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Sunday, 25 September, 2005

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Senior General Than Shwe sees off General Thura Shwe Mann on his departure for goodwill visit to Bangladesh



velopment Council Commander of Yangon Command, senior military officers, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Union of Myanmar Mr M Khairuzzaman, Defence Attaché Brig-Gen Helal Uddin Ahmed and staff of the Bangladeshi Embassy, and departmental officials.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence was accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council (See page 8)

Senior General Than Shwe sees off General Thura Shwe Mann and party at the airport. — MNA

YANGON, 24 Sept — A Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence left here by special flight at 8.30 am today to pay a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General

Than Shwe, 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, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-I of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and De-



Senior General Than Shwe sees off General Thura Shwe Mann at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 25 September, 2005

For total eradication of narcotic drugs

Like other countries, Myanmar has been doing her utmost in the fight against drugs that pose a threat to the entire mankind.

Myanmar has taken the initiative in addressing the drug problem by launching the 15-year Drug Elimination Plan in 1999-2000 with three five-year phases. The first five-year phase met with success. According to a report of UNODC, poppy cultivation in Myanmar declined 13 per cent in 2002, 24 per cent in 2003 and 29 per cent in 2004.

The Opium Yield Survey conducted annually in collaboration with the US has also shown a drastic decline of 88 per cent in poppy production in 2004 when compared to 1996 levels. Poppy cultivation also declined 81 per cent for the same period.

The seized drugs are destroyed yearly at a ceremony in Yangon starting from 1990 and it has now reached the 19th time. In the same way, seized drugs and dried poppy bulbs were destroyed in other cities as well as in border areas and it has now reached the 34th time.

The decline in poppy cultivation and production can be attributed to the commitment of the government in the fight against drugs and the active participation of local authorities, national race leaders and local people in the drive. The implementation of the five rural development tasks and the 24 special development zones to improve the living standard of the national races was also a crucial contributing factor.

For successful realization of the second 5-year phase, systematic steps are being taken for ensuring international cooperation and participation of the entire national people.

Learning from the success and challenges encountered during the first 5-year phase, the entire national people are to do their bit with nationalistic spirit for successful realization of the second 5-year phase.

As part of the 15-year Drug Elimination Plan, the New Destiny Project has been introduced since April 2002, and remarkable progress has been made in this regard.

In the meantime, Myanmar is taking effective measures in the fight against stimulants that emerged as a new drug threat. Precursor chemicals for stimulant production are not produced in Myanmar but they are smuggled in from neighbouring countries.

As neighbouring countries as well as those in the region are contributing their shares in Myanmar's fight against drugs, it is incumbent upon the entire national people to actively take part in the drive.

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

Minister for Information receives Thai guests



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Regional Manager Mr Nathapong of Shin Satellite Public Co Ltd of Thailand.— MNA

YANGON, 24 Sept —Regional Manager Mr Nathapong of Shin Satellite Public Co Ltd of Thailand paid a courtesy call on Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan at the latter's office on 22 September evening.

Director for Asia and Pacific Region Mr Matthew Oh of New Skies Satellite of Singapore paid a

courtesy call on Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan on 23 September afternoon.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises and the head of office.

MNA

Urban development tasks inspected in Pakokku District

YANGON, 24 Sept — Director-General U Myo Myint of Department of Development Affairs supervised water supply tasks and beautifying of urban areas in townships of Pakokku District on 20 September.

In Yezagy, the director-general and party inspected water tank, pump station and laying of water pipeline and gave necessary instructions.

On 21 September morning, they oversaw sinking of the tubewell with the use of machine of Department of Development Affairs, construction of the

water tank and laying of pipeline in Ward 11 in Pakokku. Next, they inspected beautifying tasks in the urban area.

In Myaing, the director-general heard reports on sinking of 6-inch tubewell and water supply tasks, beautifying tasks in the urban area and upgrading of urban roads presented by Deputy Director (Engineer) U Khant Zaw and officials.

They proceeded to Seikpyu and looked into water supply facilities, keeping the urban pleasant and upgrading of the roads in the town. — MNA

Visiting Korean artistes meet Myanmar journalists, artistes

YANGON, 24 Sept — Visiting Korean artistes met with Myanmar journalists at the hall of Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road, here, at 11 am today.

First, the Korean artistes extended greetings. Next, they answered the queries raised by the

journalists, and expressed gratitude for arrangements for the goodwill visit.

In the afternoon, the Korean and Myanmar artistes cordially exchanged views on matters related to motion pictures and music at Traders Hotel.

MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်

မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့

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

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Visiting Korean artistes meet with local journalists at Myanma Radio and Television. — MNA

China, Russia hold military consultations in Moscow

Moscow, 23 Sept — China and Russia held the ninth round of military consultations in Moscow on Wednesday and Thursday, and exchanging views on regional security situation, terrorism combat and peace-keeping operations.

During the two-day meeting, Xiong Guangkai, deputy chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, discussed with his Russian counterpart Aleksandr Skvortsov a variety of international issues of mutual concern and ways of boosting the relations between the two Armed Forces.

Yury Baluyevsky, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed

Forces, met with Xiong and told him the consultations are important in enhancing mutual understanding, broadening consensus and improving cooperation between the two Armed Forces.

Xiong, for his part, said the two sides

reached broad consensus in security situation both worldwide and within the region. He pledged to make joint efforts with the Russian side to further strengthen friendly cooperation between the two Armed Forces.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil to ask WTO to impose trade sanctions on US

BRASILA, 23 Sept — Brazil will ask the World Trade Organization (WTO) to impose sanc-

tions on the United States due to its failure in meeting a trade resolution, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

A WTO resolution in March asked the US Government to eliminate subsidies on cotton producers and exporters, saying they caused a grave damage to Brazil because of their negative effect on the international price of cotton.

The resolution said the US authorities should take appropriate measures in six months to withdraw the subsidies.

The deadline came on Wednesday, but the United States had failed to take any measure to meet the resolution. According to the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, three programmes subsidizing the US cotton sector are still in effect.

The US assistance programmes "isolate the US producer from market signs and lead to the artificial production of surplus, which, instead of being placed in the



Indonesia to merge state-owned mining firms

JAKARTA, 23 Sept — The Indonesian Government will merge state-owned mining firms PT Aneka Tambang, PT Batubara Bukitasam and PT Timah in a bid to improve the performance of the companies, State Minister for State Enterprises Soegiarto said here Thursday.

The minister made the statement during a meeting with the House of Representatives' Commission VI on trade and industry.

Sugiharto said that the merger was part of the government's plan to revitalize 159 state-owned companies as most of

them made little contribution to the Treasury.

He said that the plan to merge the mining firms will be discussed later with other economic ministers. "As the three companies are listed on the Jakarta Stock Exchange, the mergers must be made through shareholders meetings," Sugiharto who was quoted by the state Antara news service as saying. —MNA/Xinhua

world market, produce a downfall of pricing or prevent prices to go up as much as they should," said the Foreign Ministry.

Therefore, the minis-

try said, Brazil will request authorization from the WTO within the next 30 days to adopt "countermeasures" in the case.

MNA/Xinhua

Saudi Foreign Minister doubts US policy in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept — "The Bush administration, fencing with Saudi Arabia on Iraq, says US policy is working to bring the Iraqi people together politically for the benefit of a united country.

"What they deserve is our support," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said Friday while urging Arab countries to give Iraq the diplomatic and political backing it seeks.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, told The Associated Press on Thursday that the Bush administration did not heed some Saudi warnings on occupying Iraq and that he didn't believe a new constitution and elections would solve Iraq's problems.

"Perhaps what they are saying is going to happen," Saud said. "I wish it would happen, but I don't think that a constitution by itself will resolve the issues, or an election by itself will

solve the difficult problems." Saud cautioned that US policies in Iraq risk dividing the country into three separate parts: Kurdish, Sunni and Shiite.

"We have not seen a

move inside Iraq that would satisfy us that the national unity of Iraq, and therefore the territorial unity of Iraq, will be assured," he said.

Internet



Tourists at the Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia. An independent watchdog warned that tomb raiders are decimating Cambodia's archaeological sites, looting ancient and remote cemeteries to sell antiques to tourists.

INTERNET

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq fighting

BAGHDAD, 23 Sept — "Heavy fighting surged Friday in the Euphrates River city of Ramadi, police and hospital officials said, and the US military reported the deaths of two more soldiers around the militant stronghold, scene of nearly one-quarter of 29 American deaths this month.

In Baghdad, a suicide bomber on a public minibus set off an explosives belt as the vehicle approached a busy terminal Friday, killing at least five people and wounding eight, police said.

Also in the capital, gunmen killed a member of the commission charged with ensuring former members of Saddam Hussein's Baathist regime are banned from the Iraqi government, police said. Thirteen commission members have been killed since it was created two years ago.

The US military declined to say if it

was conducting a large offensive against Ramadi, but police and residents have reported heavy fighting there during the past week. Seven service members have died in or near the city since 1 Sept.

"There are 30 to 40 battalion-level operations going on across Iraq on any given day," said Lt Col Steven A Boylan, a US military spokesman in Baghdad. "What you are seeing is the pattern of operations that we have been conducting almost every day here."

Internet

1,912 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept—As of Friday, 23 Sept, 2005, at least 1,912 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 1,488 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



Iraqis gather around the remains of an US army armored vehicle destroyed by a road side bomb near Ramadi, Iraq, on 23 September, 2005. —INTERNET

China calls for talks on Iran nuclear issue

BEIJING, 23 Sept— China Thursday called for the early resumption of talks between Iran and the European Union (EU) to solve the Iran nuclear issue within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"The urgency at present is to resume negotiations between Iran and the EU at an early date," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang.

"The negotiations will help the two sides bridge their differences and finally secure a solution acceptable to all sides," said Qin at a regular news briefing.

Qin urged the parties concerned to take a long-term vision, exercise restraint and continue diplomatic negotiations and settle the nuclear issue within the framework of the IAEA.

"This is conducive to the regional peace and stability and to maintaining the mechanism of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)," said Qin.

Qin said "there is still room for resolving the Iran nuclear issue through dialogue", urging parties concerned to show flexibility and make efforts for an early resolution of the nuclear issue.

"China will work with the international community to play a constructive role in solving the nuclear issue at an early date," Qin added.

The EU on Tuesday circulated a draft resolution to the 35 members of the IAEA Board of Governors. The draft would refer Iran to the United Nations Security Council. But the EU has backed away from its demand on Thursday.

Iran resumed uranium conversion work in August, after rejecting the EU offer to give up its nuclear fuel activities in return for economic and technical incentives. Iran insists that it would never give up legal rights to produce nuclear fuel for fully peaceful purposes. The United States and the EU suspect Iran of developing nuclear weapons under cover of a civilian nuclear programme, a charge rejected by Teheran. — MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်မုတ္တမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား



A visitor at Sony Corp showroom in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district checks one of the latest models of the Walkman portable music players on 23 September, 2005.

INTERNET

India, Sri Lanka set for more trade with new pact

COLOMBO, 23 Sept— India and Sri Lanka are working on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement to prop their bilateral trade beyond its present 1.73-billion-US-dollar level, India's High Commissioner here said.

Indian exports to Sri Lanka were to the tune of 1.3 billion dollars last year while imports from the island nation were valued at 382 million dollars, High Commissioner Nirupama Rao said.

"The five years of the free trade agreement has been a matter of pride for both countries," she said while opening, jointly with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse, a "Made-in-India" trade exhibition here.

"We have miles to go before we can rest", Rao said. Official figures show that the trade gap between the two countries has been narrowing since the free trade agreement.

Prime Minister Rajapakse said he wanted closer cooperation with India and suggested his country should follow closely New Delhi's economic model.

"As time goes on we will buy more from India," the Premier said.

MNA/PTI

Singapore launches nat'l standard for business continuity

SINGAPORE, 23 Sept— A national standard on Business Continuity Management was launched by Singapore's Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board (SPRING Singapore) on Thursday.

According to Channel NewsAsia report, this set of technical reference makes clear the requirement for a company to stay resilient in case of a major business disruption so as to recover and continue operations.

Inclusive of the best

practices by business continuity management organizations in the United States, Britain and Australia, the standard is expected to help create a safe, secure and reliable business environment in the city state.

The International Or-

ganization for Standardization (ISO) will develop an international standard in this regard based on the Singapore set, the report said. Singapore is the first country in the world that adopts a national standard for business continuity.

MNA/Xinhua

Floods kill six Romanians on Black Sea shore

BUCHAREST, 23 Sept— At least six people died in floods which hit southeastern Romania on Thursday damaging hundreds of homes and disrupting traffic on the Black Sea shore towards Bulgaria, state agency Rompres reported.

Torrential rains have swept across the Balkans for most of the summer, killing dozens of people in Romania and its neighbour Bulgaria and causing hundreds of millions of euros in damage to houses, road bridges and crops.

Rompres said the vic-

tims drowned in the swollen waters close to the Black Sea towns of Costinesti and Tuzla.

Private television Realitatea TV showed images from Costinesti where a national guard unit was rescuing children and elderly people from their collapsing

homes.

Local police said a main road was closed linking Romania's biggest Black Sea port of Constanta with the Bulgarian port of Varna.

Meteorologists say more rain was expected over the next few days.

MNA/Reuters



A US soldier views destroyed vehicles following a suicide bombing in Baghdad on 23 September, 2005.

INTERNET

US confirms three State Department contractors killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept— The US State Department said on Thursday that three Blackwater contractors working with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security were killed in bombing attacks in Mosul in northern Iraq on 19 September.

"We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of these men. They were valued members of the State Department family and of our Diplomatic Security team in Baghdad," the State Department said in a statement.

The three private American security guards were killed when their convoy was hit by a suicide car bomb in Mosul.

Overall, more than 1,900 US service members have been killed in Iraq since the Iraq war in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

Spain announces troops withdrawal from Afghanistan

MADRID, 23 Sept— Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero announced Wednesday that all the 500 Spanish troops on humanitarian mission in Afghanistan will be brought home by 12 October.

Addressing the Parliament, Rodriguez Zapatero said the withdrawal began on 21 September because the troops have accomplished their mission including protecting the 18 September parliamentary elections from disruption in the Asian country.

Mourning the death of 17 Spanish soldiers killed in a helicopter crash in August in Afghanistan, Rodriguez Zapatero said they sacrificed their lives for the UN mission.

He also said the Spanish troops have accomplished 40 UN peacekeeping missions, with a total of 2,678 Spanish peacekeepers now in Afghanistan, the Balkans and Haiti.

Spain joined the UN peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan in May 2002.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran hails EU nuclear climbdown as a victory

TEHRAN, 23 Sept— Iran hailed on Thursday as a “significant victory” the European Union’s climbdown from its demand that the UN’s nuclear watchdog report the Islamic state to the UN Security Council.

Mohammad Saeedi, deputy head of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization, said opposition from China, Russia, India and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) stopped the EU sending Teheran to the UN’s highest body for possible sanctions.

“The EU’s withdrawal was a significant victory for Iran,” Saeedi, also a member of Iran’s nuclear negotiating team, told *Reuters* from Vienna.

The EU has dropped the demand from a revised draft resolution after nearly 15 of the 35 members of the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) governing board, including China and Russia, opposed the EU draft resolution.

Iranian negotiator Javad Vaeeedi said Iran’s strong diplomacy pushed the EU to drop its Security Council push.

“Our firm stance, China and Russia’s backing and also a lack of legal

basis caused the EU’s withdrawal,” the official *IRNA* news agency quoted Vaeeedi as telling reporters in Vienna.

“Also, as they were not sure about the outcome of the Security Council, they reviewed their draft,” said Vaeeedi, Supreme National Security Council’s deputy in charge of international affairs.

Vaeeedi warned the EU against including a so-called “trigger mechanism” in the new draft resolution that would set the stage for a referral to the Security Council if Iran resumed activities linked to uranium enrichment or was found to be hiding any more sites from the IAEA.

“If America and the EU include such mechanism in the IAEA’s resolution, ending snap inspections will be part of our strong reaction,” he said, referring to Iran’s current implementation of a protocol giving UN inspectors greater access to atomic sites.

MNA/Reuters



Bangkok’s new international airport is seen from a light plane in Bangkok on 23 September, 2005. Suvarnabhumi Airport will receive Thailand’s Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra’s inaugural flight on 29 September.

INTERNET

London bomb suspect leaves Rome prison

ROME, 23 Sept — One of the suspected bombers in the 21 July attacks on London’s transport system left Rome’s Rebibbia Prison on Thursday morning ahead of his extradition to Britain, according to a *Reuters* cameraman outside the jail.

Ethiopian-born Hamdi Issac is expected to be driven straight to a Rome Airport and flown back to Britain later this morning.

Issac was seized in Rome a week after the 21 July attacks, which killed no one but brought chaos to London exactly two weeks after suicide bombers had killed 52 people in the British capital. He has

admitted to taking part in the strike but has said the action was meant to scare people, not kill them.

An Italian court ordered his extradition on 13 September.

MNA/Reuters

China builds special funds for large heritage sites protection

BEIJING, 23 Sept — China’s top heritage watchdog said that the government will put aside 250 million yuan (30.86 million US dollars) annually for preserving large heritage sites as from this year.

“We encourage people residing near the large heritage sites to develop economy while protecting heritage sites,” Friday’s *People’s Daily* quoted Shan Jixiang, director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, as saying.

China now has 30 state-listed cultural heritage sites with each having a size of more than 50,000 square kilometres.

They are scattered in 107 cities and counties across China.

The Daming Palace ruins, in northeastern part Xi’an City, which served as capital of a dozen of ancient dynasties in Shaanxi Province, is a typical example of large cultural ruins. The well-preserved cultural site contains lots of archaeological objects, said Shan Jixiang, after a recent in-

spection to the site.

The government of Xi’an has earmarked 20 million yuan (2.4 million US dollars) in planting trees and dismantling illegal installations adjacent to the ruins.

Shan admitted protection of these cultural sites is confronted with many difficulties. Flood, mudflow, landslide and other natural disasters pose a threat to the cultural sites.

“But, the biggest threats are not from environmental or ecological deterioration, but from human activities, such as construction of roads and water control projects and operation of rural industries near the cultural sites,” said Zhou Kuiying, a heritage official with Northwest China’s Shannxi Province.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam sees high consumer price index in nine months

HANOI, 23 Sept — Vietnam’s consumer price index (CPI) is estimated to rise to 6.8 per cent in the first 9 months of this year, according to the General Statistics Office Thursday.

The hike is mainly attributed to soaring prices of petroleum products, which raised September’s prices of transport and postal services, construction materials and education services by 3.8 per cent, 1.7 per cent and 1.3 per cent, respectively.

To deal with the situation, the country is focusing on intensifying state management on prices, enhancing goods circulation, eliminating the monopoly of some services and essential commodities, and improving competitiveness of local enterprises.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed in bomb attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 Sept — A roadside bomb exploded near a US military convoy in southern Baghdad on Wednesday, killing a soldier and wounding six others, the military said in a statement on Thursday.

The bomb blast took place at 10:30 p.m. (1830 GMT) in Dora District, the statement said.

The name of the killed soldier was being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement added. More than 1,900 US soldiers have been killed since the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

Man who shot at UAE envoy in Syria acted alone

ABU DHABI, 23 Sept — A gunman who opened fire on a car carrying the Charge d’Affaires of the United Arab Emirates in Syria was acting alone with no political motivation, the UAE’s official WAM news agency reported. The UAE diplomat was unhurt in the incident outside the UAE Embassy in Damascus on Monday. Syrian police later arrested the gunman and a source said he was a former UAE resident who was angry for being expelled from the Gulf state.

MNA/Reuters



US military police secure the area where a suicide bombing took place in Baghdad, Iraq, on 23 September, 2005. —INTERNET

Russian State Duma passes 2006 federal budget

Moscow, 23 Sept— The Russian State Duma, or the Lower House of Parliament, passed the draft 2006 federal budget Thursday which envisages a budget surplus of 27.7 billion US dollars.

The State Duma voted 331-95 in favour of the budget in the first reading, with one abstention, according to the *Interfax* news agency.

Under the budget, revenues are expected to amount to 5.046 trillion roubles (180.2 billion dollars)

and spending is to top 4.270 trillion roubles (152.5 billion dollars), thus producing a budget surplus of 776 billion roubles (27.7 billion dollars). The budget was drafted on the estimated GDP growth of 5.8 per cent and an inflation rate of 7.0-8.5 per cent. Foreign debt is

expected to see a drop of 167.8 billion roubles (6.0 billion US dollars) while internal debt will grow by 206.0 billion roubles (7.4 billion US dollars).

Yury Vasilyev, head of the Duma Budget and Tax Committee, told the Duma session that the estimated

increase of the federal budget surplus over 2005 worries lawmakers.

“Duma deputies have pointed to the inaccuracy of the key indicators many times,” Vasilyev said, adding the inflation rate will likely exceed the forecast figure. — MNA/Xinhua



School buses used to evacuate residents from Hurricane Rita leave Galveston County, Texas on 23 September, 2005.—INTERNET

Hurricane "Rita" assaults Texas, Louisiana

GALVESTON (Texas), 24 Sept — High winds and heavy rains lashed Texas and Louisiana on Saturday as Hurricane Rita crashed in from the Gulf of Mexico with a storm surge that was expected to swamp coastal towns in both states.

After sweeping through key offshore oil fields, the powerful storm took aim at the coast's refinery row where much of the nation's gasoline and petrochemicals are produced.

A spectacular fire of unknown origin broke out in Galveston's historical centre and quickly engulfed three buildings as firefighters struggled to put the blaze out in 60 miles per hour winds. Burning cinders swirled across the sky and on to the firemen, forcing them to stay well back.

The National Hurricane Centre in Miami said at 1 am EDT (0500 GMT) the centre of Rita was 40 miles southeast of Sabine Pass at the Texas-Louisiana border and moving northwest with top winds of 120 mph.

In Port Arthur and Beaumont in southeastern Texas and Lake Charles, Louisiana, 60 miles to the east, trees toppled in the rising winds and streets were littered with blowing debris.

The storm's projected path reminded many of Hurricane Audrey, which inundated southwestern Louisiana in 1957, killing at least 390 people.

"It's just like Audrey. I was nine years old and it was terrible,"

said Phillis Carbalan of Lake Charles.

In the island city of Galveston, 50 miles south of Houston, high winds knocked out power to most of the city, shoved over street signs and caused utility poles to sway back and forth. Minor flooding was reported in parts of the city.

Houston, the nation's fourth largest city, was getting gusty winds and intermittent rains but did not take a direct blow from Rita.

Forecasters predicted a 15- to 20-foot storm surge would spill over local levees in the low-lying coastal region.

"This will bring Gulf waters as far north as the Interstate 10 (highway) corridor from Beaumont to Lake Charles," the weather service said.

Port Arthur, a refinery town right on the Texas-Louisiana border, was expected to get severe flooding, they said.

Rita was the second powerful hurricane to strike the Gulf Coast in less than a month, following Katrina, which devastated southeastern Louisiana, including the historic city of New Orleans, and Mississippi, killing at least 1,069 people.

MNA/Reuters

Study says India to have 358 shopping malls by 2007

NEW DELHI, 23 Sept — The retail business in India is set to witness heady growth in the years ahead with the number of shopping malls in Asia's third largest economy rising to a staggering 358 by the end of 2007, says a study by Images fashion magazine.

The country has some 100 malls now, with the National Capital Region (NCR) and Mumbai accounting for maximum numbers of the gleaming shopping centres, says the study.

Based on a complete list of shopping centre developments taking place across the country, the projection for listed developments by 2007 is 358, the study, which was made public recently, quoted an ex-

pert as saying. According to Images, there are a total of 96 operational malls in India. The number will rise to 158 malls by the end of the current year.

Droves of middle-class Indians have broken off their love of traditional stand-alone Indian stores that have no air conditioning, organized parking and other public amenities. Malls throughout the country are getting bigger as they

are now being positioned as a one-stop-shop for shopping, entertainment, leisure and eating-out needs rather than a place only for shopping for fashion products.

Organized retailing is projected to grow at the rate of 25-30 per cent per annum to touch eight billion US dollars by 2005 and 24 billion US dollars by 2010, said the Images study.

Investments in the re-

tail sector are estimated at between 400 million US dollars and 500 million US dollars over the next two to three years, and over four billion US dollars by the end of 2010, it added.

The study said the fast growing middle class population, the rise in women work force and consumerism over the decade were the major forces in driving demand in the retail sector.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian Govt to expand H5N1 surveillance to pets

JAKARTA, 23 Sept— The Indonesian Government unveiled here on Thursday a plan to expand H5N1 avian influenza virus surveillance beyond birds and pigs to other animals.

Mathur Riady, director-general of livestock production at the Ministry of Agriculture, said that the surveillance would include domestic animals such as cats. "It's not impossible H5N1 will also infect rodents," he was quoted by the

web site of *Jakarta Post* as saying. The government warned on Wednesday that the outbreak of bird flu could become an epidemic.

Four Indonesians are confirmed to have died since July from the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of bird flu. Nine other patients suspected of bird flu are now being treated at the Sulianti Saroso Infectious Diseases Hospital in Jakarta. The authorities are still waiting for their test results.—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese volunteers involved in World's No-Vehicle Day

BELING, 23 Sept — Volunteers in big Chinese cities, including Beijing and Shanghai, called on drivers not to use their private vehicles on the World No-Vehicle Day, which falls on Thursday.

More than 500 people in Shanghai chose to ride bicycles to their workplaces.

Similar scenes were also seen in Shenzhen, an economic powerhouse in South China, *China Youth Daily* reports Thursday.

Urbanites in 35 French cities initiated the environment-friendly endeavour in 1998, which was echoed by many European cities in following years.

British tobacco firm Gallaher buys into Canary Islands

LONDON, 23 Sept — British tobacco firm Gallaher Group Plc said on Thursday it had agreed to buy Cita Tabacos de Canarias for 85 million euros (104 million US dollars) cash.

Gallaher said it would also assume 20 million euros of debt. Cita makes, distributes and sells cigarettes and cigars in the Canary Islands, Spanish Peninsula and Portugal.

MNA/Reuters

Sony to cut 10,000 jobs in turnaround plan

TOKYO, 23 Sept— Struggling electronics and entertainment conglomerate Sony Corp. said on Thursday it would cut about 7 per cent of its global work force as part of a new restructuring plan, and it slashed its full-year outlook.

The inventor of the Trinitron TV and Walkman is struggling to catch up with rivals Matsushita Electric Industrial and Sharp Corp in flat televisions and Apple Computer's iPod player in the portable music industry.

Sony said it would book 210 billion yen (1.89 billion US dollars) in restructuring charges as it streamlined its operations, and it aimed to achieve a group operating profit margin of 5 per cent in the 2007/08 business year.

The company said it now expected to post a

group operating loss of 20 billion yen in the current business year to March due to an increase in restructuring charges. Sony's previous estimate was for an operating profit of 30 billion yen.

The long-awaited revival plan will be implemented by Howard Stringer and Ryoji Chubachi, who became chief executive and president of the world's second-largest consumer electronics maker in a major overhaul of management in June.

MNA/Reuters



A fire fighter falls from a high altitude during a police parade in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, on 22 September, 2005.—INTERNET

World Heart Day, 2005

Prof Khin May San

World Heart Day, an annual event, is being commemorated for the second year in Myanmar by the Cardiovascular Diseases Project of the World Health Organization, under the auspices of Ministry of Health. This year, it falls on the 25th of September and is dedicated to the theme- "Healthy Weight, Healthy Shape". Globally, more than 1 billion people are overweight, at least 300 million of whom are obese. Incidence is on the rise and it knows no borders; it touches both developed and developing countries, and is increasingly prevalent in children. Energy-dense foods, high in saturated fats and sugars, combined with lack of physical activity are generally responsible for this trend; 60% of the world population does not meet the recommended 30 minutes of daily physical activity. Obesity and overweight have adverse effects on blood pressure, cholesterol, triglycerides and insulin resistance, all of which are risk factors for cardiovascular disease and stroke, which claim 17 million lives worldwide annually.

Aim and Objectives of WHD 2005

World Heart day is the World Heart Federation's most important advocacy event and a major driving force for encouraging global heart disease prevention. The annual event aims to increase public awareness of the threat of heart disease and stroke and the importance of a healthy lifestyle by promoting preventive measures, so that children, adolescents and adults all over the world can live better, longer. Under the slogan "A Heart for Life", WHD is run by the World Heart Federation's member organizations of 186 medical societies and heart charities, in 100 countries. Activities include health checks, walks, runs, jump rope, fitness sessions, public talks, stage shows, scientific forums, exhibitions and sports tournaments.

The WHO, UNESCO and the Sport 2005, the UN's International Year of Sport and Physical Education are actively supporting this year's WHD, which will focus on the importance of having a "Healthy Weight, Healthy Shape", since maintaining a healthy weight and body shape dramatically reduces the risk of heart disease and stroke. Being overweight or obese, particularly if weight is carried around the abdomen, is a leading risk factor for heart disease and stroke, reducing the likely age of a first heart attack by between 4 and 8 years. A worldwide epidemic of overweight and obesity, a decrease in physical activity and increased tobacco consumption, are a forewarning of the rapidly growing epidemic of heart disease

and stroke ahead. Since 1990, more people have died from coronary heart disease than from any other cause.

Your health is at risk not only by the amount of body fat you have, but also by where the fat is located. You have an apple shape if you tend to gain weight mostly in the waist (stomach) area. Pear-shaped figures tend to gain weight around the hips and buttocks. Apple shapes have an increased risk of heart disease—so they need to take extra care to maintain a healthy weight.

Measure your waist, measure your risk

Measure your waist just above your navel. If you are over 94 cm (37 inches) for a man and over 89 cm (32 inches) for a woman, you are considered at risk. 102 cm (40 inches) for a man and 88 cm (35 inches) for a woman means you are at even higher risk.

Body Mass Index

The BMI is an indicator of your level of health relative to your height and weight.

$$BMI = \frac{\text{Weight (kilograms)}}{\text{Height (metres)}^2}$$

$$BMI = \frac{\text{Weight (pounds)} \times 730}{\text{Height (inches)}^2}$$

Compare your BMI to the chart below to determine your level of risk

Classification	BMI (kg/m ²)	Risk level
Underweight	<18.5	Low (but risk of other health problems increase)
Normal range	18.5-24.9	Average
	18.5-23	Average in some Asian populations
Overweight	25.0-29.9	Mildly increased
Obese	>30	High
Class I	30.0-34.9	High moderate
Class II	35.0-39.9	High severe
Class III	>40	High very severe

How to have a healthy weight, healthy shape

Energy balance

Being overweight is due to more calories being consumed than used. We need to live our lives in "energy balance". If you need to lose weight, your calorie intake must be less than the calories you burn. Regular exercise and eating a balanced diet will help you to stay fit and burn more calories. Avoid fad foods that offer unrealistic results and encourage eating (or not eating) specific foods. Remember, if you lose weight gradually, you are more likely to keep it off.

Healthy eating

- Adopt a balanced diet including plenty of fruits and vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free products (however take calories into account), unsaturated soft margarines and oils (such as sunflower, corn, rape-seed, olive), lean meat, fish and pulses.
- Restrict salt and sugar intake
- Eat breakfast and make sure to have at least 3 meals per day
- Use healthier cooking methods such as steaming, boiling, grilling and baking instead of deep fat-frying and adding extra fat and develop healthy cooking skills within your family.
- Avoid buying sweets and junk food

- Drink at least 6-8 glasses of water per day
- Expect temptation, so plan healthy foods in advance

Regular exercise

- For adults, even 30 minutes of brisk walking per day will help reduce your risk
- Children should have 60 minutes of physical activity per day
- Surround yourself and your family with supportive people who either participate with you or remind you to exercise
- Decrease family television viewing and increase your involvement in regular family sports and activities
- Encourage your family and friends to have a heart for life too
- At home: Work together in the garden, walk or bike to run errands and get off the bus one stop early
- At work: Take the stairs instead of the lift, participate or create a physical activity group, walk around your building and exercise during your lunch break
- At school: Encourage your child's school to increase physical education in the curriculum

Excess weight is a risk

Extra weight means that the heart has to work harder to supply blood to the body. It significantly increases your risk of heart disease and stroke. In children, excess weight means they are three to five times more likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke before they reach 65.

Excess weight also increases your likelihood of developing other problems which contribute to the risk of heart disease and stroke.

High blood pressure: An overweight person has a 2-6 times greater risk of developing high blood pressure.

High blood cholesterol: Your level of cholesterol is affected by the amount of saturated fats eaten everyday. If you are overweight, you are at greater risk.

Diabetes Type 2: 80% of people with diabetes is overweight.

Stop smoking and avoid smoky environments
New studies show that major health benefits come in as little as 6 weeks.

The objective of celebrating the World Heart Day this year is therefore, to make the Myanmar public aware of the hazards of obesity, the benefits of healthy living (cessation of smoking, healthy diet, regular exercise) and the means to achieve and maintain a "Healthy Weight and Shape".

ကမ္ဘာ့နှလုံးခုန်နေ့ ကျန်းမာရေးနေ့

World Heart Day

(၂၅-၉-၂၀၀၅)

အချိုးကျ လှပကျန်းမာဖို့
ကိုယ်အလေးချိန် ထိန်းကြန့်

"Healthy Weight and
Healthy Shape"

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

AGM-2005 of township USDA's held

YANGON, 24 Sept — Member of panel of patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and CEC member Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min attended the Annual General Meeting (2005) of Taungoo Township USDA held at Khabaung Hall in Taungoo yesterday afternoon. Also present were Bago Division (East) USDA Secretary U Saw Maw Tun and executives, departmental heads and members of district and township USDA's.

Speaking on the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko stressed the need for USDA members to try to become efficient and outstanding in building a future nation by upholding the five objectives of the association and to cooperate with other social organizations in fulfilling the needs of local people.

CEC member Maj-

Gen Aung Min explained the aims and objectives and policies of the association, cooperative efforts of the State and the people, destructive acts of those who do not want to see the development of the State, relentless efforts to be made for building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation, keeping in the fore 'Our Three Main National Causes and for serving interests of the nation and the people and the need for opposing those attempting to harm the Three Main National Causes.

Next, township USDA executive U Soe Maung read out the annual report of the association, and the commander donated K 500,000 for the renovation of the Shwehsandaw Pagoda in Taungoo and presented awards to the outstanding students who passed the matriculation exam in 2005.

CEC member Maj-Gen Aung Min donated K 500,000 to Taungoo

'soon'-offering association and presented prizes to members of the township USDA for their outstanding performance in respective sectors.

Yesterday morning, the CEC member attended the Nyaunglaybin Township USDA's Annual General Meeting-2005. After the CEC member's speech, the secretary of the township USDA explained functions of the association. Then the CEC members presented prizes to outstanding students and members of the association. Next cash donations were made for the association.

The CEC member also attended the AGM of Pyu Township, presented awards to outstanding students and accepted 5,875 USDA membership applications. He then attended the Shwegyin Township USDA's AGM-2005. It was also attended by Col Zaw Win Myint of Southern Command, departmental personnel and members of social organizations. The township USDA secretary read the



Senior General Than Shwe...

(from page 1)
Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Min-

istry of Defence, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister

General Thura Shwe Mann being seen off by Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr Khairuzzaman.
MNA

annual report of the association and the CEC members gave away prizes to outstanding students and members of the association. Later, the CEC member attended the AGM of DaikU Township USDA, presented prizes to outstanding students and members of the association and accepted cash donated for rural development tasks.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko speaking at Taungoo Township USDA Annual General Meeting 2005.

RAILWAY

Multimedia classroom opened at Kyauktada BEHS

YANGON, 24 Sept — Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein attended the ceremony to open the multimedia classroom at Basic Education High School in Kyauktada Township this morning.

First, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min formally opened the centre. The minister unveiled the signboard of the centre.

They viewed round the multimedia teaching centre and performance of the students.

Headmistress Daw Khin San Win reported on matters related to the centre and Vice-Chairperson of School Board of Trustees Daw Tin Tin Than on the purpose of the donation ceremony of teaching aids.

Later, Minister Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and departmental heads accepted K 12,289,000 donated by 14 wellwishers and presented certificates to them. — MNA

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects progress in construction of main dam at Pyu Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project in Pyu Township. — A&I

A & I Minister inspects multi-purpose dam projects in Pyu

YANGON, 24 Sept—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected the Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project in Pynnmana Township, Mandalay Division, on 18 September.

Director of Construction-5 of the Irrigation Department U Victor gave accounts on the flowing of water into the dam, water storage of 560,000 acre feet, and letting out surplus water. Paunglaung Diversion Weir, Chaungmange Dam, and Madan Dam under construction in Lewe Township. Director General U Kyaw San Win gave a supplementary report.

The minister viewed the main embankment, inflow of water, spillway, and maintenance tasks.

Next, he inspected thriving paddy fields around Lewe Township. He attended monsoon paddy transplanting contest at township level at Padaukchaung Village, and presented cash prizes to the winning teams.

On arrival at Pyu Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project in Pyu Township, Bago Division, he heard reports by officials on earth work for the main embankment, construction of diversion tunnel, and arrangements for speedy completion of the construction tasks. He provided assistance for timely completion and inspected the building of the tunnel.

On completion, the concrete tunnel will be 2,477 ft in length and 4 metre in diameter. — MNA



Home Affairs Minister receives Indian, Nepalese Ambassadors

YANGON, 24 Sept — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo received Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and Nepalese Ambassador Lt-Gen (Rtd) Victory SJB Rana at the ministry yesterday evening separately.

Present on the occasion were Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Director-General U Myat Ko of General Administration Department, Deputy Director-General U Maung Win, Police Col



Kham Aung and Head of Office U Kyaw San.

MNA

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo receives Ambassador of India Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra.—HOME AFFAIRS

Myanmar nation—like a great park

- * Myanmar is now seen as
A great, pleasant nation.
- * Throughout nation are roads and bridges
Mushrooming
Rural and urban abodes, not distant
Near and brethren meet.
- * Throughout Myanmar nation,
Are dams and embankments
Like “Lotus bloom on the river”
Would like water to see river pumped
Cereals planted to increase food
Not excluding, water scarce regions
Multicoloured, like diamonds and emeralds
Fields and all lands, abloom in gold, silver
What glorious cornucopia
Not a single plot remains unfurrowed
- * Myanmar land and water, buildings
In twenty-four regions, five rural
Policy laid down, rural areas included for plenty
Mechanization is also a support
Electrification is throughout Myanmar
Development, just as in great park.
- * In the great park, throughout Myanmar
Overcoming viruses, parasites,
destructionists
People’s Tatmadaw and noble companions
Happily organized for entire life
Firmly safeguarding, and alert
We sound to the clarion call.

Tekkatho Tin Kha (Trs)

CEC member attends Myaungmya District USDA Annual Meeting



CEC member Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt addresses annual meeting of Myaungmya District USDA.—PBANRDA

YANGON, 24 Sept — USDA CEC member Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended the annual meeting of Myaungmya District USDA at Myaungmya BEHS yesterday morning.

The CEC member gave a speech. Next, he presented gifts to five six-distinction winning students who passed the matriculation examination for 2004-05 academic year. Officials also presented gifts to other outstanding students. Col Thein Nyunt accepted cash donations for the District USDA from wellwishers and gave away certificates of honour to them. The Annual Meeting 2005 of Myaungmya District USDA

followed.

Afterwards, the CEC member minister proceeded to Yekyi. At the hall of the Township USDA, he met with the secretary, executives and organizers and heard their reports. Next, he attended to their needs.

In Kyonpyaw, the CEC member also met with the secretary, executives and organizers of Kyonpyaw Township USDA at the township association office.

Likewise, the CEC member called on Hinthada District USDA U Nyunt Hlaing and executives, and secretaries of Kyangin, Ingapu, Myanaung, Laymyethna Township USDAs.

MNA

CEC member tours Ingapu

YANGON, 24 Sept — USDA CEC member Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivered an address at the meeting on development of Ingapu Township at the Township PDC Office yesterday.

The CEC member attended the Ingapu Township USDA Annual Meeting 2005 at the city hall in Ingapu.

In Htanbingon Village BEMS, the CEC member accepted 1,530 membership applications presented by a USDA member. Next, the CEC member gave away membership cards to the member students.

In Mezaligon, he heard reports on construction of Bo Aung Kyaw Hall by local people and attended to the needs. — MNA

All this needs to be known

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

C-in-C (Air)’s Shield Shooting competition concludes

YANGON, 24 Sept — The prize-distribution ceremony of Commander-in-Chief (Air)’s Shield Shooting competition 2005 took place at Ground Training Base in Meiktila yesterday morning.

Among the spectators were Ground Training Base Commander Col Thura Khin Maung Win, senior military officers and others.

On behalf of Commander-in-Chief (Air), Base Commander Col Thura Khin Maung Win presented prizes to the winning teams.

MNA



Players of Commerce and A&I fighting for a ball in Myanmar League at Padonma Grounds on 24-9-2005. Commerce trounced A&I 3-0.

NLM

USDA CEC members, Deputy Health Minister inspect development in all aspects of Kwammoedein Village of Kayan Township

Emergency and Out-patient Department commissioned at Kayan Township Hospital



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presents cash donations for Phyto Myitta Health Care Association in Kayan township to Yangon South District USDA Secretary U Lwin Oo. (YCDC)

YANGON, 24 Sept — USDA CEC member in-charge of Yangon Division Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for

Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and wellwisher U Than Tun formally opened the building.

They inspected the one-storey emergency and Out-patient Depart-

ment in conjunction with the ceremony to set up the funds for organizing Phyto Myitta Health Care Association was held. The CEC member Mayor gave a speech.

At the ceremony,



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Health Minister Dr Mya Oo and specialists greet those in Kwammoedein village, Kayan township, who are awaiting to be given medical treatment. (YCDC)

Gen Aung Thein Lin presented K 3 million to Kawhmu Township, K 500,000 to Kungyangon Township and K 1.1 million to Kayan Township through Yangon South District USDA Secretary U Lwin Oo.

Similarly, the mayor, the vice-mayor and the deputy minister accepted K 2.87 million donated by 23 wellwishers including K 210,000 for the association by departments concerned in Kayan Township; K 200,000 by Shwe Chinthay bus owners association; and K 100,000 each by donors.

Under the leadership of USDA, Phyto Myitta Health Care Association was set up with the aims of providing health care to needy people in rural areas, older persons, members of the Sangha and nuns, and donating expense for medical treatment to them.

After that, the mayor, the vice-mayor, the deputy minister and guests viewed health care services being jointly performed in Kwammoedein Village and nearby regions by the Ministry of Health and Yangon South District and Township USDAs.

Under the arrangements of USDA, a medical team comprising ear, nose and throat specialist Dr Khin Maung Than, Ophthalmologist Dr Kan Nyunt, Paediatrician Dr Ye Myint Kyaw, Physiotherapist Dr Christopher, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist Dr Khin Lay Kywe, Surgical specialist Dr Ye Lwin, Physician Dr Daw Khin Thet and physicians, specialists, Medical Superintendent Dr Myint Soe of Kayan Township Hospital and staff, Head of Yangon South District Traditional Medicine De-

partment Daw Nyo Nyo and traditional medicine practitioners together with members of USDA and social organizations made a field trip to Nyaung-binkwin, Kyonmayay, Wunlaywa, Bagantaung, Pandawgyaung, Shwe-bosu, Kayinsu, Swedaw-kwin, Thetkeigon, Letpadan and 12 wards in Kayan.

The physicians gave medical treatment to 296 patients; the surgical team 24 patients, the obstetrician and gynaecologist team 23 patients, the paediatrician team 77 patients, the ophthalmologist team 184 persons, the ear, nose and throat specialist team 74 patients, the physiotherapy team 72 patients, the dentist team 18 persons, the traditional medicine practitioners team 86 persons and the nutrition team 42 persons, totalling 847.

(See page 11)



A group of health staff including specialists taking measures for public health in Kwammoedein village, Kayan township. (YCDC)

Health Dr Mya Oo, CEC member in-charge of Yangon Division Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and party supervised regional development tasks being carried out under the leadership of Kayan Township USDA, Yangon South District, yesterday morning.

While in Kayan, they attended the ceremony to open emergency and Out-patient Department built by wellwisher U Than Tun-Daw Aye Myaing and family organized by Yangon South District and Kayan Township USDA, at the Township Hospital on Phaya Road. CEC member Mayor

ment measuring 36 feet by 20 feet built at a cost of K 6.5 million.

Next, they viewed sanitation tasks, spraying pesticide and weeding tasks being carried out at the hospital by members of USDA, social organizations, nurses and hospital staff, totalling 300. They inspected units of the hospital and functions of medical store, and gave instructions to Medical Superintendent Dr Myint Swe and departmental officials.

At the office of the medical superintendent, the ceremony to hand over the emergency and Out-patient Department to the Ministry of Health

wellwisher U Than Tun-Daw Aye Myaing and family handed over documents related to the building to Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint.

Township USDA Secretary U Myint Oo reported on tasks to set up Phyto Myitta Health Care Association and participation of USDA members, departmental personnel and local people in regional development, and Medical Superintendent Dr Myint Swe on improvement of the hospital.

For organizing the Phyto Myitta Health Care Association, Mayor Brig-



Ear, nose and throat specialist, Dr Khin Maung Than, gives treatment to a local in Kwammoedein village, Kayan township. (YCDC)

USDA CEC members, Deputy Health ...

(from page 10) Yangon Division WAO
 Yangon Division WAO
 USDA will spend its funds on expense of medical treatment for 109 pa-



CEC member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and officials view health activities in Kwammoedein Village of Kayan Township.—YCDC

tients who will be transferred to Yangon General Hospital. Furthermore, the association will take

ple at the hall of Kwammoedein Village BEMS. Kwammoedein



CEC member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin cordially greets nurses in Kwammoedein Village of Kayan Township. MNA

care of the patients during the period of medical treatment and till they are back homes.

In providing health care services to the rural people, Executive of Yangon Division USDA U Aung Myint explained the public welfare tasks, Deputy Director-General U Aye Myint of No 3 Department of Basic Education, the educational functions, Joint-Secretary of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Dr Nwe Ni Ohn the tasks of MMCWA, Head of Yangon South District Health Department Dr U Zaw Win the functions of the Ministry of Health, Leader of Girl/Adult Working Group of

Village USDA Organizer U Saw Hlaing handed over 2,100 membership applications to Yangon Division USDA executive U Aung Myint.

Likewise, USDA members carried out spraying of pesticide at the village library, the rural dispensary, the Dhammayon and BEMS and their environs.

CEC members the mayor and the vice-mayor, and the deputy minister donated 72 dozens of exercise books worth K 100,000 to Headmistress Daw Than Yi and students of Kwammoedein BEMS.

The area of Kwammoedein Village of Kayan Township is 2 square-miles. A total of

1,323 people are residing in the village. Monsoon paddy are thriving on 430 acres of farmland. The local people have the taste of economic growth not only from monsoon paddy cultivation but also from horticultural and livestock breeding farms.

Furthermore, the village is being supplied power by a generator with 30 HP. At present, local people enjoy local and international TV programmes through satellite receivers. In addition, the village has improved with the library, a dispensary and telecommunication.

Due to concerted efforts of USDA and departments concerned in harmoniously carrying out five rural development tasks, remarkable progress has been made in economic, social, health and transport sectors of the village.

MNA

Objectives of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

- 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.

MWAF General Secretary meets National Director of World Vision Myanmar



General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun of MWAF receives National Director Mr Roger Walker and party of World Vision Myanmar.— MWAF

YANGON, 24 Sept— Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun met with National Director Mr Roger Walker of World

Vision Myanmar and party at the MWAF office, here, on 22 September afternoon.

They discussed activities of the Federation, tasks of education, health

and uplift of women's life.

Also present at the meeting were Joint General Secretary Daw Khin Htar May and Secretariat Member Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin. — MNA

Annual charity gala dinner of Summit Parkview Hotel held



General Manager Mr Alex Wang of Summit Parkview Hotel speaking at Charity Gala Dinner.— MNA

YANGON, 24 Sept— The annual charity gala dinner of Summit Parkview Hotel was held at the Grand Ball Room of the hotel yesterday.

Present were guests and officials of companies, tour operators, entrepreneurs and persons from the media.

General Manager Mr Alex Wang explained the purpose of the dinner and arrangements for donations

of cash to social organizations.

The audience were entertained with songs and dances and there was a lucky draw for the guests.

Summit Parkview Hotel presented cash to Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association last year. This year the hotel will present K 2.5 million fetched from the sale of the tickets for the dinner to MMCWA.—MNA

AVIC I forecasts China's aviation market to grow at high speed

BEIJING, 23 Sept— China Aviation Industry Corporation I (AVIC I) Thursday issued its forecast for China's aviation market from 2005 to 2024, putting the annual growth rate at 8.4 per cent.

According to the forecast, along with the continuous growth of the economy, the fast growth of tourism and Chinese foreign trade, and deepening of civil aviation reform, the future air transport market will also increase at a high speed. It forecasted that from 2005 to 2024, passenger turnover would increase by 8.4 per cent annually, and would reach 890.2 billion person-kilometres in the year 2024. Cargo/post turnover would increase even more by 11 per cent annually and reach 57.9 billion ton-kilometres.

The rapid growth of Chinese air transportation market has brought a great

demand for aircraft. It is forecasted that in 2024, China will have 3,165 civil aircraft, including 1,896 large passenger planes, 821 regional planes, and 448 freighters. The regional aircraft fleet under 100 seats will increase to 754 units.

Taking into consideration the market demand required by the increasing transport volume and the retirement of existing aircraft, 2,541 aircraft will be needed for replacement of existing fleet in the next 20 years. Among those are 77 units of 400 seaters, 250 units of 300 seaters, 338 units of 200 seaters, 802 units of 150 seaters, 276 units of 110 seaters

and 798 units of regional aircraft.

Promoted by the rapid GDP growth, higher level of consumption, and air deregulation in China, China's air traffic grows at a much faster speed than the average level of the world and the position of the industry has been improved within the global transportation system.

The total turnover for 2004 and passenger turnover and the cargo/post turnover have risen respectively to the world's third ranking, at a growth rate of 35 per cent, 41 per cent and 24 per cent as compared with the previous year.

MNA/Xinhua

သတင်းစာကိုယ်စားလှယ်လျှောက်ထားနိုင်
၁။ မည်သည့်မြို့နယ်မှမဆို သတင်းစာကိုယ်စားလှယ်အဖြစ် ဆောင်ရွက်လိုပါက ဝယ်ယူဖြန့်ချိလိုသော သတင်းစာအမျိုးအစားနှင့် စောင်ရေကို ဖော်ပြ၍ ဦးဆောင်ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း၊ အမှတ် (၂၁၂)၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့နယ်၊ ပေးပို့လျှောက်ထားနိုင်သည်။
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သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း



Nguyen Van Trung, 13, takes his lunch while playing internet games at an internet cafe in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 23 September, 2005. A 24-year-old Vietnamese man in Ho Chi Minh City was hospitalized in serious condition after playing online games all day, a doctor said on Friday.—INTERNET

Typhoon "Saola" nearing Japan, may skim capital

TOKYO, 23 Sep — A typhoon bearing down on Japan could approach the Tokyo region at the weekend, the country's Meteorological Agency said on Thursday.

Typhoon Saola was 240 kilometres (149 miles) southeast of the tiny southern island of Chichijima at 6:00 pm (0900 GMT), buffeting the area with winds of up to 126 kilometres an hour, the agency said.

The storm is expected to gather strength as it moves west-northwest at 30 kilometres (19 miles) an hour towards Japan's main islands.

The agency said Saola

will swing to the northeast, but added it could pass over seas just to the east of the capital, bringing strong winds and heavy rain to the area on Saturday or Sunday.

An average of two to three typhoons make landfall on Japan's main islands each year. Earlier this month, Typhoon Nabi left more than 20 people dead and missing when torrential rain triggered landslides in west-

ern Japan. Japan's Meteorological Agency was aware that other agencies were forecasting a different path for the storm that would take it directly across western Japan, an official said.

"We consult forecasts from various countries, but our conclusion is that the storm will stay in the sea east of Japan," the official said.—MNA/Reuters

Hong Kong issues tropical storm signal

HONG KONG, 23 Sept — Hong Kong on Thursday issued standby signal No 1 although tropical storm Damrey is still some distance from Hong Kong.

The Home Affairs Department warned people to take early precautions against the tropical storm.

The storm was estimated to be about 670 kilometres east-southeast of Hong Kong at 4 pm and maximum sustained winds at its centre are about 85 kilometres per hour.

Damrey is already affecting Hong Kong with hazy. And isolated showers are expected this evening. —MNA/Xinhua



Holiday makers face with a giant shark as they wait for people come down the inflatable 'Jaws' slide at an amusement park in Yokohama, southwest of Tokyo, on 23 September, 2005, Autumn Equinox Day, a national holiday.—INTERNET

Close contact could see humans spread bird flu

JAKARTA, 23 Sept— The growing number of people with bird flu-like symptoms in Indonesia does not mean the outbreak is becoming worse, and there is no sign the virus can be passed easily among people, top UN health experts said on Thursday.

Alarm has spread in populous Indonesia after four people died and with now 10 are under observation in the capital.

But there is no evidence the H5N1 virus has mutated into a form that could trigger a pandemic, said Georg Petersen, the World Health Organization's Indonesia representative.

Nevertheless, he pointed to the possibility of transmission through very close contact with an

infected person.

"I think very close contact with a sick person might infect that caretaker. That is why in hospitals we need to take all precautions ... That would be in a way a human-to-human transmission, but that demands close, close contact," he said.

"Anytime someone coughs and you get it ... that would be much more what we would call transmission from human to human."

Petersen said the case of a father and his two daughters who died in the Tangerang suburb of Jakarta in July might have involved "within-family transmission".

Thailand had reported a probable case of human-to-human transmission in September 2004, when a 26-year-old woman died of bird flu after "prolonged face-to-face exposure" with her daughter, who was hospitalized with the virus.—MNA/Reuters

Natural disasters claim 24 lives in Vietnam

HANOI, 23 Sept — Natural disasters, mainly floods, storms and lightning have killed 24 people and injured nine others in Vietnam's Mekong Delta region since the flooding season starting in mid-August.

Among localities being hit by the disasters, An Giang Province is the worst affected with 11 fatalities, vice-head of the Central Steering Committee on Flooding and Storm Prevention, Do Ngoc Thien, told Xinhua on Thursday.

The disasters have also damaged nearly 2,000 houses and inundated over

1,800 hectares of rice and subsidiary crops in the period, he added.

In a move to prevent natural disasters and minimize their effects, Vietnam this year is building 37 reservoirs and dams in the central region and tightening management over mangrove forests and sand dunes.

It was reported that

last year, natural disasters killed 232 people and left 38 missing, injured 187 others, destroyed 4,200 houses and 3,000 hectares of rice, and killed over 2,000 cattle and 170,000 poultry in Vietnam, causing a property loss of over 900 billion Vietnamese dong (some 57 million US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

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Elite universities accept fewer state school pupils

LONDON, 23 Sept — The number of state school pupils entering Britain's universities has dropped, with some of the lowest figures coming from elite colleges like Oxford and Cambridge, according to data published on Thursday.

The percentage of young entrants to full-time degree courses in 2003 who had attended state schools was 86.8 per cent, down from 87.2 the year before.

The figures resulted in a series of damning headlines about the government's education policy with the *Times* declaring "State schools in crisis".

At Oxford, the percentage of state school students was 53.8 per cent, down from 55.4 per cent the year before, while University College London and Imperial College also fell well short of the government's 75-per-cent target for the proportion of state school students they should be taking.

At Cambridge, the state school intake slipped to

56.9 percent in 2003 from 57.6 previously, according to the figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

But both Oxford and Cambridge criticized the criteria used to set the benchmarks and Oxford said the proportion of state school pupils it had admitted rose in 2004.

Oxford said applications from the state sector had risen by 40 per cent over the past five years but admitted there was still room for improvement.

"We will continue to try to achieve a higher proportion of maintained (state) sector students by increasing applications from the maintained sector," the university said in a statement.

"We will not be exer-

cising any positive discrimination at this stage."

Cambridge said the government's benchmark for entry was "unrealistic" for the stiff qualification requirements of universities such as it and

Oxford.

The two universities have so many good applicants they are forced every year to turn down around 10,000 students with three or more A grades at A-level. — MNA/Reuters



A one-month-old male mandrill holds its mother at the Hongshan Forest Zoo in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 23 September, 2005.—INTERNET

A lost Leonardo? Top art historian says maybe

ROME, 23 Sept — Move over, Mona Lisa. If Carlo Pedretti's hunch is right, the world may soon have another Leonardo da Vinci masterpiece to admire.

A stunningly beautiful painting called Mary Magdalene which the world-class art historian suspects may have been painted by Leonardo da Vinci together with one of his pupils will soon go on public view for the first time in more than half a century.

The painting, measuring 58 centimetres by 45 centimetres, was believed to have been painted in 1515, four years before the master died.

It goes on display in October in the Adriatic port of Ancona and depicts Magdalene bare breasted, wearing a red robe and holding a transparent veil over her belly.

It has been attributed to Giampietrino, a Leonardo pupil whose work can be found in some of the world's greatest museums, including Leningrad's Hermitage and London's National Gallery.

But Pedretti, director of the Armand Hammer Centre for Leonardo Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles, suspects it may be much more.

"Because of the very high quality, I am inclined to believe that it is much more than a supervision of the student by the master," he told *Reuters* in a telephone interview from his part-time home in Tuscany.

"I can't say for sure yet, but this is my position and I am prepared to follow up with the whole process of laboratory verification and the rest of it," the 77-year-old professor said, speaking in English.

Pedretti, co-curator of the exhibition of works by Giampietrino and others, said the work "has the character of a Giampietrino painting but is far beyond his qualities".

The painting has been in private collections for nearly all its recorded history in the past 100 years or so.

MNA/Reuters

Harry Potter trumps all at US best seller awards

NEW YORK, 23 Sept — JK Rowling's latest book *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* sold more than twice as many copies in the United States in its first two weeks as any other author's book in a whole year.

The latest in Rowling's series about a boy wizard won the Best Seller Award for the top-selling book in America in the year to 1 August, even though it only went on sale on 16 July.

Its tally of 6,397,000 copies was more than double the nearest challenger, Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*, which sold 2,261,000, according to Nielsen BookScan, the co-sponsor of the awards, which were presented on Thursday in New York.

Organizers said the awards, which were presented for the first time this year, are the first to be based entirely on consumer sales.

"No politics, no judges' panels. They are very simply a true celebration of consumer choice," said Jerome Kramer, editor of *The Book Standard*, which presented the awards.

Awards were pre-

sented in 100 categories, from the mainstream to the more esoteric such as *Romance: Time Travel, Self Help: Sexual Instruction and Mystery and Detective: Women Sleuths*."

In the main categories, *The Da Vinci Code* won the award for adult fiction and Brown's previous novel *Angels & Demons* was the best-selling mass market paperback.

Jon Stewart and the writers of *The Daily Show* won the adult non-fiction award for their spoof textbook "America (The Book)," which sold 1,544,000 copies.

Among the other winners were Rick Warren's *The Purpose-Driven Life* in the adult religion category with sales of 1,329,000 copies, and Khaled Hosseini's "The Kite Runner" which was the best-selling debut novel.

MNA/Reuters

Floods in India's Andhra Pradesh kill 63

NEW DELHI, 23 Sept — Even as the number of deaths due to heavy cyclonic rains and subsequent floods in India's Andhra Pradesh rose to 63 on Thursday, water level in the two rivers of the state again began to rise again, *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported from capital city Hyderabad.

According to PTI, even before the people in 10 districts of the state could get some respite from the rains and floods of the last four days, water levels began to rise in the two rivers threatening to submerge several towns and villages.

The government estimates have put the death count to 63. The rains have also caused the state treasury losses to the tune of 18 billion rupees (about four billion US dollar).

Though reports Wednesday said the Godavari and Krishna rivers had begun to recede, the situation turned worse as heavy rains lashed neighbouring Maha-rashtra State.

According to the reports, state government officials are finding it difficult to reach dozens of inundated villages in Godavari and Krishna delta areas. Where nearly 150,000 people have been evacuated but 50,000 more are still marooned.

The water level in

Godavari, which had receded Wednesday, began rising again due to massive inflows from upstream areas in the neighbouring Maharashtra State.

Copious rains in the state were bringing huge inflows into Krishna, causing problems to Nizamabad and Karimnagar districts of

Telangana.

The weather department had predicted heavy rains in the telanga region of the state in the next 24 hours.

However, work is on in full swing to restore road, rail and air traffic, disrupted due to the incessant rains, from coastal areas.

While railway authorities succeeded in repairing

some damaged tracks in Warangal District, the roads and buildings department faces a huge challenge in restoring traffic on Hyderabad-Vijayawada road.

The floods have washed away a vast stretch of the national highway near Vijayawada.

MNA/Xinhua



People stand on roofs as their homes are seen inundated by floodwaters in Vijayawada, about 270 kilometers (169 miles) southeast from Hyderabad, India, on 23 September, 2005. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Nuno Gomes double leads champions Benfica to victory

LISBON, 24 Sept— Nuno Gomes hit two goals to guide Portuguese Premier League champions Benfica to a 3-1 win at Penafiel on Friday.

Benfica's second successive league victory pushed them up to seventh in the table with seven points from five games. Porto, Braga and Nacional Madeira lead the way on 10 points.

The visitors went ahead when striker Gomes scored following a goalmouth scramble in the fifth minute. Captain Simao Sabrosa doubled the lead seven minutes

later with a shot on the rebound after his 20-metre free kick hit the defensive wall.

Penafiel pulled a goal back with nine minutes left when midfielder Marco Ferreira headed in a cross from Pedro Araujo. But Gomes, who scored a hat-trick against Uniao Leiria last Sunday, put the result beyond doubt with a powerful shot in the 84th minute.

Benfica's win will boost their confidence ahead of Tuesday's Champions League game at Manchester United.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesian Open Badminton tourney

JAKARTA, 24 Sept— Unseeded duo Lee Wan Wah/Choong Tan Fook of Malaysia continued to produce unpredicted wins in the six-star Indonesia Open Badminton Tournament and advanced to the semifinals by beating higher-ranking teammates here Friday. Their impressive play has begun since the opening day when they outplayed famous pair Flandy Limpele/Eng Hian of Indonesia.

After losing in the first game to the Indonesians, Lee/Choong miraculously came back from 8-14 to win the second game 17-15 despite discouraging shouting from the home crowd.

Having lost the precious match point, Flandy/Eng could not do much to overcome the Malaysians and surrendered 10-15 in the deciding game.

Lee and Choong, whose combined age is 59 years, again upset local spectators by beating world number three Luluk Hadiyanto/Alvent Yulianto, who is seeded second in the tournament, in rubber games, 15-5, 7-15, 15-12.—MNA/Xinhua



Germany's Anna-Lena Groenefeld returns the ball during her semifinal match against Poland's Marta Domachowska at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing on 24 Sept, 2005. Groenefeld won 7-5, 6-3 to advance to the final.—INTERNET

China Open WTA tennis tournament

BELJING, 24 Sept— Chinese teenage duo Sun Shengnan and Liu Wanting earned their chance of reaching the semifinals at the China Open WTA Tennis Tournament but failed to make it against Spaniard Nuria Llagostera Vives and Maria Vento-Kabchi from Venezuela here on Friday.

Liu and Sun, pairing with each other for less than half a year, lost 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 in one hour and 57 minutes to the 118-ranked Llagostera Vives and Vento-Kabchi, who ousted top seeds Alicia Molik of Australia and Meghann Shaughnessy of the United States on Tuesday to make the quarters.

"We have been too eager to win at the second set, and that motion continued to bother us in the following set," said Liu Wanting.

The new generation to China's female tennis, ranked 877 in the world and entering the 585,000-US-dollar hardcourt event with a wildcard, committed 18 unforced errors against only 3 winners in the match, which should have seen a miracle coming out of the 18-year-old Sun and the 16-year-old Liu of reaching a WTA Tour semifinals.

They advanced to the second round with a 6-7(5), 6-2, 7-6(4) victory over

101-ranked Australian pair Lisa Mcshea and Bryanne Stewart.

"Beating a pair of 101-ranked opponents did not bring more pressure on our shoulder. The only reason for the defeat is that we had needless thoughts during the match," said Sun.

Sun Shengnan, the former Junior doubles champion of Australian Open in 2004 pairing with Chan Yung Jan from Taibei, served in the fifth game of the third set, but the slow and inexperienced Liu performed a terrible net play to give up the decisive game before losing the decider with being broken thrice.

"I've been too slow in returning and made too much errors. My racket went out for the ball, but my paces could not keep up with it, and that made the errors," said the depressed Liu.

"I don't think Liu played terrible, but I hope she can become more active when playing close to the net," commented Sun. —MNA/Xinhua

Wenger worried about Henry's future with Arsenal

LONDON, 24 Sept— Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger claimed on Friday that he is not sure if Thierry Henry will stay at Arsenal next season due to new FIFA rule changes regarding player contracts.

"I can't say Henry will be at Arsenal next season," said the Arsenal boss. "Under the new FIFA rules, a player can move without permission of any club.

"But I must say we're still in September. Our desire and motivation to keep Thierry is one hun-

dred per cent strong." Under the new FIFA rules the 28-year-old Henry who has two years left to run on his current contract, could theoretically pay off his final year's salary to move next summer.

Wenger has given Henry, who has been repeatedly linked with a move to Barcelona, a deadline of the end of the year to sort out his future.

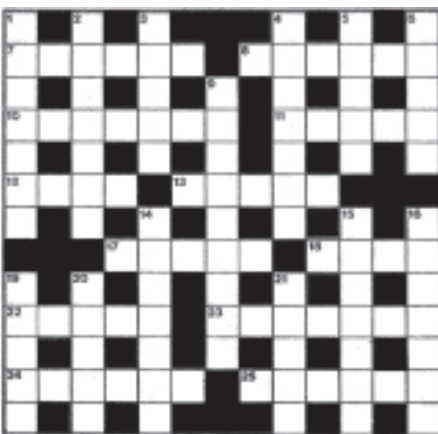
Wenger added: "How many times have Barcelona won the European Cup? Once. Moving there

doesn't give you any guarantees at all. They're a massive club but have won it just once.

"We want Thierry to be here and are very ambitious. We want to win the European Cup like Barcelona and Juventus want it. The only thing I can say is that I have always shown faith in Thierry.

"We have not spoken or opened any negotiations because we respect the fact that he has other worries due to injury, but we are confident we will get to an agreement with him." —MNA/Xinhua

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 7 Ship's holding device
- 8 PG Wodehouse character
- 10 Help forward
- 11 Article of bric-a-brac
- 12 Surfeit
- 13 Ardent
- 17 Plait
- 18 Nothing
- 22 Inundate
- 23 Miser
- 24 Wandering
- 25 Acrimonious

DOWN

- 1 Rush about wildly
- 2 Tentacled sea-creature
- 3 Punctuation mark
- 4 Planet
- 5 Turn side
- 6 University in Birmingham
- 9 Less than complete
- 14 Three-pronged spear
- 15 Meals
- 16 Miracles
- 19 Frequently
- 20 French river
- 21 Once more

Neville to be out for six weeks

LONDON, 24 Sept— Manchester United defender will sit out the next six weeks as the England man has been sent for a groin operation.

Neville had been making good progress from the injury he picked up against Debrecen in UEFA Champions League qualifying in August, but has suffered a setback which has necessitated the need for surgery.

"Gary went in for an operation last night and his loss is a big blow for the lad and for us," United manager Sir Alex Ferguson said on Friday.

"We feel it's better to get the situation sorted now and have him back for the rest of the season."

Injuries are starting to bite at Old Trafford, with Gabriel Heinze and Roy Keane long-term absences, and the loss of experienced defender Neville in what is a key stage of the season will be a major setback for Ferguson.

Neville's absence will see John O'Shea continue at right back and result in Kieran Richardson getting an extended run in the team on the other flank.

MNA/Xinhua



New Mexico State's quarterback Joey Vincent (4) passes in the first half on 23 Sept, 2005, against California in Las Cruces, NM. —INTERNET

Sustained endeavours to be exerted for success in convening National Convention, very first phase for transforming nation into democratic one

National Convention Convening Commission holds meeting 5/2005



National Convention Convening Committee Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers a speech at meeting of NCCC No 5/2005. — MNA

YANGON, 24 Sept— The National Convention Convening Commission held its meeting No 5/2005 at Kyaikkasan Ground here this afternoon.

It was attended by NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein,

Vice-Chairman Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members.

Joint-Secretary (2) Director-General of the Pyuthu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein acted as MC.

The chairman in his speech said that with re-

spect to the resumption of the National Convention at the end of 2005, the Commission has held meetings to deal with matters for the NC. Now, it has discussed most of the necessary measures.

Since the previous convention, the delegates have submitted proposals on division of executive and legislative powers to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution and gone over them. So, measures will have to be taken for laying down detailed basic principles at the forthcoming National Convention. He said that he has already disclosed on the last day of the previ-

ous NC that matters relating to these sectors such as adopting basic detailed principles and the remaining chapters will be discussed at the session of NC to be reconvened.

Now, the functions of the NC have made progress to an extent. Nevertheless, certain elements inside and outside the nation and foreign broadcasting stations are manufacturing slanderous fabrications against the NC.

Although they are doing so to disrupt the convention, the Government has declared the drive for transition to democracy, and sustained endeavours are thus to be exerted for

achievement in convening the National Convention, part of the State's seven-point Road Map, as it is of crucial importance as well as the very first phase for transforming the nation into a democratic one.

Although internal and external destructive elements are hindering the convention, all the difficulties and problems will be overcome due to the genuine goodwill of the Government and enthusiastic participation of the people.

It is believed that the ultimate desire of the public — building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation — can be

translated into reality soon. In conclusion, he exhorted the NCCC, Work Committee and Management Committee to try their utmost to successfully complete the NC that will resume at the end of this year.

Members of the Commission held a general round of discussions regarding steps to achieve success in convening the NC and to adopt detailed basic principles at the forthcoming convention to be included in framing of the State Constitution.

The chairman assessed the discussions and delivered concluding remarks.

MNA

Although internal and external destructive elements are hindering the convention, all the difficulties and problems will be overcome due to the genuine goodwill of the Government and enthusiastic participation of the people.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and wife attend farewell party of Chinese Ambassador



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win being greeted Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun. — MNA

YANGON, 24 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw San San Yi attended the farewell party of Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun who had completed his tour of duty, at Traders Hotels on Sule Pagoda Road, here, yesterday evening.

Also present on the occasion were Maj-Gen Htin Aung Kyaw, Maj-Gen Mya Win and Maj-Gen Than Aung of the Ministry of Defence, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of social organizations, Ambassadors and Charges d' Affaires of foreign missions in Yangon, the Patron, the President and members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and guests.

At 6.45 pm, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win

and wife Daw San San Yi arrived at the hotel where they were welcomed by Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun.

Next, the Chinese Ambassador extended greetings, and hosted dinner to Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and wife San San Yi and guests. — MNA

INSIDE

The WHO, UNESCO and the Sport 2005, the UN's International Year of Sport and Physical Education are actively supporting this year's WHD, which will focus on the importance of having a "Healthy Weight, Healthy Shape", since maintaining a healthy weight and body shape dramatically reduces the risk of heart disease and stroke.

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PROF KHIN MAY SAN