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Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Indian goodwill delegation

YANGON, 21 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 received Indian goodwill delegation led by Lt-Gen JS Varma PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Commander of the Eastern Command of the Indian Armed Forces at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinthta here this morning.

Present at the call together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of

Defence, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win. Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and Military Attaché Col Jasvinder Singh Chopra were also present together with the Indian goodwill delegation.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets Lt-Gen JS Varma PVSM, AVSM, ADC. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Lt-Gen JS Varma PVSM, AVSM, ADC and party. — MNA



Indian goodwill delegation visits downtown Yangon

YANGON, 21 Sept — The visiting Indian goodwill delegation led by Lt-Gen JS Varma PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Commander of the Eastern Command of the Indian Armed Forces and wife together with Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and Military Attaché Col Jasvinder Singh Chopra

visited downtown Yangon this morning.

First, the Indian goodwill delegation arrived at Shwedagon Pagoda at 7.15 am, where they were welcomed by members of pagoda board of trustees, who explained background history of the pagoda.

Next, the delegation offered flowers and

light at the prayer hall near southern archway. The Indian commander and wife signed in the visitors' book and made cash donation. They visited the King Zafar Shah's Tomb on Ziawaka Road, Dagon and paid tribute to it.

Afterwards, the Indian goodwill delegation proceeded to De-

fence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road at 11 am, where they were welcomed by Major Kyaw Kyaw Myint and officials of Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute. The officials conducted the Indian delegation round the museum.

MNA

Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium in October

YANGON, 21 Sept — The Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2004 will be held from 27 October to 4 November at Myanmar Gems Mart. Local entrepreneurs who are undertaking exploration and trading of gems under the Myanmar Gems Law will be permitted to attend the emporium in accord with the prescribed rules and regulations.

Arrangements are under way for local entrepreneurs to open jewellery and gem sale counters on ground floor of the Mart during the emporium. Those wishing to attend the emporium or to open sale counters may contact the management sub-committee office and gem market supervisory committee beginning 30 September.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 22 September, 2004

Strive for ensuring community peace and tranquillity

Security, stability, community peace and tranquillity are essential to a nation. The Government has given first priority to ensuring community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order in rebuilding the nation.

In the past, border areas lagged behind in development in the absence of security, peace and tranquillity. To fulfil this requirement, the Tatmadaw Government, based on mutual trust and understanding, has laid down and is implementing projects for development of border areas and national races. Nowadays, significant progress has been made in border areas owing to prevalence of law and order there.

Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the work coordination meeting of General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2004 held at the ministry on 20 September and addressed the meeting. In his address, Lt-Gen Thein Sein said the Government gave first priority to security, stability, prevalence of law and order and community peace and tranquillity. Now there is stability and community peace and tranquillity in the country but there are internal and external destructive elements who want to undermine the better conditions. We are to be aware of such elements and to prevent the danger, he added.

The government has been making all-out efforts day in, day out for national development. As a result, marked progress has been made in the nation, while peace and tranquillity prevails in border areas. With development in all parts of the Union, administrative system is being implemented fully to carry out regional administrative, economic and social matters effectively along with regional development.

Only when there is administrative system based on prevalence of law and order can all the national races earn their living safely under the rule of law. In addition, emphasis is to be placed on further cementing national solidarity based on Union Spirit for perpetuation of the Union.

Only when internal and external destructive elements who want to undermine the better conditions can be wiped out will the national development tasks be fully carried out.

Therefore, we would like to urge the entire national people to strive together with the authorities concerned for successful realization of nation-building endeavours while making efforts for ensuring community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order all the more in the interest of the nation.



Executive U Win Naing of Myanmar Industrialists' Association seen at the airport before his departure for Japan to attend the Young Leader's Programme at Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, Japan. — UMFCFI

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

Upgrading and sanitation tasks of Yangon City inspected

YANGON, 21 Sept — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected upgrading tasks of roads and sanitation tasks in the capital.

On arrival at the junction of Pyay Road and Parami Road in Hline Township, they were welcomed by officials. Next they inspected repaving of pedestrian lanes. In front of Myakyuntha Park on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township, the commander and the mayor looked into paving of pedestrian lane, 188 feet long and 8 feet wide and 23882 square feet parking space which can hold 60 cars. Officials conducted them round there. The commander, the mayor and party inspected the park and



Minister Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect upgrading of Natmauk Street in Bahan Township. — YANGON COMMAND

officials reported on upgrading tasks being carried out in the park, preparations for rest and recreation of the public and future tasks. The commander then gave necessary instructions to officials and fulfilled the requirements.

The commander and the mayor inspected

repaving of pedestrian lanes at the corner of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Dhammzedi Road and in front of Myepadatha Park on Natmauk Road in Bahan Township and growing of trees on traffic islands on Natmauk Road.

The commander and the mayor told offi-

cials that sanitation works and upgrading tasks are being carried out with added momentum to make the Yangon City possess its characteristics.

So, the public, for their part, are urged to abide by the rules and regulations laid down by the YCDC.

MNA



Mr Pavich Thongroch speaks at the press conference. — MNA

Seminar and Exhibition on Thai Education to be organized in Myanmar

YANGON, 21 Sept — To promote academic cooperation between higher education institutions in Myanmar and Thailand, the Commission on Higher Education of Thai Government and Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon cooperated with Myanmar Ministry of Education to organize the first Seminar and Exhibition on Thai Education and that was briefed at a press conference held at the Sedona Hotel, here, this morning.

Thai Commission on Higher Education Secretary General Associate Professor Dr Pavich Thongroch explained that the overall objective of the Seminar and Exhibition, which will be held at Sedona Hotel on 25 and 26 September, is to encourage more Myanmar-Thai academic cooperation particularly on higher education and said that the three main activities of the event are academic seminars, exhibition on Thai education and study visit to Myanmar universities.

The Seminar will touch on academic cooperation on joint curriculum development, quality issue on higher education, delivery of teaching and learning, training in industries. Altogether 31 Thai higher institutions, agencies and associations will participate in the high light of the event, exhibition. Moreover, international organiza-

tion such as ASEAN University Network will also join the fair. Rajabhat Universities and Rajamangala Institute of Technology will introduce technical and vocational education. The Myanmar Ministry of Education will also exhibit the education in Myanmar. Academics are encouraged to visit the Seminar and Exhibition to discuss opportunity for establishment of linkage and networking with Thai institutions for further cooperation.

The press conference was attended by Director (News) U Win Tin of NPE, Editors-in-Chief, Rector Dr Soe Yin of Yangon University, Rector Dr Kan Zaw of Yangon Institute of Economics, Dr Soe Win of University of Foreign Languages, Charge d' Affairs at Mr Opas Chantarasap of Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon, Secretary General of Commission on Higher Education Associate Prof Dr Pavich Thongroch, Commercial Counsellor of Royal Thai Embassy Mr Matyawongse Amatayakul, President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Sao Kai Hpa and reporters from foreign presses. Contact address for enrollment and inquires for the event is TTF (Yangon) Co Ltd, No-96, Bogalay Zay Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Tel-294006, 245137, 245138.

MNA

Kerry accuses Bush of incompetence on Iraq

NEW YORK, 20 Sept—Staking out new ground on Iraq, Senator John Kerry said Monday he would not have overthrown Saddam Hussein had he been in the White House, and he accused President Bush of “stubborn incompetence,” dishonesty and colossal failures of judgment. Bush said Kerry was flip-flopping.

Less than two years after voting to give Bush authority to invade Iraq, the Democratic candidate said the president had misused that power by rushing to war without the backing of allies, a post-war plan or proper equipment for US troops. “None of which I would have done,” Kerry said.

“Saddam Hussein was a brutal dictator who deserves his own special place in hell,” he added.

“But that was not, in itself, a reason to go to war. The satisfaction we take in his downfall does not hide this fact: We have traded a dictator for a chaos that has left America less secure.”

Bush hit back from a campaign rally in New Hampshire, interpreting Kerry’s comment to mean the Democrat believes US security would be better with Saddam still in power. “He’s saying he

prefers the stability of a dictatorship to the hope and security of democracy,” the Republican incumbent said.

“Today, my opponent continued his pattern of twisting in the wind,” Bush said. “He apparently woke up this morning and has now decided, No, we should not have invaded Iraq, after just last month saying he would have voted for force even knowing everything we know

today.”

Both candidates addressed partisan crowds, drawing cheers and hoots as they stretched each other’s records and rhetoric — mixing facts with political creativity toward the same goal: raising doubts about the other man’s credibility.

Kerry called on Bush to do a much better job rallying allies, training Iraqi security forces, hastening reconstruction plans and ensuring that elections are conducted on time. But his speech was thin on details, with Kerry saying Bush’s miscalculations had made solutions harder to come by.

Internet

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A group of British soldiers leave the local office of the radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in Basra, on 18 September, 2004. Most Britons want Prime Minister Tony Blair to set a date for the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq, according to a poll. — INTERNET

Pentagon admits shortfalls in training Iraq forces

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept—The Pentagon acknowledged on Monday broad shortfalls in the US training and equipping of Iraqi security forces, but said a majority of Iraq will be under the control of these forces by the end of December.

Army Lt Gen Walter Sharp, director of strategic plans and policy for the US military’s Joint Staff, released figures showing that only about 53,000 of 101,000 Iraqis already on duty in police, border control and other domestic security forces assembled by the Pentagon have undergone training.

Compared to the total deemed necessary for these forces by the Pentagon and the interim government of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, only 41 percent of weapons were on hand, as well as 25 percent of vehicles, 18 percent of communications equipment and 28 percent of body armour, according to the figures. At a hastily called briefing for reporters, Sharp did not directly answer when asked how many Iraqi security personnel were fully trained and fully equipped.

“Define what you mean by fully trained. And I don’t mean to be smug about this,” Sharp told reporters. “We are now on the path of getting manned, trained and equipped Iraqi security forces into the field as quickly as possible,” Sharp added.

Sharp also said Allawi and US military leaders have increased the number of US-trained police personnel to be created from 90,000 to 135,000 and the number of border control personnel from 16,000 to 32,000, as well as increasing the total for the Iraqi national guard. — Internet

India to participate in South Africa defence expo

NEW DELHI, 20 Sept — India will participate in the Defence Expo and African Air Show at Pretoria in South Africa next week with a high-level team led by Minister of State for Defence B K Handique, the *Indo-Asian News Service* (IANS) reported on Saturday.

The Ordnance Factory Board and the Defence Research and Development Organization will participate in the expo, IANS quoted a Defence Ministry spokesperson as saying. India will display the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, developed jointly with Russia, at the exhibition.

MNA/Xinhua



A local resident looks at the site of a US airstrike in Fallujah, Iraq, on 20 Sept 2004. — INTERNET

Beheaded American’s body found in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept—Iraqi police discovered the decapitated body of Eugene “Jack” Armstrong near a mosque in Baghdad, US officials said, after a video posted on a radical Islamic website claimed to show his captors beheading him in Iraq.

“His decapitated body was found,” said an official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. “It is confirmed it is him.”

A senior US defence official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said Iraqi police discovered the body at around 1500 GMT near a mosque in Baghdad. “The body is now in US custody,” the defence official said.

The video showed five

masked gunmen behead Armstrong before placing his severed head on his back. The website said the gunmen were from the Tawhid wal Jihad (Unity and Holy War) group of Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi, an Islamic militant. Armstrong, along with British engineer Kenneth Bigley and American Jack Hensley, were abducted Thursday from their Baghdad home and

threatened with execution unless Iraqi women were released from prison.

The executioner read out a long statement immediately before the killing, threatening to take the life of another hostage in 24 hours if London and Washington continued to ignore demands for the release of Iraqi women prisoners in coalition custody.

Internet

China’s foreign trade to reach \$1t in 2004

BEIJING, 20 Sept — China’s imports and exports will reach 1,000 billion US dollars in 2004, said Bo Xilai, China’s Minister of Commerce here on Sunday.

He made the remarks at the WICO (World Industrial and Commercial Organizations)-Summit that opened on Sunday. The summit focuses on promoting cooperation in international industrial and commercial circles.

In 2003, the total import and export volume of China reached 850 billion US dollars, the 4th largest worldwide. From January to July this year, the total amount of imports and exports of China

reached 623.1 billion dollars, a growth of 38 percent over last year.

“With the current development trend, it is estimated that the imports and exports of this year will be over 1,000 billion dollars,” Bo said. China needs to import large amounts of goods to satisfy a growing domestic demand, he said.

In the past 25 years, the growth rate of goods imported to China was 15 percent, 10 percent higher than the average worldwide. With 410 billion dollars of imports worldwide, China is the third largest importing country after the United States and Germany.

Imports will amount to

500 billion dollars this year, and in 2010, to 1,000 billion dollars, Bo said.

Many foreign enterprises have benefited from China’s growing demand of imports, Bo said.

“China, in line with the principle of generally balancing imports and exports, will continuously expand imports,” he said.

According to Bo, China will provide high quality and inexpensive goods to the international market. Meanwhile, China will continue to import large amounts of equipment of advanced technology, products of high and new technology, raw materials, and competitive consumables.

MNA/Xinhua

Islamic militants behead US hostage in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 Sept—Islamic militants beheaded a US citizen in Iraq, while the lives of his two British and American colleagues were in grave danger after a 48-hour deadline to save them expired.

Hopes were dashed for Eugene "Jack" Armstrong, one of three foreign contractors grabbed at gunpoint from his home in an upscale Baghdad neighborhood last Thursday.

Footage of Armstrong's execution posted on an Islamic website in the name of Tawhid wal Jihad (Unity and Holy War) — the group run by suspected al-Qaeda operative Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi — was a grim reminder of the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Iraq.

A US official in Washington said that Armstrong's decapitated body has been found and positively identified. The graphic videotape showed five masked gunmen decapitate Armstrong before placing his severed head on his back in the latest demonstration of rage by Zarqawi's movement, which has claimed multiple car bombings and assassinations in the last four months.

The executioner threatened to kill another hostage — either British engineer Kenneth Bigley or fellow American Jack Hensley — in 24 hours if London and Washington persisted in ignoring the demands for the release of Iraqi women prisoners in coalition custody.

In a long statement the executioner read out he denounced "the American occupier ... who is carrying out butchery in Iraq, without discriminating between the infant and the old man, between men and women," and demanded all women prisoners in Iraq be freed.

Armstrong was the second American beheaded in Iraq after 26-year-old Jewish businessman Nicholas Berg was beheaded in May by Zarqawi's faction. He counted among at least 27 foreign hostages murdered in Iraq since April. He was the second official of the faction's former military wing to be killed in a week.

Internet

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Ten US-Turkish company workers kidnapped in Iraq

ANKARA, 20 Sept—An Iraqi militant group has abducted 10 people working for a US-Turkish firm and threatened to kill them within three days if the firm does not pull out from Iraq, Turkish private NTV reported on Saturday.

The report said Al-Jazeera television had showed a video tape issued by the Abu Bakr al Seddiq Battalions showing 10 men sitting on the ground and holding up their identification papers in front of masked armed captors.

On Friday, Iraqi militants kidnapped three Turkish truck drivers in Dujail District in the north of Baghdad.

The armed Iraqi men abducted the three Turkish drivers on the way to the city of Tikrit and the names of the kidnapped Turkish drivers have not been identified. —MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers and Iraqi policemen investigate after a car bomb explosion killed three in Mosul, northern Iraq, on 20 Sept, 2004.

INTERNET

Critics of Bush's policy focus on fighting poverty at UN meeting

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Sept — On the eve of US President George W Bush's address to the United Nations, foreign critics of his Iraq war policy focused on a radically different international agenda on Monday.

Dozens of leaders from countries that mostly opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq, including President Jacques Chirac of France, attended a conference at UN headquarters on how to combat the dark side of globalization by fighting poverty.

Rebuilding Iraq, fighting terrorism and halting the spread of weapons of mass destruction — Bush's agenda for the international community — barely rated a mention at that conference, whose theme was combating global injustice.

"How many more times will it be necessary to repeat that the most destructive weapon of mass destruction in the world today is poverty?" Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva asked the assembled leaders.

The leaders of France, Brazil, Chile and Spain clashed with US Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman over proposals to tax arms sales or international financial transactions to raise new resources to fund development.

"However strong the Americans may be, you cannot durably oppose an

idea that is backed by 100 countries and probably by 150. You can't victoriously and durably oppose such a movement," Chirac told a final news conference.

Chirac, who planned to leave New York before Bush speaks to the UN General Assembly, avoiding any contact with the US President, used the platform to denounce what he depicted as the evils of unbridled capitalism.

"There is no future in globalization that tolerates predatory behaviour and the hoarding of its profits by a minority," he declared.

Asked whether he might be more willing to help a victorious Kerry in Iraq than he had been to help Bush, Chirac said: "France's policy towards Iraq has not changed and won't be changing".

Chirac and Lula embraced a range of proposals for new funding mechanisms for development assistance but avoided too many specifics, saying their aim was to start a debate and create an unstoppable momentum.

MNA/Reuters

1,032 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 21 Sept —As of Monday, 20 Sept, 2004, 1,032 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 782 died as a result of hostile action and 250 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 65 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 894 US military members have died — 673 as a result of hostile action and 221 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers Monday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

Guerillas attacked a US patrol with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades Monday near Sharqat, killing an American soldier, the military said.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

Marine Lance Cpl Gregory C Howman, 28, Charlotte, NC; died Wednesday in Anbar Province, Iraq; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.—*Internet*

CRI awards prize to Nepali contest winners

KATHMANDU, 20 Sept

—A delegation of China Radio International (CRI) distributed prize here Saturday to the Nepali winners of "the Western China Culture Knowledge Contest" organized by the China state-run

radio station.

Addressing the prize distribution ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Sun Heping said, "Since the CRI began its Nepali language broadcasting in 1975, the programme has won more and

more Nepali friends' favourites, made great contributions for enhancing the understanding and friendship between the two peoples, and constructed a broad and friendly bridge across the two countries." —MNA/Xinhua



Local children check out a crater caused by a roadside bomb in Haifa Street, Baghdad, Iraq, on 20 Sept, 2004. No one was reported injured in the explosion.—INTERNET

Stagnant eco, lack of jobs feeding instability in Iraq

LONDON, 21 Sept — Iraq's stagnant economy and lack of employment opportunities are feeding instability in the violence-torn country, hindering prospects for prosperity, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said on Monday.

Writing in Britain's *Independent* newspaper he said international donors must honour their aid pledges and Iraq's foreign debt should be forgiven as a means to kick-start growth.

"The economic and security situations are intertwined: without peace and security there can be no sustainable reconstruction ... yet what is feeding the instability and chaos is the lack of jobs and economic opportunity," Allawi said.

Foreign help was also needed to improve security in Iraq where hundreds of people have been killed in violence in the last two weeks.

In Britain for talks with Prime Minister Tony Blair, Allawi wrote in the newspaper that the vast majority of Iraq's foreign debt had been built-up by military spending sprees and would have to be waived if the country is to succeed.

"Iraq's inherited national debt level is the highest in the world as a percentage of GDP and of exports, and to service it would be unsustainable for its fragile, fledgling market economy," he wrote.

International negotiations on debt relief are currently in deadlock because lenders cannot agree how

much of the estimated 120 billion US dollars should be waived.

On the security front, Allawi said the interim government intended to re-establish control over the whole country. He said that while steps were being taken to strengthen the security forces, help from NATO and the EU was still needed in terms of "expertise, training and equipment".

Allawi said the economic priorities were to "tackle joblessness, rebuild the national infrastructure and restore basic services and rapidly boost oil production".

Key to achieving these goals would be the "swift and efficient disbursement of pledged reconstruction funds".

Allawi said that less than 5 per cent of the 18 billion US dollars pledged by the US and the 13 billion US dollars promised by other countries had been received and disbursed.

He said a secure and economically viable Iraq was needed in order to ensure "forces of global terrorism" do not use the country to destabilize the region.

MNA/Reuters

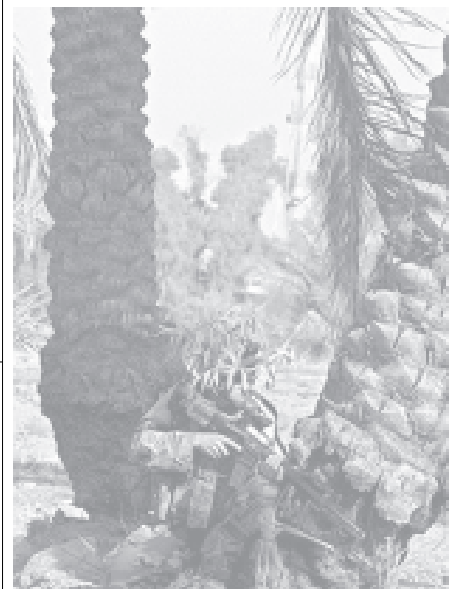
Senior Sunni cleric killed in Baghdad's Sadr City

BAGHDAD, 21 Sept — A senior cleric of an influential Iraqi Sunni religious association was kidnapped and killed in Baghdad's Shiite neighbourhood of Sadr City, a member of the association said Monday.

Hazem al-Zaidi, a cleric belonging to the Association of Muslim Scholars, was killed Monday morning, Hasen Jamal, information officer of the association told *Xinhua*.

The religious association which has a strong say among the Sunni population in Iraq was thought to have a subtle tie with the Shiites, who used to fight the US forces to show solidarity with the Sunnis when Fallujah was besieged in April.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier takes a fighting position between two palm trees as he secures the area near Baghdad's International Airport after a US convoy was hit by a roadside bomb on the main highway to the airport in southern Baghdad. —INTERNET

17,193 Iraqis killed or wounded in six months

BAGHDAD, 21 Sept — An Iraqi Health Ministry source said altogether 17,193 Iraqis were killed or wounded in the past six months across the country, *Al Nahdhah* newspaper reported on Sunday. A total of 3,511 Iraqis were killed and 13,682 others wounded, the source said.

The victims included 175 women and 146 children, and the wounded included 617 women and 429 children, the source added.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman and her son pass a crater caused by a roadside bomb in Haifa Street, Baghdad, on 20 Sept, 2004. — INTERNET

France preparing for a long wait for its journalists' release

PARIS, 21 Sept — France is preparing for a long wait for the release of two French journalists held hostage in Iraq for the past month, Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin said in comments published on Monday.

His remarks highlighted growing concern over the hostages' fate following the relative optimism of initial government statements issued after a militant group seized Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot on August 20.

"There was a first phase in which we wanted to believe that our action could rapidly bring results," Villepin told the

Republican Lorrain newspaper in an interview.

"Today we are in a new phase where we have to know how to act with the long-term in mind to give them the greatest chance of being freed."

French officials say the government has had no direct contact with the kidnappers.

"All the indications seem to confirm that the hostages are alive. But we are in an extremely difficult situation because of the internal situation in Iraq, where chaos is increasing," Villepin said.

The kidnappings have shocked France, which opposed the US-led war in Iraq and has no troops there.

A trip to the region by Foreign Minister Michel Barnier won support from Arab and Muslim leaders and initially fuelled hopes — later dashed — that the hostages would be freed quickly.

The kidnappers, calling themselves the Islamic Army in Iraq, demanded France revoke a law banning the Muslim veil in state schools. France refused, and the law went into force this month.

The group has released footage of the two journalists only once — shortly

after their abduction.

The French Government has been trying to verify the authenticity of several statements posted on Islamist web sites, purportedly from the same group. One site said on Saturday it had received a message saying the group had conditionally agreed to free the two men.

Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said on Sunday the message may be serious. "So we are slightly optimistic but we must of course remain cautious," he said.

Militants have seized scores of foreign hostages in Iraq since April, including two Italian women aid workers, two Americans and one Briton. At least 26 hostages have been killed.

MNA/Reuters

Kuwait Finance House applies for industrial project in Bahrain

ABU DHABI, 21 Sept — Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is planning a 1.3-billion-US-dollar industrial project in Bahrain to create a combined petrochemical and power and water generation complex, the UAE daily *Gulf News* reported on Monday.

If licensed, the project will be the first of its kind to be undertaken in the region, according to KFH's general manager Abdul Hakim al-Khayyat.

KFH will retain 10 per

cent of the equity in the plant and the rest will be offered to local and regional investors. The offering process should start in early 2005. The construction of the plant is to begin in 2005

and should be completed in 2008. Some government bodies in the region have expressed interest in the project, revealed KFH's general manager.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam denounces US accusation of repression

HANOI, 21 Sept — Leaders of state-recognized Catholic, Protestant and Buddhist groups in Vietnam denounced Washington's accusation of religious repression in the Southeast Asian country, saying their members are free to worship.

In a widely-published article by the government controlled *Vietnam News Agency*, four religious leaders said the US State Department's designation of Vietnam as a "country of particular concern" that violates religious freedoms was inaccurate.

"Religious believers are free to practise their own religion in accordance with the law," Thich Gia Quang, deputy head of the International Buddhist Board, was quoted as saying in the report on Monday.

Vietnam permits six religions to operate, but requires that all organizations register with the state. It exercises control over their activities includ-

ing appointment of leaders, clergy training and the printing of religious literature.

On 15 September, the State Department's annual report tracking religious freedoms worldwide included the Communist country for the first time on a blacklist of countries, joining newcomers Saudi Arabia and Eritrea.

The report said Vietnam has imprisoned about 45 people of various faiths for religious reasons, shut down "house" or unofficial churches and repressed Protestant ethnic minority hilltribe people.

Vu Quang Huyen, head of the Vietnam Protestant Church in northern Nam Dinh Province, was quoted in the report as saying that activities of his group

"have always been ensured in Nam Dinh Province".

One of the Catholic priests cited in the article, Father Tran Ngoc Van from northern Ninh Binh Province, asserted that Catholics comprise about 40 per cent of his district's population and worship freely each weekend, "listening to priests' teachings in a festive atmosphere".

Hanoi has formally rejected the US designation, and the influential newspaper mouthpiece of the Communist Party *Nhan Dan* (People) chimed in on Saturday in a mocking reproach.

MNA/Reuters

Thailand seeks investment assurance from China

BANGKOK, 20 Sept — The Thai Energy Minister Prommin Lertsuridej said he hopes to get concrete assurances from China that it is prepared to invest in Thailand's planned "Land Bridge" project during his forthcoming visit to China in November.

The "Land Bridge" project, to be constructed in southern Thailand, is aimed at providing sufficient energy supplies for Asian countries, the *Thai News Agency* reported Sunday.

The minister is scheduled to visit China at the invitation of the Chinese Government to discuss joint investment in the Thai project. So far, three Chinese state-run firms have shown an interest in the scheme.

The Thai Government is also keen to know which Chinese firms are likely to participate in the project. Several Chinese and South Korean firms have already asked the Thai Govern-

ment to complete the draft of the project as soon as possible, a senior government official was quoted as saying.

Construction of the "Land Bridge" project is due to start in 2006 and be completed by 2010. The project involves building an oil pipeline between Nakhon Si Thammarat and Phang-nga provinces.

It is expected to need an investment of some up to one billion US dollars. The project also involves the construction of an oil warehouse and a refinery with a capacity of producing more than 300,000 barrels per day.

MNA/Xinhua



A 49-day-old female baby meerkat who was born on 3 August, sticks close by her mom on 20 September, 2004 as she acclimates to her new surrounding at the San Diego Zoo. The baby meerkat is estimated to weight about a 1/2 pound and according to the Zoo's animal care is growing and developing at a good rate. — INTERNET

မြို့မြို့ရွာရွာ၊ မိန်းပါးလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်တုန်မြင့်

Growing tourism damages coral in Thailand's resort island

BANGKOK, 21 Sept — Almost half of the coral around Thailand's largest resort island Phuket has been damaged as a result of growing tourism and fisheries, local Press reported on Monday.

Only 25 per cent of the 14.4-square-kilometre coral reef around the island, lying some 863 kilometres south of Bangkok, remains relatively intact while half has been destroyed, according to a recent research by the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry.

Most of the damaged coral was located in popular diving sites for tourists, coral specialist Nipon Pongsuwan of the Phuket Marine Biological Centre was quoted by *The Nation* newspaper as saying. Coral

reefs around some remote islands including those in the national marine parks with limited tourist numbers also suffered moderate damage.

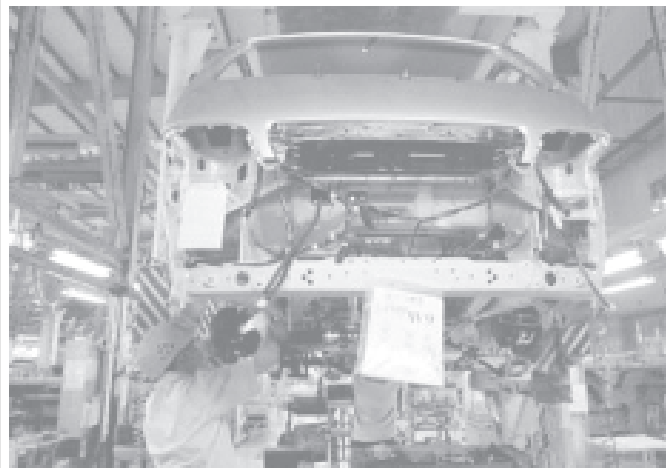
Booming tourism industry around the region, which was once chosen as settings for one James Bond movie and the Hollywood-produced movie "The Beach" for its natural scenery, was believed to be the main reason for the coral damage. There were some 4.2 million visitors to the 578-square-kilometre-large Phuket last year, while

the authorities are working on tax-reduction and other measures to attract more tourists to the region.

The government's "open sky" policy would likely attract more, creating an urgent need to better safeguard Phuket's natural resources, the Natural Resources and Environment Minister Suwit Khunkitti was quoted as saying.

The research also showed that fisheries were the other culprit in damaging the coral reef.

MNA/Xinhua



The auto industry is among the 11 sectors ASEAN want integrated before 2010. Southeast Asian economic ministers meeting in Jakarta began talks on ways to speed up regional economic integration and free trade recently. — INTERNET

Thaksin calls for more foreign investment in Thailand

BANGKOK, 21 Sept — Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Monday called for more overseas investment in the kingdom while assuring investors of its continued economic growth.

At the opening ceremony of "Thailand Focus 2004" in Bangkok, Thaksin said a series of policies and implementation have been made to ensure the sustainable prosperity of the country, which create many investment alternatives for foreign institutions and companies. Last year, the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) index soared by 117 per cent while the value of shares traded rose 148 per cent, both are the highest in the world.

Since the economy is expected to remain robust, most listed firms on the Thai stock market will grow at a healthy and profitable rate in 2004, said the Prime Minister.

In the first half of 2004, companies listed on the SET and the MAI (Market for Alternative Investment) recorded profits of 4.1 billion US dollars, a 22-per-cent year-on-year increase.

To boost credibility and sustainability of the Thai market, the National Corporate Governance Committee has been set up recently to enhance regulatory enforcement, insti-

tute market discipline and promote self-regulation. The committee will also play its part in improving investor's confidence.

Under favourable domestic and external environment, Thailand's GDP growth achieved 6.7 per cent in 2003, the second fastest growing economy in Asia.

With a thoughtful and well-planned policy coupled with robust economic fundamentals, this year's economic growth is expected to stay between 6.5 to 7 per cent, said Thaksin. — MNA/Xinhua

With a thoughtful and well-planned policy coupled with robust economic fundamentals, this year's economic growth is expected to stay between 6.5 to 7 per cent, said Thaksin. — MNA/Xinhua



The government's rural water supply project ensures potable water for Pa-O nationals of the Pinya Model Village in Kyauktalone region.
MYANMA ALIN



A tubewell was opened in Yone village, Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division, to supply potable water to rural people. — PBANRDA

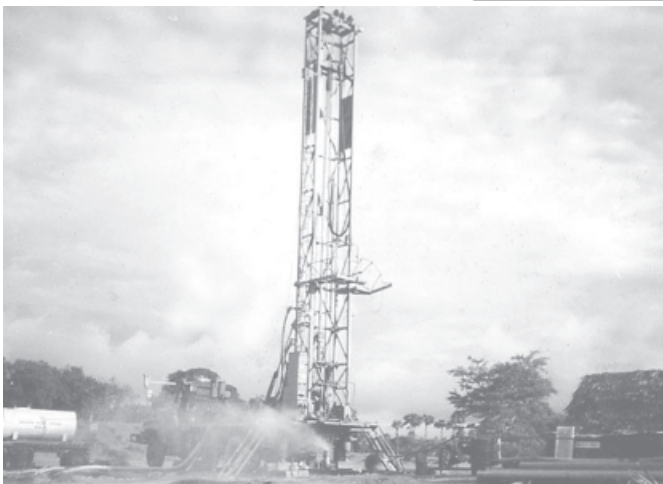
**Integrated
efforts of the
State and people
to supply clean
drinking water
to rural areas**



A tubewell is sunk in Pyibin village, Chauk Township in Magway Division to supply potable water to rural people. — PBANRDA



Drilling machines at work to get potable water for local people in Kantha village, Budalin Township, Sagaing Division.
PBANRDA



The government is spending a large sum of money on water supply projects in rural areas. The photo shows machinery used to sink artesian wells as deep as over 1000 feet in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division. — PBANRDA

**Provision of clean water
supply for rural people
helps improve the
social standard of the
rural people and reduce
poverty.**

Nation has enjoyed fruitful ...

(from page 16)

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister U Than Aung and Chairman of the school board of trustees U Aung Hsan Myint formally opened the classrooms.

The MEC Vice-Chairman pressed the button to unveil the educational facility.

The Secretary-1, the

electronic media (video system), domestic science room and drawing room.

Schoolgirls Ma May Me Lin and Ma Aye Thiri Mon emceed the ceremony. The students presented entertainment programme of dances and songs.

Headmaster U Tin Saw reported on extended installation of pedagogical

learning aids.

The cash donations presented ceremony followed at the same venue. The Secretary-1 presented cash donations to the school through the principal.

The 2003-2004 academic year school board of trustees presented K 4.5 million; 2004-2005 academic year school board of trustees, K 1.7 million; Insein Township

(Service), U Tin Win-Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai (Construction Materials Trading in Danyingon) presented K 100,000 each to Minister U Than Aung; U Aye Kyaing-Daw Cherry Myint (Padomma Travelling Agency), U Myint Thein-Daw San San (Construction Materials Trading in Danyingon) and U Aung Win (U Kyu Wheat Flour Mill-Phawtgan), K 100,000



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win has a cordial conversation with those present at the opening of multimedia classrooms of No 3 BEHS in Insein Township. — MNA

commander, ministers, the mayor, the deputy minister, departmental heads and guests observed language lab (1), computer aided instruction room, computer application room, electronic media (audio system), printed media (reading corner),

aids in the school under the education promotion plan and programmes to teach the students with the use of the facilities; and the chairman of the school board of trustees, on efforts for facilitating the school with more electronic teaching and

Sinnu ward PDC, K 300,000; Aung San Ward PDC, K 200,000 to the funds of the school through the commander.

Insein Township Union Solidarity and Development Association, Daw Than Nu (Daw Nu Family Rental

each to Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw; U Min Aung (Plastic Factory, Phawtgan), U Myint Oo (Padetha Store, Phawtgan) and U Maung Maung Oo (Aung Construction, Phawtgan), K 100,000 to the Mayor; and U Aung Htwe Khaing-Daw Wah



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents cash donations to BEHS No 3 in Insein Township through Principal U Tin Saw. — MNA

Wah Kyaing (Photo & Video Shooting), U Tin Win-Daw Ohn Than and family of Sinnu Ward and U Yin Htwe-Daw Myint Myint Than, K 50,000 to the deputy minister, who then presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

The Education Minister expressed his thanks to the wellwishers, saying that the education standard of the students will be promoted to a certain degree owing to the effective use of electronic technology in the academic matters. The nation has enjoyed fruitful results in the educational sector thanks

to the education promotion plan, which covers all parts of the nation, being implemented by the Government in harness with the people.

And success has been achieved in the three educational spheres, he noted. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted those present.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party together with the principal, teachers, members of the school board of trustees, wellwishers and students posed for a documentary photo.

MNA

Systematic methods to be...

(from page 16)

cultivation near the approach road of the bridge by Thida Fishery Co Ltd.

Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to 120-acre agricultural farm of Thida Fishery Co Ltd. At the briefing hall, an official of the Co reported on location and area of the farm,

wages, expense of per acre cultivation, reclamation and arrangements for extended cultivation yearly. Officials of the Myanmar Agricultural Service gave a supplementary report. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint briefed on efforts for rice sufficiency in Taninthayi Division.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said he thanked the national entrepreneurs for enthusiastically participating in the efforts for cultivation of paddy to ensure sufficiency of rice. It is necessary to apply a systematic method in reclaiming lands and cultivating rice, he said. Paddy strains that are economically beneficial

to farmers should be chosen and double cropping as well as summer paddy cultivation are to be carried out. Only then will the region enjoy self-sufficiency of rice. Next, he stressed the importance of rendering departmental assistance and participating by

departmental personnel in the efforts for cultivation of rice.

Thida Fisheries Co Ltd has cultivated 100 areas of Kyawzeya paddy strains and Lonthweh-mway paddy strains. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected pesticides and fertilizers displayed at the briefing hall. Afterwards,

they attended the ceremony to scatter fertilizers for summer paddy cultivation in Kawthoung Township.

Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, together with Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspected the battalion and regiments of Kawthoung Station.

MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo looks into the Kawthoung-Pulontont Bridge Project in Kawthoung Township. — MNA

Work committee for implementation of transport cooperation in ACMECS holds plenary session

YANGON, 21 Sept — In order to submit detailed report on transport cooperation of the work committee for implementation of transport cooperation in Ayeawady-Chao-Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy-ACMECS to the meeting of the leading committee for implementation of ACMECS which will be held in September, plenary session of the members of the work committee and those who attended the ACMECS

workshop held in Thailand took place this morning at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Transport here.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Ministers for Transport U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Myo Tin and officials concerned attended the plenary session.

At the meeting,

Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung discussed matters on the Plan of Action Implementation Status and Future Action which will be submitted to the leading committee.

Delegates of the Ministry of transport who attended the ACMECS Workshop on Enhancing the Competitiveness of the Planning in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam held in Thailand also took part in the discussion.

MNA



Lt-Gen JS Varma PVSM, AVSM, ADC visits Defence Services Museum. (News on page 1) — MNA



Lt-Gen JS Varma PVSM, AVSM, ADC and wife and party at the Shwedagon Pagoda. (News on page 1) — MNA

Indian goodwill delegation visits MMCWA, University of Culture

YANGON, 21 Sept — ADC, Commander of the Eastern Command of the Indian Armed Forces, Mrs

Meera Varma, accompanied by Indian embassy

staff went on study tour of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association at the junction of Thanthuma and Parami, South Okkalapa Township this morning.

During the meeting with the Indian delegation, Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint extended greetings at the meeting hall of the association. And Secretary of the association Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha explained functions and salient points of the association.

Next, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and Mrs Meera Varma exchanged their souvenirs and the latter signed in the visitors' book and viewed documentary photos on activities of the association.

Afterwards, wife of the Indian Commander of Eastern Command Mrs Meera Varma and party proceeded to University of Culture (Yangon), South Dagon where Rector of the university U Tin Soe explained salient points of the university.

After that, they viewed works of painting and sculpture of the students. The teachers of the university presented paintings to Mrs Meera Varma and party.

Later, Mrs Meera Varma and party enjoyed entertainment presented by Music Department of the university.

Rector U Tin Soe presented painting to Mrs Meera Varma and party. And Mrs Meera Varma signed in the visitors' book and left there at 11.55 am.

MNA



Lt-Gen JS Varma PVSM, AVSM, ADC's wife Mrs Meera Varma and party visit Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association. — MNA

New QSS digital machine product launched

YANGON, 21 Sept — New QSS digital machine product, Noritsu brand, imported by Noritsu Singapore Pte Ltd, Accel International Co Ltd and Kodak (Singapore) Pte Ltd, was launched with the demonstration at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, here, this afternoon.

Present on the

occasion were officials of the three companies, photo experts, journalists and guests. Managing Director Mr Alvin Law of Accel International Co and Mr KB Leong of Noritsu Singapore Pte Ltd extended greetings. Country Manager U Thiha Zaw of Kodak (Singapore) Pte Ltd demonstrated the new product.

The new digital machine product can be accessed for various kinds of photo services and the company has provided photo services for the convenience of customers. It can be contacted at No.(422-426), 6th floor, FJVCC building, Botah-taung Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph (202092-202096).

MNA



Mrs Meera Varma and party observe cultural works at the University of Culture. — MNA

Workshop on strategic planning 2005/2009 of MMCWA concludes

YANGON, 21 Sept — A second day session of workshop on strategic planning 2005/2009 of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here, this afternoon. President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presided over

the meeting.

At the meeting, the CEC members of MMCWA and members of Supervisory Committee for States and Divisions made a general round of discussions.

After the hearing the reports, the President of MMCWA gave concluding remarks. — MNA



Managing Director Mr Alvin Law speaks at the introduction of Noritsu Brand QSS digital photocopier. — MNA

Rice is Life

Myint Swe (Agriculture and Irrigation)

Rice, a major crop of Myanmar, is the staple food for Myanmar people. So, efforts are being made in all spheres with the assistance of the State for sufficiency of rice.

Rice has been produced in Myanmar since time immemorial. From the times of ancient kings to the present era in Myanmar, the successive governments have offered assistance for rice production. Rice is life for Myanmar.

Therefore, people have a national duty to make collective efforts for production of rice.

Before 1968, only monsoon paddy was grown in Myanmar and per-acre yield of it is about 40 baskets. The cultivation of high-yield paddy started in Myanmar in 1968. It was a modern paddy strain known as Yarkyaw produced by International Paddy Research Department. The IR-8 is the first new high yield strain in Myanmar. As its yield exceeded 100 baskets per

ultimate aim of the State is to exceed the target of paddy cultivation. Two ways and means, extension of cultivated acreage and boosting the per acre yield, are being applied to produce surpluses in all regions. Modern farming methods, demonstrations and seminars have been extensively conducted to disseminate agricultural knowledge to farmers.

Hence, paddy cultivation of Myanmar has entered a new era. International Rice Research Institute -IRRI was set up in Manila, the Philippines, in 1960. Experts from all over the world have joined hands to produce hybrid paddy strains. From 1967 to 1992, world's rice production doubled. Of the paddy growing countries in the world, over 90 nations joined hands with IRRI. Similarly, Myanmar had contacts with IRRI in 1965. Since then, joining hands with IRRI, Myanmar has carried out new hybrid production and technology cooperation. Special high yield production project was implemented in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Division, from 1970 to 1974. Later, the project was also implemented nationwide.

In 1992, summer paddy cultivation started. Thanks to the monsoon and summer paddy cultivation, rice is in surplus in Myanmar. There are changes in cultivation methods in Myanmar. Measures are being taken by the Myanmar agricultural researchers in the Agricultural Research Department in Yezin to produce high yield hybrid paddy strains.

The year 2004 was designated as 'International Year of Rice 2004' at the 57th UN General Assembly held in December 2002. Activities of International Year of Rice 2004, are being carried out across the world in accord with the motto "Rice is Life". Paddy seeding ceremony will be conducted at Myanma Rice Research Centre in Hmawby in the first week of October this year. Moreover, 'International Year of Rice 2004' exhibition is to be held in October at Myanma Rice Research Centre in Hmawby along with essay, painting, poster, article and photo competitions, televised discussions with rice growers and technicians, entrepreneurs, televised talks.

Translation: AMS
(Kyemon Daily 13-9-2004)

Thanks to the monsoon and summer paddy cultivation, rice is in surplus in Myanmar. There are changes in cultivation methods in Myanmar. Measures are being taken by the Myanmar agricultural researchers in the Agricultural Research Department in Yezin to produce high yield hybrid paddy strains

acre, we named it Yarkyaw (exceeding one hundred). Now, high yield paddy strains including Yarkyaw-2 and IR-5 C 4/63 are being grown. Moreover, farmers like the other high yield strains such as Shwewatun, Kyawzeya, Hmawby-2, Shwethweyin and Thihetyin very much. Nowadays, high yield paddy strains are being grown on over 71 per cent of farmlands and they are thriving. Plans are under way to produce over 100 baskets per acre. Measures are also being taken for extended cultivation of high quality paddy strains. The



CASH DONATED: U Aung Win-Daw Khin Pyone Win of Insein Township on 19-9-2004 donated K 234,000 for offering "soon", lights, water, joss sticks, candies and traditional snacks to the Shwezigon Pagoda in Nyaung U and "soon" to members of Sangha. Photo shows wellwishers presenting the donations to members of Buddha Pujaniya 9900 Lights Offering Association (Insein). — H

Maram TV retransmission station starts airing TV programmes

YANGON, 21 Sept—Construction of Maram TV retransmission station in Taninthayi Division was completed on 14 September 2004 as part of extension of TV programmes.

Starting from 15 September 2004, better TV programmes are being aired through the new facility.—MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

ကျေးရွာဝိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုးကိုင်စားကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်မို့
ပိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်မို့။

စက်တင်ဘာလ (၂၁)ရက်နေ့ထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင် ကျေးရွာ
ကိုယ်အားကိုးကိုင်စားကြည့်တိုက် (၈၃၁၇)တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုး စားကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက်
သုတ/ရသစာအုပ်များကို
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့
လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

ကမ္ဘာ့နှလုံးကျန်းမာရေးနေ့

World Heart Day

၂၀၀၄-ခုနှစ်၊ စက်တင်ဘာလ (၂၆)ရက်
“ပုံမှန်လေ့ကျင့် အစားကိုချင့်၊
နှလုံးကျန်းမာ တစ်သက်တာ”

“A Heart for Life”

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

CNC of US acknowledges Myanmar's efforts to reduce poppy cultivation

Yangon, 21 Sept — The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control held its 2/2004 meeting at the Ministry of Home Affairs today.

Chairman of the CCDAC Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing said that it is now the start of the second five-year project of the 15-year narcotic elimination plan, and collective efforts should be made to implement the second five-year project with added momentum, based on experiences of the first five years. **Concerning the alternative crops project of the New Destiny project, he said that a target has been set to put 31,400 acres of land under monsoon and winter crops in five states covered by the project.** Two methods — seed distribution and seed to seed — will be used in cultivating the crops. Livestocks have been distributed in Mongpyin (Thuwunna-shan) region and Monghsat (Yaungkha) region in eastern Shan State, Mongmaw region in northern Shan State, and Pinlaung region in southern Shan State. From April to July in 2004, the first year of the second five-year project, three courses were conducted for teachers concerning the dangers of drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, stimulant tables and smoking in Kengtung, Loikaw, Kalay and Tamu districts. The CCDAC provided half the amount of cost of opening the courses. Drug education campaigns



Minister Col Tin Hlaing addresses the meeting (2004) of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control. — MNA

have been launched through the TV, radio and dailies. Health staff of the rehabilitation hospitals are providing social rehabilitation and counseling services for the drug addicts. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement are also rendering assistance for the rehabilitation project.

With funds of the Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races, food has been provided to farmers who are cultivating alternative crops under the New Destiny Project. The project provided 2,000 bags of rice and 50 bags of salt for farmers of Wa Special Region 2, Namtip and Pangsang in northern Shan State; and 3,000 bags of rice and 100 bags of salt for farmers of Pinlaung, Pekkhone, Mongpang, Hopong and Panglong regions in southern Shan State for the second time.

Under the food pro-

vision programme, jointly implemented by WFP and DPBANR, 2,400 bags of rice have been provided to farmers in northern Shan State including Wa and Kokang regions, as they quit their practice of cultivating poppy. The Government enacted the Mutual Legal Assistance Law on 28 April 2004. Thanks to the law, Myanmar is able to cooperate with international and regional organizations, countries of the UN Convention and neighbouring countries in exchanging information, conducting investigation, in legal affairs.

On 16 September, the US announced a list of nations, which according to the US report, failed to curb the drug problem effectively. The countries that produced large hauls of drugs and serving as transit centres were included in the list. The report said that the 22 countries including Myanmar failed to elimi-

nate the drugs effectively though required by the international agreements and the stipulations contained in the US anti-drug law, within a period of 12 months. It also said that they failed to cooperate with others in drug production reduction, elimination and control activities, enacting laws, taking actions against corrupt staff, and enforcement of laws related to drugs.

It is a common knowledge that without taking assistance from any nation, the Myanmar Government has been achieving success in curbing drugs, relying on harmonious efforts and mutual trust and understanding of the ministries concerned, local authorities and national races. **The satellite photos and land survey records of the UNODC and the US have stood witness to the success achieved by Myanmar in rooting out the drug problem. Blind**

accusations from the political point of view can be assumed shameful acts.

Although the UN has acknowledged Myanmar's anti-drug drive and efforts to root out poppy cultivation, the US failed to do so, instead, pointing a finger at the nation; this is an irresponsible act. As the US, the largest narcotic drug market in the world, wants to hide its image as the country with a large drug addict population, it is hurling slanders against others.

The CNC of the US has acknowledged that Myanmar was able to reduce up to 81 per cent of its illegal poppy cultivation within a nine-year period, and 88 per cent of the opium production.

Myanmar enacted the Anti-Money Laundering Law and Mutual Legal Assistance Law. It has also destroyed billions of dollars worth of seized narcotic drugs, and it is the result of years of efforts relying on own resources. But the success was ignored. Myanmar faces economic hardships and obstacles in her anti-drug drive due to economic sanctions and the acts of banning Myanmar officials from attending drug elimination courses abroad. The minister said that he would like to urge the US to concentrate on demand reduction and make sincere cooperation with Myanmar in her anti-drug drive in accord with the wish of the global peoples.

The minister elaborated on the nation's endeavours to reinforce the 15-year narcotic elimination plan and New Destiny Project, enact bylaws and cooperate with neighbouring countries to control and curb chemical agents used in manufacturing stimulant tablets. From senior official level to ministerial level, the five countries —

China, India, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar — have agreed to hold bilateral meetings or five-country meetings on transnational drugs-related crimes and are making active cooperation among themselves. Thus Myanmar is making cooperating with global countries in addition to the neighbours in her anti-drug drive. According to the record, Myanmar destroyed 29 million stimulant tablets and 58,637 litres of chemical liquid in 1999, the first year of the 15-year plan; 27 million stimulant pills and 8,914 litres of chemical liquid in 2000; 32 million stimulant pills and 186,509 litres of chemical liquid in 2001; nine million pills and 29,393 litres of chemical liquid in 2002, four million pills and 39,465 litres of chemical liquid in 2003. As the amount of seizures is decreasing gradually, it is clear that Myanmar has been giving priority to elimination of stimulant drugs. The minister also explained the building and running of youth rehabilitation centres, hospitals and other related facilities and farming activities in northern Shan State.

Member of CCDAC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan reported to the meeting on his ministry's efforts to refute the slanderous attacks of the US and some other nations through the media; Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, on treatment programme for drug addicts; and Secretary of CCDAC Myanmar Police Force Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi, on progress in materialization of the minutes of meeting 1/2004. Col Tin Hlaing delivered the concluding address.

Also present were deputy ministers, who are chairmen of the working bodies and guests. —MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers a speech at the meeting of Information Subcommittee for Holding 4th World Buddhist Summit. — MNA

Measures for holding 4th World Buddhist Summit coordinated

YANGON, 21 Sept — The Information Subcommittee for Holding 4th World Buddhist Summit held a meeting at the Ministry of Information here this afternoon.

It was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Chairman of the Subcommittee Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein and members, work groups and guests.

On the occasion, the minister delivered a speech, saying that Myanmar is going to host the Summit and taking steps to ensure a world level meeting. So, the Information Subcommittee has therefore to take each and every preparatory measure to the best of its ability.

Departmental heads are also to take part in information tasks, he noted. Articles and poems on the 4th Summit have appeared in the two newspapers in Myanmar version. And similar items are to be inserted in the English version newspaper.

The Myanmar Radio and Television is to screen the on National Convention news in English after local news programmes for foreigner delegates to the Summit.

In conclusion, the minister called for measures for broadcasting of TV programmes on the Summit in English version.

(See page 15)

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4/28/2004 (16 Aug 2004)

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U Than Maung, Advocate
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C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Unit 223 Summit Parkview,
350 Ahlone Rd., Dagon Tsp.,
Yangon, Union of Myanmar.
kelvin.chia.yg@ptnmail.com
Dated 22 September 2004

Tanzania observes road safety week

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 21 Sept — Tanzania on Monday started to observe a road safety week as the casualties of the country's traffic accidents have arisen to an appalling average of five deaths and 36 injuries a single day.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs John Chiligati described traffic accidents as causing losses not only to people's lives but to national economy as well.

Yearly loss of properties caused by traffic accidents amounts to an average of 180 billion shillings (180 million US dollars) or 2 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

The official appealed to Tanzanian road users to abide by traffic regulations and cooperate to fight against careless driving that in turn results in traffic accidents.—MNA/Xinhua

Kalam thanks S Africa for supporting India's bid to UNSC

DURBAN, 20 Sept — President A P J Abdul Kalam on Saturday thanked South African President Thabo Mbeki for offering support to India's bid for permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

Kalam expressed his gratitude regarding UNSC membership and the "extraordinary warm welcome" he received in a farewell message at the end of his four-day official visit to

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1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the Supply of 6,000 ± 10% Metric Tons H.S.D. (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%).
2. Tender Closing Date (5-10-2004) at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min Ye Kyaw Zwa Road, Yangon, during office hours commencing (22-9-2004) on payment of one hundred (100) FEC per set.
4. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender documents officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director

Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

Fourth plenum of 16th CPC Central Committee concludes

BELING, 20 Sept — The 16th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) concluded its Fourth Plenum here on Sunday after approving Hu Jintao to succeed Jiang Zemin as the Party's military chief and adopting a decision on enhancing the Party's "ruling capabilities".

Hu, 61, took over the chairmanship of the CPC Central Military Commission (CMC) after the four-day plenum accepted the resignation of 78-year-old Jiang.

Hu, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and President of China, was vice-chairman of the CMC previously.

At the plenum, the CPC Central Committee deliberated and passed a decision on accepting Jiang's resignation from the post of CPC chairman, and highly evaluated

Jiang's "outstanding contributions to the Party, the state and the people".

The CPC Central Committee also approved Xu Caihou, previously a CMC member, to be vice-chairman of the CMC, and added Chen Bingde, Qiao Qingchen, Zhang Dingfa and Jing Zhiyuan to the CMC as new members.

The plenum, which started on Thursday, was presided over by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Hu Jintao delivered an important speech at the plenum.—MNA/Xinhua

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P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 22 September 2004.

Five people die daily in road accidents in New Delhi

NEW DELHI, 21 Sept — The killer road accidents of New Delhi, capital of India, claim five lives every 24 hours, the *Indo-Asian News Service* quoted a new study carried out by Delhi Police as saying.

The reports said 1,198 fatal accidents were recorded across the capital in which 1,233 people were killed till August 31 this year — higher than last year's figures. Pedestrians (602) and cyclists (122) died in the largest numbers in these fatal accidents.—MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe seeks foreign investment in coal mine expansion

HARARE, 20 Sept — The Zimbabwe's sole coal-mining company, Hwange Colliery Company, is currently negotiating with foreign investors to spend 218 million US dollars to expand the mine, according to the *Sunday Mail* on Sunday.

The mine's chairman, Engineer Munacho Mutezo, was quoted as saying that negotiations with some investors had reached an advanced stage and expects

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Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

"Jeanne" kills about 90 Haitians

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Haiti), 20 Sept — Floods and mudslides from Tropical Storm Jeanne killed about 90 people in Haiti and more were missing in the Caribbean nation on Sunday as the storm swirled in the Atlantic east of the Bahamas, a civil protection official said.

Jeanne previously killed 11 people and destroyed hundreds of houses in the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti.

Two days of steady rain sent torrents down the mountains in the Artibonite and Northwest provinces of Haiti, causing rivers to burst their banks and triggering

mudslides, civil defence officials said.

The city of 200,000 people was covered with mud and a delegation of officials could not leave the high ground to enter. Many people had climbed onto roofs to escape the floodwaters and were stranded there, the officials said.

The island of La Tortue off Haiti's north coast was barely visible under the water, according to officials who flew over it in a helicopter. Homes were washed away, cars were caught in the rising water and telephone service was cut off, making it difficult to communicate with emergency officials in the region.—MNA/Reuters

the country.

The message was released by the Indian Consul-General in Durban Ajay Swarup after Kalam and his entourage departed for India early on Saturday.

Kalam said on behalf of the people of India he wanted to congratulate South Africans on completing 10 years of freedom from oppression and apartheid. "I particularly congratulate President Thabo

Mbeki for connecting hearts of multiple sections of society," he said.

"I saw one South African and heard one South African voice. I congratulate the South African people on this achievement. In particular, I thank the South African people for the close traditional friendship and the fusion of minds so that a safe, prosperous and happy South Africa will become a reality.—MNA/Reuters

the mine to have signed investment agreements before the end of the year.

"As part of our turnaround strategy we will be embarking on projects to increase our output, which include a 25-million-US-dollar investment for three main underground mine, eight million US dollars for the open-cast mine, one million US dollars for coal fines recovery and 85 million US dollars for coke oven batteries and 100 million US

dollars for Chaba open-cast mine," said Mutezo.

"The money involved looks frightening but the new company board has come up with a turnaround project that is already beginning to bear fruit," he said. The turnaround programme has resulted in the total coal sales volumes increasing by nearly 60 per cent from 199,000 tons in August last year to 310,000 tons this year.

MNA/Xinhua

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A resident of San Pedro De Macoris, 60km east of Santo Domingo, walks by a damaged road after the passage of Tropical Storm Jeanne in Dominican Republic, on 17 September, 2004.

Embroidery featuring Chairman Mao completed in Hunan

CHANGSHA, 20 Sept — A seven-metre-long and three-metre-tall embroidery of late Chairman Mao Zedong standing with 56 people, each from a different ethnic group in China, debuted in central China's Hunan Province.

The embroidery, so far the largest of its kind in China, has been completed in the Hunan Provincial Embroidery Research Institute. More than 80 embroidery artists have worked for 216 days to complete the work.

Adapted from an oil painting of the same title by Chinese painter Hou Yimin, the embroidery depicts the energetic Chairman Mao, with gen-

tle expression. Each person surrounding him is dressed in the style of his or her ethnicity.

The work will be sent to the Hunan Hall of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Hunan Embroidery, originated from folk embroidery, dates back about 2,500 years to the Spring and Autumn Period (770 BC-476 BC) and reached a high level in Western

Han Dynasty (206 BC-25 AD). More than 40 pieces embroidery clothes have been unearthed from a Western Han tomb in Changsha, capital of Hunan Province.

Hunan Embroidery, together with Guangdong Embroidery, Suzhou Embroidery and Sichuan Embroidery, are known as the Top Four Chinese Embroideries.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand develops Antarctic robot diver

BANGKOK, 21 Sept — Scientists at the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) have invented a underwater robot explorer for the Antarctic region, capable of diving to the depth of up to 50 metres, the Thai News Agency reported Monday.

The announcement, made by NSTDA Director Dr Itthi Ruthaporn on Sunday, comes as Chulalongkorn University marine scientist Dr Woranop Wiyakan prepares to become the first Thai ever to take part in a southern polar expedition.

Dr Itthi said the robot, the world's first underwater robot explorer for the Antarctic region, was designed to help Dr Woranop collect data from the Antarctic waters in November.

Dr. Woranop, who has been undergoing intensive training in Japan, will work in Antarctica with Japan's National Institute of Polar Research.

The robot explorer, which weighs less than 50 kilograms, has been designed to withstand the Antarctic weather conditions.

Capable of diving to depths of up to 50 metres, it is fitted with instruments to record salinity, speed, and temperature.

Using remote control, Dr Woranop will also be able to use the robot's cameras to record marine life.

The robot runs on batteries which can be charged by using solar cells, also invented by Thai researchers.

Dr Itthi said the robot cost around two million baht (50,000 US dollars) to produce. — MNA/Xinhua

Short film competition starts in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 21 Sept — Singapore is now holding a short film competition with the aim of bringing digital video movie making to the masses.

According to local Press reports on Monday, there will be film screenings, road shows and workshops in the competition, part of a three-month video festival.

To encourage more people to participate in the contest, organizers will also lend digital video equipment for free to contestants.

The winners will get prizes up to 15,000 Singapore dollars (about 8,880.9 US dollars) in cash.

MNA/Xinhua

American Express Bank to pack up from Bangladesh

DHAKA, 21 Sept — The American Express Bank (AmEx Bank) has decided to pack up from Bangladesh and stop its operations in the country except for keeping its correspondent banking and travel related services.

Robert D Welch, executive director of the New York-based bank, has informed Bangladesh Bank Governor Fakhruddin Ahmed of the decision on Sunday, a central bank official told Xinhua Monday on condition of anonymity.

AmEx Bank is negotiating with other foreign banks to sell off its stakes, he added, without giving the reasons for the pack-

ing up of the bank.

He said the AmEx Bank authorities only told its staff that it would stop the bank's operations in Bangladesh in line with several other countries and assured them that preference would be given on upholding their interest.

The AmEx Bank has stopped its operations in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Egypt

and Italy.

The bank has been shrinking its operations for the last two years as part of its wind-up plan in Bangladesh and has put corporate lending on hold.

The total deposit with the bank has reached 96.5 million US dollars in Bangladesh in March, down from 161.33 million US dollars in 2000.

MNA/Xinhua

China sets up world's biggest CDMA network

BEIJING, 20 Sept — China has built a nationwide mobile phone network capable of providing services for 50 million subscribers, according to an official from China Unicom, the country's builder and operator of the network.

The official said the network, the world's largest, covers all cities, all seats of counties, with the exception of some of Tibet Autonomous Region.

China has had more than 300 million mobile phone subscribers, including CDMA (code division multiple access) and GSM networks. China Unicom also operates a GSM network and its rival China Mobile runs a larger GSM network.

China Unicom said its CDMA network is capable of providing its subscribers services such as news, entertainment, business and positioning of CDMA subscribers.

MNA/Xinhua

India launches satellite for educational service

NEW DELHI, 21 Sept — India launched EDUSAT, an exclusive satellite for educational services, from the space centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh State in southeast India on Monday.

The 1950-kilos EDUSAT was carried by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F-01). It would be placed into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) within a few minutes after the lift-off, and from GTO, the satellite would reach the 36,000-kilometre high Geostationary Orbit (GSO), by firing, in stages, its on-board Liquid Apogee Motor.

In GSO, the satellite will be co-located with Kalpana-1 and INSAT-3C satellites.

Built for a mission life of seven years, the EDUSAT is mainly intended to meet the demand for an interactive satellite-based distance education system for the country.

Designed as GSLV (F-01), this is the first operational (F-01) flight of the launch vehicle. In the first two 'development test flights', conducted in April 2001 and May last year, the GSLV had successfully placed GSAT-1 and GSAT-2 experimental satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.

The launch vehicle consists of a core motor with 138 tons of solid propellant and four strap-on motors in the first stage, 39 tons of hypergolic liquid propellants in the second and middle stage and 12.5 tons of liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen in the third cryogenic stage, supplied by Russia.

It is expected that the satellite will assist the development of education in remote areas of India.

About 35 per cent of Indians still cannot read or write, and more than half of Indian women are illiterate. — MNA/Xinhua

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SPORTS

VfB Stuttgart fails to hold on to top spot

BERLIN, 20 Sept—VfB Stuttgart failed to hold on to top spot in the Bundesliga after being held to a 0-0 draw at 10-man Hertha Berlin on Sunday.

Stuttgart remain undefeated after five games and are now in second place, just one point behind VfL Wolfsburg, who moved into first place with a 2-1 win at Hansa Rostock on Saturday.

Draw specialists Hertha, who have shared the points from all their five matches so far, held on despite having striker Nando Rafael sent off for a second booking two minutes from the break. SC Freiburg and VfL Bochum settled on a 1-1 draw in the other game played on Sunday.

Visitors Bochum opened the scoring through substitute Tommy Bechmann after 55 minutes but Freiburg defender Daniel Schumann levelled three minutes later.

Two late goals earned Bayern Munich a 2-2 draw at arch-rivals Borussia Dortmund in the highlight of the weekend action on Saturday.—MNA/Reuters

Chelsea held to 0-0 draw by Spurs

LONDON, 20 Sept—Chelsea were held to a 0-0 home draw by Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday and remain two points behind champions Arsenal in second place after the weekend's Premier League action.

A thrilling match at Stamford Bridge ended with both sides retaining their unbeaten starts to the season but with Spurs unable to end a 14-year, 29-match wait for a league victory over Chelsea.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho, upset with what he saw as ultra-defensive tactics by Spurs, said: "As they say in my country, they brought the bus and they left the bus in front of the goal because everybody was there."

"They didn't play football, they just defend, defend, defend," the Portuguese



French forward Didier Drogba of Chelsea attempts a bicycle kick in front of Tottenham defender Ledley King and keeper Paul Robinson in a premiership match at Stamford Bridge in west London.—INTERNET

coach told Sky Sports TV. Tottenham climbed to fifth place on 10 points, six behind Arsenal and two short of Chelsea, who have been held goalless in their last two league games. Everton beat Middlesbrough 1-0 at home on Sunday to climb to third on 13.

Bolton Wanderers, who held Arsenal 2-2 at Highbury on Saturday, are fourth on 11 points and Middlesbrough sixth on 10. Arsenal dropped their first points but extended their record unbeaten league run to 46 matches. Manchester United, languishing in 13th place after only one win, are at home on Monday to 10th-placed Liverpool.

At Stamford Bridge, Spurs held out as England keeper Paul Robinson made two good saves from Didier Drogba in the first half, both times going down to beat out shots from the striker. Robbie Keane might have put Spurs ahead in the 55th minute with a header at point-blank range from Simon Davies's cross but goalkeeper Petr Cech made a fine reflex save to turn the ball over the bar.

Chelsea's Eidur Gudjohnsen hit the post five minutes from time but Drogba was ruled offside anyway and England defender Ledley King thwarted the Ivory Coast striker minutes later.

"Right from the start they got corner after corner but I thought we held on really well, defended well and maybe looked at times as though we might sneak something but overall we are delighted," Spurs captain Jamie Redknapp said.

MNA/Reuters

Monaco move top of Ligue 1

PARIS, 20 Sept—Monaco moved top of Ligue 1 after a late winner by striker Emmanuel Adebayor on Sunday sealed troubled Paris St Germain's second consecutive home defeat.

Adebayor headed the winner seven minutes from time to seal the principal side's fourth victory of the season.

The win moved Monaco up from fifth place in the 20-club standings before the weekend matches to stand one point ahead of AJ Auxerre who crushed 10-man Metz 4-0 earlier on Sunday. Monaco's win was a relief to Didier Deschamps's team after their 2-0 midweek defeat by Liverpool in the Champions League.

Ambitious PSG, among the favourites to win the title before the season, are without a win in their first six league matches and stand 17th with just three points alongside promoted Istres.

The Parisian fans expressed their anger at the end of the match as they called for the resignation of coach Vahid Halilhodzic and club chairman Francis Gaillie.

AJ Auxerre confirmed they are not to be taken lightly as they demolished 10-man Metz at home.

Striker Benjani Mwaruware scored twice in the first 20 minutes to put the Burgundy side on the winning track before Bonaventure Kalou wrapped up the victory in the 24th.

Metz were reduced to 10 men when midfielder Venn Toure was sent off for a second bookable offence just past the hour.—MNA/Reuters

Man United beat Liverpool 2-1

LONDON, 21 Sept—All eyes were on Rio Ferdinand as he returned after an eight-match ban on Monday but it was his central defensive partner Mikael Silvestre who stole the show with both goals in Manchester United's 2-1 win over Liverpool.

Ferdinand was given a great welcome by the home fans at Old Trafford as he appeared for the first time since being banned last January for missing a drugs test and the England defender put in a solid performance on his comeback.

But it was Silvestre, heavily criticized during United's stuttering start to the season, who secured the much-needed Premier League win with headed goals in each half either side of a John O'Shea own goal.

Coming after four successive draws it was only United's second win in six Premier League games and takes them eighth place on nine points, seven behind leaders Arsenal.

Liverpool, who looked second-best for almost the entire match, slipped to 12th on seven points.

"It was brilliant, the fans were fantastic," Ferdinand told Sky Sports TV.

"It was just nice to get out there and play and forget about everything that has gone before."

"It was never going to be easy, it's all new again, but I got into it and it was nice to get defending again. Hopefully, we can get our season back on track."

Manager Alex



Manchester United's Ruud Van Nistelrooy (L) is challenged by Liverpool's Jamie Carragher during their Premier League clash at Old Trafford.—INTERNET

Ferguson was happy to have Ferdinand back. "He brings a composure and assuredness that transmits itself through the whole team," he said.

Of United's poor start, Ferguson added: "We've always said, 'Get the players back then you can see the strength of Manchester United'."

Always one of the highlights of the League season, Monday's clash between the north-west powerhouses was given extra spice by their desperate need for points after poor starts.

United took charge from the first whistle and went ahead after 20 minutes when Ryan Giggs swung in a free kick from

the right wing and French defender Silvestre was left totally unmarked to head home from six metres.

Cristiano Ronaldo had earlier hit a post, Gabriel Heinze had a headertipped over by Jerzy Dudek after 35 minutes and Ruud Van Nistelrooy headed narrowly over three minutes later as United piled on the pressure.

In the previous four years Liverpool had won the fixture three times, all 1-0 via a Danny Murphy goal, but with the midfielder now at Charlton Athletic and striker Michael Owen at Real Madrid it was hard to see where a goal might come from.

MNA/Reuters

Torres grabs equalizer, Atletico claim valiant draw

MADRID, 20 Sept—Atletico Madrid held Barcelona to a 1-1 draw on Sunday as the last two remaining 100-per-cent records fell in Spain.

Giovanni van Bronckhorst put Barcelona ahead in the 23rd minute but Fernando Torres grabbed the equalizer early in the second half and Atletico held on to claim a valiant draw.

The result left Atletico and Barca among six sides level at the top on seven points from three games. Espanyol, 1-0 winners over Real Madrid on Saturday, were left as leaders on goals scored, followed by Atletico and Barcelona.

Osasuna, who beat Real Betis 3-2, Real Zaragoza, 4-3 winners against Albacete on Sunday, and Valencia, who beat Real Sociedad 3-1, are the others in the leading group.

Barcelona started at breakneck speed against Atletico and might have had the game wrapped up in the first half. Van Bronckhorst lashed the ball into the net early on only for the referee to harshly blow for handball.

However, the Dutch defender soon put the Catalans ahead after Ronaldinho's run along the byeline was stopped by a desperate challenge.

MNA/Reuters

Feyenoord slip to third place

AMSTERDAM, 20 Sept—Feyenoord slipped to third place in the Dutch First Division on Sunday after a shock 3-0 defeat against fourth-placed Utrecht in Rotterdam.

Champions Ajax Amsterdam moved up a spot into second as they remained two points behind leaders PSV Eindhoven with the 5-0 thrashing of Den Bosch thanks to a Rafael van der Vaart double. PSV have taken over at the top on 13 points from pre-weekend leaders Feyenoord after a 3-0 win at NEC Nijmegen on Saturday.

Utrecht, who have moved level with Feyenoord on 10 points, continued the outstanding form they showed in Thursday's 4-0 UEFA Cup first round, first leg win over Swedish club Djurgarden as they surprised Feyenoord with their aggression.

Utrecht central defender Alje Schut opened the scoring when he headed home from a corner after half an hour.

Feyenoord put pressure on the cup holders as they battled for an equalizer in the second half but were never convincing and Utrecht's Hans Somers sealed the points two minutes from the end before Joost Broerse made it 3-0 in added time.—MNA/Reuters

Sports Minister attends USDA Annual General Meetings in Shwebo, Sagaing

YANGON, 21 Sept — CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the ceremony to collectively submit membership applications for USDA membership held at Athinkhaya Hall of BEHS-1, Sagaing on 18 September and gave lecture on objectives and future programme of the association.

The minister accepted 4,161 applications from Sagaing BEHS-1, 2 and 3 and he donated K 300,000 and sports gear for the schools.

Next, Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the annual general meeting of Sagaing District USDA held at the Sagaing city hall and delivered an address. He also presented awards to outstanding students of 2003-2004 academic year.

The minister also attended the annual general meeting of Shwebo District USDA and prize giving ceremony held at the Yangyiaung hall of Shwebo on 19 September and delivered an address.

On the occasion, U Bo Gyi-Daw Tin Nu (Yoke Pyo Traditional Medicine) family donated K 4.3 million worth hearse for Shwebo District USDA, K 600,000 worth computer set

for township association and K 1 million for outstanding students awards and other 19 wellwishers donated K 1450,000.

Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave away the prizes to outstanding students and inspected the hearse. Next, the minister inspected the Yoke Pyo pharmaceutical factory and posed for a documentary photo together with outstanding students. — MNA

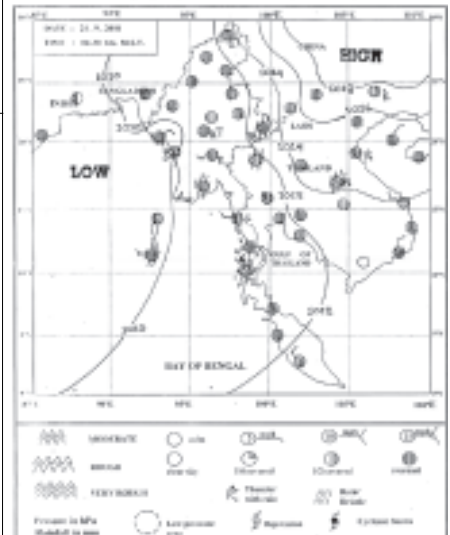
Rainfall on 21-9-2004

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

Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was

- 109.41 inches at Yangon Airport,
- 104.17 inches at Kaba-Aye and
- 106.22 inches at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 21 September 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, the southwest monsoon has withdraw from the Deltaic areas. Rain or thunder-showers have been widespread in Kayah and Kayin States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Shan State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and isolated in the remaining states and divisions with locally heavyfalls in Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (2.76) inches, Loikaw (2.24) inches, Hakha (1.57) inches, Meiktila (1.54) inches and PyinOoLwin (1.50) inches.

Maximum temperature on 20-9-2004 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 21-9-2004 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-9-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 20-9-2004 was (4.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 21-9-2004 was (0.04) inch at Yangon Airport, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.28) inch central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 109.41 inches at Yangon Airport, 104.17 inches at Kaba-Aye and 106.22 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at 12:40 hours MST on 20-9-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the North and central Bay and monsoon is feeble elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 22-9-2004:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Rakhine and Mon States, Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of thundery conditions in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-9-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-9-2004:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Cash, medicines donated to mark International Day of Older Persons

YANGON, 21 Sept — Hailing the International Day of Older Persons which falls on 1 October 2004, the ceremony to donate cash and medicines was held at Thiriyadana hall of Hninzigone Home for the Aged in Bahan Township yesterday morning, at-

tended by Patron of the Committee for Holding 2004 International Day of Older Persons Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, OSD Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thuang, officials of Social Welfare Department, members of

Hninzigone Home for the Aged Management Committee, wellwishers, the older persons and guests.

The ceremony was opened with the three time recitation of Namo Tassa and Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa explained the purpose of the holding of ceremony.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa gave away K 200,000 donated by the Work Committee in commemoration of IDOP to Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd) and Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thuang, medicines to Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee U Thuang Htut.

Afterwards, the minister donated cash and medicines to two aged persons of the centre. They blessed the minister.

Later, Member of the Management Committee U Chit Myaung presented prizes to the winners in essay competitions held as part of IDOP.

Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd) expressed thanks and the ceremony ended with recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu three times. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa presents K 200,000 to Vice-Chairman of Hninzigone Home for the Aged Management Board Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd). — SOCIAL WELFARE

Minister U Tin Winn leaves for New York

YANGON, 21 Sept — Myanmar delegation led by Minister at the Prime Minister's Office U Tin Winn left here by air for United States of America to attend the 59th United Nations General Assembly being held at UN headquarters in New York as from 14 September 2004.

The minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Ministers at the Prime Minister's Office U Than Shwe and Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and their families. The minister was accompanied by Director-General U Thuang Tun of the Political Department. — MNA



Measures for holding 4th ...

(from page 11)

The deputy minister reported on programmes to be implemented before, after and during the Summit, preparations for shooting documentary photos on the Summit and installation of PA system and LCD projectors in Maha Pasana

Minister U Tin Winn and party being seen off at the airport. — MNA

Cave.

Secretary of the Information Subcommittee Director-General of the MRTV U Khin Maung Htay reported on work progress and tasks being carried out; Chairman of Enquiry and Information Work Group Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise Col Soe Win, on arrangements for publishing of news letters and issuing of news on the Summit; Chairman of Work Group for Shooting Documentary Photos, Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing, on preparations for shooting documentary photos; Chairman of PA System and CD ROM/VCD/DVD Work Committee the Director-General of the MRTV, on progress of work. It was followed by a general round of discussions. Next, the minister delivered closing remarks. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects multimedia classrooms of No 3 BEHS in Insein Township. — MNA

Nation has enjoyed fruitful results in education sector thanks to education promotion plan Secretary-1 attends opening of multimedia classrooms

YANGON, 21 Sept—Basic Education High School No 3 in Insein Township, Yangon North District, inaugurated its multimedia classrooms this morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, officials of the

State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, service personnel, the principal, teachers, members of the school board of trustees and social organizations, wellwishers and students. Schoolgirls Ma Aye Min Than and Ma May Myat Nwe read the agenda of the ceremony.

(See page 8)

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Systematic methods to be applied in reclaiming lands and cultivating paddy Lt-Gen Maung Bo tours Kawthoung District in Taninthayi Division



Lt-Gen Maung Bo looks into the scattering of fertilizers in Kawthoung Township. — MNA



Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

- * In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.
- * The use of natural gas can not only save fuel oil but also extend engine life.
- * 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.

YANGON, 21 Sept—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials, yesterday went to Kawthoung in Taninthayi Division by air where they were welcomed by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, senior military officers and officials concerned.

Next, Lt-Gen

Maung Bo and party arrived at Kawthoung-Pulontonton Bridge linking Kawthoung and Pulontonton Village. At the briefing hall, Staff Officer U Tin Moe Aung of the Irrigation Department, Pulontonton Village Peace and Development Council Chairman U Hsar Dat reported on progress of bridge construction and future plans. Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint also gave a supplementary report. After hearing the report, Lt-Gen Maung Bo

attended to the needs and urged the officials to make efforts to completed the construction by November, 2004.

Next, he inspected construction of the bridge.

Pulontonton Village, an island, is situated to the west of Kawthoung. The bridge construction started in March, 2004 for the regional development. On completion, the bridge will be 5,757 feet long. Seventy-eight per cent of the construction tasks was completed and work on

the bridge building will be complete in November, 2004.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected 120 acres of Kyawzeya and Lonethwehmwe paddy (See page 8)

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