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True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone of the nation wherever he lives to cultivate and possess strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to uphold and safeguard.



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw bids farewell to Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chaisit Shinawatra at Bagan-NyaungU Airport. — 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

Guest of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chaisit Shinawatra concludes visit

YANGON, 23 Sept — The Thai delegation led by Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chaisit Shinawatra, visiting Myanmar at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, arrived at Bagan-NyaungU by air on 21 September afternoon. The delegation members were welcomed at Bagan-NyaungU Airport by Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command

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Myanmar's relentless efforts on narcotic drug elimination have once again been ignored by the United States Myanmar striving to eliminate narcotic drugs in active cooperation with UN agencies, other like-minded countries under international counter narcotic agreements

YANGON, 23 Sept — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs today issued a statement concerning the Presidential Determination released by the White House Press Secretary which has wrongly identified Myanmar as a country that has failed demonstrably during the previous 12 months to adhere to the obligations under international counter-narcotics agreements. The following is the full text of the statement.

It is most regrettable that Presidential Determination on Major Drug-Transit or Major Illicit Drug-Producing Countries for fiscal year 2006 released on September 15, 2005 by White House Press Secretary has wrongly identified Myanmar as a country that has failed demonstrably during the previous 12 months to adhere to the obligations under international counter narcotics agreements. Myanmar's relentless efforts on narcotic drug elimination have once again been ignored by the United States.

It is a well-known fact that Myanmar has been implementing the 15-

year narcotic drugs elimination plan with three 5-year phases, which was launched in the fiscal year of 1999-2000. Myanmar is now implementing the second 5-year phase after the first 5-year phase has been completed in 2003-2004 with great success especially in the supply reduction sector of which significant reduction in the illicit production of opium has been able to achieve. This has been validated through opium yield surveys and illicit crop monitoring programme conducted jointly by the Myanmar Government and the

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 24 September, 2005

Strive for better rural health care services

Now is the time when the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are making concerted efforts for the emergence of a modern and developed nation as well as for improvement of the living standard of the entire national people.

In this regard, priority is being given to development of border areas that lagged behind in development in the past. In the same way, the 24 special development zones and the five rural development tasks have been laid down and are being implemented to bring about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation.

In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, systematic measures are being taken for ensuring better transport in rural regions, availability of water for drinking and agricultural purpose, uplift of education standard of rural dwellers, enhancement of health care services and economic development.

Emphasis is being placed on improvement of health care services in rural regions where 70 per cent of Myanmar's population reside. Accordingly, health staff are actively taking part in the drive after the emergence of more hospitals, dispensaries and rural health care centres.

A ceremony to open new Namsalat Station Hospital in Hsenwi Township, Shan State (North), was held on 18 September morning, attended by officials of the Ministry of Health, the resident representative of WHO, national race leaders, local people and well-wishers.

The emergence of the health facility will contribute much to enhancement of health care services in Namsalat as well as 62 other villages that are adjacent to the village.

Nowadays, the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are exerting harmonious efforts for regional development. The Ministry of Health and other related ministries are exerting integrated and coordinated efforts for acquisition of potable water in rural regions where water is scarce.

With the assistance of WHO, UNICEF and FAO, the drive for development of health and education sectors is meeting with success.

At a time when efforts are being made for fitness and longevity of the people through uplift of health standard, it is incumbent upon all the health staff, local people and social organizations to try harder for providing better health care services in rural regions.

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

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 24 Sept— The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Her Excellency Mrs Pearl Nomvume Magaqa as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to the Union of Myanmar in succession to Her Excellency Mrs Buyisiwe Maureen Pheto.

Mrs Pearl Nomvume Magaqa was born on 4 June 1957. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Transkei in 1978 and obtained Master of Arts degree from Sofia University, Bulgaria in 1988. She started her career at the Capital Radio in 1978. From 1988 to 1991, she served as a member of African National Congress (ANC) in Zambia and Zimbabwe. From 1991 to 1993, she was with South African Airways and she worked at the Daimler Chrysler South Africa (Pte) Ltd from 1998 to 2000. In May 2004, she was appointed as Chief Director in the Office of the Minister of Transport. In 2005, she was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Mrs Pearl Nomvume Magaqa will be concurrently accredited to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.—MNA

Beauty of Union as seen today

- * Those who accept are satisfied
Those who help are happy
Love and goodwill
A sight that pleases you
This kind of news
Overwhelms Myanmar
Daily, incessantly
We hear, we see
And all citizens who are
Unanimously rejoice for success.
- * Loving kindness, goodwill, happiness at
Success of others
All three intertwined
And based on all this
Our magnificent Union
Always a wondrous sight
O, how good it is.

Milekku (Trs)

USDA Secretary-General receives ambassadors and Chargés d'Affaires of foreign missions in Myanmar



Ambassadors and Charges d'Affaires call on USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Sept — Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo received the ambassadors and Chargés d'Affaires of the Russian Federation, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Israel, the Republic of Italy, Nepal, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and the Republic of India at the headquarters of USDA this morning.

Present at the call were Joint Secretary-General U Zaw Min, Secretariat Member U Thuang, CEC member U Soe Tha, secretaries of Mon State and Magway Division USDAs.

Secretary-General U Htay Oo explained aims and functions of USDA, five rural development tasks, rural power supply tasks, and social affairs tasks, and answered the queries raised by those present. After that, they posed for a documentary photos.—MNA

CSSTB Chairman meets Indian Ambassador

YANGON, 23 Sept — Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun received Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra at his office this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were members of CSSTB U Nyunt Swe, U Aung Myint and U Hla Myint Oo, Director-General U Hla Kyi of Civil Service Selection and Training Department and Director-General Col



Kyaw Zan Hla of Civil Service Affairs Department.—MNA

CSSTB Chairman Dr Than Nyun receives Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra.

MNA

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၂၅-၉-၂၀၀၅ ရက်နေ့

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India, Russia, China to hold Business Conference next year

NEW YORK, 22 Sept— India, Russia and China have agreed to hold a trilateral Business Conference next year to consider ways and means of strengthening and expanding cooperation in various areas among the three countries.

The proposal for the conference was presented by External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh on Tuesday at their annual trilateral meeting held and was enthusiastically embraced by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

The ministers, who discussed a wide range of trilateral and international issues as also United Nations reforms, decided to convene their next session in New Delhi and favoured holding of business conference to coincide with the trilateral meeting. The dates for the meeting would be decided through mutual consultations.

Singh identified energy as a “sig-

nificant area” of cooperation among them and his Chinese and Russian counterparts welcomed the Indian initiative to convene a round table conference of North and Central Asian oil suppliers and principal buyers in New Delhi on 25 November.

Such a forum, Li and Lavrov agreed, would provide an opportunity to explore cooperation in this vital sector on both trilateral basis and in the larger region of Central and North Asia.

They said that their ministers in charge of oil and natural gas would participate in the round table, considering the importance of the discussions and exchange of ideas at the event.

MNA/PTI



Visitors walk past a billboard promoting 'Aviation Expo China 2005' in Beijing on 22 September, 2005. Aviation Expo, which features more than 170 exhibitors from 21 countries and region, will run till 24 September.

INTERNET

Poll shows majority believe US will lose in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept—Today/Gallup poll released on Thursday indicated fewer than half of Americans believe the United States will win the Iraq war, and 55 percent of those surveyed said it should speed up withdrawal plans.

Only 21 percent said the United States definitely would win the war in Iraq. Another 22 percent said they thought the United States probably would win. Twenty percent of respondents said the United States was capable of winning in Iraq — but probably would not. And 34 percent said they considered the war unwinnable.

The survey of 818 adults was conducted Friday through Sunday and had a sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The results followed others this week that found only 32 percent of those interviewed supported President Bush's handling of the war, 63 percent supported a full or partial withdrawal and 54 percent favored cutting spending on the conflict to pay for rebuilding the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina.

Internet

Two drug traffickers sentenced to death in Vietnam

HANOI, 22 Sept — A Vietnamese court has given death penalties to two women for trafficking and posing drug, the local newspaper *Labour* reported on Wednesday.

The People's Court of northern Phu Tho Province on Tuesday also handed down life sentences to three local people and sentences of 2-20 years to seven others.

The 12 people, including nine women, were convicted of trafficking nearly 2.3 kilos of heroin in the capital city of Hanoi and the northern provinces of Son La, Phu Tho and Ha Tay.

MNA/Xinhua

Int'l Machinery, Electronic Expo to open in Wuhan

WUHAN, 22 Sept— The Sixth China International Machinery and Electronic Products Expo is scheduled to be held on 23 September in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, local government announced on Wednesday.

The four-day expo will display equipment, accessories, top-grade machinery and electronic products and projects for investment at 1,546 booths, which cover a total floor space of 3,000

square metres.

By then, more than 2,000 business people from over 40 countries, including representatives from 62 of the global top 500, are expected to attend the expo. The expo aims to build a

platform to attract overseas investment to China's central and western regions, boost the pace of opening-up and promote multinational purchasing, the organizing committee said.

MNA/Xinhua

1,910 US military members killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 22 Sept—As of Thursday, 22 September, 2005 at least 1,910 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,484 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,771 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,375 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.—Internet



An Iraqi soldier and policemen watch a demonstration against a British raid which freed two undercover soldiers in the southern city of Basra on 21 September, 2005. —INTERNET

Britain paper criticizes government over chaos in Iraq

LONDON, 22 Sept — Don't be fooled a second time! While most of the media in London are talking about the conflicting reports and “unrest” tensions following the arrest of two British soldiers and the “barbaric” destruction of prison by British troops to rescue them in Basra, the *Guardian* published on Wednesday an article reminding the world not to be fooled again by the British Government in its Iraqi policy.

In a comment entitled “To say we must stay in Iraq to save it from chaos is a lie”, Simon Jenkins said: “They told you Britain must invade Iraq because of its weapons of mass destruction. They were wrong. Now they say British troops must stay in Iraq because otherwise it will collapse into chaos.”

This second lie is infecting everyone, Jenkins said. It is spouted by Labour and Tory opponents of the war and even by the Liberal Democrat spokesman, Sir Menzies Campbell. Its axiom is that Western soldiers are so competent that, wherever they go, only good can result. It is their duty not to leave Iraq until order is established, infrastructure rebuilt and democracy entrenched.

Note the word “until”, the commentator reminds us. It hides a bloodstained half century of Western self-

delusion and arrogance. The White man's burden is still alive and well in the skies over Baghdad.

Soldiers and civilians may die by the hundred. Money may be squandered by the million. But Tony Blair tells us that only Western values enforced by the barrel of a gun can save the hapless Mussulman from his own worst enemy, himself.

The first lie at least had tactical logic. The Rumsfeld doctrine was to travel light, hit hard and get out.

Instead the invasion came with tanks of glue. Decisions were taken, with British compliance, to make Iraq an experiment in “ground zero” nation-building. All sensible advice was ignored on the assumption that whatever America and Britain did would seem better than Saddam, and better than our doing nothing, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia denounces Security Council move on Iran

Moscow, 22 Sept— Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov denounced as "counter-productive" moves by the United States and the European Union to report Iran's nuclear programme to the UN Security Council, *RIA Novosti* news agency said.

The European Union unveiled a resolution on Tuesday calling on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to report the programme to the UN Security Council, which can impose sanctions against Iran.

"While Iran is cooperating with the IAEA, while it is not enriching uranium

and observing a moratorium, while IAEA inspectors are working in the country, it would be counter-productive to report this question to the UN Security Council," Lavrov was quoted on Wednesday as saying in a speech in San Francisco.

"It will lead to an unnecessary politicizing of

the situation. Iran is not violating its obligations and its actions do not threaten the non-proliferation regime," he said in a speech at Stanford University.

Russia, which has built a one-billion-US-dollar nuclear reactor for Iran and sees it as a key ally in the Middle East, is

a permanent member of the Council and can use its veto to block any move against Iran.

Russia has long warned against using force to stop Teheran's nuclear programme and called for diplomatic ways to settle disagreements.

Iran, which denies wanting nuclear weapons as suspected by Washington and the European Union, has angered the EU by resuming uranium processing work at a plant in Isfahan — a move which led EU officials to threaten the Council referral.

MNA/Reuters



Team members of Yelemba d'Abidjan from Ivory Coast perform on the Opening Concert of Sri Lanka Festival of Drums organized by World of Music, Arts & Dance (WOMAD) in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 21 September, 2005. —INTERNET

Opposition leader says British troops part of the Iraq problem

LONDON, 22 Sept— Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy is set to deliver a hard-hitting speech warning that the presence of British troops in Iraq is now "part of the problem" and calling for plans for their departure.

Kennedy also accuses Prime Minister Tony Blair of being "in denial" about the fact that most Iraqis now view British and US soldiers as occupiers, not liberators, according to an advance copy of the speech.

Kennedy, attempting to counter accusations of weak leadership, takes a tough stance on both Iraq and anti-terror legislation, according to details of his keynote speech to his Liberal Democrat party's annual

conference in Blackpool on Thursday.

On Iraq, he accuses the Prime Minister of allowing his "pride" and his "blind support" for US President George Bush to stand in the way of a solution involving the phased withdrawal of British troops, according to details provided by Britain's domestic *Press Association*. In an attack on Blair's efforts to neutralize criticism of his conduct over Iraq, Kennedy charges:

"However hard this government tries, it cannot 'move on'.

"You cannot move on when the Prime Minister remains in denial. You can't move on when people are dying every day. And you cannot move on when our British troops are still there in the firing line. "The government must confront the fact that the presence of British and American troops in Iraq are a part of the problem.

Internet

Annan says lack of disarmament progress threatens multilateralism

UNITED NATIONS, 23 Sept — The failure of the non-proliferation treaty review and the lack of results and progress on disarmament are weakening the system of legal norms and pose a threat to world peace and multilateralism, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Wednesday in a report to the General Assembly.

Therefore it is urgent for states "to renew their commitments to treaty principles on non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the right of states to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes", he said in a report regarding the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament.

This is particularly important because the July 2005 Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear weapons failed to achieve consensus beforehand, he concluded.

MNA/Xinhua



China announces policies for foreign banks to enter west region

CHENGDU, 22 Sept — China's banking regulator has worked out new policies to encourage foreign banks to enter the country's vast western regions, saying they can directly set up branches instead of offices first in the regions.

Xu Feng, director of the Banking Supervision Department III with the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC), made the remarks while speaking to a delegation of foreign bank representatives during an inspection tour in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province on Tuesday.

"Foreign banks may directly apply for the establishment of operational branches in western China, without the need of opening representative offices there first," Xu said. According to relevant existing regulations in China, a foreign bank is required to keep a representative office in a Chinese city for two years before it is permitted to open an operational branch there. — MNA/Xinhua

Hurricanes decrease support for Iraq War

WASHINGTON, 22 Sept—Hurricane Katrina and its wrenching aftermath have turned public attention and already-dwindling support away from President Bush's Iraq policy. And that was before Hurricane Rita took aim at Texas.

The devastating storms are increasing pressure around the country and in Congress for an Iraq exit strategy and prompting calls for reining in spending on an increasingly unpopular war, one which could bedevil Republicans in the 2006 midterm congressional elections.

"It's a tangled picture" that will get even more complicated as those elections near, said Stephen Cimbala, a political scientist at Pennsylvania State University.

Bush's core of supporters for staying

the course in Iraq appears to be shrinking, although war opponents are nowhere close to having enough votes in Congress to cut off or trim funds.

As many Americans brace for a winter of soaring home heating prices resulting in part from hurricane damage to oil and natural gas supplies, a rising number of Republican conservatives worry about the federal hurricane tab — estimated at \$200 billion or more when Katrina was the only factor.

Internet

Changi Airport's passenger volume up 7% in August

SINGAPORE, 22 Sept — Singapore Changi Airport hosted 2.78 million passengers in August of 2005, an increase of 7 per cent over the same period of last year.

According to a statement by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) on Wednesday, passenger traffic totalled 21.12 million in the first eight months of this year, up 7.3 per cent from a year ago.

The airport's cargo traffic also rose by 3.4 per cent to 152,000 tons in August, which brought its total cargo volume for the first eight months to 1.18 million tons, expanding 1.9 per cent as compared with last year. — MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi policemen search a car at a checkpoint in the southern Iraqi city of Basra recently. Local authorities in southern Iraq said they would have no dealings with British forces who stormed a Basra jail to release two of their men, even as Baghdad and London sought to downplay the incident. —INTERNET



Engineers fix the cable supplying power to one of Manila's three Light Rail Transport systems after the canvas of a huge advertising billboard was blown over onto an electric line at Quezon city, suburban Manila, on 22 September, 2005. —INTERNET

Siemens' global downsizing not to affect recruitment in China

BEIJING, 22 Sept — Facing large-scale job-cutting, German industrial conglomerate Siemens AG said its plan would not affect the China branch. China is not involved in the plan, said business.

sources with Siemens China on a telephone interview with *Xinhua* here Wednesday. The company's decision to recruit 5,000 people in China made earlier this year would not change, said the sources.

Siemens' business in China maintains strong momentum of growth and the global adjustment would not affect the company's development in China, the sources said.

Media reports said earlier that Siemens planned to cut jobs in the company worldwide, with 2,838 of the jobs from Siemens Business Services (SBS) and 797 jobs from fixed and mobile network

The SBS system belongs to interior service in China and no jobs would be cut from there, said sources with Siemens China. In a bid to meet the demand of its development in China, Siemens planned to recruit 5,000 employees in the country in 2005. Meanwhile, it announced further investment of 10 billion yuan in the market earlier this year.

As one of the world's largest electric and electronic companies, Siemens set up its first office in China in 1904. At the end of September last year, Siemens' investment in China reached 8.5 billion yuan. — *MNA/Xinhua*

South India flood situation grim, toll reaches 50

NEW DELHI, 22 Sept—The flood situation in Andhra Pradesh in south India worsened on Wednesday with reports of about 50 people killed, thousands evacuated and hundreds of villages inundated as major rivers overflow their banks, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

While the death toll has climbed to 50 as heavy rains battered the coastal regions for the last three days, many thousands have been evacuated and many more are waiting for help in submerged villages, officials said.

With floods in two major rivers and heavy rains continuing, authorities fear that the situation might worsen further.

With most parts of the state receiving heavy rainfall, there were huge inflows into the Krishna River and its tributaries.

If the Krishna is flowing near the danger mark inundating more than 100 villages in Krishna and Guntur districts, the Godavari is also overflowing its banks leading to a grim situation in Khammam, East Godavari and West Godavari districts.

Bhadrachalam Town and some 300 villages in Khammam are under water while 100 villages in

East and West Godavari districts have been inundated. Water levels at Dowleswaram Barrage at Rajmundry Town crossed danger mark Tuesday night. And more than 2.2 million cusecs of water has been let into the sea submerging 50 villages downstream.

Water has entered several localities in Vijayawada City and inundated National Highway 9, which connects the main towns of Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam to Chennai and Kolkata. Thousands of vehicles have been stranded on the highway.

The situation is no different in Guntur District where more than 50 villages have been inundated. Authorities are using boats to rescue people while two helicopters of the Indian Air Force have also been pressed into service.

MNA/Xinhua

US chopper make emergency landing in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Sept—A US military helicopter made an emergency landing caused by mechanical problems south of Mosul on Wednesday, the US military said.

"An *AH-64 Apache* helicopter conducted a precautionary landing due to mechanical failure approximately 50 kilometres south of Mosul," the military said in a statement. The brief statement did not clarify whether there was any casualty among the crew of the helicopter, but said the incident is currently under investigation. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Over 6,000 missing Bangladeshi fishermen return

DHAKA, 23 Sept—Over 6,000 fishermen, who went missing in the Bay of Bengal along with 600 trawlers during sea storm on Saturday night, returned to the southern coastal district of Patuakhali on Wednesday.

The Independent Thursday quoted trawler owners as saying that 16 fishermen on board 10 boats were feared dead. In the southeastern Cox's Bazar, some 200 fishermen were still missing with 20 trawlers in the district and its offshore islands since the Saturday's sudden storm in the deep of the bay.

Local fishermen suspected that many of the missing fishermen might be driven away to the Indian coast during the 20-hour storm in the sea.

In Patuakhali, it was reported that most of the fishermen of the missing trawlers were rescued from the Indian Digha coast. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Ten people killed in Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, 22 Sept—Gunmen killed 10 people and wounded five others in several attacks Thursday in central Iraq, police said.

In Baghdad, gunmen dressed as Iraqi police and driving Iraqi police vehicles stormed the home of Mohsin Agash — the owner of a tile-making factory in Mada'en, police said.

The attackers killed Agash, two of his sons and his daughter-in-law. Another of his sons was kidnapped, according to police.

In the capital's New Baghdad neighborhood, gunmen opened fire on a Nissan pickup truck that was carrying six security guards for the Ministry of Displacement and Migration. Four of the guards were killed in the attack and two others were wounded, police said.

In another drive-by shooting Thursday, gunmen killed an engineer in the southern Baghdad neighborhood of al-Dora, police said.

About 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of the city, gunmen killed Baquba Police Col Fadel Mahmoud in a drive-by shooting Thursday as he was traveling to work, according to police. His driver was wounded.

Also in Baquba, two Iraqi police officers were wounded when their convoy came under rocket attack on the city's western outskirts Thursday, police said.

Internet

India's oil firm acquires stakes in Cuban offshore blocks

NEW DELHI, 22 Sept—ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the overseas arm of India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has made its maiden foray in Cuba, as it acquired 30 per cent stake in five offshore blocks in Cuba in partnership with Spain's Repsol-YPF recently. According to a statement issued Tuesday, "OVL entered into an agreement September 15 with Repsol-YPF of Spain to acquire 30 per cent participating interest in the deep water exploration blocks 25-29, 36 and part of block 35 in the Republic of Cuba." The acquisition (of stake) will be completed after formalization of the contract by the Cuban Government, the statement added. Besides OVL's 30 per cent stake in the blocks, Repsol-YPF with 40 per

cent stake is the operator and the third partner is Norway's Norsk Hydro with remaining 30 per cent stake. — *MNA/Xinhua*



US soldiers examine the burned-out interior of a house in the Mansour District following a gun battle with guerillas in Baghdad on 21 September, 2005. —INTERNET

Information Minister receives Korean artistes delegation

YANGON, 23 Sept — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received visiting Korean movie star Mr Jae Won Kim, members of Baby Vox and the delegation of artistes from the Republic of Korea at the ministry on Thienbyu Road here at 5 pm today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon Chairman U Kyi Soe Tun and Myanmar Music Asiayon Vice-Chairman U Myint Ngwe.

MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives visiting Korean artistes including movie star Mr Jae Won Kim and members of Baby Vox at the office of the ministry. — NLM

Almost 400 found alive in south Asia storm

HYDERABAD (India), 23 Sept — Nearly 400 people who had been listed as missing in a storm off the southern coast of India were found alive after they took shelter on rooftops, trucks and buses, officials said on Thursday. But there were still scores missing, and survivors in neighbouring Bangladesh, which was also hit by the storm in the Bay of Bengal on Monday, spoke of bodies floating in the sea.

At least 66 people have been killed so far, authorities in the Indian State of Andhra Pradesh said, after the storm brought heavy rains, strong winds and flooding in the coastal villages.

An Andhra Pradesh government official said flood waters had since receded, allowing rescuers to reach the remote villages. "We have been able to move into villages and rescue people listed as missing," state official Navin Mittal said. But a fisherman who survived the storm in low-lying Bangladesh said many others were not so lucky. "I was lucky to come back.

While returning to shore I saw several wrecked boats and bodies floating on the rough sea," Idris Ali told reporters late on Wednesday in Barguna, a coastal district about 156 miles south of the capital, Dhaka.

"But we are not sure how many have died."

MNA/Reuters

Russia rejects new EU atomic draft on Iran

VIENNA, 23 Sept — Russia has rejected a new EU draft resolution on Iran that drops the threat of an immediate report to the UN Security Council over fears Teheran is developing atomic weapons, an EU diplomat said on Thursday.

"The Russians don't like it. They say it's a move in the right direction but not far enough," the European Union diplomat told Reuters on condition of anonymity on the sidelines of a week-long IAEA board meeting.

"The Russian ambas-

sador made it very clear that the new draft was not acceptable."

He said the Russians objected to the fact that even though the new draft does not call for an immediate Security Council referral, a report to the Council would be inevi-

table if the resolution is approved.

The Security Council, the United Nations' highest body, can impose economic sanctions.

Of the 35 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board members, Russia, China and at least a dozen others oppose the EU and US effort to haul Iran before the Security Council for breaching international nuclear obligations.

EU diplomats say Russia's support is crucial to achieving their aim of getting consensus on an IAEA resolution.

The EU had removed

the demand for an immediate Council report from the text in the hope getting the backing of Russia and other opponents.

The diplomat said there was no reaction from China yet, though he expected Beijing's view would be similar to Moscow's. Russia's Atomic Energy Agency, Alexander Rumyantsev, sounded more positive on the draft resolution. However, the Russian Foreign Ministry, not Rumyantsev's agency, gives instructions to its ambassador and negotiating team in Vienna.

MNA/Reuters

Gunmen kill senior official in southern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 Sept — Gunmen assassinated a senior official in the Iraqi Interior Ministry in southern Baghdad on Friday, police said.

"Captain Ra'ad Khalaf Hannon, head of the legal advisor office in the Interior Ministry, was shot dead as he was travelling with his two brothers on the highway in Dora district," a source from the ministry told

Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Unknown armed men opened fire at Hannon's car, killing him and one of his brothers and injuring his third, the source said.

In separate incident, another employee in

the ministry was gunned down by a group of armed men in Mansur district, the source said.

A group of gunmen, opened fire at Ashraf Jalal Rahman, an employee in the ministry's secretary office, as he was driving his car in the dangerous area in western Baghdad, where dozens of diplomats and government employees kidnapped or killed.

MNA/Xinhua

Passenger plane trying to make emergency landing in LA

LOS ANGELES, 23 Sept — A passenger Airbus A320 jet with problem in its landing gear is circling over the Long Beach Airport near Los Angeles Wednesday afternoon to try to make an emergency landing, CNN reported.

The front wheels of the Flight 292 of Jet Blue Airways from Burbank to New York turned sideways and was unable to retract. No other details were immediately available. — MNA/Xinhua

Bomb blast kills one in Lahore

LAHORE (Pakistan), 23 Sept — A bomb blast in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore killed one man and wounded eight people on Thursday, police said.

The bomb was fitted to a bicycle parked near the Minar-e-Pakistan (Tower of Pakistan) monument in the city, SSP Operations Aamir Zulfiqar said. "It is not immediately clear who is responsible or what message the terrorists wanted to give," he said.

MNA/Reuters

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization closes meeting

Vientiane, 23 Sept — The 26th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) wrapped up here Thursday after the delegation's leaders inking a joint communique, appealing for closer regional cooperation.

"The 26th AIPO General Assembly has become a turning point in meeting the objectives and principles of ASEAN Community. We believe that the active involvement of the parliaments and a close collaboration between the legislative and executive bodies in the process of formulating the ASEAN Charter will advance into a new chapter," Samane Vignaket, President of AIPO and President of the Lao National Assembly, said in his closing remarks.

He said delegates to the four-day assembly, held in Laos for the first time, had frank and constructive discussions

on various political, economic and social issues, including terrorism, maritime safety and security, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, the promotion of cultural and ecotourism, the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Development Fund, anti-drug measures, and legal cooperation to combat trafficking in women and children.

One day before the assembly, a meeting of women parliamentarians of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (WAIPO) adopted three resolutions, namely enhancement of parliamentarians' roles in poverty eradication, parliamentarians in advocacy for reproductive health and child survival, and the Beijing+10 Platform for Action towards achieving millennium development goals.

MNA/Xinhua



Copies of Handbooks for Bloggers and Cyber-Dissidents are displayed at the Apple Expo computer show in Paris on 22 Sept, 2005. — INTERNET

Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions to be held in line with seven lofty objectives

Reporter *Thaung Nyunt (Pyapon)*

The holding of the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions began in 1993, and now preparations are under way to organize the 13th national-level Competitions on a grander scale than those in the previous years. The holding of the national-level Competitions annually is an important step to preserve and safeguard Myanmar traditional culture. This year, the Competitions will be held under the seven lofty objectives.

The objective "To vitalize patriotism and nationalism" comes first in this year's Competitions, which is like the previous ones, will help vitalize patriotism and nationalism of the entire people, especially the youths. All along the thousand-year old history and till now, Myanmar have been the people always upholding their own culture and performing arts, while keeping patriotism and nationalism ever alive and dynamic in their hearts.

"To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage" follows as the second objective, expressing the task of enhancing the national prestige and integrity as a virtue, every country and race will have to value and establish. It is still a national duty for the present-day Myanmar to cherish and preserve and safeguard the cultural heritage, handed down to them by their ancestors in its original form.

As Myanmar performing arts with its own style and standard is the dignity and reputation of the people, the third objective states "To perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts". At the Competitions, today's Myanmar people will have the opportunity to en-

joy and study the traditional cultural performing arts, the artistes of successive eras in this particular field have preserved.

The fourth objective is "To preserve Myanmar national character". The present era sees the gradual penetration of the western culture and living styles that are also gaining ground in the nation, especially among the youngsters. The current trend calls for

"To vitalize patriotism and nationalism" comes first in this year's Competitions, which is like the previous ones, will help vitalize patriotism and nationalism of the entire people, especially the youths. All along the thousand-year old history and till now, Myanmar have been the people always upholding their own culture and performing arts, while keeping patriotism and nationalism ever alive and dynamic in their hearts.

the preservation and safeguarding of the genuine Myanmar culture, performing arts and fine arts as a task to be carried out without fail. We hope that the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are the answer to the call.

Spiritual development of youths is of vital importance for the nation in this age, for, correct spiritual development among them will lead to improving their thoughts, ideas and visions. In this regard, the Competitions are to be organized in ac-

cordance with the fifth objective — To nurture spiritual development of the youths.

The need to deter western culture from entering the nation together with the tide of global current of the age has always remained important for all of us. Hence, with the aim of helping guard the nation against domination of western culture, the sixth objective — To prevent influence of alien culture — is laid down.

And for the Competitions to serve as an engine effectively reinforcing the united strength of the Union in the long run, the organizers have laid down the seventh objective "To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit".

In fact, national races of Myanmar are the people who stand tall with dignity among the global countries because they have preserved and safeguarded their own cultural heritage as a national task since yore. The ancient dynasties including the Bagan, the Sagaing, the Pinya, the Inwa and the Konboug all saw the preservation and safeguarding of traditions and culture as the priority task. Today, we are also carrying out the task.

And with this article I hail the Competitions held annually with the objectives — To vitalize patriotism and nationalism; To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage; To perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts; To preserve Myanmar national character; To nurture spiritual development of the youths; To prevent influence of alien culture; and To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 23.9.2005.

C-in-C (Air)'s Shield Track and Field competition held

YANGON, 23 Sept — The opening ceremony of the 46th Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s Shield Track and Field competition 2005 took place at Aung San Stadium this morning. On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), Brig-Gen Ye Chit Pe of Mingaladon Station opened the competition.

Among the spectators were Mingaladon Air Base Commander Brig-Gen Zin Yaw, senior military officers and others.

Brig-Gen Ye Chit Pe presented the championship shield to the winning team. — MNA



Brig-Gen Ye Chit Pe presents the championship shield to the winning team.—PUPR

Facilities of water supply inspected in Salingyi, Yinnabin, Pale Townships

YANGON, 23 Sept — Director-General U Myo Myint of the Department of Development Affairs made a field trip to Salingyi, Yinnabin and Pale townships of Sagaing Division on 20 September morning.

In Salingyi, the director-general inspected water supply facilities and laying of water pipelines to supply water to urban areas. On arrival in Yinnabin, the director-general oversaw tasks for supply of water pumped from the artesian well at Ward 8.

The director-general and officials proceeded to Pale. There they looked into water tanks, and lakes, and preparations for supplying water for the local people. — MNA

IT & Electronic Fair to be held

YANGON, 23 Sept — The IT & Electronics Fair to be coorganized by the Integrated Computer Expertise (ICE) and the Citicom Compute, will take place at the Strand Hotel on Strand Road on 24 and 25 September starting from 11 am to 5 pm.

The technologies and application of computers and accessories will be clarified to the visitors to the fair.

The special prices will be offered to those who purchase products at the fair. — MNA

UMFCCI delegation leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 23 Sept — A delegation led by Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung yesterday morning left here by air for Thailand to attend the first ACMECS Joint Business Council to be held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Vice-presidents of the UMFCCI and CEC members will attend the meeting and discuss matters on the agriculture, trade, industry, HRD and tourism sectors. — MNA

ကမ္ဘာ့နှလုံး ကျန်းမာရေးနေ့ World Heart Day

(၂၅-၉-၂၀၀၅)

အချိုးကျ လှပကျန်းမာဖို့
ကိုယ်အလေးချိန် ထိန်းကြန့်နို့
"Healthy Weight and
Healthy Shape"

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Guest of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye...

(from page 1)

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Magway Division PDC Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials.

The guests, accompanied by the commander and party, first visited Arnanda Pagoda where they paid homage and offered flowers, light and water to the pagoda. Next they made cash donations to the funds of the pagoda. The supreme commander signed the visitors' book. General Chaisit Shinawatra and party also paid obeisance to the Thabbinnyu Pagoda and Shwezigon Pagoda.

Afterwards, they viewed scenic beauties of Bagan Archeological Zone from Bagan-Nanmyint Tower. At 7 pm, the Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces and party left Bagan-NyaungU Airport for Thailand by special aircraft.

They were seen off by Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party welcome the Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chaisit Shinawatra at the Bagan-NyaungU airport.— MNA

Struggle to eliminate narcotic drugs will continue with own available resources

(from page 1)

US-DEA and UNODC respectively. Myanmar has been jointly conducting opium yield surveys with the US government since 1993 and altogether 10 surveys have been carried out up to 2004. According to the joint assessment conducted by Myanmar and US-DEA, 34% in poppy cultivation and the potential production of 292 metric tons or 39% in opium production had declined in 2004 as compared with 2003. Similarly, Myanmar and the UNODC joint team assessed that 29% in poppy cultivation has also declined, which was equivalent to 54 % in opium production decline in 2004 as compared with 2003.

Myanmar believes that it alone cannot combat the drug menace and needs international support and cooperation. Myanmar therefore is striving to eliminate narcotic drugs realizing as a national task, in active cooperation with UN agencies, ASEAN member countries, neighbour countries and the other countries interested in Myanmar.

Myanmar signed the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs on 30 March 1961 and became a member on 29 July 1963. It also signed the 1988 Vienna Convention against Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs

and Psychotropic Substances on 11 June 1991 and became a member on 9 September 1991. On 20 June 1994, Myanmar signed the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and became a member on 20 December 1995. Myanmar signed on 13 September 2002 the 1972 Protocol with two reservations and became member on 22 August 2003.

Since Myanmar was elected as a member to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) for 4 years (1st January 2004-31st December 2007) at the ECOSOC meeting in 2003 she takes responsibilities and cooperates with CND as a member of the commission.

These facts are an eloquent testimony of Myanmar's serious and steadfast efforts to eliminate the scourge of narcotic drugs in active co-operation with UN agencies and other like-minded countries under international counter narcotic agreements.

However slanderous the negative and unconstructive campaign against Myanmar and even if no assistance is forthcoming, our struggle to eliminate narcotic drugs, which threatens humankind, will continue with our own available resources. We are confident that the goal will definitely be achieved. — MNA

Ongoing Yangon Airport Extension Project inspected



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspect the Yangon International Airport Extension Project. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Sept— Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, together with Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, and Deputy Ministers for Construction U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, inspected the Yangon International Airport Extension Project this morning.

Deputy Director-

General of the Civil Aviation Department U Tin Naing Tun reported on progress in renovating the arrival lounge and constructing annexes; and Project Engineer U Kyaw Swe of Asia World Co, on progress in laying concrete, digging drains and constructing parking lot, and schedules for wiring and building an octane tank. The ministers gave instructions on implementation of the

projects.

They inspected the project site and tasks for installation of boarding bridges.

On completion, the

340' x 140' airport will be an 800' x 200' two-and-a-half storey one with four boarding bridges and a 600' x 600' apron.

MNA

SWRR Minister receives Chinese, Indian Ambassadors

YANGON, 23 Sept — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa received Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr Li Jinjun, who has completed his tour of duty here, at 10 am and Indian ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra at 11 am at the Ministry today.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Khin Maung, Officer on Special Duty of the Ministry Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaug, Directors-General of the Departments under the Ministry and officials.

MNA

Yangon Mayor receives Bangladeshi Ambassador

YANGON, 23 Sept — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin received Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr M Khairuzzaman at the City Hall this evening.

Present at the call were Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials.

MNA

Trainees of Journalism Course visit MRTV

YANGON, 23 Sept — Led by course-in-charge U Swe Thant Ko, the trainees of Journalism Course No 1/2005 organized by the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information,

visited MRTV on Pyay Road this morning.

They were welcomed by Deputy Director (Administration) of MRTV U Maung Pe and officials.

The trainees viewed

the entertainment of Myanma Radio Music Troupe at Studio-D, taping for radio play at Studio-C and MRTV programmes transmission at Studio-1.

At Studio-A hall,

the deputy director explained the salient points of MRTV.

Next, leader of trainees U Than Oo expressed gratitude on behalf of the trainees.

MNA

Irrigation facilities inspected in Mandalay, Magway Divisions

YANGON, 23 Sept — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected flow of water into Kyetmauktaung Dam in Kyaukpadaung Township on 17 September.

Officials reported on cultivation of 6,823 acres of monsoon paddy and supply of water from Kyaukdaga and Taungyay Dams to Kyetmauktaung Dam.

The minister oversaw irrigation facilities of Kyetmauktaung Dam, the channel of Taungyay Dam and flow of water into regulating dam-5 which is 1,380 feet long and 38 feet high.



Next, the minister inspected paddy fields, channel and regulating dam-3 and dam-4.

In Natmauk, the minister looked into functions and buildings of Kyaukdaga Dam.

Later, he met with local authorities and employees of Construction-7 of Irrigation Department, and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo oversees the channel between Taungyay Dam and Kyetmauktaung Dam in Kyaukpadaung township. —A & I

Meeting of Central Committee for Organizing Mid-Year Gems Emporium held



Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint addresses the first meeting of Central Committee for Organizing Mid-Year Gems Emporium to be held in October 2005. —MNA

YANGON, 23 Sept — The Central Committee for Organizing Mid-Year Gems Emporium to be held in October 2005 held the first meeting at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, here, at 4 pm today.

Chairman of the Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint delivered an address.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman of the Central Committee Deputy Minister U Myint Thein, Vice-Chairman Deputy Minister for Trans-

port Col Nyan Tun Aung and members, Secretary Managing Director U Thein Swe of Myanmar Gems Enterprise, departmental heads, and officials of sub-committees.

Jade, Gems and Pearl Sub-committees reported on sales of jewellery items at the Special Gems Sales held in June and July 2005, and lots of jewellery to be sold at the Mid-year Gems Emporium to be held in October 2005. Officials of Administration, Security and Information Sub-committees took part in the discussions.

Later, the meeting approved to hold the Mid-Year Gems Emporium from 5 to 14 October.

Chairman Deputy Minister U Myint Thein, Secretary Managing Director U Thein Swe and officials gave suggestions to earn foreign exchange at the emporium.

After fulfilling the requirements, the minister gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Mines Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

YANGON, 23 Sept — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint received Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr Li Jinjun, who has completed his tour of duty here, at the ministry this evening.

Deputy Minister U Myint Thein and officials were present at the call.—MNA



Agreement on education cooperation between Myanmar Maritime University of the Ministry of Transport and Korea Marine Limited was signed on 23 September. MMU Rector U Thein Tun and Representative Director Mr Bok Ki Hong exchange documents.

TRANSPORT

MWAF holds talks on cultivating patriotism and nationalism

YANGON, 23 Sept— Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation gave educative talks to women at the Central Medical Store Depot of Social Security Board under the Ministry of Labour this morning.

Present on the occasion were Patron of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Thet Htay, Head of Discipline Enforcement Department of the federation wife of the Minister for Labour Daw May Kyi Sein, Head of Organizational Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, Head of Administration Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, Bago Division Regional Organizer wife of the Deputy Minister for Labour Daw Wai Wai Thin, writer Daw Saw Mon Nyin, personnel of Yangon Division WAO, wives of the departmental heads and members of MWAF of the ministry.

First, Daw May Kyi Sein gave an opening speech. Next, writer Daw Saw Mon Nyin gave lectures on cultivating patriotism and nationalism. Afterwards, Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay of Yangon Division WAO handed over 200 membership cards and brochures for the members of the Ministry of Labour to Daw May Kyi Sein. MNA



Daw Khin Thet Htay presents membership certificates to Daw May Kyi Sein. — MNA

Culture Minister meets Indian ambassador

YANGON, 23 Sept— Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung received Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra at the ministry this morning.

Present on the occasion were Director-General U Myint Thein Swe of Department of Cultural Institute, Director-General U Kyaw Win of Archaeology Department, Director-General of Fine Arts Department U Ngwe Tun, Rector of University of Culture (Yangon) U Tin Soe and officials.—MNA

Korean artistes arrive on study visit

YANGON, 23 Sept— To mark the 15th founding anniversary of dialogue partners' relations between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea, Mr Jae Won Kim and Baby Vox of the Republic of Korea arrived here by air this morning.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Managing Director of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise U Bo Kyi and officials and staff of Korean embassy.

The visiting delation members visited the University of Culture (Yangon) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. Rector of the university U Tin Soe extended greetings. Students of the university entertained the Korean artistes with Myanmar traditional performing arts.

In the evening, Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Ju Heum hosted a dinner to the guests at the Tradlers Hotel. MNA



Jae Won Kim and Baby Vox of Republic of Korea arrive at Yangon International Arport. — MNA

Donations of wellwishers handed over to MWAF



President of MWAF Daw Than Nwe accepts gifts presented by Culture Ministry through Daw Khin Lay Myint. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Sept— A ceremony to hand over the donations of wellwishers to Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation took place at the federation on Thanlwin Road here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were President of MWAF Daw Than Than

Nwe, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint, Head of Organizational Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, Head of Administrative Department Dr Khin San Nwe, Daw Khin Lay Myint, wife of the Minister for Culture and donors.

At the ceremony, the books worth K 100,000

donated by the Ministry of Culture, and 100 dozens of exercise books, 100 dozens of pencils, 45 raincoats and 45 school-bags worth K 200,000, donated by Director of Shwe-byai-phyu Daw Tin Latt Min were handed over to MWAF through the president of MWAF. — MNA

Rural library opened in Myaungbwe...

(from page 16)

to local people. Members of USDA and Maternal and Child Welfare Association held round-table talks with local folks, and gave advice and made suggestions. The

MCWA members dealt with rural development tasks being carried out in Myaungbwe Village.

Thanks to health, education, water supply, electricity supply, agriculture and livestock

breeding projects being implemented under the five rural development tasks by the Government, Myaungbwe Village is witnessing development. MNA



Patron of Rakhine State WAO Daw Win Win Nu views the specialist surgeons giving medical treatment to patients in Myaungbwe village, Rakhine state.—MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊
ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

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ကျေးလက်နေပြည်သူအများ ပညာဗဟုသုတတိုးပွားစေရန် ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုး
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Paddy husk-fired generator launched...

(from page 16)
The CEC member Minister for Transport donated K 5 million and 100 dozens of exercise books for the building of Basic Education High School under construction in Apaukwa Village, 44 dozens of exercise books and 20 bags of rice for Parihita Monastery of the village and journals and magazines for the village library.

ment for Apaukwa Village BEHS to officials. Townselder U Shwe Tun Maung expressed gratitude. He said that Apaukwa Village, not being a border area, has been relying on waterway for many years because of transport difficulty. As a result of better transportation in the time of the Government of the State Peace and Development

Swe donated Waso robes to members of the Sangha. After that, he attended the ceremony to launch the paddy husk-fired generator for power supply of the village. Member of the Organizing Committee for Village Power Supply U Ba Sein said that the Power Supply Committee was formed according to the instructions of the Chair-



Deputy Head of Rakhine State Health Department Dr Moe Swe, Medical Superintendent of the General Hospital Dr Zaw Win and specialists giving treatment to local people in Apaukwa village in Kyauktaw township. — MNA

man of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command. The committee organized the

development Council, remarkable progress has been made in economic and social sectors of the village. On behalf of the vil-

lage. On behalf of the vil-



Township and Village Women's Affairs Organization members explain rural development work Apaukwa village in Kyauktaw township.— MNA

State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Win Win Nu presented sports equipment and clothes, and Rakhine State Police Force Commander Police Col Win Kyi, 100 bags of

lagers, he thanked the Government and social organizations for their contributions towards the development of the village. While in Apaukwa Village, CEC member Minister Maj-Gen Thein

local people to use the paddy husk-fired generator. Thus, they knew how to use paddy husk systematically. Due to supplying power, development of education, health, social and eco-

Minister for Information receives Myanmar Affairs Researcher of Britain



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Myanmar Affairs Researcher Professor Robert H Taylor of Britain at the Ministry. — NLM

YANGON, 23 Sept— Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Myanmar Affairs Researcher Professor Robert H Taylor of Brit-

ain at his office on Theinbyu Street at 3 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung

Them, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information and the heads of office. — MNA

conomic sectors are prevailing in the village.

Next, farmer U Oo Tha Phyu thanked officials for their performance in facilitating power supply, which is essential for the village. Locals are very happy with development of economic and social matters by launching the paddy husk-fired generator. Chairman of Apaukwa Village Peace and Development Council U Tun Shwe Maung and member of the Organizing Committee for Village Power Supply U Ba Sein formally opened the generator.

Afterwards, CEC member Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected paddy fields at the agricultural educative camp in the village. Rakhine State Manager of Myanma Agriculture Service U Kyi Han explained matters related to the paddy fields. The minister met with local farmers and urged them to make concerted efforts for gaining success in agricultural tasks.

At the same time, a medical team comprising

Deputy Head of Rakhine State Health Department Dr Moe Swe, Medical Superintendent Dr Zaw Win of the general hospital, specialists and physicians provide free medical treatment to the local people. The medical team gave health care services to eye, ear, nose and throat, TB, dental and child patients, gynecological and obstetric patients, malaria patients and others totalling 966.

At the rural round-table discussions, members of USDA and Maternal and Child Welfare Association met with local rural people.

Women from rural areas asked social organizations how to provide maternal health care, gain health and fitness of children, take preventive measures against TB, dengue hemorrhagic fever, malaria, diarrhoea, and supply drinking water.

At the rural round-table discussions, members of Township and Village WAOs discussed rural

development tasks carried out in Apaukwa Village and replied to the questions raised by those present.

In reviewing the accomplishments of rural development tasks without vested interests, it is visible that the Government is giving health care services to the urban people in major cities, and placing emphasis on uplift of health and fitness of the local people in villages in line with five rural development tasks.

In the time of the Government of the State Peace and Development Council, Apaukwa Village of Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State, gained development in all aspects due to concerted efforts of the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people.

As a result of supplying power with the use of paddy husk-fired generator, the local people enjoy not only programmes from TV Myanmar but also that from abroad through satellite receivers. Apaukwa Village has been installed with telephones for better communication, and the village library has been opened to enable the local people to gain general knowledge from various kinds of books.

In Apaukwa Village, land has been put under paddy, livestock breeding farms have also been established. Due to better transport, local people of the village have now the taste of economic growth.

MNA



Locals reading journals and books at a village library in Apaukwa village in Kyauktaw township, Rakhine State. — MNA

ADVERTISEMENTS

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ

ပစ္စည်းအယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် စက်တင်ဘာလ ၂၂ ရက်

ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာအော်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ High Tensile Wire များကို C&F/Yangon (US\$) သို့မဟုတ် ဌာနအရောက်ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ ဖိတ်ခေါ်အပ်ပါသည်။

Table with 2 columns: Quantity (စဉ်) and Price (အရေအတွက်). Includes items like 4mm and 5.5mm High Tensile Wire.

ပစ္စည်းအယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါအော်ယူခြင်း

ဆောက်လုပ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပြည်သူ့ဆောက်လုပ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်းတွင် အသုံးပြုရန်အတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါစင်မက်များကို ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါ စနစ်ဖြင့်

- List of items for tender: L/C စွင့်၍ ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။ Generating Set (250 KVA) (8) Units, Generating Set (300 KVA) (2) Units, Air Compressor (250 cfm) (6) Units, etc.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SENTOSA VOYNO (40)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SENTOSA VOYNO (40) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.9.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD, JAPAN

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SEA BRIGHT VOYNO (723)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA BRIGHT VOYNO (723) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.9.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINE

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Laos wants larger local, foreign investment in mining

VIENTIANE, 22 Sept— Laos is encouraging both local and foreign investors in mineral exploration and exploitation, local newspaper Vientiane Times reported on Wednesday.

Many mines in Laos, including gold, copper, lead, zinc, iron ore, tin, coal and gemstones, have not been explored, due to lack of funds and inadequate experience and know-how of Lao staff in the mineral industry, it said, adding the country will persuade investors to conduct more detailed explorations.

MNA/Xinhua

သတင်းစာကိုယ်စားလှယ်လျှောက်ထားနိုင်

၁။ မည်သည့်မြို့နယ်မှမဆို သတင်းစာကိုယ်စားလှယ်အဖြစ် ဆောင်ရွက်လိုပါက ဝယ်ယူဖြန့်ချိလိုသော သတင်းစာအမျိုးအစားနှင့် စောင်ရေကို ဖော်ပြ၍ ဦးဆောင်ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း၊ အမှတ် (၂၁၂)၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့ထံ ပေးပို့လျှောက်ထားနိုင်သည်။ ၂။ အသေးစိတ် သိရှိလိုပါက ဖုန်းနံပါတ် ၀၁-၂၀၀၈၁၆၊ ၀၁-၂၀၀၈၁၇၊ ၀၁-၅၄၄၃၃၄၊ ၀၁-၂၉၀၈၃၃၊ ၀၁-၂၉၆၆၆၄ တို့ထံ ဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း

Asia-Pacific faces silent epidemic of child deaths

NOUMEA (New Caledonia), 22 Sept — In a "silent epidemic" some 3,000 children under five die every day in the Asia-Pacific Region from preventable diseases, according to a report on child health released on Wednesday.

Babies who die in the first month due to infections and birth complications account for 40 per cent of the deaths.

Child mortality in the Western Pacific, which stretches from China to Fiji, had fallen in the 1980s but some countries like Cambodia were now seeing it rise again, according to the World Health Organization and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) report. The Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Kiribati had shown little change in child mortality in the past 10 years.

"The tragedy of our times is that almost all of these childhood deaths could be avoided with well-known, tested and cost-effective interventions," it said. "Children represent the region's future. Improving child health will benefit economic and social development."

Six countries — Cambodia, China, Laos, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Vietnam — account for more than 75 per cent of the deaths, and the report warned 800,000 children will die every year in these countries if the health services are not improved.—MNA/Reuters

INVITATION TO TENDER (TENDER NO. 16(T) MPE/HSD (10)/ 2005-2006)

- 1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of (6,000 ± 10%) Metric Tons High Speed Diesel Oil (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%). 2. Tender closing Date: (6-10-2005) at (12:00) noon. 3. Tender Documents and detail information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min-Ye-Kyaw-Zwa Road, Yangon, during office hours commencing (23-9-2005) on payment of one hundred (100) FEC per set. 4. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender documents officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation. Managing Director, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

Australia strengthens airport security after review

CANBERRA, 22 Sept — Australia will spend 200 million Australian dollars (154 million US dollars) to boost security at its main airports after a review described airport policing as "inadequate and dysfunctional".

The review by Briton Sir John Wheeler, who assessed security at Britain's airports in 2002, said "silos and insularity" within Australia's airport security establishment had thrown up weaknesses that could be exploited by criminals and terrorists.

He said the country's airport security systems were typically uncoordinated because of turf wars between the differ-

ent agencies involved, and conflicts between the federal and the six state governments over resources.

"There is no mechanism to draw together and assess regularly the threat of crime and criminality at major airports," Wheeler wrote in his report, which was released by Australian Prime Minister John Howard on Wednesday.

Wheeler said clearer

roles for the security agencies and a bit of fine tuning would improve policing of the airports.

"However, further major gains will require a changed culture of cooperation, sharing, and openness to new technologies and methods across federal, state and private sector agencies and personnel," he said.

Australia, a staunch US ally with troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, has

steadily beefed up security and anti-terrorism laws since the 11 September, 2001, attacks on the United States.

Australia has never suffered a major peacetime attack on home soil, but 88 Australians were among 202 people killed in the 2002 Bali bombings and 10 Indonesians were killed when the Australian embassy in Jakarta was hit by a suicide bomb in September 2004.—MNA/Reuters

Belgian officials call for closer Belgian-Chinese economic ties

GENT (Belgium), 22 Sept — China is playing an increasingly important role in the world and Belgian entrepreneurs should try harder to make friends with Chinese and explore the Chinese market, Belgian officials said at a business forum here on Tuesday.

Belgium-China economic exchanges have increased steadily over the past decade, and bilateral cooperation is now important for both countries, said Fientje Moerman, Minister for Economy, Enterprise, Science, Innovation and foreign trade of Flanders, one of Bel-

gium's three regions and the strongest one in terms of economy.

Moerman made the comment at the China Business Forum in Gent, capital of the East Flanders Province. The forum was held on the sidelines of a nine-day international exposition here, which has

invited China as the guest country this year.

East Flanders Governor Andre Denys joined Moerman in calling on more Belgian entrepreneurs to do business in China, saying that Belgian businessmen should abandon their conservative thinking, if any, to reach

out to their Chinese counterparts.

Chinese ambassador to Belgium Zhang Qiyue said China and Belgium are complementary in economy, with great potential to further strengthen business ties.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Central China chime bells orchestra to perform in Europe

WUHAN, 22 Sept — A chime bells orchestra from central China's Hubei Province will give five performances in the Netherlands and Belgium from 25 September to 15 October. The orchestra was founded in the 1980s by the Hubei Province Museum and they will give the performances with a set of ten-ton chime bells unearthed in 1978 in a tomb of Duke Zeng, a prince in the China's Warring States period (475-221 B.C.).

Wan Quanwen, vice curator of the museum, said the performances are an important part of the music festivals held in the two countries, during which more than 100 pieces of ancient musical instruments will be also displayed to the European visitors. The orchestra will play the music edited or rewritten from ancient Chinese music and folk songs, which recorded the lives of different classes of a society, Wan said.

The orchestra has more than 20 members and they have given performances in Japan, Luxemburg, Singapore, United States, Germany, France, Hong Kong and Taiwan, receiving warmest welcomes from the locals. —MNA/Xinhua

Tourist arrivals increase in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 22 Sept — Tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka for the first eight months increased by 11.7 per cent over the same period last year, the Daily News reported on Wednesday. A total of 51,216 tourists arrived last month, showing an increase of 5.2 per cent compared to the corresponding month in 2004, according to the newspaper report. In August 2005, arrivals from both South Asia and East Asia increased by 12.5 per cent and 24.8 per cent respectively when compared to the figures of the same month in 2004. —MNA/Xinhua

Report says global warming could spark conflict

CANBERRA, 23 Sept — Rising world temperatures could cause a significant increase in disease across Asia and Pacific Island nations, leading to conflict and leaving hundreds of millions of people displaced, a new report said on Thursday.

Global warming by the year 2100 could also lead to more droughts, floods and typhoons, and increase the incidence of malaria, dengue fever and cholera, the report into the health impact of rising temperatures found.

Compiled by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and the Australian Conservation Foundation, the country's leading medical and environment groups, the study predicts average temperatures will rise by between one degree Celsius (1.8 Fahrenheit) and six degrees by 2100.

"We're not just talking about a longer summer or a shorter ski season," AMA president Mukesh Haikerwal told reporters.

"Climate change will damage our health. People will get sick as a direct result. People will die in larger numbers as our earth, our world, our home, heats up."

In Australia, Haikerwal said up to 15,000 people could die each year due to heat stress by 2100, up from about 1,000 a year at present, while dengue fever and other mosquito-borne diseases could spread as far south as Sydney.

Dengue fever in Australia is currently confined to the country's tropical and sparsely populated far north.

Internationally, higher world temperatures would increase the incidence of violent storms and droughts, and could lead to crop failures which could cause political and social upheaval.

"As stresses increase there is likely to be a shift towards authoritarian governments," the report said.

"At the worst case, large scale state failure and major conflict may generate hundreds of millions of displaced people in the Asia-Pacific region, a widespread collapse of law, and numerous abuses of human rights."

The report said crop yields were likely to increase in parts of Northern Asia, but would decrease in countries in Southern Asia, where the incidence of floods, droughts, forest fires and tropical cyclones would all increase. The report, titled Climate Change Health Impacts in Australia; Effects of Dramatic CO2 Emission Reductions, calls on governments to cut carbon dioxide emissions to limit the impact of global warming. — MNA/Reuters



Uprooted trees and half-fallen power cables block a street in Havana after Hurricane Rita passed near Cuba on 21 September, 2005.—INTERNET

Fire on bus with elderly Rita evacuees, 20 dead

HOUSTON, 23 Sept — A bus carrying elderly evacuees burst into flames outside Dallas before dawn on Friday, killing at least 20 people and closing a primary escape route for Hurricane Rita, local television WFAA reported.

"It burst into flames with black smoke coming from the bus, and then we saw the fire," witness Ashley Donald told Houston television station KTRK.

The Dallas television

station, citing the Dallas County Sheriff's Department, said the bus was carrying 45 senior citizens from Bellaire, a southwest Houston enclave. Some of the passengers used oxygen tanks, but it was unknown whether they contributed to the fire.

It said at least 20 people were killed. The Bellaire police department could not immediately confirm the bus came from a local nursing home.

MNA/Reuters

"Voyager 1" finds surprising features of solar system edge

LOS ANGELES, 23 Sept — The Voyager 1 spacecraft, now venturing into the unknown world beyond our solar system, has collected abundant data about the outer threshold of the solar system, scientists reported on Thursday.

Four papers based on the spacecraft's findings were published in the 23 September issue of the journal Science to depict new features of the solar system's boundary. And these findings provide surprise, scientists said.

Voyager 1, launched on 5 September, 1977 by US space agency NASA, was designed to investigate planets and possible life in other star systems. The spacecraft and its twin, Voyager 2, are two man-made celestial bodies most distant away from Earth.

Around 16 December, 2004, Voyager 1 passed an important milestone: it crossed the "termination shock" which is the point where solar wind from our sun begins the process of merging into the interstel-

lar medium, the gas and dust that exists between the stars.

At the termination shock, solar wind moving at ultrasonic speed slows down so that its speed reaches subsonic region. The termination shock surrounds the entire solar system, and its location changes based on changes in properties of the solar wind.

The location of the termination shock had been debated for many years until Voyager 1 actually passed the point. The spacecraft crossed at 94 astronomical units (an astronomical unit is the distance from the sun to Earth), or 14.1 billion kilometres, from the sun, scientists said.

Early in the space age, the termination shock was

predicted to be relatively close to the sun, within the orbits of the planets.

Scientist later converged on predictions that the shock would lie between 90 and 100 astronomical units from the sun.

As predicted, Voyager 1 found the intensity of low-energy particles increased abruptly at the termination shock, two papers in the Science journal said. But contrary to earlier predictions, the spacecraft found high energy particles did not accelerate.

This finding from the termination shock fulfils "the mantra of space exploration", according to Len Fisk, a professor of space science at the University of Michigan.

MNA/Xinhua

Snow leopards march to outnumber their China population

LEH (Jammu and Kashmir), 22 Sept — Swiftly disappearing from rest of the bewitching Indian woodlands along with endangered tiger population, snow leopard has finally won the battle for his survival in its Ladakh bastion with its population touching a record 400.

The endangered snow leopard population is increasing at a rapid pace here unlike other habitats in the rest of country. It has won the battle for its survival," chief wildlife warden of Jammu and Kashmir C M Seth told PTI.

"It is increasing very fast. And if the trend continues, India will leave China, Russia, Nepal and Bhutan behind in the population of snow leopard in India," he said.

As per Jammu and Kashmir wildlife department survey and killing of Kaytel reports of 2005, the leopard population increased to 400 this year from 230 to 250 in 2003.

The wildlife figures show there is an increase in snow leopard population by 35 per cent in the state, which is an achievement for the department, wildlife officials said.

MNA/PTI

SPORTS



Real Madrid's Danish player Thomas Gravesen, right controls the ball during a Spanish League soccer match against Athletic Bilbao at the Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid, on 22 September, 2005. —INTERNET

Woodgate scores own goal, sent off on debut

MADRID, 23 Sept — England defender Jonathan Woodgate made a miserable first full appearance for Real Madrid on Thursday, scoring an own goal and being sent off against Athletic Bilbao at the Bernabeu.

Making his first start in a competitive match for 17 months, Woodgate gave Bilbao the lead when he headed into his own net as he tried to clear a dangerous cross from Bilbao forward Joseba Etxeberria in the 25th minute.

The 25-year-old was lucky to stay on the pitch when he clattered into Bilbao midfielder Carlos Gurpegi before the break, escaping with a yellow card.

Woodgate was finally given his marching orders midway through the second half after being harshly booked for a foul on Etxeberria as the two challenged for the ball.

Injury to Ivan Helguera and a suspension for Sergio Ramos had opened the way for Woodgate to make his debut in the centre of the Real defence more than a year after joining from Newcastle United

for close to 20 million euros (24.3 million US dollars).

The former Leeds United player had not started a competitive match since tearing a thigh muscle in a Premier League game against Chelsea on 25 April last year.

He had been due to make his debut for Real last October but suffered a recurrence of the injury in a training game.

Woodgate made a brief appearance for Real in the final five minutes of a pre-season match in August and has been training with the first team since.

MNA/Reuters

Lens hold leaders Lyon to 1-1 draw

PARIS, 23 Sept— Racing Lens confirmed their good start to the season by holding Olympique Lyon to a 1-1 draw away in Ligue 1 on Thursday.

The northern side went in front thanks to defender Amada Coulibaly who headed home a free kick by Yohann Demont in the sixth minute.

Lyon equalized eight minutes before the interval when Portuguese midfielder Tiago curled in a shot from 18 metres.

Lyon, who had a perfect record at home since the start of the season, had a goal by Benoit Pedretti denied for an offside position in the 44th.

The champions retain top spot in the standings but their lead was cut from three points to two after their second consecutive draw. They laboured to a lucky and hardly deserved 1-1 result at Girondins Bordeaux last week.

Paris St. Germain are now second after they beat Lille 2-1 at the Parc des Princes on Wednesday, captain Pedro Pauleta scoring his side's two goals.

Lens climbed to fourth, five points behind Lyon and one below promoted Le Mans in third place.

MNA/Reuters

Raul, Robinho come to Real's rescue

MADRID, 23 Sept — A quick-fire double from captain Raul and a well-taken header by new signing Robinho allowed 10-man Real Madrid to fight back from a goal down to claim a 3-1 win at home to Athletic Bilbao on Thursday.

Real looked to be heading for a fourth defeat in a row when England defender Jonathan Woodgate, playing his first competitive match since joining Real more than a year ago, sent a diving header into his own net in the 25th minute.

Vanderlei Luxemburgo's side struggled to respond to the setback and it was not until the start of the second half that they sparked into life.

Real broke through when Brazilian striker Robinho got in front of a forest of players to head home a David Beckham free kick eight minutes after

the break.

Robinho's fellow Brazilian Ronaldo then set up Raul for his first goal when he burst his way through the Bilbao defence before unselfishly laying the ball off for his skipper to score at the far post.

Raul made certain of the win in the 69th minute, meeting a Beckham corner with an expert glancing header that spun over the keeper and into the net.

MNA/Reuters

Atletico Nacional snatch late draw in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 23 Sept — Colombians Atletico Nacional scored an injury-time goal to snatch a 3-3 draw against Mexico's America in the Copa Sudamericana on Wednesday night.

America, who extended their unbeaten run to 26 games, staged the second round, first leg match in Los Angeles as they served the first of a three-match home ban in competitions organized by the South American Football Confederation (CSF).

The ban was imposed following a crowd riot and brawl at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City after America were knocked out of the Libertadores Cup by Brazil's Sao Caetano in May last year.

Atletico led 2-1 at halftime after America defender Ricardo Rojas headed a cross into his own net in the second minute and veteran striker Victor Aristazabal scrambled another five minutes before the break.

In between, former Argentine striker Claudio Lopez pounced on a poor clearance to equalize.

Argentine midfielder Christian Gimenez scored twice in the second half to put America 3-2 ahead before Hector Hurtado levelled in the 92nd minute for Atletico Nacional. — MNA/Reuters

Rogers wins third successive time trial gold

MADRID, 23 Sept — Michael Rogers of Australia made cycling history on Thursday by winning the men's elite time trial for the third time in a row when he powered his way to the gold medal in the world championship in Madrid.

The 25-year-old, who won his first title in Hamilton in 2003 after the original winner David Millar was stripped of gold for doping, blasted his way round the 44.1-km course in 53 minutes 34.49 seconds to smash the time set by home favourite Jose Ivan Gutierrez by some 24 seconds.

Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland claimed the bronze medal. "I'm going to have a big party tonight," said Rogers. "I didn't go easy on the first lap, but I really pushed it on the second.

"It is a really hard course. It was very hard on the climbs and in the second part there was a lot of uphill."

Asked about the possibility of going for a fourth title, Rogers replied: "Maybe, I'm still only 25 and so I've got a lot of time ahead."

MNA/Reuters

Sharapova stutters into China Open quarterfinals

BEIJING, 23 Sept — Top seed Maria Sharapova produced a stuttering 6-0, 5-7, 6-2 victory over Israel's Shahar Peer on Thursday to reach the China Open quarterfinals. The Russian teenager

closed out a flawless first set with a vicious forehand down the line after 28 minutes but was punished for some sloppy play in the second.

The world number one was broken three times as the 48th-ranked Peer levelled the second-round match in Beijing.

But Sharapova quickly recovered her composure and the 18-year-old comfortably took the deciding set to win her first competitive match since reaching the US Open semifinals.

Sharapova, who has won four of her 10 career titles in Asia, will play Japan's Shinobu Asagoe in the last eight. Asagoe overpowered American Jill Craybas 6-2, 6-4 on an outside court.

Wimbledon champion Venus Williams, the number three seed, takes on Spain's Nuria Llagostera Vives in Thursday's evening session.

Both Williams and Sharapova received first-round byes. Venus' younger sister Serena Williams was stunned 6-2, 7-6 by China's Sun Tiantian on Wednesday. — 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 September 22, 2005. Sharapova beat Peer 6-0, 5-7, 6-2. —INTERNET

Prime Minister sends message of congratulation to Japanese PM

YANGON, 24 Sept— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, General Soe Win, has sent a message of congratulation to His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi, re-elected as Prime Minister of Japan. —MNA

As the three plans are being implemented with added momentum, unprecedented development can be witnessed in the nation. Significant progress has been achieved in urban areas as well as rural regions.

Paddy husk-fired generator launched in Apaukwa Village of Kyauktaw Township Education, health, social affairs & economy of locals improved

Regional development undertakings discussed



Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects the paddy husk-fired generator at Apaukwa Village in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State. — MNA,

YANGON, 23 Sept — The Government has laid down three development plans — the border areas development plan, the 24 special region development plan, and the plan for five rural development tasks — for cent per cent development of the regions throughout the Union.

As the three plans are being implemented with added momentum, unprecedented development can be witnessed in the nation. Significant progress has been achieved in urban areas as well as rural regions.

At present, five rural development tasks are being undertaken in accord with the guidance of the Head of State with a view to narrowing the gap between urban and rural regions. Hence, rural areas in Rakhine State have made greater progress in political, economic and social aspects.

To inspect accomplishments of five rural development tasks in the rural areas of Rakhine State, Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association in-charge of Rakhine State and also Minister for Transport, arrived at Apaukwa Village in Kyauktaw Township on 19 September.

(See page 11)

Rural library opened in Myaungbwe Village, MraukU Township Specialists providing health care services to local people

Round-table talks held for rural development

YANGON, 23 Sept—CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe in-charge of Rakhine State USDA supervised implementation of the five rural development tasks in Myaungbwe Village, MraukU Township on 20 September.

The CEC member addressed the ceremony to present cash donations, stationery, and sports gear held at the basic education high school in Myaungbwe Village. He presented cash donations, stationery, and sports gear for the school through the principal. The wife of the commander also presented cash donations, stationery, and sports equipment; and 14 wellwishers, cash donations through the township education officer.

Next, the minister inspected the multimedia teaching centre of the school. He visited specialists giving medical treatments to patients and comforted them. He also inspected the 16-bed hospital and donated K 1 million to the facility.

Afterwards, the minister attended the opening ceremony of a library. Officials presented K 100,000

and publications, and Patron of Rakhine State Women's Affairs Organization Daw Win Nu publications for the library.

On a visit to Sasana Mandaing Monastery in Myaungbwe Village, the minister offered Waso robes to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanda.

In conjunction with the cash donations presenting ceremony, Deputy Head of Rakhine State Health Department Dr Moe Swe, Medical Superintendent of the General Hospital Dr Zaw Win, specialists and physicians gave free medical check up and treatments

(See page 10)



Members of Township and Village Women's Affairs Organizations meet with locals at Myaungbwe Village, MraukU Township, Rakhine State. — MNA

INSIDE

All along the thousand-year old history and till now, Myanmar's have been the people always upholding their own culture and performing arts, while keeping patriotism and nationalism ever alive and dynamic in their hearts.