.

"Highlighting the athlete, and not the disability, the Athens Paralympic Games will offer everyone the unique opportunity of experiencing at first hand athletes' pursuit of outstanding performances," she said.

"The strength and ability of Paralympic athletes and their very high level of competition will inspire humankind to live out this unique celebration by participating in an event that shows human endeavour at its finest," she added.

Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis expressed hope that the Paralympic Games will send the world a message of humanism.

"With the successful and safe organization of the Olympic Games, we sent to the whole world a message of peace, friendship and cooperation among people and nations," he said.

"With the flame of the Paralympic Games, we are now sending a message of culture and, on top of all, humanism," he stressed.

The flame was lit by rubbing two stones together at the Temple of Hephaestus, in a reference to the ancient Greek god of fire who was also lame in Greek myths.

First torchbearer Costas Fykas, who won two gold medals in Paralympics in Sydney 2000, started the torch relay by lighting his torch from the cauldron.

The cauldron was lit by Performer Danilo Zeka, who carried the fire from the temple where the flame was ignited.

A total of 705 torch bearers will carry the Paralympic Flame through 54 municipalities of Attica, covering a total distance of 410 kilometres. Olympic and Paralympic medalists, world championships and other celebrities will be among those carrying the Flame.

The Flame will reach the main stadium on September 17, where it will burn until the end of the Games on 28 September.

MNA/Xinhua

Five countries confirm participation in Pacific Cup

BOGOTA, 10 Sept—Swimmers from Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru have confirmed their participation in the Pacific Cup, to be held at the Pan-American swimming halls of Cali, on 23-26 September.

This competition, counting with the participation of 500 athletes, will include swimming, diving, water polo and synchronized swimming.

The organizers of the contest have confirmed Colombia has already defined its swimming and synchronized-swimming teams, while the list of participants in diving and water polo is yet to be defined.

In synchronized swimming, the Valle del Cauca team, will be the base for the national team, with a group of 10 swimmers coached by Janeth Hatiuska.

MNA/Xinhua



Elena Dementieva of Russia follows through on a return to Jennifer Capriati of the United States during their semifinal match at the 2004 US Open in New York, on 10 Sept, 2004. Dementieva defeated Capriati 6-0, 2-6, 7-6 and will play compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova, in the final. —INTERNET

Ancient predecessor of football to be revived in east China

JINAN, 10 Sept—A match of cuju, the predecessor of modern football (soccer), will be held in the city of Zibo in east China's Shandong Province on 17 September.

The city's Linzi District, the site of the match, has been recognized by the world football community as the origin of football.

Organizers noted that the match will observe rules dating from China's imperial Song Dynasty (960 AD—1279 AD). There are 10 members on each of the two opposing teams. The team that fails to keep the ball from falling to the ground will lose the game.

According to historical records, cuju was a very popular and widespread game in China's Spring and Autumn Period (770 BC — 476 BC) in Linzi, the capital of the Qi State (479 AD-502 AD) and one of the largest cities in the world in its time.

The game also influenced China's neighbours. According to researches by Japanese experts, cuju was introduced into Japan 1,400 years ago by returning Japanese emissaries and students who had learned it in China.

In Chinese, "cu" means kick and "ju" means ball. On July 15 of this year, FIFA president Sepp Blatter acknowledged that China is the birthplace of football and that the ancient game of cuju is the true origin of the sport. And Peter Velappan, General Secretary of the Asia Football Confederation declared at a news conference that football originates from the Linzi District in Zibo.

Linzi District is slated to hold the first international ancient Qi culture and tourism festival from 16 to 22 September.—MNA/Xinhua

Honduras fight back from behind to 2-2 draw with Guatemala

SAN PEDRO SULA (Honduras), 10 Sept—Honduras fought back from two goals behind to draw 2-2 with Guatemala in a pulsating World Cup qualifier on Wednesday.

The result extended Guatemala's unbeaten run to 10 games but deprived their Honduran coach Ramon Maradiaga a victorious return as he faced his homeland for the first time in competitive international.

Maradiaga played for Honduras when they made their only World Cup finals appearance in 1982 and coached the team which beat Brazil at the Copa America three years ago.

Guatemala, who have never played in the World Cup finals, won their first two games in Group B of the second stage of the COCACAF qualifiers and went ahead on Wednesday when Carlos Ruiz scored from close range following a corner in the 18th minute.

They extended their lead three minutes after halftime when Dwight Pezzarosi also netted from close range.

Midfielder Amado Guevara quickly reduced the deficit with a 51st-minute goal and Italian-based striker David Suazo finished off a counter-attack to equalize 12 minutes later.

Guatemala lead the four-team group with seven points from three games followed by Honduras with five. —MNA/Reuters

Some big nations...

(from page 11)

might, economic might and military might in order not to be influenced and bullied by others.

It is necessary to ensure security, stability and rule of law in the country, through which political might is fortified. The Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force play a pivotal role in this process. The Tatmadaw, on its part, has shouldered its responsibilities beyond the call of duty throughout the course of history. It is therefore important for the Myanmar Police Force to follow suit. They are to protect the people to enable them to earn their living in a secure and peaceful society.

Moreover, they are to place emphasis on ensuring the rule of law and justice so that all the people are on equal footing under the umbrella

of law. He also urged the police force to eliminate the danger of narcotic drugs and that of human trafficking, bearing in mind that these measures are to be taken as national concern. Economy is connected with politics. Strong economy will lead to national stability. This being so, the Government is now implementing economic plans after drawing them so as to make the economy strong. Prodigious achievements

gradual basis to shift the agricultural system from conventional method to mechanized one for agricultural development. In like manner, the Government offers assistance and gives encouragement to obtain targeted yields for respective crops after designating ten major crops including paddy.

Moreover, permission has also been granted to growers to conduct farm work at their delight, especially in those areas suitable for cultivation of

attract entrepreneurs to agricultural business, the Government allots farmland and grants them rights to the import of farm machinery and the export of their agricultural produce. Therefore, the police force is responsible to provide effective and efficient protection for the worksite safety of farmers and entrepreneurs who are helping develop the agricultural sector.

As a major reserve force, the Myanmar Police Force is to go hand in hand with the Tatmadaw for national defence duty. The police force is to make continued efforts to turn itself into a strong force with high calibre.

Thorough consciousness is required to fortify the political, economic and military might. So is the administrative point of view. Therefore, the Government is implementing three projects — the border areas development project, the 24 development zones project and the five rural development project — to build a modern and developed country. As is known to all, border areas and rural areas are now thriving thanks to these projects. It is therefore necessary for the members of the police force, to strive in harmony with local people in these projects to achieve more success.

With the political, economic and social objectives laid down, the Government is taking serious steps to build the country into a peaceful, modern, developed one. In this process, the National Convention is now being held in the political sector as part of the first phase of the seven-point future policy programme for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy. Further steps will also be taken phase by phase in line with the seven-point future policy programme. This being the case, active participation and cooperation will be of great necessity for the success of these tasks. Next, Police Col Aung Daing reported on progress of the intended tasks being implemented by Yangon Division Police Force and arrangements for future tasks, followed by supplementary reports presented by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing. Later, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave instructions in respect of the reports and made concluding remarks.

MNA

Members of the police force are to strive in harmony with local people for greater success of the development projects.



Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win hands over 1,148 track suits to Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint. — MNA

Donations of wellwishers from Australia, Myanmar handed over

YANGON, 11 Sept — A ceremony to hand over 93 children's wheel chairs, various items of hospital equipment, 1,148 track suits, 517 items of toys, 118 baby shoes and office stationery worth K 20.8 million donated by wellwishers from the Myanmar Embassy to Australia, Myanmar and Australia to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was held at Defence Services Guest House on Inya Road, here, at 1 pm today, attended by Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, on behalf of the Prime Minister.

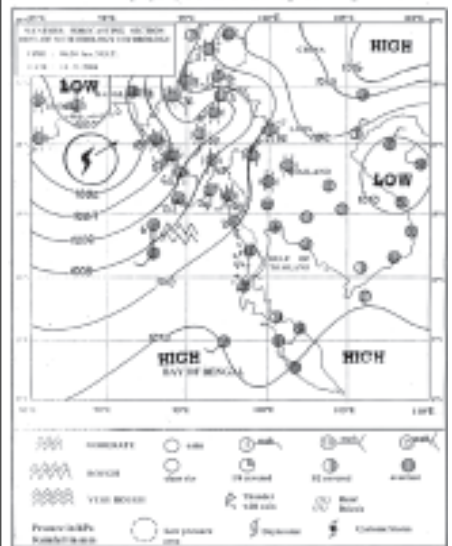
Also present were Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and officials of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

On behalf of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win handed over children's wheel chairs and hospital equipment to Minister Dr Kyaw Myint, track suits to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and toys and baby shoes to Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint. Next, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint thanked for the donations. — MNA

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

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 11 September 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kachin State and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and isolated heavyfalls in lower Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Sittway (8.35) inches, Myauk Oo (5.71) inches, Maungdaw (5.67) inches, Kyaukse (4.02) inches, Kyauktaw (3.82) inches, Sagaing (3.62) inches, Ann (3.35) inches, Nyaung U and Mandalay (2.84) inches each, Pakokku (2.52) inches, Minbu (2.56) inches, Pyinoolwin (2.32) inches, Chauk (2.17) inches, Monywa (1.57) inches, and Magway (1.50) inches. Maximum temperature on 10-9-2004 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 11-9-2004 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 11-9-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 10-9-2004 was (0.8) hour approx. Rainfall on 11-9-2004 was (0.32) inches at Yangon Airport, (0.94) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.57) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 103.31 inches at Yangon Airport, 97.83 inches at Kaba-Aye and 98.58 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 25 mph from West at 02:50 hours MST on 10-9-2004. **Bay inference:** According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over North Bay and adjoining West Central Bay has intensified into a depression and it has centered about (260) miles Southwest of Sittway. It has moved Northeast ward and likely to cross Coast, North of Sittway within the next (12) hours. Monsoon is strong in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 12-9-2004:** Rain will be scattered in Kayah and Shan States and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeiawady Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%). **State of the sea:** Temporary squalls with moderate to rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (45) mph. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Increase of rain are likely in Rakhine Coast and Central Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-9-2004:** Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 12-9-2004:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood warning

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 11.9.2004)

The water level of Dokahtawady River at Myitnge may rise (15)cm (about half-ft) and exceed above the danger level (87)cm during the next (24) hours commencing noon today.

Flood bulletin

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 11.9.2004)

The water level of Sittoung River at Madauk is (17) cm (0.5 ft) above the danger level at (06:30) hrs MST today. The water level may rise 30 cm (about 1-foot) during the next (2) days.

The water level of Shwegyin River at Shwegyin is 3cm above the danger level at (06:30) hrs MST today. The water levels may rise 30 cm (about 1-foot) during the next (2) days.

Special storm warning

(Issued at 09:30 hrs MST on 11.9.2004)

According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, low pressure area over North Bay and adjoining West Central Bay has intensified into a depression and it has centered about (260) miles Southwest of Sittway. It has moved Northeast ward and likely to cross, North of Sittway within the next (12) hours commencing this morning. Under the influence of this depression, temporary squalls with moderate to rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (45) mph.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Indian guests

YANGON, 11 Sept — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received President of Care Foundation Group of the Republic of India Dr P Krishnan Raju and Director Prof Dr Arun Tiwari at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar here at 9 am today.

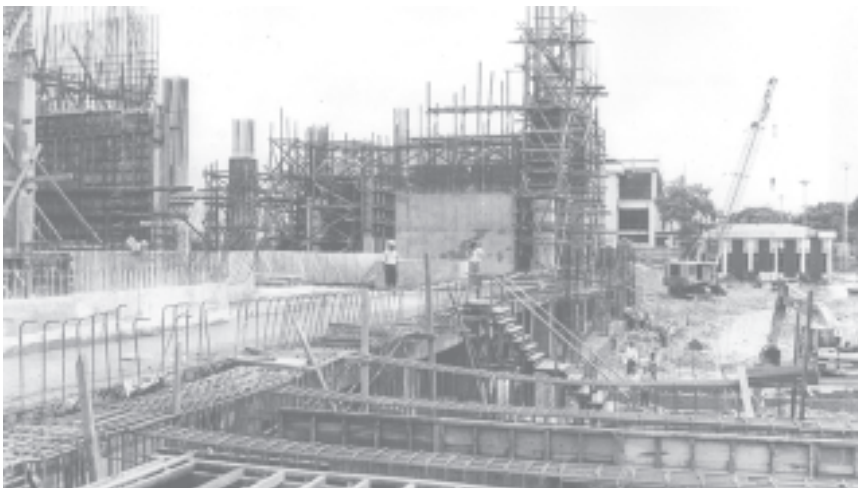
Present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General at the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

Matters related to cooperation in health, science and technological sectors were discussed. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Chairman Dr P Krishnan Raju of Care Foundation of India at Zeyathiri Beikman. — MNA

Construction of Parami Overpass completed cent per cent Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Yangon International Airport, Parami Overpass



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Yangon International Airport extension project. — MNA

YANGON, 11 Sept — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at the construction site of Yangon International Airport Extension Project this morning.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed

there by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, the Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence, deputy ministers, departmental heads and officials.

In the briefing hall, the Prime Minister heard

reports on land preparations for extension of the apron, earth work and dredging of drains, driving of bored piles for extension tasks, laying of concrete for building basement slab and ground floor slab, arrangements for installing boarding bridges, construction of car park,

(See page 9)

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

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

NCCC, Work Committee, Panel of Chairmen complete all work to resume NC

YANGON, 11 Sept — The National Convention Convening Commission held its meeting at the meeting hall of the NCCC on Kyaikkasan Grounds here this morning with an address by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of NCCC Minister for Electric

Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary Minister for Information Maj-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Vice-Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and commission members.

First, Joint Secretary-2 of NCCC Director-General U Myint

Thein of Pyithu Hluttaw Office read the agenda of the meeting.

In his address, NCCC Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that the commission, the work committee and the panel of chairmen have already completed tasks to be carried out regarding the National Convention that was reconvened; that work is being carried out for matters to be discussed by the commission

members and papers to be presented by the work committee at the (See page 9)

INSIDE

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