

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIII, Number 148

9th Waxing of Tawthalin 1367 ME

Sunday, 11 September, 2005

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

Thanks to concerted efforts of national race leaders and local people, sector-wise development is seen in states and divisions
Lt-Gen Kyaw Win meets departmental personnel, locals in Langkho



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win meeting with officers and other ranks and their family members of Langkho Station. — MNA

YANGON, 10 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and officers of Mongpan and

Langkho Stations, met with Tatmadawmen and family members of Langkho Station at the hall in Langkho on 8 September morning.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win explained progress of the nation and gave instructions to them on harmonious participation in regional development

tasks, joining hands with the local national races. He cordially greeted the Tatmadawmen and family members.

At the town hall in Langkho, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met with departmental personnel of Langkho District and Township, members of social organizations and local

mentation of development projects of rural areas in the district in 2005-06 financial year, land utilization, local food sufficiency, education and health matters.

District and township level departmental officials gave supplement

tary reports on education, health and information matters.

After hearing the reports on education, health, information and agricultural matters of the district and township, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that nowadays, the Govern-

ment, the people and the Tatmadaw combine their strength harmoniously in building a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Due to the concerted efforts of service personnel discharging the duties in

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Due to the concerted efforts of service personnel discharging the duties in the respective regions and local people in carrying out development tasks of the country, more and more progress has been made in economic, social, education and health sectors with restoring peace and stability in the Union.

INSIDE

This year's motto is — First Aid with Vulnerable (Marginalized) People. Myanmar is holding First Aid skill competitions, demonstrations, essay and poem competitions and talks.

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TEKKATHO ZAW HTOO OO

people.

Chairman of Langkho District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Maung reported on the situation of the district and its location and area, imple-



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win cordially greets members of local national race group (9) in Shan State (South) at the Eastern Command in Taunggyi. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 11 September, 2005

Bring glory to the State through sports

In an effort to build a peaceful modern and developed nation, the State Peace and Development Council is placing emphasis on improvement of national capabilities such as educational, intellectual and social performances.

As the sports is included in the social sector of the national strength, relentless efforts are being made for Myanmar sports to keep abreast of the world.

Now is the time when systematic steps are being taken for improvement of the sports standard in accord with one of the four social objectives, which calls for uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation. And it is also the time when the entire national people are supporting Myanmar sports for further achievements.

A ceremony to open the 21st Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Cup Under-21 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament was held at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) in Yangon on 8 September with an address by Chairman of Defence Services Sports and Physical Education Administrative Board Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

In his address, the Secretary-1 stressed the need for the athletes to uphold the concept that improvement of the sports standard is a national duty as the success of the sports can uplift the prestige and integrity of the State.

Success of sports reflects the development of the State. Therefore, the government is facilitating sports research works, providing modern sports techniques and sports gear, and constructing the stadiums and gymnasiums.

Meanwhile, Sports and Physical Education Institute has been conferring diploma certificates on the trainees.

Athletes were allowed to take part in international sports events, and invitational matches were held for athletes to gain experiences in sports.

Hence, selected Myanmar youth teams emerged champions in the AFF U-17 Youth Championship 2005 and the AFF U-20 Youth Championship 2005.

Morality and good discipline are imperative for nurturing the outstanding athletes, who must be endowed with endurance and individual qualities. Hence, athletes are always to strive for enhancement of their efficiency with diligence.

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

Commander, Mayor inspect beautifying tasks of Yangon City



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect repaving Insein Road in Insein Township.—MNA

YANGON, 10 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 inspected tasks of beautifying Yangon City this morning.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin oversaw paving of West Shwegondaing Road with asphalt in Bahan Township.

The commander and the mayor also inspected paving of the roads with asphalt and dredging of the drains in Kyimyindine, Hline and Insein Townships. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave necessary instructions to the officials.

Similar tasks were carried out by Tatmadawmen at No 2 Military Hospital (500-bed) and Nawarat and Myawady housing estates of the Ministry of Defence.

MNA

Upgrading course for schools and offices opened

YANGON, 10 Sept — The upgrading course 1/2005 for basic education and offices was opened at No 2 BEHS in Sangyoung Township this morning with an address by Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general of the departments under the Ministry of education, Chairman of Myanmar Board of Examinations, course instructors, trainees and

guests.

First, the deputy minister made a speech on the purpose of opening the course and gave instructions.

Altogether 231 trainees from state/division education offices, basic education departments, education colleges and BEHSs are attending the course and it will last up to 15 September.

MNA

AGM of MCF, MCPA, MCIA, MCEA held

YANGON, 10 Sept — The Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Scientists Association, Myanmar Computer Industrialists Association and Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts Association took place at the MICT building on Hline Universities' Campus this morning.

It was attended by Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint and members and guests.

First, U Aung Myint addressed the meeting. The MCF President explained functions of the federation and the meeting went to recess. When the meeting resumed, the report of executives, financial statements and auditing report were read out and new executives were elected.

Then, the reports and statements of MCIA and MCEA were read. Later, completion certificates and gifts were presented to prize winning trainees and instructors. — MNA



E-National Task Force Vice-Chairman CSSTB member U Aung Myint speaking at Annual General Meeting of MCF, MCPA, MCIA and MCEA. — MNA

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A boat is seen in the drive-through lane at a restaurant in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi on 7 September, 2005. The boat came to rest in the drive-through lane after Hurricane Katrina hit the Mississippi Gulf Coast.—INTERNET

ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ကြ

Thai annual military appointment announced

BANGKOK, 9 Sept — The Thai Government on Thursday announced the new appointment of top-brass military officers of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, according to the state-run Thai News Agency.

The newly appointed military leaders include new Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces General Ruengroj Mahasaranond, new Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army, General Sonthi

Boonyaratkalin and new Permanent Secretary for Defence General Sirichai Tanyasiri, who was the former director of the Southern Border Provinces Peace-building Command (SBPPC).

The new Chief of Joint Staff is General-Lertrat Ratanavanich and the newly appointed Chief of Staff of the Royal Thai Army is Lieutenant-General Sopon

Silpipat.

The new Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force is ACM. Chalit Pukbhasuk, while the new Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Navy is ACM Satirapun Keyanon. The new appointment will be effective from 1 October, 2005, the beginning of the government's 2006 fiscal year.

MNA/Xinhua

China's development significant to global economic growth

XIAMAN (Fujian), 9 Sept — China's extraordinary economic development during the past few years has contributed a lot to the world's economic growth, said Hon Claudio Seajola, Minister of Productive Activities of Italy.

He made the remarks at the International Investment Forum of the North China International Fair for Investment and Trade, which opened on Thursday at Xiaman, a scenic city in east China's Fujian Province.

In 2004, China's gross domestic product (GDP) reached 13.65 trillion Yuan (about 1.68 trillion US dollars) and this is a positive sign in the global economy, he said.

A recent report by the Bank of Asia shows China's economic growth helped improve the quality of life in the Asian continent.

Seajola said Italy feels the influence of China,

but that China also provides good opportunities for Italy to strengthen its investment in this oriental country so as to seize a bigger market share.

The Italian official said China's growth will mean more chances for the globalization of the Italian companies, especially the small- and medium-sized ones.

The Italian Government is now improving

the logistics infrastructure at its major ports and the official said this is also a good news for many Chinese investors.

Italy is planning to set 2006, as "China-Italy Year". In this way, Chinese people and especially those in its economic circle will be able to have a brand-new and more complete and view of Italy, the official said.

MNA/Xinhua

China to strengthen food safety for kids

BEIJING, 9 Sept— Public health, quality control and other departments of the Chinese Government said they will take more concrete measures to supervise food safety for kids.

Since last year, a batch of famous international and Chinese food brands have gotten in trouble.

MNA/Xinhua

Jakarta meeting on safety of Malacca, Singapore Straits ends

JAKARTA, 9 Sept— The Jakarta meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore ended here Thursday, calling for cooperation by agreement among user and littoral states on matters relating to navigational and safety aids and the prevention, reduction and control of pollution from ships.

The two-day meeting, which was participated by delegations from 34 countries, two observers from inter-governmental organizations and seven from non-governmental organizations, urged all states, in cooperation

with International Maritime Organization to combat piracy and armed robbery at sea.

The meeting recalls the ASEAN declaration statement, joint communique and action plans on combating terrorism,

including the ASEAN regional Forum Statement on Cooperation Against Piracy and other Threats to Maritime Security and on Strengthening Transport Security Against International terrorism.

The Jakarta Statement issued at the closing session of the meeting ac-

knowledges the potential of the Marine Electronic Highway concept, which will be set up by littoral states and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), in a bid to enhance navigational safety and environmental protection in the straits.

MNA/Xinhua

Security company closes Baghdad Airport over pay

BAGHDAD, 10 Sept — The private security company that guards Baghdad International Airport shut down the airport on Friday, saying it had not been paid for the past six months. But the company, Global Strategies Group, announced early Saturday that it had agreed to reopen the airport on Saturday morning after a promise by the Iraqi government to pay half the amount owed. The shutdown on Friday nearly led to a standoff between American military forces and Iraqi soldiers when United States forces rushed to the airport to prevent Iraqi troops from taking it over, according to Iraqi officials and the security company.

The Baghdad airport is the one dependable way for many reconstruction

and security contractors to enter and leave Iraq. Early in the occupation, Westerners could travel by road west to Jordan, north to Turkey and south to Kuwait. But for more than a year those roads have been too dangerous, with guerillas in restive Sunni Arab towns like Mahmudiya, Mosul and Ramadi a deadly threat.

After Global Strategies closed the airport at dawn on Friday, infuriated Iraqi ministry officials dispatched their own troops to secure the airport. But the Iraqis turned back to avoid a confrontation with American soldiers who had already hurried to the airport from their nearby base, according to Iraqi officials and Global Strategies. Global Strategies has offices in London; Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates; and Washington.—Internet



A man walks through rubble after a building was destroyed by an explosion in Baghdad on 9 September, 2005. —INTERNET

Putin, Schroeder give blessing to gas pipeline deal

BERLIN, 9 Sept— The leaders of Russia and Germany gave their blessing on Thursday to a gas pipeline deal that cements Berlin's energy ties to Moscow but which Poland and others fear leaves them vulnerable to the whims of the Kremlin.

The deal on the pipeline, which will ship Siberian gas from Russia to Germany, bypassing Poland and the Baltic states, was signed by Russian state gas monopoly Gazprom, German utility E.ON and Wintershall, a unit of German chemical maker BASF.

Russian President Putin and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder stressed the strategic importance of the project for the further development of German-Russian relations in the energy sector, the three companies said in a joint statement.

The deal worth over four billion euros (5.0 billion US dollars) was sealed in

April when Putin visited Schroeder in his hometown of Hanover. It was finalized by the two leaders on Thursday.

Gazprom will take a 51-per-cent stake in the partnership, with the German companies each taking 24.5 per cent.

Putin's visit comes 10 days before a German election, which Schroeder is expected to lose to conservative candidate Angela Merkel.

Merkel, who grew up in the former Communist East, has criticized Schroeder for sacrificing ties with eastern neighbours by getting close to Moscow. She has promised a more even-handed approach.—MNA/Reuters



A Chinese man rides a bicycle past a poster at the Central Business District in Beijing on 8 September, 2005. — INTERNET

Gunmen kill policeman in western Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 10 Sept— Gunmen attacked a police patrol in western Baghdad on Friday, killing a policeman and wounding three others, the police said.

"Unknown armed men in two cars opened fire at 11:30 am (0730 GMT) at a two-vehicle police patrol in al-Rabie Street. One police vehicle was burned and the other overturned," police officer Captain Ahmed Abdullah told *Xinhua*.

One policeman was killed and three others wounded in the overturned vehicle, Abdullah said, adding that the casualties in the burned vehicle were not known.

MNA/Xinhua

Saudi Arabia seizes smuggled hunting ammunition

RIYADH, 10 Sept— Saudi Arabia has seized ammunition for hunting guns smuggled from neighbouring Kuwait, the Interior Ministry said on Friday.

"It's criminal smuggling, and not related to terrorism," a ministry spokesman said.

Al-Jazira newspaper reported that police intercepted the consignment of 190,000 rounds of ammunition in the northern Hafr al-Batin Province after a tip-off from a Saudi woman.

MNA/Reuters

China hopes UNCTAD contribute more to achieve development

BEIJING, 9 Sept— China hopes the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) would make greater contribution to the world economy especially the development of the developing countries, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here on Wednesday.

The Premier made the remarks in a meeting with UNCTAD Secretary-General Supachai Panitchpakdi.

Wen said development is the fundamental way for the human race to eradicate poverty and achieve prosperity and stability, and trade is an important means to achieve development.

He noted that UNCTAD has been

striving to safeguard the interests of the developing countries since it was established, and it has won the trust and support of developing countries.

The Premier also briefed Supachai on China's economic situation and exchanged views with him on the Doha Round negotiations of the World Trade Organization. —MNA/Xinhua

"Associated Press" says cameraman injured in Iraq

NEW YORK, 9 Sept— An *Associated Press* cameraman was injured in the Iraqi city of Samarra, the news agency said on Thursday, the latest in growing list of casualties among journalists in the war-torn country.

The agency said it is trying to establish the full facts of the incident that occurred on Wednesday, but understands that Iraqi forces were in the area investigating an improvised explosive device.

The cameraman, who was not identified in the statement by the agency, was injured in the arm and stomach but his injuries were not immediately life threatening.

Late last month, US soldiers shot dead *Reuters* Television soundman Waleed Khaled while a *Reuters* cameraman travelling with him was wounded and then detained by US troops for three days.

In April, an *AP* Television News cameraman died in Mosul after being shot three times in the chest when gunfire broke out while he reported on an explosion.—MNA/Reuters



A US soldier secures on the roof of a building in town of Tal Afar, west of the northern city of Mosul on 8 September, 2005. — INTERNET

63 nations to sign new UN nuclear terrorism treaty

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Sept— Sixty-three nations have agreed to sign a new treaty against nuclear terrorism next week during a world summit in New York, UN Legal Counsel Nicolas Michel said on Thursday.

The treaty, which would oblige governments to punish those who illegally possess atomic devices or radioactive materials, was approved by the 191-nation UN General Assembly on 13 April, after seven years of drafting.

The accord is first global anti-terrorism convention since the 11 September, 2001, attacks on the United States.

Called the "International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism", it is meant to stop clandestine networks from using or possessing nuclear weapons.

Once it is opened for

signature, it must then be ratified by at least 22 nations before it can become international law.

Russia called for such a treaty in 1998 to keep nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorist groups. At the time, Alexander Lebed, then the Russian national security chief, said Moscow could not account for about 100 suitcase-sized nuclear arms.

It obligates governments to prosecute or extradite individuals who possess radioactive materials or nuclear devices or those who threaten others while possessing such materials.

MNA/Reuters

Two Miami soldiers killed in Iraq explosion

MIAMI, 9 Sept— Two South Florida soldiers died in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated near their Humvee, causing it to roll over, the Department of Defence has announced.

Staff Sgt Jude R. Jonaus, 27, and Sgt Franklin R. Vilorio, 26, both of Miami, died on Tuesday in Baghdad. Both were assigned to the Brigade Troops Battalion, Division Support Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Jonaus was deployed to Baghdad seven months ago as a pharmacy technician, his younger brother Ricky said.

Military officials said that Vilorio listed Miami as his hometown but had no known relatives in the city. —Internet

APEC FMs' meeting discusses issues of capital movement, aging ecos

JEJU ISLAND (South Korea), 9 Sept— The 12th APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Finance Ministers' Meeting (FMM) on Thursday deeply discussed various issues ranging from how to secure a free and stable capital movement and how to deal with aging economies at Jeju Island, South Korea.

Finance ministers or senior finance officials from the APEC 21 member economies on Thursday attended sessions of the 2005 APEC FMM at Shilla Hotel in southern Jeju Island. The meeting started Thursday morning.

Finance ministers and senior finance officials fully exchanged their views over this year's APEC FMM's two main themes of "Free and Stable Movement of Capital" and "Meet the Challenges of Aging Economies", said a news release of the Chinese delegation to the meeting. Chinese Finance Minister Jin Renqing led the Chinese delegation to the two-day meeting.

On the issue of free movement of capital among the APEC economies, finance ministers and senior finance officials pointed out that since remittance made by foreign labours became a more and more important part of the movement of international capital, APEC econo-

mies should improve the remittance service, said the release.

On the issue of aging society and economies, the meeting urged concerning economies to enforce finance reform, and enhance international cooperation on exchanging experiences over how to deal with the issue of aging economies.

Finance ministers and senior finance officials also discussed some factors that affected the APEC region's and global economy, such as imbalance economic development, continuing roaring oil price, rising interests rate in the world, being formed bubble in the real estate sector and increased trade conflicts.

"Finance ministers and senior finance officials called on international communities to take joint measures, to reinforce dialogues and cooperation to cope with these above challenges," the release said.— *MNA/Xinhua*

India approves multi-billion-dollar French sub deal

NEW DELHI, 9 Sept — The Indian Government has approved a long-pending multi-billion-dollar arms deal to buy submarines from France, a defence official said on Thursday, days before Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visits Paris.

The deal, initially estimated to be worth about 1.8 billion US dollars, involves the manufacture of six *Scorpene SSK*-class submarines at a naval dockyard in Mumbai.

A delay by New Delhi in closing the deal is expected to have pushed the price up, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The PM is expected to announce it in Paris next week," he said.

The project is expected to be handled by the marketing arm of state owned DCN International, the main naval contractor for France, and Thales SA, one of the world's largest defence electronics firms.

— *MNA/Reuters*



Women and children wait for transportation in Kabul on 9 September 2005.

INTERNET

Typhoon "Talim" kills 76 in Anhui Province

HEFEI, 9 Sept — The death toll inflicted by typhoon Talim rose to 76 in east China's Anhui Province and relief supplies and fund totalling 110 million yuan (13.5 million US dollars) have been sent to the disaster-stricken region, said governor of the province Wang Jinshan on Thursday.

Anhui was hit by extremely heavy rainstorms rarely seen in its history from 1 to 3 September, the governor said at the province's flood control and relief televised conference on Thursday afternoon.

Statistics showed that areas totalling 270,000 square kilometres in the province experienced rainfall ex-

ceeding 100 millimetres and some reservoir areas had rainfall of over 600 millimetres.

The heavy rainstorms inflicted by the typhoon caused mud-rock flows and landslides on 3,000 sites in the province. And 61 reservoirs have reached alarming water level.

The province is organizing all-out rescue

work and large groups of relief supplies including tents, food, cotton quilts and medicines have been rushed to the disaster-hit regions.

In addition, more than 150 medical teams have been sent to the disaster-stricken areas.

The province is trying every means to help and resettle the victims.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Joint air patrol on Malacca Strait to begin on 13 Sept

JAKARTA, 9 Sept— Four countries will launch a joint patrol on Malacca Strait in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 13 September, in an effort to secure the busiest sea lane of the world, Indonesian Navy said here on Thursday.

The so-called "Eye-in-Sky" air patrol would be participated by Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, said Colonel Surya Wiranto, operation assistant of Western Fleet Commander of the Indonesian Navy, on the side line of a two-day meeting devoted to discussing the safety, security and environmental protection of the Strait.

Each country would send at least one of their aircraft loaded with representatives to attend the patrol, he said.

"13 September is the launching (day) of the Eye-in-Sky air patrol by the Defence Ministers of four countries. We really need the eyes of those in the air to get information of those on the waters," he said.

The air surveillance would be conducted continuously and jointly by the four countries, he said.

"There is no day without the patrol," he added.

The patrol was initiated by Malaysia during the meeting of the military commanders of the four countries in early August in Kuala Lumpur.

Three littoral countries, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, have launched a coordinated patrol on Malacca Strait since last year, but piracy and robbery is still rampant.

Over 60,000 ships annually pass the Strait which connects the Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula. It serves as an economic link between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Indonesia plans new air safety checks

JAKARTA, 9 Sept— The Indonesian Government plans to introduce new inspections for aircraft in the country to ensure passenger safety and help prevent future plane crashes, Minister of Transportation Hatta Radjasa has said.

"The plans would include fuel checks outside regular engine examinations," Hatta was quoted Thursday by *The Jakarta Post* newspaper as saying.

"We want to be very sure that there is no fuel contamination. We have invited the Indonesian National Air Carriers Association to help us work out a plan," he said.

Hatta said Indonesia's checks and balances already met international-standard regulations for aircraft, including the civil aviation safety standard.

The extra checks would mean the government's supervision of the sector was even tighter, he said.

"We are very strict now, we even do double brake checks, and we have ordered a full audit of airline companies and airports. We also have a preferential tariff (we impose) that is effective in moni-

toring any cuts in maintenance costs," he said.

The crash on Monday of a PT Mandala Airline Indonesia *Boeing-737* in Medan, North Sumatra, has renewed concerns about flight safety after years of cutthroat competition among domestic airliners, especially budget

carriers.

Observers fear the battle for lower fares has forced companies to compromise on safety by cutting back on costs.

Hatta said several new safety regulations had been created earlier this year but were not expected to become law un-

til late in the year.

In June, the ministry issued Regulation No 35/2005 that capped the maximum flights for purchases of new aircraft to less than 50,000 total flight cycles, meaning airlines could not buy planes roughly more than 30 years old on average. — *MNA/Xinhua*



US Army troops patrol with Bradley Fighting Vehicle in Tal Afar, Iraq, 93 miles east of the Syrian border on 9 September, 2005. — INTERNET

China, Argentina cooperate in astronomical research

BEIJING, 10 Sept— China will send a precision astronomical instrument to Argentina, and astronomers of the two countries will conduct cooperation in astronomical research.

A third-generation satellite laser ranging (SLR) instrument, with a 60-cm-calibre telescope and weighing about six tons, will be transported to the San Juan University of Argentina in mid-September, according to the National Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. This will be China's first medium-sized astronomical instrument installed overseas.

The primary function of the SLR is the measurement of precise distances between laser telescopes and reflectors on passing satellites. Built in China, testing of the instrument showed that its accuracy is up to the international laser ranging standard.

SLR is the most important geodetic instrument for the establishment of an accurate global geodetic infrastructure and earth monitoring science, said experts.

SLR is mainly used in monitoring earth rotation and polar motion, modelling the temporal and spatial variation of the earth's gravity field, and the determination of ocean and earth tides, experts explained.

However, most SLR instruments are located in the northern hemisphere. The observatory of San Juan University is an excellent place for SLR, for the clear and dry air there, said experts. — *MNA/Xinhua*

World's largest watch, clock fair stages in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 9 Sept— The 24th Hong Kong Watch and Clock Fair unveiled here Wednesday, bringing 807 exhibitors from 17 countries or regions to the biggest fair of its kind in the world.

Organized by Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC), this year's participants at the five-day show include newcomers from Jordan and Russia. The TDC also made arrangements for 45 buying missions, comprising more than 1,600 buyers from 32 major markets, to visit this year's fair.

According to David Turnbull, TDC council member, watch and clock dealers everywhere regard Hong Kong as one of the best sourcing centres for timepieces. Last year, the export value of watch and clock totalled six billion US dollars in Hong Kong.

Turnbull noted that

Hong Kong is able to stay ahead of the competition because its companies never stop upgrading the quality, design and output of their products.

These companies are also exceptionally fast in responding to customers' needs, he added.

He acknowledged that Hong Kong manufacturers were broadening their range of products. Many have also developed their own brands to raise their competitiveness in the world's market. Over 80 Hong Kong brand names are displayed on the fair, 34 per cent up over the figure of last year.

— *MNA/Xinhua*



A Pakistani woman looks out of a decorated taxi bus in Rawalpindi's Saddar Bazaar, east of the capital Islamabad, on 9 September, 2005.—INTERNET

Malaysian Govt to enhance competitiveness of MSC

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Sept— The Malaysian Government will embark on several initiatives to build the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) into a more attractive and competitive investment destination, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said on Thursday.

The MSC Bill of Guarantees will soon be updated and the government will re-examine the package of incentives to create a better investor-friendly environment, Badawi was quoted as saying by local media.

"Furthermore, we are strengthening the funding landscape by ensuring adequate and affordable funding at all levels and for all types of firms, although particular emphasis will be given to pre-seed funding and small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) respectively," Badawi said at the opening ceremony of the MSC International Advisory Panel Meeting in the State of Penang. In line with the efforts to strengthen MSC's position as the centre for Information and Communica-

tions Technology (ICT), the Malaysian Government will continue to develop key ICT growth areas, Badawi said.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister encouraged those business leaders and ICT talents attending the meeting to tap the potential in biotechnology-related fields, noting that the combination of ICT and biotechnology can help create a competitive biotechnology industry.

The sales of MSC companies exceeded 1.6 billion US dollars in the year 2004, underlining the rapid growth of the ICT industry in Malaysia, Badawi said. Malaysia's ICT sector grew by 8.3 per cent last year, higher than the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 7.1 per cent in 2004, Badawi added. — *MNA/Xinhua*

UN raises alarm on death squads and torture in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 9 Sept— The United Nations raised the alarm on Thursday about mounting violence in Iraq blamed on pro-government militias and urged the authorities to look into reports of systematic torture in police stations.

In a bi-monthly human rights report, released on a day when 14 more victims of "extrajudicial executions" were found near Baghdad, the

UN Assistance Mission for Iraq also said "mass arrests" by US and Iraqi forces, and long detentions without charge, could damage support for the new political system.

"Corpses appear regularly in and around Baghdad and other areas. Most bear signs of torture and appear to be victims of extrajudicial executions," it said, noting incidents reported after arrests by "forces linked to the Ministry of Interior". "Serious allegations of extra-judicial executions ... underline a deterioration in the situation of law and order."

The Shi'ite-led government has denied accusations from the once dominant Sunni Arab minority that it tolerates sec-

tarian death squads among police forces. It has admitted that abuses do occur but has vowed to crack down. Sunni guerillas are also accused of mass killings of civilians and security personnel.

Sunni leaders were angered when 36 bound and blindfold men were found tortured and shot near the Iranian border two weeks ago. On Thursday, police said they found 14 bodies, similarly tied, some of them policemen, in a farm stream south of Baghdad. Doctors in nearby Mahmudiya, where the bodies were taken, said the deaths appeared to have taken place two days earlier.

— *MNA/Reuters*

Cambodia celebrates Int'l Literacy Day

PHNOM PENH, 9 Sept— Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Thursday urged the whole country to pay a special attention on those over age and drop-out children to prevent newly illiterates.

8 September is the International Literacy Day and also Cambodia's Literacy Day. More than 3,000 people gathered at the beautiful Hun Sen Parks in the capital to celebrate the event Prime Minister Hun Sen delivered an important speech at the gathering.

Citing there are three main challenges in the informal education system, the Premier called on providing opportunity and chance to over age and the drop-out children to be re-integrated into formal education system to prevent newly illiterates.

Hun Sen also urged to provide knowledge which is tied closely with the development of life-supporting skills for those matured literate, by focusing especially on women, vulnerable families, youths and remote communities.

"I would like to stress that this activity is an important factor in preventing youths from falling into drugs experimentation, sex-trafficking robbery and violence," the Premier said.

Education Minister Kol Pheng said that Cambodia's illiterates in 2003 reached to 32 per cent of the population of 12 million. "With the efforts made by the government more than 5,200 literacy classes were set up for more than 105,000 people in 2004, helping 76,000 people eliminate illiteracy, among them 53,000 were women or girls," he said.

"Though Cambodia has achieved remarkable success in eliminating illiteracy, it still has a long way to go," Kol Pheng stressed, adding that "the major challenge is to increase the school enrollment of female child and the children in poverty areas". — *MNA/Xinhua*



A mounted policeman watches over a line of several thousand people in the hot sun waiting to get disaster relief funds from the American Red Cross at the Astrodome complex in New Orleans on 8 September, 2005. —INTERNET

First Aid with Vulnerable (Marginalized) People

Tekkatho Zaw Htoo Oo

First aid is the basic medical treatment which is given to a person as soon as possible after he has been hurt in an accident or suddenly fallen ill before being sent to a hospital or a clinic or given proper treatment.

A method accepted by the entire medical profession, first aid was introduced with the aims — to save lives, to prevent illness or wounds from getting worse, and to recover soonest.

Brought in by a German medical officer, first aid is an essential life-saving method, beneficial to individuals and families, communities, workers in any occupations, and people in situations likely to face hazards.

Dr Esmarch was the chief medical officer of the German army in service during the Franco-Prussian war. Based on his experiences and the facts he found during the war, he compiled books on first aid for the wounded and battlefield first aid. First, it came as a method, giving primary treatment to the wounded soldiers to prevent their condition from getting worse before arriving at the base military hospitals. But now, first aid has been in wider use in the civilian life.

After witnessing the horrors of the battle of Solferino, Henry Dunant suggested to send an adequate number of medical corps to the battle fronts, and to train in advance volunteers to help medical corps in the event of a war. As his suggestions led to the emergence of voluntary Red Cross brigades, he was called the father of Red Cross movement.

First aid, the idea that was born in the

battle fields, is now a life-saving method in all emergency cases also in the civilian society, and also standing as the symbol of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies movement.

In all seriousness, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with 181 member nations, designated the First Aid Day to honour its method of saving lives.

In the year 2000, Red Cross societies of 16

The 12th International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Conference held in Geneva in October 1999, laid down the First Aid Policy. Based on the policy, the national Red Cross societies of member nations drafted their own work programmes or policies. The Myanmar Red Cross Society laid down its policy in 2003.

European countries held the First Aid Day. The following year saw the participation of Red Cross societies of Central American nations. And in 2003, the First Aid Day was observed with the sponsorship of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. All the global Red Cross societies have agreed to hold the First Aid Day simultaneously at 11 am local time on Saturday the second week of September every year.

In the years 2003 and 2004, the First Aid Day was observed with the motto — First Aid: a gesture of humanity which makes the difference. Myanmar observed the Day in all states and divisions.

This year's motto is — First Aid with Vulnerable (Marginalized) People. Myanmar is holding First Aid skill competitions, demonstrations, essay and poem competitions and talks.

In this age, the Red Cross activities cover not only the victims to disasters, but also the vulnerable. The Red Cross at present is conducting community-based social health tasks in addition to its ordinary functions of helping and caring the victims.

The 12th International Federation of Red Cross and national Red Crescent Societies Conference held in Geneva in October 1999, laid down the First Aid Policy. Based on the policy, the Red Cross societies of member nations drafted their own work programmes or policies. The Myanmar Red Cross Society laid down its policy in 2003.

The MRCS is implementing its three tasks — to enhance health care, to prevent diseases, and to help the victims— according to the objective "Poverty alleviation". People can be beneficial to their own families and the society through dissemination of the First Aid and public participation. And with this article, I honour the World First Aid Day.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon:10-9-2005

Two killed in military plane crash in Cyprus

NICOSIA, 10 Sept— At least two people were killed in an army aircraft crash in a village west of the Cyprus southern coastal town Limassol on Saturday.

Marios Karoyan, director of the presidential press officer, told reporters that the two dead are believed to be the pilots of two PC-9 training aircraft of the National Guard.

Witnesses said they saw a small

plane circle over the village twice before crashing into a building site, adding that at least one newly-built house was ablaze and the plane first touched the roof of a nearby church.

Defence Minister Kyriakos Mavroniolas and National Guard Commander Lieutenant-General Alhanasios Nikolodemos have rushed to the area.

MNA/Xinhua

At least 13 killed in plane crash in Republic of Congo

KINSHASA, 10 Sept— A total of 13 passengers and crew have been killed after an Ukrainian-built plane crashed north of the Republic of Congo, sources from Brazzaville said on Saturday.

The Antonov 26, registered in neighbouring the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), went down 50 km north of Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of Congo, on Friday afternoon, the sources who asked to be anonymous said.

So far 13 dead bodies have been found by rescue workers, he said including the four-person Ukrainian crew. The cause of the crash was not immediately clear. On Monday, a Russian-made Antonov 26 plane crashed in northeastern DRC, killing all 11 people on board, according to the country's civil aviation authority.

The aircraft crashed near the town of Isiro, some 300 km northeast of the provincial capital of Kisangani shortly before landing early on Monday.—MNA/Xinhua

Tropical storm "Ophelia" weakens off Florida

MIAMI, 10 Sept— Hurricane Ophelia weakened into a tropical storm and began to creep away from Florida's Atlantic Coast on Friday but forecasters said it could return to the US coast as a stronger hurricane next week.

Ophelia had top winds of 65 mph (104), down from 75 mph (120 kph) a day earlier, but was expected to strengthen and cross the 74-mph (118-kph) threshold to regain hurricane status, the National Hurricane Centre said.

At 8 am (1200 GMT), Ophelia's centre was about 115 miles (184 kilometres) east of Daytona Beach, Florida.

It had been parked in the same spot for three days and began drifting northeast on Friday, inching away from the US coast. But Ophelia was expected to loop back toward the United States next week. Forecasting models disagreed on its path and potential intensity but one had Ophelia strengthening into a major hurricane with winds of at least 111 mph (178 kph) on Sunday.

"It is too early to be specific about which areas might ultimately be affected by Ophelia, but ... interests from Florida through the Carolinas will need to monitor Ophelia for the next several days," the National Hurricane Centre said in its advisory.

With the US Gulf Coast still in the early stages of recovering from the 29 August Hurricane Katrina, there was some concern as Ophelia formed that it could pose a threat to that region.

But Hurricane Centre meteorologist Eric Blake said, "Right now we don't have anything that takes it into the Gulf."

Tropical storm warnings, alerting residents that the outer edges of the storm could hit them within 24 hours, were posted for a 120-mile (190 kilometres) stretch of Florida's Atlantic coast from Sebastian Inlet to Flagler Beach.

Forecasters said Ophelia could trigger dangerous rip tides all along the southeastern coast of the United States.

Some of Ophelia's outer squalls lashed northeast Florida on Thursday. The storm churned up pounding waves that worsened erosion on beaches already hit by some of the six hurricanes that have crisscrossed Florida in the last 13 months.—MNA/Reuters

Thanks to concerted efforts of national race...

(from page 1)

the respective regions and local people in carrying out development tasks of the country, more and more progress has been made in economic, social, education and health sectors with peace and stability prevailing in the Union.

Local people should take pride in their region because local food sufficiency was 139.10 per cent in Langkho District and local edibles oil sufficiency 189.82 per cent in 2004-05 fiscal year. It can be said that good sufficient results could be made in the region because of harmo-

nious cooperation between departmental personnel and local farmers. Hence, all are to maintain the momentum of their progress.

He continued to say that departments concerned and local people are to manage their affairs on self-reliant basis by practising the disciplined democratic system to contribute towards peace and stability and development of the nation. Therefore, mass meeting is to be held monthly to present desires of departmental personnel and local people to serve interests of the region and the nation, and

from now on concerted efforts are to be made harmoniously for achieving success through co-ordinated works.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win cordially conversed with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party oversaw thriving monsoon paddy, maize, green gram, groundnut and seasonal crops along Mongnai-Namsang Road.

Next, they arrived at the work site for construction of extension of Namsang-Loilem section on Meiktila-Taunggyi-Loilem-Namsang-Kengtung-Tachilek Road. Shan State Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Htay reported on maintenance of the road, road extension tasks and dredging of drains along the road section. Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended to their needs and inspected construction



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presents gifts to delegates of national race group-9 in Shan State (South). — MNA

tasks with the use of heavy machinery. He inspected Namsang-Loilem-Hopong-Taunggyi Road by car.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met with representatives of nine local national race groups in Shan State (South) at Panglong Yeiktha of Eastern Command Headquarters in Taunggyi.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that the Tatmadaw Government is

striving for uplift of living standard of the entire national people and development of the region including Shan State (South). Thanks to the concerted efforts of national race leaders and local people, sector-wise development is seen in states and divisions.

Emphasis is being placed on regional development tasks such as construction of roads and bridges, providing health care and fulfilling re-

quirements of education and social matters to the local people.

He urged them to strive with Union Spirit and nationalism for performing tasks of the National Convention, which will be reconvened soon, for serving the interests of the State.

Next, he presented souvenirs to the representatives of the national race groups, and had dinner together with the representatives. — MNA

Departments concerned and local people are to solve their affairs on self-reliant basis by practising the discipline-flourishing democratic system to contribute towards peace and stability and development of the nation.

Upgrading cinemas of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise coordinated

YANGON, 10 Sept — A coordination meeting on upgrading cinemas of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise was held at the Ministry of Information yesterday.

Present were Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, officials of MMPE, chairman of Myanma Motion Picture Asiayon



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses the meeting to coordinate modernization of cinema halls of MMPE. — MNA

and members, film producers, mediapersons and guests. First, Minister for

Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered an address. He explained the objectives of the meeting. He said cinemas in the country are to be upgraded. Some countries produced films not only for public entertainment but for export. Therefore film production has become an industry that earns foreign exchange most.

He said in the country film industry has not developed enough. He spoke of the need for producers to make films of high standard and for proprietors to upgrade their cinemas. Now some Myanmar films are being

screened in foreign countries. With the harmonious development of production and screening, the producers and those in the film world will gain benefits.

The minister spoke at length on five objectives to be implemented by MMPE for development of the film world, twelve basic principles to be undertaken by MMPE for realization of the above-mentioned objectives, five points to be followed by film producers and proprietors and eight points to upgrade the cinemas.

He said the propri-

etors of the cinemas are to undertake them in cooperation with MMPE and MMP Asiayon. The ministry would provide necessary assistance, he added.

Next, the minister greeted owners of the cinemas and those who lease the cinemas. Managing Director of MMPE U Bo Kyi reported on requirements for upgrading the cinemas.

Those present reported on difficulties encountered and gave suggestions. Managing Director of MMPE U Bo Kyi and officials of MMPE took part in the discussions.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan has a cordial conversation with entrepreneurs who hire government-owned movie theatres. — MNA

Efforts are to be made...

(from page 16)
carried out for meeting the target this season. The plan for next year is to be drawn to grow 1.2 million acres by adding 100,000 acres, and preparations are to be made for next year's cultivation tasks.

In addition to three species of pea and three species of edible oil crops, tasks are to be undertaken for extension of seasonal crops and boosting of production. Efforts are to be made for planting 30,000 acres of rubber within three years to meet the target of 100,000 acres of rubber. Cultivation of pepper are

to be extended on 5,000 acres each yearly.

With regard to the livestock breeding tasks, Rakhine State has 150,000 acres of prawn breeding ponds. In breeding sea prawn, production must be increased without damaging farmlands. In conclusion, he urged departmental personnel joining hands with local people to perform development of the state in addition to the departmental duties.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to the site of construction for Kyauktan Bridge on An-Sittway

Road and inspected the construction tasks.

Kyauktan Bridge is 452 feet and 5 inches long and 30 feet wide. It will have 24 feet wide motor road and three feet pedestrian way on either side. The bridge is of reinforced concrete and it can withstand 60-ton loads. Bridge Construction Project Special Group-10 is building the bridge meeting the set standard.

In Ponnagyun, they met with departmental personnel, social organizations, local people and officials of the township rice dealers association at the hall of Township Peace and Development Council.

After hearing the



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects the cultivation of pepper of Myanmar Agriculture Service in Ponnagyun.—MNA

With regard to the livestock breeding tasks, Rakhine State has 150,000 acres of prawn breeding ponds. In breeding sea prawn, production must be increased without damaging farmlands. Departmental personnel were urged to join hands with local people to perform development of the state in addition to the departmental duties.

reports matters related to the township, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions.

Ponnagyun Township has put 63,154 acres of land under monsoon paddy, 527 acres under rubber, 495 under Thitseint (Belleric myrobalan), and 1,575 acres under pepper.

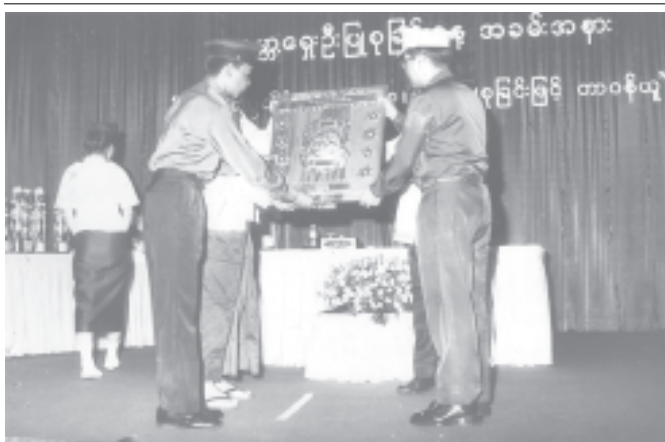
At Pepper Cultivation Farm of Myanmar Agriculture Service, they viewed round nurturing of pepper and rubber saplings. At the worksite of Yangon-Sittway section-3 (Myaungbwe-Sittway), Senior Engineer U Soe Tin reported on maintenance of the roads in MraukU, Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun and Sittway townships and the plan to be implemented in open season. Superintending Engineer U Khin Maung gave a supplementary report.

They arrived Kyauktaw in the evening, and met with departmental officials, local people and social organizations at Kyauktaw Township PDC Office. Officials briefed him on matters related to the township. After attending to their needs, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions.

Kyauktaw Township has cultivated 91,996 acres of monsoon paddy by exceeding the target on 28 August. The township grew 968 acres of pepper in 2004. This year,

250,000 pepper saplings have been distributed to village-tracts and departmental officials concerned for growing them on 300 acres of land. In addition, 35,000 pepper saplings are being nurtured. The township planted 91 acres of rubber and the plan is under way to extend 480 acres of rubber. Furthermore, the township put 530 acres of land under sugarcane for 2005-06, and arrangements have been made for growing 1,500 acres of sugarcane.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepts the trophy that won in inter-state/division World First Aid Day (2005) commemorative nursing skills, parade and first aid competitions. — MNA

Yangon Division commemorates...

(from page 16)
Officer (Grade II) U Kyaw Myint and an official, the championship trophy won in the parade competition, to the Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Next, the commander presented the first prize for the best performance in organizing largest permanent membership to mark Yangon Division World First Aid Day

(2005) commemorative celebration to Thakayta Township, the second prize, to Dagon Myothit (East) Township, and the third prize, to Botahtaung Township.

MRCS President Dr Hla Myint, Division RC Supervisory Committee Chairman Dr Hla Myint, Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, wife of the Yangon mayor, and officials presented gifts to those who

won prizes in inter-state/division World First Aid Day (2005) commemorative nursing skills, parade and first aid competitions Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Member Daw Khin Myint Wai presented K 100,000 donated by the association to the Division RC Supervisory Committee through Secretary of the Supervisory Committee Dr Than Win.

MNA

Deputy Minister meets staff of Immigration and Population Department

YANGON, 10 Sept—Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung met with staff of the Immigration and Population Department at the offices of Thayawady District IPD in Thayawady and Bago (East) IPD in Pyay on 4 September and staff of Chauk Township IPD, Pakokku Township IPD and Seikphyu Township IPD at the respective IPD offices on 5 September and gave instructions. The deputy minister and party on 6 September met with staff of Yesagy Township IPD and gave necessary instructions to officials.

On 7 September, the minister

met staff of Natmauk Township IPD and Yenangaung Township IPD and looked into functions of those departments. At the office of Magway Division IPD, he met with staff of division, district and township IPDs and gave necessary instructions.

The deputy minister and party on 8 September met with the Magway Division In-charge of WFP that is cooperating with the ministry and briefed him on the work policy.

On his way back to Yangon, the deputy minister inspected offices of the departments under the ministry and arrived back here in the evening.—MNA

Industry-1 Minister inspects Pakokku textile and garment factory

YANGON, 10 Sept — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung arrived at Pakokku textile and garment factory of Myanmar Textile Industries in Magway Division yesterday morning and inspected the installation of machines, test running and collecting of raw materials. After inspection, the

minister gave necessary instructions.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports on progress of the project and presented the basket of fruits to Chinese technicians. On arrival at Pakokku dyeing and printing factory, the minister inspected garment products of the factory. — MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung inspects the worksite of Pakokku textile and garment factory of Myanmar Textile Enterprise. — MNA

Cash donated for construction of Theindawgyi building of Aung San Pariyatti Sarthintaik in Shwepyitha township

YANGON, 10 Sept— The first cash donation ceremony for construction of the three-storey Gantha Vacaka Theindawgyi building of Aung San Tawra Pariyatti Sarthintaik in Shwepyitha township, Yangon North District took place at the Sarthintaik this morning. Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended the ceremony and accepted the donations.

Present on the occasion were Shwepyitha township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Shwemyowin Zeegon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kusala and members of the Sangha, Deputy Min-



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and congregation share merits gained for cash donations to build Ganthavacaka three-storey ordination hall.—MNA

ister for Religious Affairs Thura Aung Ko, YCDC Vice-Chairman Vice Mayor Col Maung Pa, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, local authorities and public wellwishers.

On the occasion,

Sayadw of Aung San Tawra Pariyatti Sarthintaik Agga Maha Gantha Vacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Sujata invested the congregation with the Eight Precepts. The commander and party offered alms to the

Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

For construction of the three-storey Theindawgyi building of Aung San Tawra Pariyatti Sarthintaik, Yangon Division PDC and public wellwishers donated K

20,721,000. The commander, the deputy minister, the vice-mayor and officials accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the donors. The chairman of the committee for construction of the

Theindawgyi reported on arrangements being made for construction of the building. Then the ceremony came to a close after the Zeegon Sayadaw had delivered a sermon to the congregation.

MNA

Foreign Minister leaves for New York

YANGON, 10 Sept— Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win left here by air for New York this evening to attend High-Level Plenary Meeting and General Debate of the Sixtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held at the United Nations in New York.

The minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Resident Representative Mr Tang Zhengping of FAO and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Minister U Nyan Win will also attend the



Minister U Nyan Win seen off at the airport. — MNA

Informal Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers, the Second ASEAN-UN Summit, High-Level Plenary and Round Table Discussions, the Asia Co-operation Dialogue (ACD), the Non-Align

Movement Heads of Delegation, the Group of 77 Annual Meeting of the Foreign Ministers, and the Meeting of the International Committee for the Development of Lumbini.—MNA

Culture Minister receives Korean Ambassador



Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung meets with Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-heum.

MNA

YANGON, 10 Sept— Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung received Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Ju-heum at the Ministry on Kaba Aye Pogoda Road, here, this morning.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Director-General U Myint Thein Swe of the Department of Cultural Institute, Director-General U Ngwe Tun of

the Fine Arts Department, Rector of University of Culture (Yangon) U Tin Soe, Deputy Director-General U Tun Zaw and departmental officials.

MNA



Certificates awarding ceremony for completion of Special Nurse Aid Training Course (17th Batch) conducted by Maha Mya Kyun Tha Academic Centre in progress at the MICT Park on 8-9-2005. H

China's lunar probe programme facing 3 major difficulties

BEIJING, 10 Sept— China is expected to launch its first ever lunar probe satellite in 2007, but the programme is still experiencing three major difficulties, said Luan Enjie, chief commander of the lunar satellite project here on Wednesday.

At the opening ceremony of the postgraduate research institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Luan said the three technological difficulties involve orbiting, observation and control of the satellite, and its capacity to endure the lunar environment.

"The moon is 380,000 kilometres away from the earth. Sending the satellite there is a test of China's deep space exploration capability," said Luan.

The lunar environment is quite different from earth's. The difference in temperature on the moon is 300 Celsius degrees. The satellite will orbit the moon at a speed of 120 minutes per cycle. The components of the satellite will be severely tested, said Luan.

"Although China has achieved great progress in aerospace development, more hard work is needed to accomplish the lunar probe programme," said Luan.

He encouraged post-graduate students in China's top research organ to study hard to contribute their part to the lunar probe project and other scientific researches. The State Council, China's central government, approved the country's first lunar probe programme in 2004. A lunar probe engineering centre was set up in Beijing in August this year by the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence. The satellite programme, which has a budget of 1.4 billion yuan (about 170 million US dollars), is part of the country's three-stage lunar project.

China's first lunar satellite was designed to obtain three-dimensional images of the lunar surface, analyze the content of useful elements and materials, and probe the depth of the lunar soil and the space environment between the earth and the moon. — MNA/Xinhua

Bankers say world economies weathering soaring oil

CALGARY (Alberta), 10 Sept — Oil prices that surged past 70 US dollars a barrel in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina will create some pressure on world economies, but not to a devastating degree, the central bankers of China, Canada and France said on Friday.

China's booming demand for crude, driven by its brisk economic growth, was a key factor in the run-up in crude prices before the hurricane hobbled US oil output in the Gulf of Mexico, and that thirst is expected keep growing.

But sky-high prices will likely not cut into growth that is now expected to surpass the Chinese central bank's and government's target of 8 percent, Zhou Xiaochuan, governor of the People's Bank of China, told reporters after speaking to a round-table forum of business and government leaders. China has large coal reserves, which can offset shortages in crude oil, much of which it imports,

Zhou said. "I don't think the high energy prices will have a substantial impact to the economic growth rate," he told reporters.

However, energy prices at today's levels stand to create some inflationary pressure as China proceeds with the liberalization of its currency, a process it began this year.

Inflation in China has been in the 2-per-cent to 2.5-per-cent range, which is in line with major economies around the world, Zhou said. Oil prices have climbed 50 per cent this year due to a combination of demand, driven by economic growth and tight production capacity in OPEC and non-OPEC countries.

US crude cleared 70 US dollars after Hurricane Katrina damaged production and refining facilities in the US Gulf of Mexico. Crude closed down 41 cents at 64.08 US dollars on Friday.

Zhou, Bank of Canada Governor David Dodge and Bank of France Governor Christian Noyer spoke at an annual event at the lush Spruce Meadows show jumping park, nestled in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies.

Dodge, whose own central bank raised interest rates this week by a quarter of a percentage point to 2.75 per cent, said it is not so much the size of increases in oil prices that will hit economies, but the pace of the hikes.

Even with this year's jump, the rise has been gradual enough that economies have adjusted without major disruptions or runaway inflation.

MNA/Reuters

Taiwan issues sea alert as typhoon approaches

TAIBEI, 10 Sept — Taiwan issued a shipping warning on Friday as a typhoon churned towards the island, with a near direct hit expected over the weekend. As of 0900 GMT, the centre of the storm was 830 kilometres (516 miles) east of Taiwan and travelling northwest at 22 kilos per hour, with sustained winds of up to 144 kph and maximum gusts of 180 kph, the Central Weather Bureau said.

"There will be showers tomorrow in the north and east due to the typhoon. The wind and rain will gradually grow stronger tomorrow night," the bureau said in a statement.

Tropical Storm Risk storm tracker predicted the eye of the storm would sweep past the north of the island late on Saturday, with the capital Taibei taking a heavy swipe.

Typhoons frequently hit Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong and southern China during a typhoon season that lasts from early summer to late autumn. Financial markets, government offices, schools and businesses have had to shut three times this year due to typhoons. — MNA/Reuters

Greece says vocational training key to social development

ATHENS, 10 Sept — The Greek Government said on Thursday that vocational training is the key that would open the way to social and economic development in Europe, *Athens* news agency reported.

During a seminar at the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training held on Thursday in Thessaloniki, Greek Employment Minister Panos Panagiotopoulos said that investing in human resources was the greatest challenge facing Greece and the other member states of the European Union.

This would result in societies with more employment, minimal joblessness and very great social cohesion, he added.

This view was also echoed by European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism Jin Figel.

He told the audience via teleconferencing that the foundation stone of the new European structure and a more competitive European economy was life-long learning, vocational education and training.

MNA/Xinhua

Typhoon "Khanun" expected to hit Fujian Province

FUZHOU, 10 Sept — Typhoon Khanun, the No 15 strong tropical storm of this year, is expected to hit the central-northern parts of Fujian Province on Sunday afternoon, according to weather forecasts.

Typhoon Khanun is approaching the province at a speed of 15 kilometres per hour from the eastern sea region off Taiwan, and the provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters has urged all-out efforts to make preparations.

Typhoon Khanun has so far reached force 12 which is likely to further strengthen and will bring

along heavy precipitation to the province, said the provincial weather station.

Liang Qiping, deputy governor of the province, urged officials in the province to work hard to mobilize the local people in making preparations to fight the upcoming typhoon.

The provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters has asked all

the ships and vessels operating on the sea nearby to return or take shelters in ports before 18:00 Saturday and all the personnel working at the offshore breeding fields to get onshore. The headquarters also urged the people in mountainous areas to prepare against possible mountain torrents, mud-rock flows and geological disasters. — MNA/Xinhua



Members of the "Halau Hula Olana" perform during the opening ceremony of the Aloha Festival at the Iolani Palace in Honolulu on 8 September, 2005. The Aloha Festival, Hawaii's largest festival, showcases Hawaii's music, dance and history. — INTERNET

Cyprus criticizes Britain for being partial to Turkey

NICOSIA, 10 Sept — Cyprus criticized current EU President Britain on Thursday for its handling of Turkey's refusal to recognize the Republic of Cyprus.

"The presidency needs to show impartiality and bear in mind the collective interests of the EU and not the interests it has by securing the opening of accession talks between Turkey and the EU," Cypriot Government spokesman Kypros Chrysostomides told reporters. Cyprus is pressing the EU to make a satisfactory counter-declaration to Turkey's July declaration that it does not recognize the southern Greek Cypriot Government, which entered the EU representing the whole island on 1 May, 2004.

However, the EU members have so far failed to reach an agreement on the wording of the counter-statement. The spokesman said the Cypriot Government will continue efforts for a clear and unconditional counter-statement, noting that it is EU's collective responsibility to defend the principles and foundations on which it is

based on. Cyprus is also threatening to block Turkey's EU entry talks slated for 3 October, for the start of accession talks need all members states to agree on a negotiating mandate.

"It (Britain) forgets that unanimity is required to adopt the statement and subsequently unanimity for Turkey's negotiating framework," Chrysostomides said.

Turkey has signed a key protocol extending its customs union with the EU to the ten new EU members, including the Republic of Cyprus.

However, Ankara claims its signature of the protocol does not mean recognizing the Cypriot Government.

Cyprus has been divided into the south Greek Cyprus and north Turkish Cyprus since 1974, when Turkey sent troops to take control of one third of the island following a failed Greek Cypriot coup seeking union with Greece.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to make garment changes next year

HANOI, 10 Sept — Vietnam's garment and textile industry will shift production to rural areas and to high-value product lines and seek more direct sales next year instead of heavily relying on outsourcing orders.

"If Vietnam simply turns out low-cost garments for foreign partners, its products cannot compete with Chinese ones," an official of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (Vitas) told *Xinhua* on Thursday, adding that the country will, from 2006, produce more value-added items.

Local garment and textile producers will also make more products by themselves, instead of relying too much on outsourcing contracts of foreign companies, the official said, noting that, by doing that, they will earn greater export revenues.

In 2006, a number of garment factories will be located in rural areas, the official said, explaining that many existing facilities in urban areas have recently faced severe labour shortage.

Recently, the Vitas said if Vietnam is quick at expanding export markets, boosting local production and increasing the proportion of processed and locally-made components in export items, it can reap garment and textile export turnovers of eight-10 billion US dollars in 2010.

Garment and textile producers in Vietnam, which recorded local sales of 1.1 billion US dollars and export turnovers of nearly 4.4 billion US dollars last year, earned over three billion US dollars from exporting their products to over 100 countries and regions in the first eight months of this year, a year-on-year rise of 7 per cent, the Vitas said.

By late 2003, Vietnam had 1,050 garment and textile enterprises with a total workforce of more than two million. By that time, the country's garment and textile industry had attracted nearly 400 foreign-invested projects with a total registered capital of roughly one billion dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (090)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (090) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-9-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

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Crouching tiger,
hidden donkey

BEIJING, 9 Sept— The cat is out of the bag at a restaurant in northeast China that had been serving donkey meat spiked with tiger urine in pricey dishes advertised as endangered Siberian tigers.

Local media in Heilongjiang Province got wind that the restaurant was offering stir-fried dishes and medicinal liquor made from tiger meat and bones, sparking local police and health inspectors to pounce, the *China Daily* said on Thursday. "After inspection, the owner confessed that the so-called tiger meat was donkey meat that had been dressed with tiger urine to give the dish a 'special' flavour," the newspaper said.

The restaurant had been charging as much as 800 yuan (100 US dollars) a dish for the illegal, "rare" fare, tapping into traditional Chinese belief that tiger meat has aphrodisiacal

properties.

The restaurant was shut down and fined and the director of the nearby Hengdaohezi Siberian Tiger Park, China's largest centre for breeding the highly endangered animals, reassured the public there was no way meat from its big cats had made its way to the dinner table, the newspaper said. Only a few hundred Siberian tigers are believed to be alive in the wild in their native habitats of northern China, southern Russia and parts of North Korea. The report did not explain where the tiger urine had come from or how it was collected.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam to
rescue local
sailors hijacked
in Somali

HANOI, 9 Sept— The Vietnamese Government will take all necessary measures to rescue four local sailors who have just been kidnapped in Somali, said a spokesman on Wednesday.

"The government is deeply concerned about the kidnapped sailors' situation. We will cooperate with Taiwan and relevant sides to quickly rescue and ensure safety for their life and property," the spokesman of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, Le Dung, said when answering questions on Vietnam's reaction to the issue.

The ministry has directed local diplomatic agencies in Africa, especially in Tanzania, the nearest country to Somali, to get to know the situation of the sailors, he said, noting that according to the latest information, all of them are still safe.

Three Taiwanese fishing boats, whose crew include 47 people from Taiwan, Mainland, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, were hijacked by Somali pirates on Monday.

The pirates asked the ransom of 500,000 US dollars for each boat to release the hostages.

MNA/Xinhua

9th China Int'l Fair for
Investment, Trade opens in Xiamen

XIAMEN (Fujian), 9 Sept— Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan rotated the launching golden key on Thursday morning at the Xiamen International Exhibition Centre, officially declaring the curtain-up of the ninth China International Fair for Investment and Trade.

The fair is sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and gains supports from five noted international economic organizations including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA).

According to the organizing committee, the fair provides 1,500 inter-

national standardized exhibition booths, which are divided into five sections for different fields of investment.

Delegations from more than 60 countries and regions are attending the fair, an increase of nearly 40 per cent as against the eighth fair.

Starting from this year, the word "international" is added to the name of this annual fair to show its growing international influence, the organizing committee said.

An International Investment Forum is held after the opening ceremony, with the theme of

encouraging scientific and technological innovation and promoting mutual progress.

About 60 other symposiums and forums concerning the hot issues in investment will be held during this four-day fair.

In the meantime, the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Trade and Investment Exposition, which is proposed by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, is also to kick off during the fair, with the aim to improve the understanding between countries from the two continents and expand the trade and investment cooperation. —MNA/Xinhua

Greece announces plans
to promote use of natural gas

ATHENS, 10 Sept— The Greek Government vowed on Thursday to expand the use of natural gas and to reduce the country's dependence on oil given the rocketing oil prices.

A joint ministerial decision signed by Development Minister Dimitris Sioufas, Interior Minister Prokopis Pavlopoulos and Economy and Finance Minister George Alogoskoufis called for connection, by 30 April, 2006, of all public sector buildings with a natural gas network to replace the use of heating oil.

Under the decision, the

three ministers also announced a plan to expand a programme of installing condensers throughout the country to all public sector buildings by 30 April, 2006 with an aim to further strengthen the nationwide electricity system.

Sioufas told reporters that the moves were two significant initiatives in the framework of a new energy policy in Greece.

The oil prices on the global market had soared to a record high of 70 US dollars a barrel after Hurricane Katrina hit the Mexican Gulf and the southern United States late last month.

Development Ministry secretary-general Nikos Stephanou will be the main coordinator of the project.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia Airlines unveils
medical travel package

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 Sept— Malaysia Airlines (MAS) on Thursday joined hands with a local medical centre and launched a medical travel package in a bid to attract patients overseas.

The Malaysia's national carrier signed a memorandum of understanding with the Heart, Stroke and Cancer (HSC) Medical Centre for that purpose at its headquarters here.

The package is highly attractive to people in Vietnam, Indonesia and some 1,000 patients are expected to arrive in Malaysia with the package during the first year, MAS assistant general manager of marketing support Raja Nordiana Zainal Shah told a Press conference after the signing of the memo.

The package will cost

less for overseas customers, she added.

Under the memo, five diagnostic packages are offered with each including a medical check-up accommodation with daily breakfast return airfare and airport transfers.

HSC executive director Yin Chow Lim said that since its founding about two and a half years ago, HSC has received more than 12,000 patients and about 60 per cent of them were foreigners.

Lim said the average spending per patient for medical check-up was 2,000 ringgit (526 US dol-

lars) to 3,000 ringgit (789.5 US dollars), but those going for heart treatment varied from 20,000 ringgit (5,260 US dollars) to 40,000 ringgit (910,526 US dollars).

The pricing is competitive, 50 per cent lower than in Singapore, 40 per cent lower than in Thailand, he said, noting the services, facilities and equipment involved in the package are also important.

He stressed that his centre is the first fully computerized one-stop medical, heart and diagnostic centre in the region. —MNA/Xinhua

UN says lower fertility rates
help to fight poverty

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Sept— The world's poorest countries would help raise their standard of living and give a boost to global efforts to fight poverty by reducing their fertility rates, UN demographers reported on Thursday.

While fertility has generally plummeting in developed nations, most poor countries are characterized by high fertility rates, according to a new report by the UN Population Division.

Because of the divergence, the 50 least developed countries — most of which are in sub-Saharan Africa — today account for 12 per cent of the world population but are expected to account for a quarter of the world's population growth between 2005 and 2015, the report said.

By contrast, the total world population of about 6.5 billion people, is growing by about 1.2 per cent a

year, it said.

The 50 least developed countries as a group also account for an out-sized 20 per cent of the world's people living in extreme poverty — described as surviving on less than a dollar a day, according to the report.

Yet in these countries there is strong support for government programmes such as birth control that can help families plan and control how many children they want.

"In the group of 50 least developed countries, close to 80 per cent report fertility as too high," it said. Throughout the world, "government support for policies and pro-

grammes that affect fertility has increased steadily during the last quarter-century".

Slowing population growth by bringing down fertility rates "would improve the ability of those (least developed) countries to adjust to future population increases, to combat poverty, to protect and repair the environment, and to set the conditions for sustainable development", the report concluded.

"Even the difference of a single decade in the transition to stabilization levels of fertility can have a considerable positive impact on quality of life."

MNA/Reuters

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Scientists find link between prion protein size, infectivity

LOS ANGELES, 9 Sept— Small particles of prion protein are much more efficiently infectious than large ones, yet there is also a lower size limit below which infectivity is lost, scientists reported on Wednesday.

Prions are apparently malformed proteins blamed for deadly brain diseases, such as the mad cow disease in cattle and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. Prion diseases are also known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) because the prions create holes in the brain, giving it a sponge-like appearance.

In a latest study, researchers from US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) found the link between the proteins' size and their infectivity. Their findings appear in the 8 September issue of the journal Nature.

The most infectious prions are significantly smaller than the large thread-like deposits of protein molecules readily seen in the diseased brains of infected individuals.

Scientists have known that infectious prions range widely in size, but now for the first time the researchers ranked them according to their infective efficiency, and their findings have placed new limits on the size of the smallest prion.

Prions appear to be crystal-like clus-

ters of protein molecules that can grab normal, dissolved protein molecules and convert them to a solid, crystal-like state, said Byron Caughey, senior researcher at NIAID's Rocky Mountain Laboratory.

"Although large prion particles can do this, and are infectious, you can infect many more individuals, or cause much more rapid disease in a single individual, with an equivalent weight of small prion particles," said Caughey.

"But our findings also suggest that if the protein cluster is smaller than a certain minimum size, it becomes unstable and loses its infectious properties."

Normal protein molecules found in many animals do not cause harm, but they can become lethal and destroy the brain when they refold and gather into precisely ordered clusters.

"As you increase particle size steadily from single molecules to particles containing thousands of molecules, there's a sudden jump in infectivity once you get to the minimum infectious particle size (at least six molecules per particle)," he explained.—MNA/Xinhua

Drug protects kidneys of people with diabetes

NEW YORK, 9 Sept— Kidney damage is a constant danger for people with diabetes, especially when their blood pressure is high. Now European researchers report that the addition of a drug, spironolactone, to standard blood pressure-lowering therapy for such patients helps reduce both blood pressure and the amount of albumin protein in urine, a measure of kidney impairment.

Dr Kaspar Rossing of Steno Diabetes Centre in Gentofte, Denmark, and colleagues note in the medical journal Diabetes Care that two types of antihypertensive drugs—ACE inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs)—have protective effects on the kidneys in diabetics who already have kidney damage.

These drugs work by controlling the release of a hormone called aldosterone. While they're effective initially, aldosterone levels may subsequently rise once more in almost 40 per cent of patients, resulting in greater urinary protein levels and a faster decline in kidney function. To see whether supplementary treatment with spironolactone, which is an aldosterone inhibitor, might be helpful in these circumstances, the researchers conducted a study with 21 patients with type 2 diabetes.

While the participants continued on their recommended antihypertensive treatments (which included diuretics, ACE inhibitors and ARBs), they were randomly assigned to take in addition either an inactive placebo or spironolactone for eight weeks. They then switched to the other pill for another 8 weeks.

During spironolactone treatment, urinary albumin levels fell by 33 per cent, and their upper and lower blood pressure readings fell by six and four points.

One patient developed dangerously lower potassium levels and had to be withdrawn from the study, but recovered rapidly. Otherwise, the treatment was well tolerated.

The researchers call for further studies, but conclude that in the short term, spironolactone may offer beneficial renal and cardiovascular protection.

MNA/Reuters

Russian cargo spaceship lifts off for Space Station

MOSCOW, 9 Sept— A Russian cargo spaceship blasted off Thursday with supplies for the International Space Station (ISS), the Mission Control said.

The Progress M-24 ship, carrying 2.5 tons of food, water, fuel, equipment and oxygen tanks, lifted off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 17:07 Moscow Time (1307 GMT), the ITAR-TASS news agency reported citing the Mission Control.

The cargo ship brings to the ISS a new unit of the Electron oxygen regeneration system, gear for a spacesuit-turned-satellite, which will be launched by astronauts during a spacewalk, and a modernized liquid-crystal screen.

The liquid-crystal screen is to replace an old one and will be used to monitor

operations on the space station, including the docking with the ISS of the first European spaceship, ATV, which is set to be launched next year. A day earlier, the space station jettisoned a cargo ship carrying space trash to free a docking port for the arrival of the Progress M-54, which is due to dock with the ISS at 18:50 Moscow Time (1450 GMT) Saturday.

Russian cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev and US astronaut John Phillips have been working on the station since mid-April and are due to be replaced by a new crew in October after a six-month mission.

MNA/Xinhua

Annan calls for cooperation between UN, Parliaments

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Sept — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on speakers of Parliament all over the world on Thursday to support the UN reform agenda, and to cooperate with the United Nations to make the world freer, fairer and safer.

Annan made the remarks in the address to the Second World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments which is being held at the UN Headquarters in New York.

The United Nations has contributed a lot to the peace, development and humanitarianism of the world, the Secretary-General said.

"But these important contributions must not blind us to the full extent of the challenges facing the international community," he noted, specifically referring to the challenges of poverty, terrorism, human rights, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

"Whatever progress we have made, I believe our collective responses to many of these challenges are inadequate," Annan said.

"I believe equally firmly that we have it in our power to change that."

He pointed out that economic growth and technological advance have given people the resources to tackle the problems, and advances in knowledge and understanding, combined with intensive exchange of ideas among governments, academic experts and civil society, have brought people a shared vision of many of the strategies and priorities required.

"The World Summit is an opportunity to put that vision to work, with significant advances in development, security, human rights, and institutional reform," Annan said.

"Whatever is achieved at the Summit, let us not imagine that these next few days represent the end of the process," he stressed. "Rather, this is only a beginning. We will need to turn immediately to the task of implementing what is decided."

MNA/Xinhua

Chirac leaves hospital

PARIS, 10 Sept— French President Jacques Chirac left hospital on Friday, saying he was well, but doctors have advised him not to travel by air for the next six weeks after treatment for a blood vessel problem that affected his vision.

Looking well, Chirac, 72, spoke clearly but moved slowly as he walked unaided out of the Val de Grace Military Hospital in Paris with his wife Bernadette beside him shortly after noon.

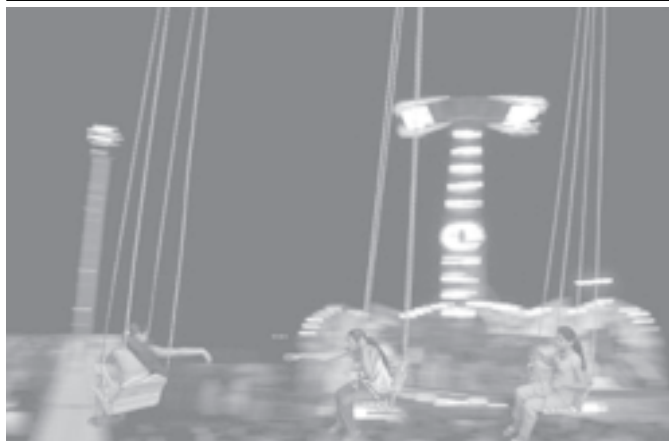
After thanking his doctors and nurses, he told waiting reporters the first thing he wanted to do was to have lunch.

"I feel very well, and I was starting to feel des-

perate to leave," Chirac said. "Time was starting to drag, especially at lunch time. I am very happy now to go and eat."

His doctors, however, have advised him not to travel by air for the next six weeks, the Defence Ministry said in a statement. That would mean he cannot fly to New York for the UN General Assembly starting next week.

MNA/Reuters



Romanians go on a ride in a merry-go-round at the annual autumn fair in Calarasi, about 120 km (74.6 miles) south-east of Bucharest, on 7 September, 2005. Romanians celebrate the completion of a successful harvest on September every year, by holding the autumn fair.—INTERNET

SPORTS



Sir Alex Ferguson of Manchester United talks to his players during a first team training session at Carrington Training Ground on 9 September, 2005, in Manchester, England. —INTERNET

United hoping to boost Asian market with new deal

MANCHESTER, 10 Sept— Manchester United hope to build on their immense popularity in the Far East and open up lucrative markets in the region after securing a sponsorship deal with Air Asia.

The Premier League club, who were taken over at the end of last season by US sports tycoon Malcolm Glazer, have agreed a one-year partnership with the Malaysian low-cost airline, with the option of a further 12 months.

United signed the deal during a pre-season tour of Asia and are hoping to reach further agreements with other partners in the

key region.

"It's the first time we have done a deal with a company based in Asia which is a huge step forward as we have such a big fanbase there," commercial director Andy Anson told a news conference on Friday.

"We have more than 40 million supporters across Asia and this deal enables us to get closer to them.

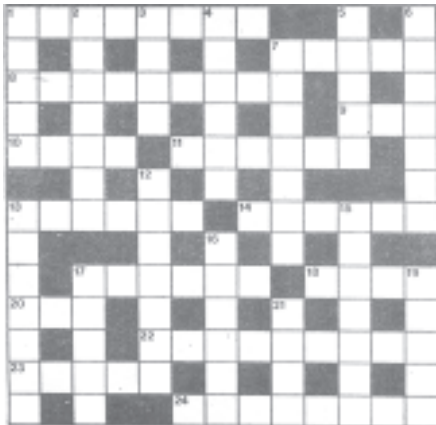
"We are probably the most supported club in Malaysia. Our supporters there are as fanatical as they are in Salford and we are keen to build on that."

He added: "With the exposure of the Premier League and Manchester United in Asia, it makes sense to talk to other Asian countries. We are looking at all major markets in Asia."

United's popularity in the region soared during the 1990s with the exploitation of the club's global brand, enhanced at that time by players such as David Beckham in the squad.

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Private
- 7 Small medicine bottle
- 8 Mooring
- 9 Indicate assent
- 10 Oven
- 11 Rough
- 13 Consternation
- 14 Apple
- 17 Lithe
- 18 Gloomy
- 20 Dram
- 22 Rotating
- 23 Darkness
- 24 Frenzy

DOWN

- 1 Mischievous trick
- 2 Remembers
- 3 Wood-wind instrument
- 4 Counting-frame
- 5 Devil
- 6 Cheer
- 7 Antarctic bird
- 12 Fortified wall
- 13 Fate
- 15 Fortune-teller
- 16 Brainy
- 17 Raised platform
- 19 Sorcery
- 21 Highland valley

Arsenal's Henry, Ljungberg to miss Boro match

LONDON COLNEY (England), 10 Sept— Arsenal forwards Thierry Henry and Freddie Ljungberg will miss the Premier League fixture against Middlesbrough on Saturday after taking part in last week's World Cup qualifiers.

"Thierry is out because he got a kick on his calf playing for France against Ireland on Wednesday, while Freddie is rested since he had two tough games for Sweden last week," manager Arsene Wenger told reporters on Friday.

Henry scored a brilliant goal to give

France their victory in Dublin, while Ljungberg played for 90 minutes in both of Sweden's victories over Bulgaria and Hungary.

"I wanted to give Alexander Hleb a rest as well, but I don't know if I can with those two out," Wenger added.

MNA/Reuters

Boa Morte extends Fulham contract

LONDON, 10 Sept— Fulham captain Luis Boa Morte has extended his contract with the Premier League side by another five years, keeping him at the London club until June 2010.

The 28-year-old Portugal forward joined Fulham five years ago after spells at Arsenal, where he helped win the double of league and FA Cup in 1998, and Southampton.

"We're not in the habit of selling our best players, we also want to plan for the future and he's a big part of that," manager Chris Coleman told the Fulham website on Friday.

"He likes it here, he likes the feel of the club and he knows that the fans absolutely idolize him...He's like a king here and rightly so — he's put the miles in over the last five years," said Coleman.



Boa Morte

Fulham are 14th in the 20-team Premier League after one win in their first four games. They are away to Newcastle United on Saturday. —MNA/Reuters

Get the calculators out, it's World Cup time

MARRAKECH (Morocco), 10 Sept— If the World Cup finals are half as intriguing as the qualifying campaign is turning out to be, fans will have to think about packing a calculator when they head for Germany next year.

With nearly 800 of almost 900 qualifiers already completed, only eight teams have definitely booked their places alongside the hosts in the finals, with just one European qualifier known for certain and none from Africa.

This qualifying campaign has been the most thrilling and closest ever with more bamboozling twists and turns than even Garrincha could conjure up when he was leaving de-

fenders with "twisted blood" weaving his magic on the wing for Brazil in the fifties and sixties.

This week more than 70 qualifiers were played around the world and just three countries — Ukraine, Mexico and the United States — secured their places in the finals.

Others are just a point away and will almost certainly accomplish their ambitions on October 8 when the next global round of

games takes place.

Most of the rest will do so on October 12 as the tension reaches fever pitch before it goes off the scale completely during the November play-offs.

Stare at some group tables long enough, such as European Group Four, and there is a danger of twisting your own blood trying to work out who from Switzerland, France, Ireland and Israel will get through.

With head to head records counting ahead of goal difference, those standings have to be read with a proviso.

Attempting to work out which two teams are likely to qualify directly as the two best European runners-up has left even those involved perplexed amid a welter of "ifs and maybes".

What it all means is that most confederations have seen their qualifying competitions evolve into fiercely contested, appropriately well-balanced campaigns for their particular regions.

It also proves that the gap between the best and the worst teams is continuing to narrow around the world.

MNA/Reuters

Terry returns to Chelsea in time for Champions League

COBHAM (England), 10 Sept— England centre back John Terry has made a quick recovery from a knee injury and will return to action with Chelsea in time for their opening Champions League game against Anderlecht next Tuesday.

Terry missed England's last two World Cup qualifiers, a scraped 1-0 win over Wales and a shock 1-0 defeat by Northern Ireland, with a knee injury picked up against Tottenham Hotspur two weeks ago.

England's medical staff, who checked him before sending him back to Chelsea for treatment, said he might be out for a month, which would have meant missing two Champions League games for his club and possibly England's last two qualifiers in October.

But Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho said after training on Friday: "Either tomorrow or Tuesday he will be back."



John Terry

The English champions are at home to bottom club Sunderland in the Premier League on Saturday. —MNA/Reuters

Five illegal migrants die in northern Greek car crash

ATHENS, 10 Sept — Five illegal immigrants died and 20 were injured when a truck taking them to the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki sped out of control and overturned on Friday, police said.

The driver, who fled after the crash, had picked up about 30 migrants, mostly Iraqis, from the Greek-Turkish border.

When he tried to overtake four cars some 25 miles east of Thessaloniki, he lost control, crashed into one of the cars and then overturned, police said.

Two of the injured are in critical condition in hospital.

“Some of the people on the truck managed to escape after the crash,” a police official said. “We are now looking for them.”

Tens of thousands of migrants attempt to cross

illegally into European Union member Greece every year either through the Greek-Turkish land border that stretches along the Evros River or by boarding a boat along the western Turkish coast.

MNA/Reuters



U Win Naing-Daw Hla Hla Aye and family of 361, Concrete Slab Factory Street, Thamaing Ward 2, Mayangon Township, recently donated K 100,000 to U Maung Maung Gyi, Joint-Treasurer of Administrative Board of Hninzigon Home for the Aged. — H

At least 25 Indian soldiers drown in bridge fall

NEW DELHI, 10 Sept— At least 25 Indian soldiers drowned in the fast-moving Sutlej River in the northern Himachal Pradesh State on Thursday after falling from a temporary bridge, an Army spokesman said.

The accident took place in a remote and mountainous area in the state's Kinnaur District near India's border with Tibet where dozens of soldiers were assigned to

repair bridges damaged by flash floods in June.

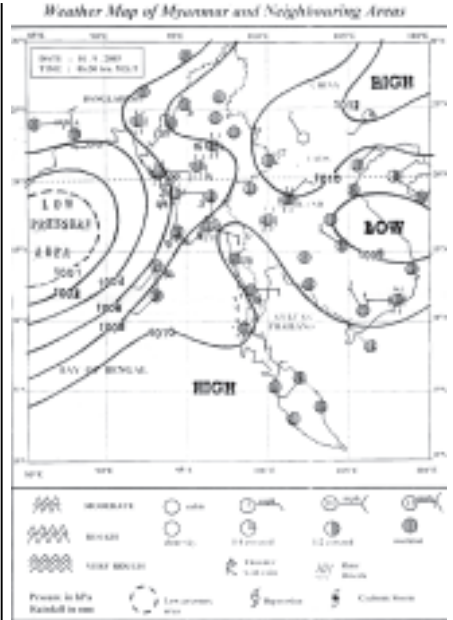
Four soldiers survived after falling into the river.

“As per initial reports, about 25-30 soldiers, including some officers, have drowned in the river,” Indian Army spokesman Colonel Sudhir Kumar Sakhuja said.

“Army divers and military helicopters are scouring downstream areas to look for survivors,” he said, adding that Army authorities were yet to find out what caused the troops to fall from the bailey bridge into the turbulent river.

Thousands of Indian soldiers are deployed in Himachal Pradesh to protect India's border with Tibetan region.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Saturday, 10th September, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State, scattered in upper Sagaing, Mandalay, and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Mon State and isolated heavyfall in Chin and Rakhine States and Yangon Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlamyine (6.46) inches, Gwa (4.29) inches, Thaton (3.98) inches, Co co Island Township (3.62) inches, Taungup (3.31) inches, Kyaukse (2.21) inches and Magway (1.38) inches.

Maximum temperature on 9-9-2005 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 10-9-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-9-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 9-9-2005 was 2.7 hrs approx. Rainfalls on 10-9-2005 were (0.51) inch at Mingaladon, (0.70) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.85) inches at the central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 76.10 inches at Mingaladon, 79.37 inches at Kaba-Aye and 84.45 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from South at (15:45) hours MST on 9-9-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday's low pressure areas persist over West Central Bay. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is weak to moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 11-9-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin and Shan States, scattered in Chin and Kayah States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States and Yangon Division. Degree of certainty is 80%.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of decrease of rain in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-9-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-9-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Sunday, 11th September

View on today:

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercises

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မော်(၃၀)ပြာမင်္ဂလာ

8:10 am

6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am

7. နွေခရီးစဉ်: ရေလှောင်တံခါး

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Say it in English

11:00 pm

1. Martial song

11:10 pm

2. Musical programme

11:25 pm

3. Round up of the week's International news

11:40 pm

4. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "စောရတီဗွာနှင့်မိစ္ဆာခွင်ခါး" (အပိုင်း-၃၇)

12:20 pm

5. (၃၂)ကြိမ်မြောက်အရှေ့တောင်အာရှ အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်ပည့် ဖြန့်မာ အားကစားအဖွဲ့များ၏ ကြိုတင် ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ (တင်းနစ်)

12:30 pm

6. Myanmar Video Feature: "လတစ်မြိမ်းနေ နေတစ်မြိမ်းလ" ရာဇာဓိပတိ: ညီနုနု နိုင်သင်းကြည် ခါရိုက်တာ-ကိုကိုလေး

2:15 pm

7. Musical programme

2:30 pm

8. အတီပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:45 pm

9. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm

4. သာယာချိုမအေး(၃၀)ပြာမင်္ဂလာ

5:00 pm

5. အစားသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်တန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (သင်္ချာအထူးပြု) (သင်္ချာ)

5:15 pm

6. Dance of national races

5:25 pm

7. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ စောရသမ အကြိမ်

(၁၃)ကြိမ်) ဖြန့်မာရီးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆိုအကအရေ၊ အတီပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များ လေ့လာနိုင်ကြရန် (မဟာဂီတ) (ပညာရှင်အဆင့်) (အမျိုးသား၊ အမျိုးသမီး)

5:35 pm

8. အတီပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:45 pm

9. Musical programme

5:55 pm

10. Sing and Enjoy

6:30 pm

11. Evening news

7:00 pm

12. Weather report

7:05 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "နိမိတ်လေ့လာတန်းသင်တန်း" (အပိုင်း-၆)

7:35 pm

14. Musical programme

7:45 pm

15. Agricultural Source Country's Development

8:00 pm

16. News

8:05 pm

17. International news

8:10 pm

18. Weather report

8:15 pm

19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "ယာဝုဗျာဗျာ" (အပိုင်း-၆)

8:20 pm

20. The next day's programme

Sunday, 11th September

Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news

8.35 am Music: -My destiny

8.40 am Perspectives

8.45 am Music: -Simple thing

8.50 am National news/Slogan

9:00 am Music: -Absolutely

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Cultural Images of Myanmar -Hsoon bowl & Myanmar resin

9:20 am When you're looking like that News/Slogan

1.30 pm Children's Delight -Story for children "The story of Ka-La-Yak-Hki-Ni"

1.40 pm -Songs for children

9.00 pm Weekly news review

9.10 pm Article

9.20 pm Music -Forever & Foralways -I told you so News/Slogan

9.45 pm News/Slogan

10.00 pm Potfolio for easy listening

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296864, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) /297028 (Press).

Efforts to be made for planting 30,000 acres of rubber within three years to meet 100,000-acre target

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on inspection tour of Sittway, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than oversees progress in construction of Kyauktan Bridge on An-Sittway Road.— MNA

YANGON, 10 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials, arrived at the Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Farm in Sittway Station, on 7 September morning.

Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station reported on growing of 24 species of tree, breeding of domestic and pedigree pigs and poultry, sales of pigs and poultry to Tatmadaw families and local people.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on breeding tasks to be extended and inspected the farm.

At the nursery of Sittway Station, Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung explained nurturing of rubber and pepper saplings. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the rubber and pepper nursery.

At the meeting hall of Sittway Station, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials and heard their reports. After fulfilling the requirements, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that Rakhine State is blessed with water and land resources

and good conditions to achieve success. Hence, Rakhine State is to utilize good conditions so as to contribute towards the State economy. Efforts should be made for boosting the meat production, gross domestic product and per capita income. Thus, data and accounts of production and services are to be collected accurately. Furthermore, it is necessary to boost the production sector. As the target was set to cultivate 1.1 million acres of monsoon paddy in Rakhine State, 1.09 million acres of land have so far been put under monsoon paddy and tasks are to be

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Yangon Division commemorates World First Aid Day (2005)

YANGON, 10 Sept— The Supervision Committee of Yangon Division Red Cross Society organized the World First Aid Day (2005) commemorative ceremony at the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Col Hla Aye, Commander of No 4 Military Region, local authorities, departmental officials,

President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society Dr Hla Myint and executives, Head of Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint, members of Red Cross Society, prize winners and guests.

The commander in his speech said that the 13th September has been designated as the World First Aid Day since 2003 and it has been celebrated annually since then. First Aid means to save lives, to prevent illness or wounds from getting worse, and to recover soonest. The Red Cross

Society is an organization formed based on humanity. So, it has been implementing its three work programmes — to raise the health care, to protect the people against epidemics, and to provide relief aids for victims — so as to achieve the target “To alleviate poverty”. In the past, the purpose of first aid was to care for those who were injured incidentally. But, now it has also covered campaigns for boosting social and health standards, thus widening the horizon of

the first aid.

The commander urged members of Red Cross Societies and Red Cross brigades who are taking an active role in the humanitarian services to abide by the seven Red Cross principles so as to

make efforts with might and main to serve the interests of the nation and the people through the arts of first aid in accord with the latest developments of Red Cross principles. In conclusion, the commander also called on the

members to accelerate implementation of humanitarian movements in the interests of the motherland and people in line with the World First Aid Day motto “First Aid with vulnerable (marginalized) people”.

First Aid means to save lives, to prevent illness or wounds from getting worse, and to recover soonest The Red Cross Society is an organization formed based on humanity.



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivers an address at World First Aid Day (2005) commemorative ceremony.— MNA

Division Red Cross Supervisory Committee Chairman Dr Hla Myint presented the championship flag won in the World Red Cross Day (2005) commemorative inter-state/division nursing skill, parade and first aid competition; Secretary Dr Than Tin, the championship trophy won in the nursing skill competition; and Staff

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