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State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to King of Saudi Arabia

YANGON, 23 Sept— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which falls on 23 September 2005. — MNA

Commander attends fourth cash donation ceremony for Performing Arts Competitions

YANGON, 22 Sept — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended the 4th cash donation ceremony of fund raising and prize-distribution sub-committee for 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions and accepted cash.

The ceremony held at City Hall yesterday was also attended by Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, No 4 military region commander Col Hla Aye, chairman of the sub-committee YCDC-secretary U Tin Soe and members, officials and wellwishers.

First, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presented K 3 million donated by YCDC to Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

The commander and the mayor then accepted K 2,016,500 donated by wellwishers including K 1 million by entrepreneurs, K 200,000 each by Ministry of Education, Internal Revenue Department of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and Shwe Thanlwin Co, K 100,000 each by trainees of MPA Course No 4 and U Khin Maung Than (Ray Shipping Enterprise Co Ltd), K 915,000 by businessmen

and K 35,000 by Yangon Division Cooperative Department. The commander then presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered an address saying that to promote Myanmar traditional culture and hand down lofty national cultural heritage to the youth today, the competitions are held yearly. The 13th competitions are going to take place with seven lofty aims.

By holding it, it is sure that the youth will set patriotism and culture of our nation in their mind, he added. The commander then expressed thanks for donations and the ceremony ended.

So far, the sub-committee has accepted K 29,275,500 including today's fourth cash donation.

Those wishing to donate cash may contact the following number (ph 251407) of Yangon City Development Committee.— MNA

To promote Myanmar traditional culture and hand down lofty national cultural heritage to the youth today, the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are held yearly. The competitions are going to take place with seven lofty aims.



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepts cash donated by a wellwisher for 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

INSIDE

As to educating the peoples of the world we must say that the First Fellowship of Buddhists held in 1950 in Colombo unanimously decided the term Hinayana should be dropped when referring to Buddhism existing in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, etc.

SITAGU ASHIN ÑANISSARA

PAGE 7 (AGGA MAHA PANDITA) D.LIT, PH.D

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 23 September, 2005

Strive for regional development with national spirit

The State Peace and Development Council has been systematically implementing the development plan for border areas and national races, the development plan for 24 special regions and the five rural development tasks for harmonious progress of the entire Union. As a result, all the regions of the Union are developing simultaneously. The success of these plans are due to the concerted efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw. We should not be complacent with what we have already achieved but to make continued efforts with national spirit to gain more and more success.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by responsible officials, on 17 September visited Kyar-in Seikkyi in Kayin State and inspected the situation of political, economic and social development and fulfilled all the requirements.

Thanks to the correct leadership of the government, efforts of township-level responsible officials and departmental personnel and active and enthusiastic cooperation of the local people, Kayin State, like any other states and divisions, has become more and more developed. Unlike in the past, the momentum of regional development work can be raised as they are now enjoying unprecedented peace and stability. Groups of national races who have returned to the legal fold are working together with local people for regional and national development and for higher living standard.

Sticking to the national policy and enlisting the united strength of the national people, the government is making constant efforts for national development. As all the states and divisions have favourable climatic and soil conditions for agriculture, people are required to grow more crops suitable to their respective regions.

We would like to call on all the national people of the Union, in their drive for both regional and national development, to pool their resources, make the best use of development infrastructures and at the same time safeguard them so that they can be durable and serve our interests in the long run.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ ဖြစ်သည်။

- ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ စက်တင်ဘာလအတွက်
နောက်ဆုံးပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
၂၅-၉-၂၀၀၅ရက်နေ့
- ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် အောက်တိုဘာလအတွက်
(၉-၁၀-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့
နှင့်
(၃၀-၁၀-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့

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

Rail Transportation Ministry honours outstanding children

YANGON, 22 Sept—The Ministry of Rail Transportation honoured the children of its staff who passed 2005 matriculation examination with four distinctions and above at the ministry this morning.

Present on the occasion were Ministry of Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Ministers Thura U Thuang Lwin and U Pe Than, officials, outstanding students and family members of employees.

The minister delivered a speech, expressing his pleasure for the fact that of the children of the staff, 135 passed the matriculation exam with flying colours. He urged them to make efforts continuously to become reliable human resources.

The minister presented prizes to four children who passed the exam with six distinctions; deputy ministers, children with five distinctions; and directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises, 15 children with four distinctions. —MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min presents prize to a six-distinction winner student. — RAILWAYS

Religious Affairs Minister receives Indian Ambassador

YANGON, 22 Sept—Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung received Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra at his office at 10 am today.

They held discussions on matters concerning bilateral religious affairs.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General of Religious Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw, Director-General of Department for Promotion and



Propagation of the Sasana Dr Myo Myint and officials concerned.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung receives Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra. — MNA

UMFCCI officials meet Singaporean businessmen

YANGON, 21 Sept — Advisor to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Merchant and Industry Dr Kyaw Htin, Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin of UMFCCI, Joint-Secretary-1 Dr Maung Maung Lay, Joint-Secretary-2 U Tun Aung and party met a 15-members delegation led by Mr Vijay

Iyengar, Managing Director of Agrocorp International Pte Ltd of Singapore Business Federation at the office of UMFCCI yesterday afternoon.

Next, they discussed matters relating to investment opportunity, export and import, functions of transit trade and training courses. Afterwards, they signed an MoU. — MNA



UMFCCI Vice-President U Zaw Min Win and Managing Director Mr Vijay Iyengar of Agrocorp International Pte Ltd of Singapore exchange notes of MoU. — UMFCCI

Basic Organizational Course of Botahtaung Township USDA concludes

YANGON, 22 Sept — Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung attended the conclusion ceremony of Basic Organizational Course No 17 of USDA at Botahtaung Township USDA yesterday.

At the ceremony, the CEC member gave an opening speech and presented prizes to those winners.

Next, CEC member Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung donated K 100,000 to Joint-Secretary of Botahtaung Township USDA U Htin Win. Afterwards, Yangon East District USDA executive U Sein Myint gave certificates to the trainees.

Later, Township USDA executive U Hla Thein presented gifts to the instructors.

MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Asia-Pacific nations battle rising cancer, heart disease

NOUMEA (New Caledonia), 21 Sept — Asian and Pacific nations are struggling to stem the rise in cancer and heart diseases which kill 25,000 people a day in the region, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

A WHO report on non-communicable diseases in the Western Pacific, which stretches from China to Fiji, said health services could be overwhelmed by chronic diseases, many largely preventable, unless extra resources were quickly allocated.

"There appears a real danger of under-resourced health services in many transitional economies being overwhelmed by the demand for chronic illness care,"

said the report at a WHO conference in Noumea, capital of New Caledonia in the Pacific.

"Non-communicable diseases, notably heart problems and cancer, already account for seven out of every 10 deaths in the Western Pacific region, and the situation is expected to worsen."

The report assessed five nations, China, the Philippines, Samoa, Tonga and Vietnam, and found an increase in

chronic non-communicable diseases.

In China, there was an 31-per-cent rise in hypertension, involving 160 million people over the age of 18, between 1991 and 2002, it said. In the six years to 2002 there was a 40-per-cent rise in diabetes in China, involving some 20 million people.

Obesity in China had risen 97 per cent, to involve 60 million people, between 1992 and 2002.

MNA/Reuters



Chinese police conduct an anti-terror exercise to save the 'hijacked passengers' in a bus in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 21 September, 2005. —INTERNET

Roadside bombs wound two US troops in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 Sept — Roadside bombs exploded near three US convoys in and around Baghdad on Wednesday, wounding two soldiers, an official said. The attacks came one day after the death toll for US forces rose to more than 1,900 since the Iraq invasion.

In the southern city of Basra, two Iraqi citizens who were wounded in clashes between British forces and Iraqi police died in a hospital Wednesday, raising the civilian death toll to five, police said. The fighting occurred Monday when British forces stormed a Basra jail to free two British soldiers who had been arrested by Basra police.

In the worst attack on US forces Wednesday, a roadside bomb exploded as a US military convoy drove through the Abu Ghraib area on the western outskirts of Baghdad, leaving two soldiers with minor wounds, said US Lt Jamie Davis, a spokesman for the US army.—Internet

BMA says thousands of British doctors cannot find jobs

LONDON, 21 Sept — Thousands of young doctors might be unable to find work because of a shortage of jobs and the problem could be worse than feared, the British Medical Association said on Tuesday.

"We know there's a problem, and we're keen to work with the government to help deal with it," said Jo Hilbourne, chairman-elect of the BMA's Junior Doctors Committee.

But the figures were disputed by the Department of Health (DoH) which said they were misleading.

In July, the BMA warned that at least 2,000 newly-qualified doctors would struggle to find work because of a shortage of suitable jobs.

The BMA says the problem has come about because an expansion in medical school places has not been matched by more training posts or more senior jobs, combined with an influx of overseas doctors looking to train in Britain.

A survey of 2,356

junior doctors carried out in August found that almost one in ten had been unable to find work.

The BMA said if that proportion was replicated across the country, then as many as 3,000 doctors could be affected, forcing many to go abroad.

"These are people who are desperate to work for the NHS, and have spent years of their lives in training at a huge cost to the taxpayer," Hilbourne said.

However, the DoH said it did not actively recruit junior doctors from abroad and said there were only about

100 young medics who did not currently have a job.

"The Department of Health does not agree that 'thousands' of British-trained junior doctors are unemployed, especially when job opportunities and training posts continue to be advertised each week," the DoH said in a statement.

It added that every year some junior doctors left Britain to train overseas, such as to Australia or New Zealand, but denied they were being permanently lost to the NHS.

MNA/Reuters

Brazil launches first foreign bond in national currency

BRASILIA, 21 Sept — The National Treasury Department of Brazil Monday launched a foreign-debt bond in national currency real, the first foreign bond in the Brazilian legal tender.

The bond, maturing by 2016, is designed to avail the good moment Brazil experiences in the international market, with a risk estimated by bro-

kerage services at 370 points.

According to financial market reports, the demand for the bond is above 2.0 billion US dollars.

Initially, the government will offer 500 million dollars, but it could raise the figure to nearly 750 million because of strong market demand, reports said.

MNA/Xinhua

Heavy rainstorm drenches Jinan

JINAN, 21 Sept — Jinan, capital city of east China's Shandong Province, was drenched with a record-breaking rainfall since Sunday, which was the biggest one in the autumn during the past 54 years, said the city meteorologic observatory Tuesday. The unremitting rain, with a precipitation of more than 170 mm, set a new record since the city established its weather records in 1951.

The observatory said it was very rare to see a rainfall exceeding 100 millimetres in the autumn in Jinan. The only exception occurred in the autumn of 1964, when the precipitation reached 102.3 millimetres.

MNA/Xinhua

Kidnapped S African child found dead in suitcase

JOHANNESBURG, 21 Sept — A 10-year-old South African girl who was kidnapped for ransom has been found dead in a suitcase, evoking painful memories of a similar case last year which shocked the crime-weary nation.

Police said Marissa Naidoo's body was discovered in a suitcase in an apartment 18 miles east of Johannesburg on Sunday and that her suspected kidnapper had leapt to his death as detectives forced their way into the apartment.

Local newspapers on Monday had front-page coverage about the case, which echoed that of Leigh Matthews.

Matthews, 21, was found shot to death south of Johannesburg nearly two weeks after disappearing from her university campus in July 2004, even though her father had paid a ransom for her return.

The police said in a statement that Marissa was kidnapped from her primary school on Thursday and that the abductor had contacted her father demanding 500,000 rand (77,500 US dollars) in ransom.

MNA/Reuters



Families are evacuated from a neighbourhood after a gun battle erupted in Baghdad on 21 September, 2005.—INTERNET



Malaysia's King Yang di-Pertuan Agong XII (L) and his grand daughter visit a reindeer farm close to Arctic Circle in Rovaniemi, Finland, on 21 September, 2005. The King and Queen of Malaysia are on a three-day state visit to Finland.

INTERNET



Ex-UK official says Iraq worse than Vietnam

LONDON, 21 Sept— The invasion of Iraq is a bigger disaster than the Vietnam war, and Prime Minister Tony Blair should have resigned for making a false case for intervention, former Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said on Wednesday.

“Here we actually went in, created a war that would otherwise not have occurred and now we see a complete political vacuum,” Rifkind said on British Broadcasting Corp TV.

Blair, who based the case for war on claims that Iraq

was building stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, should have resigned “the moment it became clear that he had misrepresented (to) Parliament, abused the intelligence agencies,” Rifkind said.

“No prime minister who has gone to war on a false prospectus — whatever good faith he may or may not have had — should remain in office when it turns out to be the single biggest

foreign policy disaster this country has known since the war,” he said.

Rifkind, who served as foreign secretary in 1995-97, is now a candidate for leader of the opposition Conservative Party.

Although Rifkind drew a comparison to the Vietnam War, Britain declined to contribute troops to support the United States in that conflict.

Internet

ASEAN lawmakers urge speedier economic cooperation, integration

VIENTIANE, 21 Sept— Delegates to the ongoing 26th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) appealed for regional countries to accelerate their economic cooperation and integration.

The AIPO's committee on economic matters on Tuesday agreed that the 10 members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) should intensify current economic cooperation programmes and initiatives, particularly the Vientiane Action Plan (VAP), with due attention paid to narrowing the development gap, including the digital divide, within the block to realize the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community.

The committee also called for stronger support and contribution from ASEAN member countries, the block's dialogue partners, and other regional and international organizations to the future ASEAN Development Fund, the block's common pool of financial resources to support the implementation of the VAP and subsequent action plans.

The six-year VAP adopted in Laos last year is aimed at facilitating the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2020 on the three pillars, namely security

community, economic community and social-cultural community, and narrow development gaps among members, especially the least developed countries.

The lawmakers appealed for more experienced AIPO members to further assist the new members in human resource development and capacity building.

They also called upon the members to beef up their cooperation on promoting cultural and eco-tourism, by such measures as embellishing cultural sites, preventing the loss of artifacts, and preserving cultural diversity and religious traditions.

Regarding energy, they urged ASEAN countries to further promote the utilization and production of renewable sources, and called on them to step up cooperation among themselves as well as between the block and its partners on the field, with special attention paid to encouraging stronger participation of private sector.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese senior official meets with foreign trade union leaders

SHANGHAI, 21 Sept— Chinese senior official Wang Zhaoguo met with leaders of international and foreign trade unions in east China's Shanghai City on Monday, calling for world trade unions to take poverty alleviation as one of their key tasks, local sources said on Tuesday.

Wang made the remarks on the eve of the International Forum on Economic Globalization and Trade Unions (IFEGTU) 2005, which opens here on Tuesday. Wang is vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, and president of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions.

“With the globalization of economy, the world's fortune has been greatly accumulated,” Wang said. “However, the gap between the rich and poor has been enlarged. To reduce and alleviate poverty requires efforts from each country, the world community, as well as trade unions.”

He said the Chinese trade unions are willing to enhance cooperation and exchanges with foreign and international counterparts based on independence, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. It is the second time China hosts the IFEGTU. The major topics for this year's forum are strategy and measures to increase unionization, trade unions and poverty alleviation in the context of economic globalization.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to build tsunami monument in Aceh

JAKARTA, 21 Sept— The Indonesian Government has planned to build a monument to remember the 26 December tsunami attack, which remains to be the most destructive and deadly natural disaster in two centuries.

The monument will be built on a mass grave of the tsunami victims in the northernmost province of Aceh, which bore the brunt of the disaster, the Antara news agency reported on Tuesday. The mass grave is located at Ulee Lheu Village in the provincial capital of Banda Aceh.

“Inside the Ulee Lheu mass grave, more than 14,000 bodies of victims in last year's disaster were buried,” acting Banda Aceh Mayor Mawardi Nurdin was quoted as saying.—MNA/Xinhua

International drums festival opens in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 22 Sept — Nearly 100 of the world's most talented master drummers gathered in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo on Wednesday to kick off the first-ever WOMAD (World of Music, Arts and Dance) Sri Lanka Festival of Drums.

The festival, which is scheduled to last five days

until 25 September, will showcase 16 performance groups from 11 countries, an official from the Sri Lanka Tourist Board (SLTB) said.

The SLTB-sponsored festival is the first WOMAD festival entirely devoted to the celebration of drums, rhythms and percussions.

Over 3,000 Bangladeshi fishermen missing in rough sea

DHAKA, 22 Sept — At least 200 fishing boats with over 3,000 fishermen aboard went missing till Tuesday evening as the trawlers sailing from the coastal districts of the country are believed to have capsized in the turbulent sea under the influence of a deep depression.

Of the total fishermen missing in the sea, over 1,000 are from the

southeastern Cox's Bazar while 2,000 are from Barguna, BDNEWS, a private news agency in the country, reported on Wednesday.

Among the missing trawlers and fishermen, Indian police held at least 40 trawlers along with 250 fishermen when they took shelter in the West Bengal coast, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi policeman takes cover during a gunfight with guerillas in Baghdad's Mansour District on 21 September, 2005. —INTERNET

India asks UN to adopt stronger counter-terrorism agenda

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Sept— Cautioning the international community against a non-selective approach to deal with terrorism and non-proliferation, India on Monday focussed on the centrality of the United Nations in fighting the menace asking the General Assembly to adopt a strong counter-terrorism agenda.

Suggesting the United Nations provide “cohesion” to global efforts to deal with terrorism, External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh said “whether it is terrorism or non-proliferation, unless there is a non selective, uniform and sustained approach, the objective of the international community cannot be achieved”.

Singh asserted there is no better institution than the United Nations to fight the scourge of which India has been victim for past two decades.

“As an initiator of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, India welcomes and is fully committed to the decision taken by the heads of state and government to conclude their negotiations on the convention during the 60th session of the General Assembly,” he said at the 60th session of UNGA.

Making a strong case for expansion of the 15-member Security Council in

both permanent and non-permanent categories, Singh said if the institutional reform has been faltering and many are doubtful of securing a just solution, it is because the Council does not reflect the world of today. “One cannot argue in favour of democracy in the rest of the world and leave the UN Security Council undemocratic,” Singh said.

“The Security Council is not about any country’s prestige or power but about transforming the balance power in the world. Our experience in India from the freedom movement to present times shows that diversity is a source of strength and effectiveness. The same would be true of a reformed Council,” the External Affairs Minister said.

Pointing out that a change in the composition of the Council is an “imperative,” Singh said the G-4 framework resolution has made UN reforms a central issue which can no longer be ignored. — MNA/PTI



Flames stream from the broken nose gear of a JetBlue Airbus 320 as it makes an emergency landing at Los Angeles International Airport on 21 Sept, 2005. —INTERNET

Thai FM optimistic about Deputy PM’s bid for UNSG

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Sept— Thai Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon on Sunday voiced his optimism about the bid of Thai Deputy Prime Minister Surakiat Sathirathai for the next United Nations Secretary-General.

“I would say so far so good,” Kantathi told *Xinhua* in an interview, when asked about the campaign of Surakiat for the post of the UN Secretary-General.

He added that Surakiat has received positive response from more than 70 countries, including China.

“We are optimistic. We hope that the campaign will proceed in a positive way in the future,” he said, adding that Surakiat is also the candidate of Southeast Asia for the top UN position.

Kantathi said he understood that Eastern Europe and Sri Lanka also have showed interest in the top UN post. “That’s the contest that will take place, but so far our candidate is doing well.”

“The most important thing is for him to be able to introduce himself to different countries and for them to learn about his views, and to ask him questions,” Kantathi said. “The main thing is personal touch and of course he will be doing from now until the decision time.”

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra officially declared Thailand’s

bid to gain the post of the UN Secretary-General in June 2004.

Surakiat, 47, is the youngest Deputy Prime Minister in the Thai history. He had served as Finance Minister and Foreign Minister before being appointed to the current post in early 2004. Surakiat is also an international law expert and had taught at universities.

“He has management skills, and he has international experience. He is dedicated to the work of the international community. So he has the strength, background and experience,” Kantathi said. “We feel that he is appropriate for that position.”

The incumbent UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, will wind up his second term by the end of December 2006. The top UN post is rotating among regional groupings within the United Nations.

Under the UN Charter, the Secretary-General is picked by the Security Council, but has to be confirmed by the 191-nation General Assembly.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese tourists gather to watch the tide on the bank of Qiantang River in Hangzhou in east China’s Zhejiang Province on 20 September, 2005.

INTERNET

At least 16 killed in Philippine storms

MANILA, 22 Sept — At least 16 people have been killed since last week due to the weather disturbances that hit many Philippine provinces and cities, including Metro Manila, relief officials reported on Thursday. The Office of the Civil Defence (OCD) deputy administrator and spokesman Anthony Golez told reporters that over 3,000 families from the provinces of Camarines Sur and Ilocos Sur were affected, some of them are housed in evacuation centers because of the massive flooding.

Golez said that low-lying areas in the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Cagayan, Albay, Camarines Sur are still submerged with floodwaters which were as high as waist-deep, rendering a number of roads impassable to vehicles.

Relief officials have so far accounted about 54 million pesos worth of properties, mostly agricultural products, were destroyed by the weather disturbances.

OCD officials said they have already coordinated with authorities from the Department of Public Work and Highways for the clearing of landslides that blocked the vehicle access to several roads in the Ilocos region.

MNA/Xinhua

UN hit by power failure during General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Sept— A power failure shut down lights, telephones and elevators at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Monday, interrupting a hectic day of meetings during the annual UN General Assembly.

Hundreds of staff were evacuated from the upper floors of the 38-floor building after a fire in an electrical switching station on the 28th floor, a UN spokeswoman said.

Foreign ministers of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France — had to find a new venue for their annual lunch set for Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s top-floor dining suite.

“There is no reason to believe it has anything to do with sabotage or terrorism,” UN spokesman Farhan Haq said. “There is no indication of any threat on the building but we have to make sure.”

He said the General Assembly would continue its annual meeting as normal but many UN staff were sent home because power would only be fully restored overnight. — MNA/Reuters

Bahrain uncovers money laundering ring, detains Iraqi

MANAMA, 20 Sept— Bahrain police have detained an Iraqi man after uncovering suspicious financial transactions worth 29 million US dollars, the Interior Ministry said on Monday.

A ministry statement said the man’s assets had been frozen pending the investigation and that the public prosecutor was now reviewing the case.

“Investigations inside and outside Bahrain and with the help of anti-fraud units in Europe revealed that the man and several others conducted several suspect monetary transfers worth 11 million dinars,” the statement said.

It said the Iraqi man had entered Bahrain on a forged French passport.

The statement did not link the transactions to terror financing. Bahrain is a regional banking hub and a close ally of Washington.

MNA/Reuters

Donation ceremony held in Tibet to promote solar energy use

LHASA, 21 Sept— A donation ceremony was held on Tuesday in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, to help promote solar energy utilization in Tibet.

About 10 inland cities donated 6.53 million yuan (786,537 US dollars) to help Tibetan herdsman and farmers equip their families with solar appliances.

The activity, dubbed "Love Tibet and Help Tibet Sunshine Project," was launched by the Support Tibet Development Foundation on 29 June. Ten cities, including Guangzhou and Zhuhai in Guangdong, Kunming in Yunnan, and Luoyang in Henan, have participated in the activity.

"The development of Tibet has always been con-

cerned by people in Guangzhou. Improvement of living standards in Tibet is also the wish of people across China," said Peng Yusong, deputy head of the Guangzhou City United Front Work Department.

In rural and pastoral areas of Tibet, many people still rely much on traditional energy including livestock dung, grass turf, shrubs and wood. Biological energy accounts for about 90 per cent of the total energy consumption in rural Tibet, according to the Foundation.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistani soldier killed in bomb blast in tribal region

ISLAMABAD, 21 Sept— One Pakistani soldier was killed and five others were injured early Tuesday when a roadside bomb hit an Army vehicle in the country's tribal region close to the Afghan border, a local official said.

The vehicle was on its way to Wana, the location of the headquarters of South Waziristan tribal agency, when the bomb exploded through a remote control at the town of Shakai, the official said asking not to be identified. Shakai is located 30 kilometres away from Wana.

The vehicle was totally blown up in the blast.

No people claimed responsibility for the attack.

The Pakistani military believes that scores of al-Qaeda suspects are still hiding in the tribal region. These militants fled Afghanistan in the wake of US-led military operations in late 2001.

Pakistan has deployed some 80,000 troops along the border with Afghanistan to check the militants' cross-border movement. — MNA/Xinhua



Tiger Airways staff check a plane before take off at the terminal at Singapore's Changi International Airport. Singapore-based budget carrier Tiger Airways plans to expand its network to southern China, India and Cambodia and more than double capacity to three million passengers next year. —INTERNET

India plans 12 satellites in four years to invest 30b rupees

BANGALORE, 21 Sept— India is planning to launch 10 to 12 communication satellites in the next four years with an investment of over 30 billion rupees, Chairman of Indian Space Research Organization G Madhavan Nair said on Tuesday.

"We are planning in ISRO to orbit another 10 to 12 communication satellites into GSO (Geostationary orbit) in the next four years. These satellites will increase our onorbit transponder capacity..." he said inaugurating a Satellite Users' Interference Reduction Group 2005 Meeting/Interference

Conference.

India's INSAT system today consists of eight operational satellites and 144 total communication transponders in C, extended C, Ku, and S frequency bands. The 10 to 12 planned launches are expected to add an additional 100 to 120 transponders.

"We also have two of

these satellites (out of total eight) carrying meteorological payloads, and one satellite being an exclusive meteorological satellite", he said.

Later, talking to reporters, Nair said: "Currently, we have 144 transponders. We have to have something like 256 transponders before this plan period

(2007) itself. Each spacecraft will cost around three billion rupees". According to him, there is a huge demand for transponders from DTH (Direct-to-Home) and VSAT sectors as well as for various applications. There is also need to replace some of the old satellites, he added.

MNA/PTI

Cyprus plane diverted after air conditioning scare

NICOSIA, 21 Sept—A Cyprus Airways plane flying from Cyprus to Greece made an unscheduled stop in Rhodes on Tuesday after controls flashed up a problem with the air conditioning system, the company said.

The Airbus 320 was carrying 148 passengers and six crew. Cyprus Airways dispatched another aircraft to transfer passengers from Rhodes to the Greek capital.

"It does not appear to be anything serious. There was an indication that there could be a fault so the stopover was a precaution," airline spokesman Tassos Angeli told Reuters.

There has been heightened sensitivity about airline safety in Cyprus since a Boeing 737-300 run by privately owned Helios Airways crashed in Greece on August 14, killing all 121 on board in the country's worst aviation disaster. — MNA/Reuters



A worker feeds an abandoned leaf monkey at the Wildlife Rescue Centre in Phetchburi Province, 100 km south of Bangkok, on 17 September, 2005. —INTERNET

16 Cambodians killed in Mekong River floods

PHNOM PENH, 21 Sept—The annual rain and storms in Cambodia have killed 16 people living along the Mekong River since the river first began flooding over its banks more than a month ago, an official said on Tuesday.

Since late July, Mekong floodwaters have drowned 16 people in Kratie, Kompong Cham, Kandal, and Prey Veng provinces, said Keovy, an official of National Disaster Management Committee.

The floodwaters have also destroyed roughly 10,000 hectares of the estimated 32,000 hectares of

rice fields planted along the Mekong from upstream Stung Treng Province to downstream Takeo Province, according to Nhim Vanda, first vice-president of the committee.

"I'm very worried that the flood will have the eventual damages of bridges, roads and some riparian vegetation," he

added.

However, Nhim Vanda said that Cambodia needs more rain for better productivity of fish ecology and agriculture.

Cambodia has the annual rainy season from May to October, and more than 80 per cent of its 13 million population depend on agriculture.

MNA/Xinhua

China invites private overseas capital to invest in railways

BEIJING, 21 Sept—China welcomes enterprises and finance organizations from home and abroad to invest in railways, said Lu Dongfu, Vice-Minister of Railways, at the China Railway Investment and Financing Reform Forum on Tuesday.

China needs two trillion RMB yuan to build railways in the coming 15 years.

According to the Mid and Long Term Railway Network Development Programme, the route length of China's railways will reach 100,000 kilometres by 2020, with a separation of passengers and freight traffic on busy trunk lines and half of the lines to be double tracked and electrified. Main technical equipment will approach the advanced level of the world.

By 2020, 12,000 kilometres of passenger lines and 16,000 kilometres of new lines will be completed. Meanwhile, 13,000 kilometres of second line construction and 16,000 kilometres of electrification on the existing lines need to be completed.

Hu Jinglin, director general of the Economic Construction Development of the Ministry of Finance, said to reach the goal, financing is critical.

"We can never do it if we rely on the traditional financing system," he said.

The railways in China used to be invested in by the central government, which cannot provide as much money to this sector any more.

Wang Qingyun, director general of the Transport Department of the State Development and Reform Commission, said the development of railways has lagged behind national economy for the last 20 years.

At present, about 280,000 cars are requested everyday to transport goods while only half of

the requests can be met. Wang attributed the slow development of railways to lack of funds.

Wang urged the government to introduce a market economy to this sector, separate enterprises from government, and define property right ownership clearly. He suggested that the government invest more in commonwealth projects while other projects can use private capital. The price fixing and supervision systems should also be reformed.

MNA/Xinhua

The Reverend of the East passes away in the West

Sitagu Ashin Nanissara (Agga Maha Pandita) D.Lit, Ph.D

(Continued from yesterday)

The 11th of December 2004 was the final day of the World Buddhist Summit attended by over 100 delegates from 38 foreign countries, about 400 foreign observers and nearly 1,000 from host Myanmar.

Now, I will present some parts of his Abstract Speech as follows:

“The Buddhist Summit will be brought to a glorious end a few moments from now. As you know the Government of Myanmar and its people have spared no effort both physically and financially to make it a success and I hope that has been accomplished quite well. But however much they have endeavoured, if there had been no participants it would have come to nothing. Now that you have participated in this historic event quite enthusiastically as speakers, panellists, discussions and so on, this Summit has come to a resounding success. Therefore the success is due to both the Government and people of Myanmar on the one hand and the participants like you on the other.

“This Summit is convened on the principle of unity among Buddhists regardless of their being Theravada or Mahayana or Vajrayana, etc. We have invited delegates from thirty-four countries and as a record, I would like to read the names of those countries here.

“To tell you the truth, it is not at all possible for all Buddhists to become one again without the labels Theravada, Mahayana, Vajrayana, etc., but we have some Teachings of the Buddha in common, for which every Buddhist is likely to admit that they are authentic teachings of the Buddha. On these we will concentrate and spread to the world both in our countries and in foreign countries. For example, the teaching of the Four Noble Truths: Every Buddhist Sect believes that it is the authentic teaching of the Buddha and so we can cooperate in teaching it to the world. The Noble Eightfold Path which is one of the Four Noble Truths is an important one and we must practise first ourselves and then teach them to the world. The impermanence of all things conditioned, suffering nature of all things conditioned and non-soul nature of all things both conditioned and unconditioned which are also accepted by all Buddhists are another subject

which we all agree and so we can teach them too. The teaching of the universal love, i.e., love for all beings can be and will be taught to the world, first practising ourselves and later teaching to the world. There are other teachings as well that are accepted by all sects of Buddhism and we can make effort to teach them. With the principles of Buddhism which are after all universal principles, the world can be made into a place where peace and harmony prevail, and people can live their lives without worry and anxiety.

“As to educating the peoples of the world we must say that the First Fellowship of Buddhists held in 1950 in Colombo unanimously decided the term Hinayana should be dropped when referring to Buddhism existing in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, etc. The other thing is commercial companies using the Buddha image and other Buddhist Symbols in commercial objects to promote their sales. We must tell them without being rude or violent to leave Buddhists alone and not to desecrate our sacred objects in commercializing their commodities.”

The Sayadaw quoted the Buddha as saying that practice of holding of religious conferences will help promote and propagate the Sasana. He then said that two meetings were held in 6th Century BC, with the participation of Buddha Himself; that at the first meeting, attended by 60 monks, the Buddha advised the monks to preserve the original of the Dhamma and make tours for propagation of the Sasana; that 1250 monks attended the second conference which laid down principles for the formation of the Sangha association that the principles included assignment of first and second leaders and morals and manners of the monks.

The Sayadaw continued to say that six Sangha meetings were held during the period of 2500 years after the demise of Buddha. They were three in India, one in Sri Lanka, and two in Myanmar, he said, explaining the benefits of the conferences. He explained that the first meeting systematically collected and compiled all the teachings of Buddha, the third conference effectively helped promote and propagate the Sasana, the fourth documented the Dhamma on palm leaves and the fifth on stone inscriptions. Concerning the promotion of Buddhist education, the Sayadaw advised the monks to use

computers and Internet.

At the end of the Summit, the participating Buddhist leaders agreed the following objectives:

- * We are determined to preserve the Buddha Dhamma in its pristine purity
- * We will endeavour to promote and propagate the Teachings of the Buddha
- * We will strive for the protection, preservation and restoration of historic Buddhist monuments
- * We will contribute to bring about peace and prosperity in the world by spreading the Buddha's sublime message of loving-kindness, compassion and equanimity
- * We will endeavour to promote Buddhist unity and strive for friendship and mutual understanding among Buddhists all over the world
- * We will endeavour to promote Buddhist education employing modern methods and technology
- * We will endeavour to hold the Buddhist Conferences frequently to exchange ideas and promote understanding
- * We will endeavour to share the knowledge of Buddhist meditation with the people of the world for the sake of individuals as well as world peace
- * We believe that more Buddhist centres should be established around the world to disseminate the original Teachings of the Buddha more effectively.

The Sayadaw played the leading role in laying down and approving the objectives.

Those were the final words and accomplishments of the Sayadaw in serving the Sasana's interest.

After the meeting the Sayadaw went to the US for a short visit. When he arrived back to Yangon in March 2005, he underwent medical check up with the arrangement of the Religious Affairs Ministry. When doctors found that he had brain cancer, he flew to the US again for surgical operation. Now, he is no more, but his words, accomplishments and virtue remain forever.

(Concluded)

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 21. 9.2005

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

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ကျေးလက်နေပြည်သူအများ ပညာဗဟုသုတတိုးပွားစေရန် ကျေးရွာကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် စာအုပ်များကို ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန၊ ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ကြပါသည်။

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Courses on wood-based technologies opened



The opening session of the wood-based technologies courses Nos 5 and 6 in progress. UMFCCI

YANGON, 22 Sept — Organized by Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association, the wood-based technologies courses Nos 5 and 6 were opened at Wood-based Technology Training School in Dagon Myothit (North) Township with a speech by Vice-

Chairman of MTE U Ko Ko Htwe. Afterwards, Principal of the School U Kaung Yin explained the purpose of the courses.

Altogether 40 trainees are attending courses No 5 and No 6 and they will last for four weeks. —MNA

Commander oversees development tasks in Shwegu, Bhamo

YANGON, 22 Sept — Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, accompanied by departmental officials, met with township level departmental officials, members of social organizations, entrepreneurs and townsenders at the hall of BEHS No 1 in Shwegu on 15 September morning.

Chairman of Shwegu Township Peace and Development Council U Yi Mon reported on progress in transport, education, health and agricultural sectors of the township, Commissioner U Ye Myint of Kachin State General Administration

Department gave a supplementary report.

The commander instructed them to cooperate with local people in regional development tasks and carry out beautifying tasks of the town.

In the afternoon, the commander inspected Shwegu Township Hospital, roads and beautifying tasks.

At the briefing hall for construction of the view point near the second defile of Ayeyawady River, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Win Aung reported to the commander on progress in construction of Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo Road and NgaO-Thayagon-Kyedawgyi-Udaungtaung-Hanhtet

Road. The commander gave necessary instructions.

The commander inspected Bhamo Government Technological College and met with faculty members and staff.

At the city hall in Bhamo, the commander called on departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people. Officials reported on their respective sectors. Chairman of District PDC Lt-Col Hla Thaug gave a supplementary report.

After fulfilling the requirements, the commander gave instructions on implementation of the plans for the region.

MNA

Commander inspects tax-free markets in Yangon City



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects Tax-free Market on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yankin Township.—MNA

YANGON, 22 Sept — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected tax-free markets in Yangon City today.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe looked

into Konemyittha tax-free market in Mayangon Township, Nawaday tax-free market on Swaedaw Street, Yankin tax-free market in Yankin Township, Tamway tax-free market in Tamway Township, Hanthawady tax-free market in Kamayut Township and Pantra

Lane tax-free market in Dagon Township, and the sale of household goods, vegetables, fish and meat, rice and edible oil. The commander cordially greeted the shoppers and shopkeepers at the markets. The commander then fulfilled the requirements.—MNA

Foreign Minister felicitates Saudi Arabian counterpart

YANGON, 23 Sept— On the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which falls on 23 September 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Saud Bin Al-Faisal Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.—MNA

Myanmar-Korea trade talks held

YANGON, 22 Sept — Myanmar-Korea trade talks organized by Embassy of the Republic of Korea was held at Traders Hotel this morning.

Officials of 30 local companies and Korea companies participated in the trade talks. They discussed trade in electronic equipment, pipes, machinery, medical equipment and furniture. Commercial Attache of the embassy of ROK Mr Choi Young Tae graced the talks with his presence.—MNA



Myanmar-Korea trade talks, organized by Embassy of the Republic of Korea, in progress at Traders Hotel.—MNA

Finance and Revenue Minister leaves for Washington



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun being seen off at the airport before departure for Washington DC.—F&R

YANGON, 22 Sept — Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Finance and Revenue, left here by air

for the United States of America, at 7.50 pm yesterday to attend the Annual Conference of

World Bank and International Monetary Fund to be held from 23 to 25 September 2005, at

Washington DC, the USA. The minister was seen off at the airport by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister of Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, departmental heads and officials.

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun was accompanied by Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Director-General of Foreign Economic Relations Department Daw Myo Nwe, Director of CBM Daw Ohnmar Sein and Assistant Director U Min Han Soe of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue.—MNA

Construction of new Bwetgyi Bridge inspected

YANGON, 22 Sept — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun yesterday morning inspected Bwetgyi Bridge Construction Project in Pyay.

The engineer in-charge presented reports on progress in building the new bridge, and permission for vehicles weighing under-25 tons to pass through the old bridge.

The new Bwetgyi Bridge will be built of bored pile foundation and reinforced concrete beams.

The bridge will be 600 feet long and will have 650 feet long approach bridge on Pyay Bank and 520 feet one on Aunglan Bank, totalling

1,770 feet long. The motor road on the bridge will be 28 feet wide. It can withstand 60-ton loads.

Six of nine piles of the approach bridge on Pyay Bank were constructed, and the bridge is under construction.

MNA

Donate blood

Ayeyawady River crossing natural gas pipeline laying project in Aunglan inspected



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects the laying of gas pipelines across Ayeyawady River. — ENERGY

YANGON, 22 Sept — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected the site of Yonseik-Thayet 6-inch Ayeyawady River crossing natural gas pipeline laying project near Yonseik Village of Aunglan Township on 19 September.

General Manager (Pipeline) U Than Htut of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise reported on tasks to lay the pipeline crossing the river, Director (Production) U Ohn Myint on construction for the natural gas control station, and Managing Director U San Lwin on a supplementary report.

The minister gave instructions on systematic welding of the pipeline, and test of pressure endurance. He viewed welding tasks and preparations for laying the pipeline crossing the river with the use of heavy machinery and watercraft.

On 20 September, the minister arrived at the project site near Htontaung Village of Thayet Township and instructed officials to closely supervise timely completion of the project task and worksite safety.

At No 3 Fertilizer Plant (Kyawswa) in Aunglan Township, Plant Manager U Hla Thuang briefed the minister on production and distribution of fertilizer, and Deputy Plant Manager U Saw Tun on maintenance of the plant.

Next, the minister oversaw the main control

room and production of fertilizer, and attended to the needs. Afterwards, he looked into functions of the store section. — MNA

USDA Secretary-General calls for continuous efforts for regional development

YANGON, 22 Sept — Members of Union Solidarity and Development Association are required to step up their efforts for regional development to become reliable members while participating in education, health and social welfare programmes in cooperation with local people, urged Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo.

At a meeting with executives and members of Kyaukpadaung district and township USDA at Kyaukpadaung Township USDA office on 17 September, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo also attended to the needs for regional development tasks and presented books on general knowledge for libraries to an official.

Executives of Myingyan District and Kyaukpadaung Township USDAs reported on social welfare tasks being carried out joining hands with locals. — MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint addresses the opening ceremony to review the accomplishments of National Health Plan 2001-2006.

(News on page 16)

MNA

C-in-C (Air)'s Shield Shooting Tournament opens

YANGON, 22 Sept — The Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s Shield Shooting Tournament for 2005 was opened at Ground Training Base in Meiktila on 19 September morning.

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), Commander of Ground Training Base Col Thura Khin Maung Win gave a speech and opened the tournament.

Also present on the occasion were officers and other ranks of Flying Training Base and Ground Training Base, senior military officers of Meiktila Station and guests. — MNA



Members of MWAF and MCWA hold frank discussions with local womenfolk of Kayan Model Village. — MNA



MWAF Bago Division Organizer Daw Wai Wai Thin presents publications to Myatlayyon Library of Kayan Model Village in Thanatpin Township, Bago Division. — MNA



Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association Executive Daw Hnin Wai seen at the airport before her departure for Japan. (News reported) — MWEA

Bago Division WAO Organizer,...

(from page 16)
with patients. Daw Khin Maw Maw and party gave away medicines and refreshment to older persons under proper health care. Dr Phyu Phyu Win and party of the hospital in-

spected measures for prevention of dengue hemorrhagic fever in the village.

At the rural education centre, they viewed training of tailoring and knitting to the girls and

other handiwork. Later, they set up a trust-fund. They donated periodicals to Myatlayyon Rural Library.

The Division Organizer, the Division Chairperson and party

cordially met with Village WAO member women and local people at the discussions on regional development, and the role of women in education, health and economic sectors.— MNA

Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan urges IPRD staff in Pyinmana to strive for dynamism of media

YANGON, 22 Sept — Accompanied by officials concerned, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan went on an inspection tour of Pyinmana Township Information and Public Relations Department on 20th September.

After inspecting wall posters, documentary photos, mottoes and books displayed at the department, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister attended books donation ceremony at the department in Pyinmana Township.

Also present on the occasion were Col Tin



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers an address at the books donation ceremony held at Pyinmana Township Information and Public Relations Department. — MNA

Ngwe of Pyinmana Station, Head of Mandalay Division Information and Public Relations Department U Kyaw Than Tun,

officials concerned of Yamethin, Pyinmana, Lewe, Pyawbwe and Tatkon, local authorities, members of township

USDA and wellwishers.

The minister accepted 3000 varieties of books and journals presented by Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Win, 1000 by Secretary of Township PDC U Khin Maung Htay, 1000 by Chairman of Township Writers and Journalists Association U Tin Win, a set of TV worth K 140,000 by U Myint Kyaw on behalf of wellwisher U Thein Htwe (Mingalar Ward) and a set of TV worth K 50,000 by Police Captain U Chit Sein.

After expressing his gratitude to the wellwishers, the minister met with service personnel of IPRD and made a speech on the occasion,

saying that the Government is making its efforts for all-round development across the nation. It is also fulfilling the needs for development of human resources and raising knowledge in the rural areas. 70 per cent of the country's population are rural people. So development of the country is based on that of the rural areas. The rural people lacked reading habit because the books were out of their reach.

As such, self-reliant libraries were opened in the rural areas to enable the rural people to gain knowledge. The self-reliant libraries will be established all parts of the country by 2006. So far, a total of 31,122 village libraries have been set up

the whole country. The rural libraries have been successfully established the whole Shan State (North). The establishment of self-reliant libraries will have been almost finished in Mandalay Division soon. There has been an enormous increase in the number of self-reliant libraries in the country due to cooperative efforts of local authorities and wellwishers.

Next, the minister urged those present to strive for dynamism of the media and to take measures for successful realization of information tasks with goodwill and to make all-out efforts to be able to open libraries in all villages during 2005-2006.

MNA



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects posters and books displayed at Pyinmana Township Information and Public Relations Department. — MNA

Cash donated to mark "International Day for Older Persons"

YANGON, 22 Sept — A cash donation ceremony to mark the "International Day for Older Persons" which falls on 1 October was held at Little Sisters of the Poor in Mingala Taungnyunt Township this morning.

At a ceremony, Patron of holding committee of the International Day for Older Persons Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint explained the purpose of the donation and contributed K 100,000 to the fund of the Little Sisters of the Poor and presented medicines for older persons.



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint presents K 100,000 and medicines for the Little Sisters of the Poor through Sister Clare. — SWRC

Sister Clare of the Little Sisters of the Poor accepted the donation and presented certificate of honour to the deputy minister.

After the ceremony, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and officials comforted the older persons.

MNA

Myanmar-Malaysia Friendly Sepak Takraw match continues

YANGON, 22 Sept — Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint enjoyed the second match

of Myanmar-Malaysia Friendly Sepak Takraw match at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in

Thuwunna this afternoon.

Among the spectators were officials of the Ministry of Sports, the chairperson of Central Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation and members, the president of Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation and executives and guests.

Myanmar team beat Malaysian team 2-0 (21-16, 21-16) in the double regu event. In the first regu event, Malaysian team defeated Myanmar team 2-1 with (15-21, 21-18) and 15-10. In the second match, Myanmar beat Malaysia 2-0 with 22-20 and 21-17.

MNA



Myanmar blocks attacks of Malaysia in the Friendly Sepak Takraw match. — NLM



MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint meets with Ms Asmita Naik and Ms Edelweiss Silan. — MWAF

MWAF Vice-President meets foreign guests

YANGON, 22 Sept — Vice-President of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Khin Lay Myint met with External Evaluator Ms Asmita Naik of the Save the Children UK (SC-UK), and Coordinator Ms Edelweiss Silan of the Regional Cross-Border

Project at the office of the federation this afternoon.

The meeting focused on the federation's performances, tasks for the development of women, and preventive measures against trafficking in persons. Present on the occasion were General Secretary of the federation Pro-

fessor Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun, Head of International Relations Department Daw Myint Myint Soe, Leader of the Working Group of Rehabilitation and Reintegration Daw Khin Aye, leaders of sub-working groups and others.

MNA

Death tolls rise to 12 in storm-hit Vietnam

HANOI, 22 Sept — A tropical storm, which hit central and northern localities in Vietnam last weekend, have killed 12 local people and injured five others, according to the local newspaper *Labour* on Wednesday.

Of the fatalities, three people in Yen Bai Province died due to landslides, six others in provinces of Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Binh Thuan due to floods. The storm also damaged more than 3,000 houses and destroyed several thousands of hectares of farming crops. To limit the storm's aftermaths, the National Flood and Storm Control Steering Committee called for an all-out mobilization to protect coastal dykes,

help people in dangerous areas move to safe ones and conduct relief work.

Natural disasters, mainly storms and floods, killed 232 people, left 38 others missing, injured 187 others, destroyed 4,200 houses and 3,000 hectares of rice, and killed over 2,000 cattle and 170,000 poultry in Vietnam last year, causing a total property loss of over some 57 million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Japanese encephalitis toll rises to 271 in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 22 Sept — At least 271 people have died of Japanese encephalitis in various districts of Terai Belt in southern Nepal so far this year, official of Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

The disease, which

has taken a heavy toll in Terai districts like Kailali, Banke, Bardiya, Rupandehi, Rautahat and Sarlahi, is on the wane with the end of monsoon, Hari Nath Acharya, spokesman at Health Ministry, told reporters.

Until last week, offi-

cial counts a total of 204 deaths caused by Japanese encephalitis, which is caused by mosquito bite.

"We are now getting about five new patients every day," Acharya noted.

MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake jolts Aceh, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 22 Sept — An earthquake jolted four districts in Aceh Province of Indonesia on Tuesday evening, but there were no reports about human casualties and meaningful material damage.

The quake, measuring 4.8 on the Richter Scale, was felt by residents in the province's capital, Banda Aceh, and in the districts of Aceh Besar, Aceh Jaya, and West Aceh at 10:00 pm, *Antara* news agency on Wednesday quoted head of Mata Ie Geophysics and Meteorology Agency Syahnan as saying.

The epicentre was located at 4.77 degrees of North Latitude and 94.67 degrees East Longitude in a depth of

30 kilometres and 111 kilometres from the western part of Banda Aceh, he said.

Over the past week, Banda Aceh and its surroundings had been hit by two tremors.

Some residents of Calang (Aceh Jaya District) and Meulaboh (West Aceh regency) said that many rushed out of their houses and sought shelters following the tremors.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese banks adopt new technology to avoid credit card fraud

BEIJING, 22 Sept — Banks in China are preparing their ATMs to meet with the EMV international standard in a bid to avoid card fraud.

The central bank, People's Bank of China (PBoC), has already stepped up the EMV programme and amended rules on financial IC cards. Select cities in China will pilot EMV migration this year, and local commercial banks are starting controlled deployments for accepting chip cards for POS terminals.

EMV is the merged standard by Europay, MasterCard and Visa, which is an essential step in countering plastic card fraud and bring new value added services.

Statistics show that card fraud costs the banking industry an estimated annual global loss of 2.5 billion US dollars.

"Although the economic loss from card fraud

is still not that high in China, the potential migration of card fraud to China cannot be underestimated," said Sharon Dickie, director of global marketing for software and security in NCR Financial Solutions Division, which has close ties with Chinese banks.

It is critical for China to be part of this global migration, in light of its potential as the world's largest credit card market, the increasing flow of foreign tourists into China and the upcoming 2008 Olympics and 2010 World Expo, Dickie said.

"All these drive toward the need for China to comply with the EMV international standard," said Dickie.

"Based on our proven

global experience, we recognize that chip-card migration will be a challenging task as it does not only involve the front-end hardware but also the back-end applications and its infrastructure," said Dickie.

To protect banks' investment, NCR recommends local banks participate in EMV-Ready programme and upgrade their ATMs with EMV technology as soon as possible. "Getting EMV compliance is part of NCR's total approach to securing the entire cash cycle," said Dickie.

As the world's largest supplier of ATMs, NCR would help Chinese banks to minimize the cost and fraud, she said.

MNA/Xinhua

Coal mine blast kills 9, injures 5 in east China province

NANCHANG, 22 Sept — Nine miners were killed and five others injured in a coal mine gas blast on Monday in Fengcheng, a city in east China's Jiangxi Province, according to local government Wednesday. The accident occurred at about 8:00 pm Monday at Changfeng coal mine in Luoshi Town when 14 people were working underground and five of them survived.

The bodies of the nine miners killed in the accident were found on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

German tourist killed in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 22 Sept — A autopsy Thursday is expected to reveal the cause of death of a German female tourist murdered in New Zealand, said the local police.

The body of the mid-20s was discovered Tuesday night in a national park near Taranaki, a north town in New Zealand, said the police Thursday.

Police said it is understood the woman was stabbed to death and dumped.

"It's a terrible state of affairs," said Detective Senior Sergeant Grant Coward. "It appears it was a nasty, vicious attack," said Coward.

Police said the woman with her name suppressed hitch-hiked in the area earlier in the day and stayed at a local lodge on Monday night. New Zealand has been famous for its safety of tour and low rate of attacks toward tourists.

The authorities said they are coping with the incident very seriously and trying to make clear the cause of the death sooner.

MNA/Xinhua



A one-year-old elephant quenches its thirst at the Ayutthaya elephant camp, 80 km (50 miles) north of capital Bangkok on 21 September, 2005. — INTERNET

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Yangon. 23 September 2005

Egyptian PM meets Chinese envoy on Mideast peace

CAIRO, 21 Sept — Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazef on Monday met with visiting Chinese special envoy to the Mideast peace process Wang Shijie to discuss the Palestinian-Israeli peace process in the wake of the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

"The Palestinian-Israeli issue is constantly developing and China's general goal in this respect is to help the two sides move ahead along the road to peace," Wang told reporters after the meeting.

Wang said China appreciated the measures Egypt had taken to solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and that Egypt also valued China's role in helping achieve peace between the two sides.

China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council,

has long supported the Palestinian cause and now it also supports the Mideast peace process, said the Chinese envoy, adding that the Egyptian side hopes China can play a bigger role in this field in the future.

Wang arrived in Egypt on Sunday as part of his regional tour which has already taken him to the Palestinian territories, Israel and Jordan. He will leave on Tuesday for Morocco, the last leg of his trip.—MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan traders want to import cement, garlic from India

ISLAMABAD, 21 Sept— After Pakistan Government permitted duty free imports of meat, sugar and four more essential items from India, traders here now want to import ginger and cement through Wagah border.

"We've sent inquiries to the Indian cement producers on behalf of our clients," a Pakistani importer Chaudhry Barkat Ali said. "As soon as the Indian producers intimate the price of cement, we'll place the order."

It will be transported in rail wagons through Wagah border, Ali was quoted as saying by the daily Dawn on Tuesday.

However there is no official directive yet on import of cement and garlic. Pakistan is currently experiencing real estate

boom due to buoyancy of its economy. Construction industry was considered to be the fast growing sectors, putting heavy pressure on cement intake.

"Pakistani importers were also looking into the possibility of bringing fresh ginger from India provided a competitive rate was offered by the Indians," Ali said.

Pakistan normally imports fresh ginger from Thailand for meeting its requirements.

MNA/PTI

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၁။ မည်သည့်မြို့နယ်မှမဆို သတင်းစာကိုယ်စားလှယ်အဖြစ် ဆောင်ရွက်လိုပါက ဝယ်ယူဖြန့်ချိလိုသော သတင်းစာအမျိုးအစားနှင့် စောင်ရေကို ဖော်ပြ၍ ဦးဆောင်ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း၊ အမှတ် (၂၁၂)၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ မိုလ်တတောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့တွင် ပေးပို့လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။
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Macedonia welcomes investment of Malaysian Cos

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Sept— Macedonia invited Malaysian companies to invest in that country and take part in its economic activities, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said on Tuesday.

Najib said he received the message when meeting with the visiting Macedonian Deputy Prime Minister Minco Jordanov at the Malaysian Prime Minister's Department complex.

Jordanov, who kicked off a four-day visit to Malaysia on Monday, spoke about investment opportunities in Macedonia as well as its business activities, Najib told reporters.

Jordanov expressed the confidence that more participation from Malaysian companies would have a positive influence on Macedonia's economy, Najib said while describing the investment in Macedonia as sound.

To date, a Malaysian company has ventured into Macedonia and has obtained loans to construct an apartment and a power plant there, Najib said.

The Macedonian Deputy Prime Minister also encourages Malaysians to open tourism offices in the country, Najib added.

The bulk of Macedonia's exports to Malaysia is machinery and transport equipment, while its imports from Malaysia include animal and vegetable oil and fats as well as manufactured goods.

MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN countries to hold environment meeting to discuss haze

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Sept— ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries will hold a ministerial meeting to discuss the regional haze problem and strive to work out more concrete preventive measures, local media reported on Tuesday.

The 9th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, slated for 26-29 September, will be convened in Manila, Malaysian Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Adenan Satem said.

Representatives at the meeting are likely to come up with a long-term solution to the problem which "seems to be recurring every year," Adenan told reporters after meeting with his Singaporean coun-

terpart Yaacob Ibrahim.

The bilateral meeting, held in Kuching, capital of the Sarawak State, is part of the 19th Singapore-Malaysia Annual Exchange of Visits (AEV), which aims to forge closer cooperation and ties between ministries of the two countries.

Though ASEAN countries have an agreement on the haze, there arises the need to look into the implementation side and find out better solu-

tions, said Yaacob, who was Minister for Environment and Water Resources.

The haze problem should be tackled immediately as it has exerted a negative influence on the tourism sector in the region, Yaacob added.

Other issues on the agenda of Tuesday's AEV meeting included control of vehicular emissions and an emergency response plan for chemical spills.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Djibouti to beef up parliamentary exchanges

BEIJING, 21 Sept— The Chinese National People's Congress (NPC) is ready to beef up friendly exchanges with the Djibouti Parliament and conduct more bilateral cooperation in different levels and areas, said China's top legislator Wu Banggu on Tuesday.

Wu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, made the remarks in his meeting with visiting Djibouti Prime Minister Dileita Mohamed Dileita.

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1979, the two sides have maintained frequent high-level contacts, expanded trade and economic cooperation, and increased consultation in international

affairs, Wu said.

China regards Djibouti as a reliable friend, and values the long friendship with the latter, said Wu.

He also expressed the hope that the two parliaments would make full play of the role of bilateral friendship, learn from each other, enhance mutual understanding, and contribute to the overall development of Sino-Djibouti re-

lations. Dileita spoke highly of the great achievements China has made in its economic and social development. He also hailed China's policies toward Africa as well as Africa-China relations.

He expressed appreciation for China's assistance to Djibouti, saying it has contributed a lot to his country's economic development.—MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe exports \$118.9m worth of tobacco in first eight months

HARARE, 21 Sept — Zimbabwe exported about 38 million kilos of tobacco worth 118.9 million US dollars in the first eight months of the year, the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB) said on Monday.

The TIMB said the 37.7 million kilos exported between January and August were 15.7 per cent lower than the tobacco exported during the same period last year.

The tobacco being exported includes carryovers from last year's crop, which amounted to 68 million kilos.

The Far East continues to be the major importer of the country's tobacco, taking 13,287 million kilos during the period under review, slightly down from last year's 13.314 million kilos.

The European Union came second with 9.96 million kilos, also down 43.6 per cent from the 17.65

million kilos last year.

Exports to Africa increased by 101.3 per cent, with the continent coming third after the EU with 7.71 million kilos, up from 3.83 million kilos imported last year.

MNA/Xinhua

DONATE BLOOD

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WHO says Asia must change age-old farming to stop disease

NOUMEA (New Caledonia), 22 Sept — Asia must change age-old farming practices to reduce contact between people and poultry to limit bird flu and prevent new animal diseases infecting humans, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday.

In launching a five-year plan to combat emerging diseases in the Asia-Pacific Region, WHO said on average one new disease had occurred every year for the past 20 years, mainly in Africa and Asia, and eventually one will become a pandemic.

"Even if you control avian flu, the next one is coming," said Dr Shigeru Omi, WHO's regional director for the Western Pacific, which stretches from China to Fiji. "I think it is similar to tsunamis and earthquakes... we do not know when," Omi told WHO's Western Pacific annual conference in Noumea, capital of New Caledonia in the South Pacific.

Avian flu was first detected in South Korea in 2003, only months after SARS was contained, and quickly spread within months to Taiwan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and China.

The contagious H5N1 strain of the disease has since killed 64 people in four Asian countries and has spread to Russia and Europe, sparking global fears it could mutate and become a pandemic killing millions of people.

The latest deaths

prompted Indonesia on Wednesday to say an outbreak in the capital Jakarta could be called an epidemic. Millions of poultry have been culled since 2003, but bird flu still spreads.

Omi said globalization, which had seen an increase in the movement of goods and people in Asia, and common borders had also contributed to the spread of diseases, like SARS and bird flu.

"There is an urgent need to strengthen inter-country and bioregional collaboration," he said.

WHO's "Asia-Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases" plan launched

on Wednesday calls for greater co-operation between Asia-Pacific nations to ensure early detection and rapid response to emerging diseases.

The plan said that although most countries had surveillance systems for communicable diseases, they were not capable of being used as early warning systems.

"Many countries are still vulnerable to future disease outbreaks and most countries are still not well prepared for early detection and rapid response to emerging disease," it said.

MNA/Reuters



A view of the newly-built Singapore's National Library building which is five times larger than the old premises and holds more than 634,000 items including seven levels of reference materials on Southeast Asia stored in print and digital formats for visitors.—INTERNET

Mozambican police arrest thieves for stealing railway equipment

MAPUTO, 22 Sept— The Mozambican police have arrested a gang of thieves who stole railway equipment in the Mozambican southern province of Gaza, local media reported on Tuesday.

According to a Press release from the Mozambique's ports and rail company CFM, the thieves destroyed about eight kilometres of track in the province, and a preliminary assessment of the damage is that it will cost 2.5 million US dollars to repair.

The CFM release said that their operations were highly organized. The thieves cut paths through the bush, along which they then drove trucks. They used metal cutting and soldering machinery to remove the rails and slice them into manageable pieces.

Similar thefts have been reported from the northern railway that links the Mozambican northern port of Nacala to Malawi.

The CFM release pointed out that such sabotage "ruins all the efforts to restore and modernize" Mozambican railways, and urged Mozambican citizens living near rail lines to remain vigilant, and to denounce any acts of sabotage to the nearest rail station.

MNA/Xinhua

ITV's finance, broadcasting execs exit in reshuffle

LONDON, 22 Sept— British broadcaster ITV announced a major reshuffling of its top executives on Wednesday, including the departures of finance director Henry Staunton and head of broadcasting Mick Desmond.

Simon Shaps, currently head of ITV's Granada production arm, was named as director of television with responsibility for commissioning and scheduling all of ITV's channels, and Ian McCulloch was made commercial director.

MNA/Reuters

Alcoholics at risk of infection after heart surgery

NEW YORK, 21 Sept — Patients with long-standing alcoholism who undergo heart surgery are four times more likely to acquire an infection after the operation than their non-alcoholic peers, according to a new report. The results suggest that the elevated risk may be associated with increased levels of two immune factors — interleukin-10, an anti-inflammation protein, and cortisol, a steroid hormone.

"A key consideration here is that long-term alcoholics have pretty well-defined immune alterations prior to clinically evident infections," lead author Dr Michael Sander, from University Hospital Charite in Berlin, said in a statement.

"We believe that these alterations might be responsible for the post-operative increased infection rate observed in our

study and in others," Sander added.

The new study, which is reported in the September issue of *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research*, involved a comparison of 10 alcoholics who underwent elective cardiac surgery with 34 non-alcoholic patients.

Blood samples were obtained at several points before and after surgery

to assess levels of IL-10, cortisol, and other immune factors, the report indicates.

As noted, compared with the non-alcoholic group, the alcoholic group was at heightened risk for post-operative infections. In addition, alcoholic patients had longer intensive care unit (ICU) stays and were slower to wean off mechanical ventilation.

MNA/Reuters



Giant panda Zhu Zhu looks at a birthday cake specially made for her at a wild animal garden in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, on 20 September, 2005.—INTERNET

NASA offers "Apollo on steroids" to return to moon

WASHINGTON, 21 Sept — NASA unveiled its 104 billion US dollars plan on Monday to return Americans to the moon by 2018 aboard a capsule-like vehicle the space agency's chief described as "Apollo on steroids".

Like the *Apollo* programme that carried the first humans to the moon in 1969, the new system would put crew members into a capsule sitting atop a rocket, and would have a separate heavy-lift vehicle to take only cargo into orbit.

"It is very *Apollo*-like... but bigger," NASA chief Michael Griffin said at a briefing. "Think *Apollo* on steroids."

The capsule's base would be considerably larger than *Apollo*'s — 18 feet (5.5 metres) compared with 12.8 feet (3.9 metres) — and it would weigh about 50 percent more, Griffin said. It would

carry six people, instead of *Apollo*'s three, and be able to stay in lunar orbit for six months.

The first human mission to the moon since 1972 would likely take place in 2018, Griffin said, carrying four people for a four-to seven-day stay.

He defended the programme's cost, which is expected to spark criticism in light of US commitments in Iraq and areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina. He said the programme will cost 55 per cent of what *Apollo* cost, in constant dollars spread over 13 years.—MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Real may try to get defeat overturned due to referee error

MADRID, 21 Sept — Real Madrid are looking into the possibility of getting Sunday's 1-0 defeat at Espanyol annulled after claiming the referee made an error before the goal.

Espanyol took the lead 22 minutes from the end of the Primera Liga game when Daniel Jarque headed in Ivan de la Pena's free kick.

But Real's players and coaching staff said referee

Julian Rodriguez Santiago blew his whistle for an infringement in the area seconds before Jarque scored.

"The club believe there was an erroneous interpretation of the rules," said

Real in a statement on their web site on Monday.

"When the referee blew his whistle the actions that occurred afterwards were automatically deemed to be void".

Real, who are 15th in the 20-team table with three points from three games, claim video footage confirms the referee blew before the goal and that the soundtrack rules out the possibility of the whistle having come from the crowd.

The club's legal team are studying precedents from similar situations to see whether the result may be overturned and the game replayed.

Earlier this month FIFA declared the result of the Asian World Cup qualifying playoff first leg between Uzbekistan and Bahrain void and ordered a replay following a refereeing blunder.

World soccer's governing body ruled that Japanese referee Toshimitsu Yoshida made a "technical error" in disallowing a converted Uzbekistan penalty and subsequently awarding Bahrain a free kick instead of ordering the penalty to be retaken because of encroachment.

MNA/Reuters



Barcelona's soccer player Samuel Eto'o (C) from Cameroon fights for the ball against Valencia's players Roberto Fabian (L) from Argentina and David Albelda during their Spanish League soccer match at Nou Camp Stadium in Barcelona, Spain, on 21 September, 2005. Champions Barcelona narrowly avoided a second defeat in a row when they came from a goal down to claim a 2-2 draw at home to Valencia on Wednesday. —INTERNET

Maritimo coach resigns after bad start

LISBON, 21 Sept — Maritimo coach Rui Rodrigues "Juca" has resigned after only four games of the Portuguese league season, the Madeira Island club said on Monday.

The decision, posted on the club's official web site, follows Sunday's 2-2 draw at home to Penafiel which gave 14th-placed Maritimo only their second point.

Juca, whose departure was by mutual consent, became the first coaching casualty in Portuguese top flight this season.

Club officials will take over the coaching duties while the board looks for a successor. —MNA/Reuters

Monaco chairman in no hurry to replace Deschamps

MONACO, 22 Sept — Monaco chairman Michel Pastor will take his time before appointing a new coach to replace Didier Deschamps who resigned on Monday. "The chairman is in no hurry. He will only act after careful consideration," sources close to the French Ligue 1 club said on Wednesday.

"He has decided he would handle the matter himself. He has been in contact by phone with a lot of people but hasn't met anybody yet."

Deschamps handed his resignation after a poor run of form that left the 2004 Champions League runners-up 15th in Ligue 1 and out of the major European competition.

Pastor asked assistant coach Jean Petit, who has been with the club since 1969 and served under Arsene Wenger before he left in 1995, to take charge on a caretaker basis, hinting that Petit could stay "longer if results were good". — MNA/Reuters

Number of foreign players doubles in Brazil

BRASILIA, 21 Sept — The soccer teams of Brazil doubled this year the number of foreign players hired, reaching an unprecedented number of 22.

This situation became intensified because of the constant migration of local players to almost all the leagues of the world.

The number of foreign players grew from 12 at the beginning of the first phase last April, to 22 over the past weeks, with chances to have this number increased prior to the coming close of registrations in the Brazilian league.

There are five players from Argentina, five from Colombia, four from Chile, three from Uruguay, three from Paraguay, one from Angola and one from Serbia and Montenegro, in the Brazilian League.

Santos seeks to hire Colombian striker Hugo Rodallega to replace Robinho, recently transferred to Spanish club Real Madrid for 30 million dollars.

Paraguayan striker Cesar Ramirez opened his participation Saturday with a goal versus Flamengo, while Colombian attacker Wason Renteria had an outstanding participation in the Sunday match with Internacional, where Paraguayan midfielder Diego Gavilan plays.

The clubs with more foreign players are Corinthians, which hired Argentines Carlos Teves (striker), Javier Mascherano (midfielder) and Sebastian Dominguez (full-back).

Atletico Paranaense took David Ferreira (midfielder) and Vladimir Marin (defender) — both from Colombia —, and Uruguayan Paulo Pezzolano.

On the other hand, Palmeiras renewed the contract of Colombian striker Leon Dario Munoz and defender Vlaimidir Marin. It also brought Argentine Sergio Gionio.

Uruguayan full-back Diego Lugano plays for Sao Paulo; Chilean midfielder Claudio Maldonado, for Cruzeiro; Colombian goalkeeper Juan Carlos Henao, for

Santos, and Chilean defender Adan Vergara, for Vasco da Gama.

Portuguesa club hired Angolan striker Johnson; Fluminense has the services of Serbian Dejan Petkovic; Atletico Mineiro, Argentine midfielder Livio Armando Prieto. Gremio, which went down to the second division last year, hired midfielder Jean Beausejour and striker Alejandro Escalona, both from Chile, as well as Marcelo Lipatin, of Uruguay, in an attempt to return to the first division.

MNA/Xinhua

Bulgarian referee banned for three months

SOFIA, 22 Sept — Bulgarian referee Cvetan Georgiev has received a three-month ban for making a string of errors during Levski Sofia's 4-4 draw against Beroe on Sunday, the country's football association said.

Levski appealed to the disciplinary commission of the Bulgarian Football Union, saying Georgiev failed to send off Beroe striker Isak Kuoki after a second yellow card, ignored fouls in the penalty area, and made several other mistakes.

"He made a lot of errors and he did not show accuracy in the penalty area," Vasil Zhechev, chairman of the referee commission, told a news conference after ruling on the suspension late on Tuesday.

Kuoki scored three minutes after the break to equalise at 3-3, but soon afterwards was shown his second yellow card.

Georgiev allowed the game to continue, provoking an angry reaction from Levski's bench before the referee finally sent the forward off.

Despite the errors, football union officials rejected a request by Levski to replay the game and said it would not void the result.

"There was a formal infringement of the rules, but it did not affect the final score," Zhechev said.

MNA/Reuters

Australia to go it alone in World Cup bid

SYDNEY, 22 Sept — Australia is planning an ambitious bid to stage the World Cup alone after FIFA scuttled their plans

to co-host the 2018 event with New Zealand.

Australia and New Zealand wanted to lodge a joint bid on behalf of

Oceania but Football Federation Australia chief executive John O'Neill said the plan had already been shelved.

O'Neill said FIFA's decision to scrap the rotation system after 2014 coupled with Australia's decision to ditch Oceania and join Asia had made the bid unworkable.

"New Zealand is out of the equation," O'Neill told the *Sydney Morning Herald* on Wednesday.

"FIFA won't even contemplate a cross-confederation bid. Now that we're in Asia, the argument is we can not have our cake and eat it too."

O'Neill said Australia were now planning to go it alone although he admitted China would be the frontrunner to stage the

World Cup the next time it is held in Asia.

"Of course it's going to be tough, but even if we miss out on 2018 we'll be putting a stake in the ground for 2022," O'Neill said.

"We're not going to give up on this, not by a long shot.

"Unarguably, Australia has proven it can host major sporting events better than most countries.

"We've been in preliminary talks with all the state governments, we've talked to stadium owners, and it's full steam ahead.

"We've got to be very ambitious, we've got to be more aggressive in a constructive way in order to make sure we stay in the race."

MNA/Reuters



Maria Sharapova of Russia returns a shot to Israel's Shahar Peer during their women's singles match at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing on 22 September, 2005. —INTERNET

Indonesia to raise oil price by 30-60%

JAKARTA, 22 Sept— Indonesia will increase oil price from 1 October at a range of 30 to 60 per cent, in an effort to adjust spiraling global oil price and to defend the country's currency from US dollar, Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla said here on Wednesday.

"He (Vice-President) said the rise could be more than that (30 per cent), may be 50 per cent or 60 per cent," Chairman of Indonesian Church Union Andreas Yuwangoe told reporters after meeting with the Vice-President at the Vice Presidential Office here.

Kalla said the subsidy for the oil sector had been mounted to 13 billion US dollar, according to Yuwangoe.

Indonesia's rupiah weakened to a four-year low against US dollar last week due to the rise of global oil price.

Security Minister Widodo AS said to anticipate the possible reaction of the hike, the government is preparing for the acts.— MNA/Xinhua



Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of Hninzigon Home for the Aged accepts K 120,000 for three-storey hospital for the aged donated by Daw Aye Kyi and family of 111, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, in memory of the late Major Pe Myint (Retd).—H

Kashmir Valley regaining its past glory in tourism

JAMMU, 22 Sept — Kashmir Valley regain its position as the most favoured tourist destination as a record one million holiday-makers visited the 'paradise on earth' this season.

Nearly one million tourists visited the valley this season so far, state Tourism Minister Ghulam Hassan Mir said.

This is for the first time in the history of Kashmir that such a large number of tourists visited the valley. In the peace time, over 700,000 tourists visited the valley in 1988 which was a record itself.

Mir said a great rise in tourist inflow during last three years was witnessed in the state and it is expected to touch 2.2 million by 2010, the Tourism Minister said.

He said improvement in relations between India and Pakistan has created many openings for the people of the state and the future holds bright for them.

Mir said that with the opening of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad Road between the two nations, a dream of the people of the

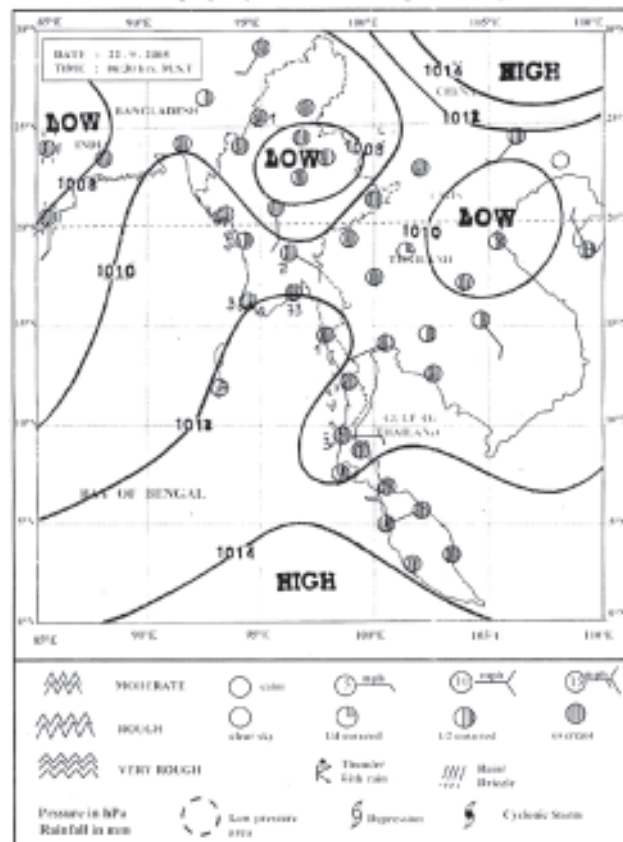
state has been realized and people are able to move freely across the border.

Listing the efforts put in by the government to promote tourism industry, Mir said the increase in domestic and international flights and expected fall in air fares and the completion of the upgradation of the existing airport by next year would open flood gates for tourists in the state.

He said another indicator for a bright future of this industry was the increasing interest of people towards promotion of tourism and exploitation of new tourist spots in the state.

MNA/PTI

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 22 September, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Shan State and lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Rakhine and Kayin States, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Yangon Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yangon (Mingaladon) (3.82) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (2.87) inches, Hmawbi (1.54) inches, Thaton (1.50) inches, Magway (0.75) inch and Pyinmana (0.67) inch.

Maximum temperature on 21-9-2005 was 83°F. Minimum temperature on 22-9-2005 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-9-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 21-9-2005 was nil. Rainfalls on 22-9-2005 were (3.82) inches at Mingaladon, (2.87) inches at Kaba-Aye and (2.16) inches at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (87.56) inches at Mingaladon, (90.47) inches at Kaba-Aye and (95.67) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest at (13:40) hours MST on 21-9-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is weak elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 23-9-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Shan and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of withdrawal of southwest monsoon from the Deltaic areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-9-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-9-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.



Friday, 23 September
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: Hey baby
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: First love
- 8.50 am National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: Keep on growing
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: Life affair
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music
- Lay all your loving on me
- In your eyes
- Good times
- 9.00 pm World of music
- Songs from -Spain, Philippines, Laos, Belgium, France
- 9.15 pm Article/Music
- 9.25 pm Music at your request
- Love
- Lipstick on your collar
- Only you
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL



Friday, 23 September
View on today

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:15 am 2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရီကာ၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တ သိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော် မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသဒ္ဓါပါဠိတော်
- 7:25 am 3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 4. Morning news
- 7:40 am 5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am 6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am 7. The mirror images of the musical oldies

- 8:10 am 8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am 9. ဂမုန်း ရေလှောင်တံခံ
- 8:30 am 10. International news
- 8:45 am 11. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. Musical programme
- 4:45 pm 4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ်(ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ သတ္တဗေဒ အထူးပြုများ) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 5:00 pm 5. Songs of national races
- 5:15 pm 6. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ ဓာရသမအကြိမ် (၁၃ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆိုအက၊အရေး၊

- အတီး ပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များ လေ့လာ နိုင်ကြရန် (ဓမ္မပုဇာတေး) (ပညာရှင်အဆင့်) (အမျိုးသမီး)
- 5:30 pm 7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေး ဂီတတေး
- 5:45 pm 8. Song of yesteryears
- 6:00 pm 9. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညွှန်ရှင်
- 6:30 pm 10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm 11. Weather report
- 7:05 pm 12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ဝက်ပါ" (အပိုင်း-၂၀)
- 7:40 pm 13. Musical programme
- 8:00 pm 14. News
- 15. International news
- 16. Weather report
- 17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မခွဲအတူ" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)
- 18. The next day's programme

Tasks being carried out systematically through health care system

Accomplishments of National Health Plan reviewed

YANGON, 22 Sept — The meeting to review accomplishments of the National Health Plan (2001/2006), organized by the Ministry of Health, was opened at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel in Dagon Township this morning.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an address, saying that the Ministry of Health drew the national health plans for ensuring uplift of the health standard of the entire people under the leadership of the Government and the National Health

Committee. At present, the ministry is implementing the final year of the National Health Plan (2001-2006).

The Ministry of Health is carrying out health tasks by laying down two aims and three strategies to be able to implement the national health policies. In performing the comprehensive health care, the 30-year long-term health plan, the national health plan, the special four-year national education promotion plan, the rural health development plan, and the

people's hospitals upgrading plan are being implemented with the use of man, money and material strengths.

Now, tasks are being undertaken systematically with a view to realization of policies and aims, strategies, projects and other structures through the health care system.

Next, the minister invited discussions of those present. The opening ceremony then came to an end.— MNA

Bago Division WAO Organizer, Chairperson observe participation of women in development tasks of Bago Division



Bago Division WAO Chairperson Daw Khin Maw Maw and party, MCWA members and local women seen at the round-table discussions in Lebu Model Village of Toungoo Township.— MNA

YANGON, 22 Sept — Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation is taking part in development tasks of the State to ensure uplift of women's role. Bago Division Regional Organizer Daw Wai Wai Thin of MWAFF, Chairperson of Bago Di-

vision Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Maw Maw and members arrived at Zeyathiri Nunnery and Home for the Orphanage Girls in Htinigon Ywama of Toungoo Township, Bago Division, on 20 September morning.

They presented rice and donations for the nuns and schoolgirls to Nun Daw Medini who spoke words of thanks.

They viewed teaching of MWAFF members to the orphanage girls and medical treatment of MWAFF member doctors.

Next, they donated exercise books and stationery.

Officials of Division WAO proceeded to Lebu Model Village in Toungoo Township, and observed tasks of Township MWAFF members at the tailoring course, knitting course, and medical treatment at the rural education centre of the village. They presented cash to the funds for health care services of the locals.

They also donated exercise books and stationery to students of Post Basic Education Primary School and magazines and journals to Linyaunggyi self-reliant library of the village.

Division WAO Chairperson Daw Khin Maw Maw and party, members of MCWA, women and village elders held round-table talks on development tasks, uplift

of women's life, social, economic, education and health care services.

On 21 September, they went to Kayan Model Village of Thanatpin Township, and presented exercise books and stationery to students of Village BEMS.

At Kayan Station Hospital, they asked health care functions for the village and conversed (See page 9)



Bago Division WAO Chairperson Daw Khin Maw Maw and party present exercise books and stationery to students at Zeyathiri Nunnery and Home for the Orphanage Girls in Htinigon Ywama of Toungoo Township.— MNA



Bago Division Regional Organizer of MWAFF Daw Wai Wai Thin and Bago Division WAO Chairperson Daw Khin Maw Maw and party view women at tailoring course in Lebu Model Village of Toungoo Township.— MNA

Exercise books and stationery were donated to students of Post-Basic Education Primary School and magazines and journals to Linyaunggyi self-reliant library of Lebu Model Village in Toungoo Township.