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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

Yangon Command's farm eyes increasing output

YANGON, 29 Sept — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe this evening inspected the fish farm of Yangon Command in Mingaladon Township and urged officials to make efforts to increase farm produce year by year.

An in-charge of the farm reported to the commander on the fish breeding in 932.4 acres of ponds and raising of pigs, cows, broilers and layers. Arrangements are being made for extended farming. There are 932.4 acres



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects the fish farm of Yangon Command. — MNA

of fish ponds and over 2,000 layers, 450 pigs and 135 cows are kept.

Afterwards, the commander went to No 1

Farm of the command in Insein Township and inspected hatching of eggs and raising of broilers.

An in-charge of

the farm reported to the commander that a total of 21,900 broilers are bred, and so far 4,5241.75 viss of chicken have been sold

from the farm.

Yangon Command to breeds farms 21,900 broilers, over 15,200 layers, 503 pigs and 2.6 mil-

lion fish, and sells the farm produce directly to the public at reasonable prices at tax-free markets.

MNA

Myanmar poised at threshold of new era

In stark contrast to actual positive situation in Myanmar, a pessimistic report commissioned by Mr Vaclav Havel and Bishop Desmond M Tutu was announced

It portrays Myanmar in most negative light

It is yet another attempt to discredit Myanmar Govt

YANGON, 29 Sept — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs today issued a statement concerning report of Mr Vaclav Havel Tu Tu and Bishop Desmond Tu Tu entitled "Threat to the Peace: A Call for the UN Security Council to Act in Burma". The following is the full text of the statement:

The Union of Myanmar practices an active and independent foreign policy guided by the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. Subscribing to the principles and purposes embodied in the Charter it became a member state of the United Nations soon after regaining independence in 1948 and considers the organization as a fundamental pillar of its foreign policy. Myanmar gives special emphasis to its relations with its neighbours cooperating closely in the political, diplomatic, economic and social fields. It has joined and is working diligently in organizations such as ASEAN and BIMSTEC for regional peace, security and development.

Myanmar is a union of over a hundred national races. The people of Myanmar have inherited a civilization of over 2000 years. Over a hundred

years under British colonial rule constituted fertile breeding grounds for the sowing of distrust among the national races by the colonizer. The resultant internal insurgency plagued the country from the dawn of independence until recently draining an already war ravaged economy and hindering the normal process of development.

The Tatmadaw (Myanmar Armed Forces) was compelled to assume State responsibility in 1988 as the country had drifted to an anarchic situation and towards total disintegration. It was only through much effort that community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order could be restored.

(See page 9)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 30 September, 2005

Work hard for increased agricultural production

Myanmar being an agricultural country, the majority of its population are peasants and they live in rural areas. Therefore, the government is striving for development of agriculture and higher social and economic status of rural people by making the most of aquatic and terrestrial resources and rendering all the necessary assistance to them.

Sufficient water supply is the most fundamental requirement for agricultural development. This being the case, measures are being taken to meet this requirement.

New dams, reservoirs and river water pumping stations are being built and underground water resources tapped especially in the regions where water is scarce. As a result, seasonal crops can be grown all the year round and plantations of perennials have emerged all over the nation.

The Nyaunggon Dam constructed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Division, was inaugurated on 24 September. It is the 178th of the dams that have been built since 1988 and the 45th in Mandalay Division.

Meiktila District is in the dry and arid zone and therefore dams are being built and underground water resources tapped not only for agricultural and drinking purposes but also for greening the Meiktila plains.

In the past, monsoon paddy and sesamum could be grown on altogether 242 acres of five village-tracts around the Nyaunggon dam and summer paddy on 112 acres only. But now, with the emergence of the new dam, monsoon paddy can be grown on 375 acres and summer paddy on 200 acres.

The Nyaunggon Dam will also serve as support dam to supply water to the Meiktila Dam.

The result is that not only will the townspeople of Meiktila have a sufficient supply of drinking water but acres of farmland will also be irrigated.

We would like to call on the local authorities and peasants to work in concert to boost agricultural production by making the effective use of water supplied by the new dam.



In memory of late parents U Soe Myint-Daw Hla Kyi, U Myat Maw and Jane family donated K 140,600 to the medical trust fund of Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi recently.

H

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

Cash donated to Ministry of Religious Affairs

YANGON, 29 Sept — For the promotion and propagation of Theravada Buddha Sasana, Daw Hla Kyi of Yangon Bodh Gaya Pilgrimage donated 1.5 million to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and K 300,000 to State Parayatti Sasana University (Mandalay) at the meeting hall of the ministry this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana Dr Myo Myint and officials.

Director of Bodh Gaya Pilgrimage Group (Yangon) U Htein Lin explained the purpose of donation and handed the cash donation to the minister.

MNA



Cooperatives Minister Col Zaw Min receives Bangladeshi Ambassador Khairuzzaman. — MNA

Talks on cardiac disease given

YANGON, 29 Sept — To mark World Heart Day, organized by Health Working Group (branch) of Social and Cultural Working Group of Myanmar Women Affairs Federation, talks on cardiac disease were given at health museum in

Sangyoung Township this evening.

Leader of Health Working Group (branch) Dr Daw Khin Than Oo extended greetings. Cardiologist Dr Daw Nwe Nwe of Yangon General Hospital then gave talks on

cardiac disease.

Doctors carried out cardiac diagnostic tests on WAO members.

Dr Daw Khin Than Oo presented gifts to Cardiologists Dr Myint Soe Win and Dr Daw Nwe Nwe.

MNA

Latest construction technologies introduced

YANGON, 29 Sept — Seminar on Degussa Construction System organized by Suntac Technologies was held today at MICT Park in Hline Township.

Regional Business Manager Mr Richard Tan and Product Manager Mr William Neo of Degussa Construction Chemical based in Singapore briefed on latest construction technologies — waterproofing, flooring, grooting and repairs. They answered the queries raised by those present. According to officials, the

Degussa Construction System enables the construction companies to

meet the challenge of construction technology.

MNA



Semina on Degussa Construction System in progress. — MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

YANGON, 29 Sept — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of Rector of Panglong University U Tha Oo of the Higher Education Department(Upper Myanmar) under the Ministry of Education from the expiry of one-year probationary period.

MNA

Minister for Cooperatives receives Bangladeshi Ambassador

YANGON, 29 Sept — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min received Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Mr

Khairuzzaman at the ministry on Bogyoke Aung San Street yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the call were Director-General of the Cooperatives Department U Soe Win, Director-General of Cottage Industries Department U Sein Than, Managing Director of Cooperatives Export and Import Enterprise U Hla Moe and officials.

MNA

Dance, drama and music show on 1, 2 October

YANGON, 29 Sept — Hailing the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, the artistes of Fines Arts Department, University of Culture, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Myanmar Music Asiayon and Myanmar Thabin Asiayon are going to stage a show at National Theatre on 1 and 2 October.

At the show, the artistes will present with dance, drama and music.

MNA

Date for sending manuscripts

YANGON, 29 Sept — The latest date for sending manuscripts of national motto, literary and photo competition in the dailies issued on 29 September, is 30 September instead of 30 October.

MNA

ASEAN Biodiversity Centre launched in Manila

MANILA, 28 Sept — A regional biodiversity centre was established on Tuesday in Manila as the awareness of promoting and protecting biodiversity increases in Southeast Asia.

As a result of a Financing Agreement between the European Commission (EC) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed in April, the six-million-euro (406.56-million-peso) ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) was officially launched with the aim to strengthen the capacities of the ASEAN members to formulate and coordinate biodiversity-related policy, strategy and action.

Luc Vandebon, acting head of delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines, said at the launching ceremony that the centre will help to fulfil relevant treaty obligations, as well as to promote and advance common positions on matters related to biodiversity con-

servation, management and sustainable use of natural resources.

He said that EC support to the centre reflects their strong commitment to biodiversity conservation.

"The EC has been involved in efforts to protect the natural heritage in Europe for the past 30 years. Biodiversity is also a priority of our development cooperation strategy worldwide. The EC contribution to ACB also contributes to strengthen our partnership with ASEAN," he said.

With the EC and ASEAN members' support, ACB will be able to enhance policy collaboration on biodiversity in the ASEAN region to strengthen the institutional capacity on regional and

global biodiversity issues and to boost public awareness in the region of biodiversity issues, values and conservation needs, Vandebon added.

He noted the immense importance of the South-east Asia to the global biodiversity since it contains the natural habitats of up to 40 per cent of all species on Earth.

"The diversity of ASEAN biodiversity is astonishing. A single small tropical forest patch in ASEAN, covering just a couple of hundreds of hectares may support more endemic bird and mammal species than there are the whole of the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany combined," he said.

Indonesia, for instance, alone is considered as one of the world's most bio-

logically diverse country in the world that includes 25 per cent of the world's fish species, according to the EC delegation head.

In the Philippines, more new species of plants and animals are described every year than in any other country in the world, while Brunei alone hosts at least 480 species of butterflies, compared to the only 440 species in Europe, he said.

Vandebon also warned that the flora and fauna of the region are increasingly threatened as annually ASEAN loses 1 per cent of its forest cover, a percentage four times higher than the world average.

MNA/Xinhua



Malaysia to host World Route Development Forum

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 Sept — Malaysia has won the bid to host the World Route Development Forum 2008, the global airport-airline networking event.

Malaysia Airports (MA) beat three other rivals Singapore, Bangkok and Beijing airports, thus enabling Malaysia to become the first Asian country to host the annual forum, local media reported on Tuesday.

Malaysian Airports on Tuesday signed the agreement with Routes, the event organizer, in Copenhagen, capital of Denmark.

"We are very pleased

to have achieved the rights to host this world event and I believe this will be an excellent platform for Malaysia Airports to fast-track our marketing efforts to attract more new airlines to offer their services to Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA)," MA Managing Director Bashir Ahmad was quoted as saying by Malaysian media reports.

MNA/Xinhua

Wild fire rages South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 28 Sept — Firefighters continued to battle blazes across South Africa on Tuesday with costs mounting and farmers asking to have their farms declared emergency areas.

Working on Fire (WOF) spokeswoman Val Charlton said, "We have no resources left. We are stretched to the full."

WOF had 29 teams of 22 people each in the field across the country and many were working with hand tools to make sure there were no live embers.

Charlton said a small fire was burning in Hebron in Mpumalanga Province but it was expected that the fire would burn itself out.

A fire at Mac in the province was contained as was a fire at Duga Duga.

Firefighters were on full alert in Mpumalanga as the province was expecting strong winds and hot weather on Tuesday.

KwaZulu-Natal, where fires have also been raging, was expected to have cooler weather on Tuesday which was a relief for firefighters.

On Monday, a six-year-old girl,

Bonakele Ngema, died in a fire in a house in the province. She was trapped while seeking refuge from a roaring blaze which bore down on her in Mntanenkosi reserve.

Prisoners had to be evacuated from Mbazwana Police Station to Emanguzi Police Station in KwaZulu-Natal while policemen used buckets of water to fight a forest fire threatening the building. Three vehicles were burnt out.

Free State province Agriculture have requested that farmlands ravaged by fires in areas including Senekal be declared an emergency area.

The fire, which started outside the park last Tuesday, took two days to bring under control, he said. It destroyed about 5,000 hectares to 6,000 hectares of forest.

Most of the fires started at the weekend. Hot, dry and windy conditions across the country have created the perfect conditions for fires.

MNA/Xinhua



Candidates to be the first Malaysian astronaut wave national flags after passing a test in Kuantan, 300 km (186 miles) east of Kuala Lumpur, in this picture taken recently.—INTERNET

"Reuters" slams US for hampering journalists in Iraq

LONDON, 28 Sept — The US military's conduct towards journalists in Iraq, including their increasing detention and accidental shootings, is hampering the media's ability to cover the war, Reuters international news agency complained in a letter to a US senator.

The news agency complained of "a long parade of disturbing incidents whereby professional journalists have been killed, wrongfully detained and or illegally abused by US forces in Iraq", in the letter to Virginia Republican Senator, John Warner, head of the US Senate Armed Services Committee.

Reuters also slammed the Pentagon for failing to safeguard journalists covering the conflict, describing the situation as "spiralling out of control".

Senator Warner was urged to call upon US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld to resolve the issues "in a way that best balances the legitimate security interests of US forces in Iraq and equally legitimate rights of journalists in conflict zones

under international law".

The increasingly risky conditions journalists were forced to work in limited their "abilities to do their jobs" and created "a serious chilling effect on the media overall", the letter said.

Reuters also accused US forces of "unduly preventing US citizens from

receiving information... and undermining the very freedoms the US says it is seeking to foster every day that it commits US lives and US dollars".

According to Reporters Without Borders, 68 journalists and media workers have been killed in the Iraq conflict since March 2003.—Internet

Car bomb hits convoy in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 28 Sept — A car bomb went off in Nidhal Square in central Baghdad on Tuesday, targeting a convoy of sport utility vehicles (SUV) usually used by foreign security contractors, wounding five Iraqi civilians, police said.

"A booby-trapped vehicle parking on the side of a road in Nidhal Square was detonated as a convoy of SUVs passed by," Captain Ahmed Abdullah told Xinhua.

"There were no reports of casualties among the foreigners, but five civilians were wounded and several cars damaged," Abdullah said.—MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi boy walks to school passing by a burning US military vehicle, in Baghdad, Iraq, on 29 Sept, 2005.—INTERNET

No one can say if warming had caused "Katrina", "Rita"

WASHINGTON, 28 Sept — Scientists say it is not easy to tell if global warming caused hurricanes Katrina and Rita but on Monday they forecast more unpredictable weather as Earth gets hotter.

Even skeptics agree that global warming is underway and that human activity is at least in part responsible. Climate experts also agree that this warming is likely to make the weather more extreme — colder in some places, hotter in others, with droughts and severe rainstorms both more common.

"Global warming, I think, is playing a role in the hurricanes," said Kevin Trenberth, a senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado.

"But a lot of what is going on is natural. What global warming may be doing is making them somewhat more intense," said Trenberth, a member of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

James Elsner, professor of geography at Florida State University, agreed.

"Certainly this is an unusual season," he said in a telephone interview. "However, the question of attribution I don't think is very simple."

Katrina slammed into southern Louisiana and Mississippi on 29 August, wiping out entire towns, triggering the devastating flooding of New Orleans and causing more than 1,000 deaths. Then on Saturday along came Rita, which briefly hit Category

5 strength with winds higher than 155 miles per hour before dropping Category 3 by the time it hit the Texas-Louisiana coast. "We have seen unusual seasons in the past and so we understand that we tend to see more strong storms when the Atlantic Ocean temperatures are warmer, which has been the case in the last 10 years or so," Elsner said.

"It was warm in the 1940s and '50s and we saw lots of strong storms during that period."

MNA/Reuters



A visitor to the International Home Care & Rehabilitation Exhibition 2005 tries to mount 'Chair Rider,' an electric driving support device, to his wheelchair in Tokyo on 28 Sept., 2005. —INTERNET

Suicide car bomb hits police checkpoint in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 29 Sept — A suicide car bomb struck a police checkpoint in the northern Iraqi city of Baquba on the main road leading to Baghdad on Wednesday, killing a civilian and wounding 13 people including eight policemen, an Interior Ministry source said.

"A suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden vehicle into several police vehicles forming a mobile checkpoint on an intersection of main roads in Baquba," the source told Xinhua.

The blast killed a civilian and wounded 13 people including eight policemen, the source said, adding that several police and civilian cars were also damaged in the attack. — MNA/Xinhua

BBC programme bashed for airing profanities

LONDON, 28 Sept — British regulators chastised the BBC on Tuesday, saying the publicly-funded broadcaster was "seriously misguided" for airing a radio programme that opened with an elderly woman reeling off a long string of profanities.

After a brief warning about strong language, the Radio 1 programme on punk culture, which aired at 7 pm on 16 June, began: "Hello ladies, boys and girls, I thought that you might like to know — in the spirit of punk rock — the following show in-

cludes, what we often refer to as language. So if, like me, you are offended by such words and phrases as (a list of 13 offensive words) then you might wish to turn over, or **** off. Thank you".

British media regulator Ofcom ruled that

the profanity "was clearly intended to be ironic and provide a humorous introduction to the programme", but noted that listeners aged 4 to 14 make up 14 per cent of the Radio 1 audience at that hour.

MNA/Reuters

Straw sees 'more dark moments' ahead in Iraq

BRIGHTON, 28 Sept — Foreign Secretary Jack Straw has warned of "more dark moments" in Iraq, but insisted that Britain would remain so long as it has the consent of the Iraqi people.

Speaking a day after Prime Minister Tony Blair ruled out an imminent British withdrawal from Iraq, Straw reasserted that "we were right" to join the United States in the March 2003 invasion that overthrew Saddam Hussein's regime.

With elections scheduled for December, and an insurgency raging on, Straw told the annual conference of Britain's governing Labour Party that "we can expect more dark moments".

"None of us should underestimate the challenges that still lie ahead in Iraq," he said on Wednesday. "Nation-building from a violent past has never been easy."

He cited the example of Germany, where it took four years after the

end of World War II in Europe before a post-Nazi government could be elected.

There are currently

8,500 British troops deployed mainly in southern Iraq, around the city of Basra.

Internet

Mountaineers kick off Mt Annapurna cleaning campaign

KATHMANDU, 28 Sept — An international mountaineering team have begun a cleaning campaign of Mount (Mt) Annapurna, the 10th tallest peak in the world at 8091 metres, the mountaineering team said here on Tuesday.

"The team, comprising 22 South Koreans, two Japanese and a Frenchman, led by the veteran South Korean mountaineer Han Wang-yong, will continue clearing garbage till 5 October, from the base camp and the surrounding areas of the Annapurna range," the team said in a Press statement. "I lead this campaign with the objective of handing over the beauty of nature to the coming generations in its original form," the statement quoted Han, leader of the campaign, as saying.

The collected garbage will be brought down to

the base camp where biodegradable wastes will be burnt while non-biodegradable materials will be disposed of.

Han's Mt Annapurna Cleaning Campaign is part of an ambitious project to clean up all 14 Himalayan peaks above 8,000 metres in the world, the Press statement said.

Han, the 11th mountaineer to scale all 14 peaks above 8,000 metres, led a similar international team in October 2003 to clean up Mt Everest, Mt Manaslu and Mt Dhaulagiri as well as Mt Kanchangjunga.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kidnap Egyptian in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 28 Sept — An Egyptian man was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen in Baghdad on Monday, police said. They said he was travelling in a black BMW with an Iraqi friend when gunmen opened fire, took the Egyptian away and left the Iraqi behind. Police quoted the Iraqi as saying the kidnapped man was working for the Egyptian-owned mobile phone company Iraqna, which operates in Iraq. However, an Iraqna spokesman said he was not on its staff.

MNA/Reuters



US soldiers walk past the scene of a suicide bomb attack in the northern Iraqi city of Tal Afar on 28 September, 2005. —INTERNET

**Don't
Smoke**

37th ASEAN Economic Ministers meeting opens in Laos

VIENTIANE, 28 Sept— The 37th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) meeting kicked off here on Wednesday, centring on specific measures to realize the ASEAN Economic Community by 2020 and the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), accelerate the establishment of free trade areas with the 10-member block's partners, and lure more foreign direct investment inside and outside the regional grouping.

Economic ministers from members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are expected to explore ways of speeding up regional economic integration and cooperation, especially the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2020, the AFTA by 2015, as well as negotiations for free trade areas between ASEAN and such partners as China, Japan, South Korea and India.

They are likely to review the progress of carrying out the Framework Agreement for the Inte-

gration of Priority Sectors and its protocols inked in November 2004, a milestone in ASEAN economic co-operation.

The 10 ASEAN countries have agreed to remove tariffs on 85 per cent of the products in the 11 priority sectors, namely agro-based product, air travel, electronics, e-ASEAN, fishery, healthcare, tourism, textile and apparel, rubber-based product, automotive product and wood-based product, by 2007 for Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and

Thailand (ASEAN-6), and 2012 for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV).

These deadlines are three years earlier than the deadlines of 2010 for the ASEAN-6 and 2015 for the CLMV under the AFTA which has been realized effectively.

MNA/Xinhua



Residents check on their fishing ship in the rain in Thanh Hoa Province, about 150 km south of Hanoi, on 27 September, 2005.

INTERNET

Japan may pull troops out of Iraq next year

TOKYO, 29 Sept — The Japanese Government is considering pulling its 600 troops out of Iraq in the first half of next year, the national daily *Yomiuri Shimbun* said on Thursday, but the government denied it had such a plan.

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party has already approved an extension of the troops' current mandate, which expires on 14 December.

Japan's dispatch of military personnel, first approved in 2003, helped cement close ties between Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and US President George W Bush, though the troops' activities are limited to humanitarian and reconstruction activities under Japan's pacifist Constitution.

Japan's Deputy Chief Cabinet secretary denied the report.

"The government is aware of the report. But there is no truth to the statement that it is considering such a plan," Seiken Sugiura told a news conference.

The *Yomiuri* said Tokyo was considering the exit plan as Iraq prepares for an October referendum on a new Constitution.

Hopes that the adoption of the Constitution would

improve security in Iraq were dampened this week by a report from the International Crisis Group released in London, saying the rushed approval process had deepened sectarian rifts.

But the main factor in deciding Japan's withdrawal strategy may be decisions made by Britain and Australia, whose troops provide security for the Japanese in southern Iraq.

Japanese officials have said it would be difficult for its troops to maintain security around their base in the southern Iraqi town of Samawa without back-up, the paper said.

The *Yomiuri* report said both Britain and Australia have told Tokyo they plan to withdraw from Iraq next year. British Prime Minister Tony Blair has dismissed mounting calls to set a timetable for withdrawal of British forces, saying they will remain until local forces can maintain security.

The top US general in Iraq on Wednesday cast doubt on his previous forecasts of a substantial cut in American forces in 2006, saying Iraq was in a period of heightened uncertainty that made it "too soon to tell" if troops could be brought home. — MNA/Reuters

Iran fears wintering wildfowl will bring bird flu

TEHERAN, 28 Sept— Iran is bracing for a probable bird flu outbreak, although no birds have so far been found contaminated with the H5N1 strain that is dangerous to humans, a senior veterinary officer said on Monday.

"We will most probably get the bird flu carried by the millions of wild birds that are on their way to Iran," said Behrouz Yasemi, spokesman for Iran's veterinary authority.

Flocks of wild geese, ducks and other waterfowl winter among northern Iran's wetlands and lakes.

"We have warned poultry farmers to fence off their birds and stop them mixing with wild ones," Yasemi said.

"We have not found

the feared H5N1 strain of flu virus among the 2,700 samples we have tested so far," he added.

The veterinary authority has requested that every sick bird found be sent for testing.

"We have not got it yet, but we plan to be prepared for it when it arrives in our northern provinces," he added.

Bird flu has killed 65 people in four Asian countries since late 2003 and has been found in birds in Russia and Europe. — MNA/Reuters

Police kill Sharm el-Sheikh bombing suspect

CAIRO, 29 Sept — Egyptian police on Wednesday shot dead a man suspected of deadly attacks on the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

Moussa Mohamed Salem Badran, 27-year-old man, refused to surrender and was killed in an exchange of fire with the police in the Mount Halal area in northern Sinai Peninsular, according to the statement.

Police then found

two hand grenades, a pistol and an automatic weapon with him.

"Badran played a prominent role in preparing and carrying out the Sharm el-Sheikh attacks," said the statement.

A string of deadly bombings rocked Sharm el-Sheikh on 23 July, killing at least 64 people, including foreign tourists.

Egyptian security forces have since then launched a massive manhunt in Sinai Peninsular.

MNA/Xinhua

Heavy rains halt food supply in western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 28 Sept— Heavy rainfall since Saturday has halted food supply in many hilly districts in mid and far-western Nepal, an official of Nepal Food Corporation (NFC) said on Tuesday.

Heavy rains have stopped the supply of food materials from Nepalgunj City of Banke District to Surkhet District, which

has hindered the supplies to other hilly districts, said Dipak Kumar Lamshal, chief of the NFC Bheri zone office. The food materials to 12 hilly districts in the mid and far-west regions are delivered via Nepalgunj. These districts are Mugu, Humla, Jumla, Dolpa, Kalikot, Bajura, Bajhang, Dailekh, Rolpa, Rukum, Jajarkot and Surkhet. "Humla District has run out of food in the last few days," Lamshal said. Out of the targeted 985,000 kilos of rice to be sent to Jumla, only 153,900 kilos have been supplied. Likewise, of 550,000 kilos to be sent to Kalikot, 162,600 kilos have been supplied, and only 165,300 kilos of 730,000 kilos have been sent to Dolpa, Lamshal said.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi boy walks past a Jordanian Embassy vehicle destroyed by gunfire in western Baghdad on 28 September, 2005. —INTERNET



A model in a wheelchair is helped to roll in Sanyo Electric Co's bathing shell for disabled, 'hirb,' at the International Home Care & Rehabilitation Exhibition 2005 in Tokyo on 28 Sept., 2005.

INTERNET

Children exhibition, carnival to be held in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 28 Sept— An educational exhibition and children's carnival to mark the International Children's Day will be held in Colombo from 30 September to 3 October, *Daily News* reported on Tuesday.

The event which will be held under the theme "We are the Future" is aimed at providing education and entertainment to the younger generation and creating awareness about children's rights, Sri Lankan Information and Media Minister Dilan Perera was quoted as saying.

"The Media Ministry is organizing this event for the second time. Last year it proved to be a resounding success. We expect to give our children an even better experience through this year's carnival and exhibition," he said.

According to the report, Children's parks, children's films, book exhibitions, mobile computer labs and over 200 exhibition stalls of government and private institutions will add colour to the event.

Speech, drama, arts, singing and gymnastic competitions will also be held for school children during the carnival, Perera added. — MNA/Xinhua

China expected to boost world coffee consumption

SALVADOR (Brazil), 28 Sept— China, a traditional tea consumer, occupies a prominent place in the strategy of the International Coffee Organization (ICO) to boost world coffee demand, ICO Executive Director Nestor Osorio said on Monday.

Though the consumption of coffee in China is small, it already has reported an annual 15-per-cent increase, well above the 2-per-cent growth in the world, said Osorio at a Press conference here.

He said China's opening up has made the potential of the coffee market evident.

"Naturally, we cannot think of China as a 1.2-billion-consumer market.

Probably, the potential Chinese market for a product like coffee would limit to 200 or 250 million people," said Osorio.

"Nonetheless, this means a market as big as that of the United States, the main consumer in the world," he said.

Since late 1980s, ICO has been analyzing the possibilities of a vigorous Chinese coffee market. Osorio said the strong growth of coffee consumption in China has led all the multinational coffee firms to enter China. "The future will be spectacular there," he said
MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia says dengue fever becoming epidemic

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 Sept— Malaysia has warned that dengue fever is nearing an epidemic and joined neighbour Singapore in declaring war on the deadly mosquito-borne virus.

Malaysians reported 752 cases of dengue fever last week, 50 per cent more than were reported in the last week of August, triggering emergency measures to prevent the disease reaching epidemic proportions, a senior health official said on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Health Minister Chua Soi Lek told local media 1,000 reported cases per week would constitute an epidemic. "If this trend continues, it will not be long before it reaches 1,000 cases and an epidemic is declared," he was quoted as saying.

The Health Ministry is redeploying mosquito "search and destroy" teams nationwide to focus on hot spots in mainly urban areas in the south, northwest and around the capital, Kuala Lumpur, the deputy director of disease control told *Reuters*.

"We are mobilizing our people from the less-priority areas to the higher-priority areas," Dr Marzukhi

Md Isa said, naming the worst-affected areas as the southern city of Johor Baru, the tourist island of Penang, Central Selangor State and the capital.

A total of 70 people have died in Malaysia of dengue fever so far this year, slightly more than the 68 deaths reported for the same period last year, but the number of reported cases is running 25 per cent ahead of 2004, Health Ministry figures show.

An endemic viral disease in the tropics, dengue is carried by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. Symptoms include fever, severe headache, joint and muscular pains, vomiting and rashes.

A 26-year-old woman and her unborn twins became the latest victims of Malaysia's outbreak last weekend. In all of 2004, there were 102 deaths and 35,926 reported cases, Dr Marzukhi said.

MNA/Reuters

Bomb explodes in northeastern Spain

MADRID, 28 Sept— A bomb exploded on Tuesday near an electricity substation in northeastern Spain after a warning in the name of Basque separatist group ETA, Spanish officials and media reported.

Local officials said the bomb exploded at 8 am (0600 GMT) at Anon de Moncayo, near Zaragoza in northeastern Spain.

There were no reports of any injuries and officials said the electricity substation was not currently in use.

The website of newspaper *El Pais* said the Basque highway agency had received several calls in the name of ETA before the blast but there had been confusion over where the bomb was actually placed.

MNA/Reuters

Thailand to host APEC meeting on clean fossil energy

BANGKOK, 28 Sept— Thailand has been selected to host the 13th APEC Clean Fossil Energy Technical and Policy Seminar 2005 in the northern province of Lampang from 7-9 December, *Thai News Agency* reported on Tuesday.

The meeting's goal is to build confidence in using coal to produce electricity without negative side effects on the environment, and some new applications using modern technology for coal by-products will be introduced to Thailand, the report said.

Some so-called "cutting edge" technologies which may attract interest

here include gassification or the processing of coal into a compressed gas form to be fuel for electricity production.

The meeting will enable participants the opportunity to see how such new technologies can be practical part of the nation's alternatives to manufacture electricity, it said.

MNA/Xinhua



Xuang Xuang, a male panda, left, plays on the ground, as Lin Hui, right, a female panda, eats a cake made of bamboo and carrots to celebrate her fourth birthday at the Chiang Mai Zoo in Chiang Mai Province, 580 kilometres (360 miles) north of Bangkok, Thailand, on 28 Sept, 2005.—INTERNET

Lynndie England sentenced to three years in prison

FORT HOOD (Texas), 28 Sept— Lynndie England, the US soldier pictured holding a leash to a naked Iraqi inmate at Abu Ghraib prison in a scandal that prompted global outrage, was sentenced on Tuesday to three years in prison and given a dishonourable discharge.

In sentencing testimony just hours before, England, who had faced a maximum nine years behind bars, apologized for her actions and said she remained an American patriot.

"After the photos were released, I've heard that attacks were made on US Armed Forces because of them," she said.

"I apologize to coalition forces and all the families," England, speaking slowly, told the jury of five officers, also apologizing to "detainees, the families, America and all the soldiers".

England, 22, was convicted on Monday of abuse such as being photographed pointing to the genitals of a naked Iraqi prisoner in a section of the prison were the administrative clerk did not have any official duties.— MNA/Reuters

A tribute to our Senior Citizens

Yenanmyay Ko Tin

The 1st of October is designated as the “International Day of Older Persons” — and here are my felicitations to those Senior Citizens.

Until recent times, most people had died of illness or infections, long before their senses became inactive or their organs started to fail. Life expectancy today, is however on the rise, due to better diets, exercise, mental engagement, the advance in regenerative medicines and the new pioneering sciences of restoring human organs.

And as such, the number of Senior Citizens seems to be burgeoning day by day. Accordingly, it has been reckoned that, worldwide, the number of people over 65, will approach nearly 600 million by 2015, and ultimately attain 2 billion by 2050 — and the following data unquestionably lends credence to it:-

in health-care, the establishment of Hospitals and Nursing Homes and provision of safety nets.

At the same time, some consider the coming of the “Silver World”, as one of history’s greatest opportunities for innovation and invention. The opportunities have sprung up in most of the rapidly aging societies in Europe and Asia—and industries that formerly catered solely to youth are turning to Senior Citizens. It ranges from housing to autos; robotics to consumer electronics and cosmetics. And it is envisaged that when one looks back in 2012, the year 2000 will be likened to the year, when the aging planet unleashed that new economic potential.

So Senior Citizens — don’t entertain any worries. All angels are working in your farm. Scientists continue to probe for a solution to make elderly life bearable

togenarians and centenarians. And incidentally, it was recently learnt that a Dutch lady, aged 115, and as the oldest person in the world (confirmed by the

In fact, nations take pride in boasting about the number of their aged population, and in particular octogenarians and centenarians. And incidentally, it was recently learnt that a Dutch lady, aged 115, and as the oldest person in the world (confirmed by the Guinness World Records), died peacefully in her sleep only on the 30th of August, 2005.

Guinness World Records), died peacefully in her sleep only on the 30th of August, 2005.

And so, even if you are frail or elderly, don’t use it as an excuse to remain a couch potato. Keep your body running at its best, by engaging in exercises to enhance your strength, flexibility and balance.

And finally, my best wishes to all Senior Citizens, for “Youth may be a gift of nature — but old age is a work of art”.

| Category | Total Population | | Population above 65 | | Health expd % of GDP |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------|---------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| | (million) | | (% of total) | | |
| | 1998 | 2015 | 1998 | 2015 | 1996 - 1998 |
| * World | 5819.87 | 7040.40 | 6.8% | 8.3% | 5.6% |
| - High Income Countries | 864.11 | 911.11 | 14.5% | 18.2% | 6.4% |
| - Medium Income Countries | 1455.81 | 1740.20 | 6.6% | 7.9% | 3.2% |
| - Low Income Countries | 3499.91 | 4389.05 | 5.0% | 6.4% | 0.8% |

Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2000

And perhaps that adage “Life before sixty is just a warm up”, is a symbol of the faith that those Senior Citizens embrace. And what more, and since many are denied the privilege of growing old, their maxim, obviously, would be, We turn not older in years—but newer everyday”.

But the silvering of the planet also has its negative impacts. The dwindling working age could lead to labour shortages; the mushrooming elderly could overburden social security systems — and most importantly, an increase in the disability among elders could cause severe strains to those involved. And in such respects, a recent UN Report dubbed it on “the greatest social challenge of the 21st century”.

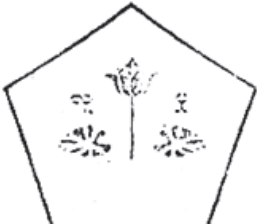

It accordingly will be necessary for respective governments to enact appropriate “demographic policies” to address the demographic imbalances — and therein, the “fertility rates” of individual nations occupy a pivotal role. Certain Census Bureaus consider a fertility rate of 2.1% as the level at which a population can replace itself —and it would be advisable to ensure that the working age is replenished.

And meanwhile, the elderly continue to expand and due attention is being accorded to them. The younger generation of all nations have been loyal and dutiful to their elders with respect and devotion — and all religions have contributed to the concepts. Similarly, governments have assisted increasingly

— and perhaps a 100 year life-span, may soon be within the reach of every child, in future.

But at the same time, it is highly important for you to be able to find for yourself; maintain quality in your lifestyle and don’t become an excessive burden to your loved ones.

In fact, nations take pride in boasting about the number of their aged population, and in particular oc-

2005

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS
1st OCTOBER 2005

အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာသက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများနေ့
၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ်၊ အောက်တိုဘာလ(၁)ရက်နေ့

“TOWARDS A SOCIETY FOR ALL AGES”
“သက်ရွယ်စုံညီ၊ လူ့ဘောင်ဆီသို့”

Shan State (North) WAO, MCW Supervisory Committee carry out rural development tasks

YANGON, 29 Sept—Shan State (North) Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee jointly organized a ceremony to hold health education talks, provide health care services, and render assistance for rural development, health and education sectors at the affiliated Basic Education High School in Mongli Model Village, Hsenwi Township, on 20 September.

Present on the occasion were the patron, chairperson and members of Shan State (North) WAO, members of Shan State (North) MCWA, and townselders numbering 525.

Patron of Shan State (North) WAO Daw Khin Thant Sin presented medical aid for health and education sectors to health assistant of Mongli Model Village Health Care Centre Daw Naw Lu Lu, 30 dozens of exercise books to 353 students through principal U Kyaw Lwin, and 150 publications to the village library through Chairman U Sai Ba Htay of the village Peace and Development Council.

Two local women presented 2,115 membership applications from Mongli Model Village-tract to the chairperson of Shan State (North) MCWA.

Joint-Secretary of Shan State (North) MCW Supervisory Committee Dr Nan Kein Phaung Tit gave educative talks on noteworthy facts for pregnant women, Nurse Assistant Director Daw Nan Kham Hmat, on nutrition, and Secretary of District MCW Supervisory Committee Dr Khin Nan Thi, on malaria, dengue haemorrhage, and diarrhoea.

Shan State (North) WAO and MCW Supervisory committee held round-table talks on all-round



Shan State (North) Women's Affairs Organization Patron Daw Khin Thant Sin presents cash assistance to elderly persons in Mongli Model Village, Hsenwi Township, Shan State (North).—MNA

development of rural areas. They dealt with rural development tasks carried by members of township and village WAOs in Mongli Model Village-tract, and matters on women's affairs and maternal and child welfare.

Led by Shan State (North) WAO, a team comprising specialists and physicians for Shan State (North) General Hospital gave free medical treat-

ments to 150 locals at the health care branch in Mongli Model Village.

Next, the patron and members of Shan State (North) WAO provided health care and cash assistance for 53 elderly persons in the village.

They served 525 local residents and 353 students refreshments, and elderly persons and children, nutritious cereals. — MNA



A local young woman presents membership applications to a responsible person. — MNA



Members of Shan State (North) WAO and MCW Supervisory Committee hold talks on rural development. — MNA

Requirements fulfilled for health care services in rural areas of Singu

YANGON, 29 Sept — Under the leadership of Supervisory Committee for Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association and with the assistance of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council, free medical treatment and talks on health were given at Singu Township Hall and People's Hospital in PyinOoLwin District of Mandalay Division on 27 September.

Present on the occasion were Chairperson of Mandalay Division MCWSC Daw Khin Phone Win and members, members of district and township MCWAs, specialists and guests.

Under the programme, specialists gave medical treatment to 20 aged persons and the chairperson and members provided the aged with medicine and nutritious foods, 211 students with

stationery and four disabled students with stationery and cash assistance.

Next, the chairperson presented magazines, books and educative journals for the library of Singu Township Information and Public Relations Department through the officer of Township IPRD.

After the chairperson had dealt with purposes of MCWA and its work plans and performances, the specialists gave talks on dengue fever, HIV/AIDS disease and cholera outbreak.

Afterwards, cancer specialist Dr Daw May Phyu Latt held private meeting with the women and gave talks on cancer common among women and held frank discussions with them.

After that, the chairperson and members visited Township People's Hospital, viewed medi-

cal treatment given to the public by the specialists, comforted the patients undergoing treatment, and provided eye patients with 242 spectacles and requirements.

Under the special programme of medical treatment the specialists gave medical treatment to 424 eye patients, 136 ear, nose and throat patients, 315 child patients, 135 patients who had undergone surgical operation, 150 patients under intensive care, 72 gynaecological patients, 160 musculoskeletal patients, 54 patients treated with traditional medicine, 34 TB patients, 22 malaria patients, 9 allergic patients, 125 oral patients, 200 general patients totalling 1836. A total of 1545 patients received treatment.

Arrangements were made for sending 291 patients to the hospitals concerned. —MNA

Govt striving to overcome challenges faced by nation relying mainly on own resource

(from page 1)

National unity and solidarity were painstakingly restored through confidence building measures initiated by the present government. The patient endeavours of the government succeeded in the return into the legal fold of 17 out of the 18 armed insurgent groups. Most importantly, peace throughout the land paved the way for massive infrastructure construction nationwide and contributed to the revitalization of the national spirit.

The economy registered significant growth rates during the last three years. Moreover, 176 dams, 202 major bridges and 60,000 kilometres of motorways have been constructed. In the education sector, 124 new universities have been opened nationwide, the adult literacy rate is nearly 94 per cent and primary school enrolment has reached 98 per cent. In the health sector, 188 new hospitals have been opened for the people. A total of 68 billion kyats has been used for development of the border areas.

Peace, tranquillity and a growing economy have transformed cities and towns into bustling places. Pagodas are filled with devotees, and churches, mosques and temple are crowded with worshippers. The crime rate is low and the fact that residents and tourists can stroll the streets at will, night or day, is testimony enough to the country's peaceful situation.

With these positive developments in hand, the government announced a seven-step political programme in August 2003 which would definitely lead to the establishment of a modern, prosperous and democratic nation based on enduring institutions.

The first crucial step of this process was the successful reconvening of the national convention. The convention is attended by 1,088 delegates from eight categories. Sixty per cent of the delegates come from the national races. Representatives of 17 armed groups who have returned to the legal fold are also participating. The delegates are identifying basic principles for a new democratic state constitution by which to build a common future after decades of disunity and stagnation.

A constitution will be drafted with the principles agreed upon, and put to a national referendum. If approved, the constitution will pave the way for elections to the national and regional parliaments thereby ensuring a smooth transition to democracy. Myanmar is poised at the threshold of a new era.

In stark contrast to the actual positive situation described above, a pessimistic report commissioned by Mr Vaclav Havel and Bishop Desmond M Tutu was announced on 20 September 2005. The report entitled "Threat to the Peace: A Call for the UN Security Council to Act in Burma" was prepared by DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary Law Firm. The report contends that the government poses a threat to its own people and to regional peace and security and strongly urges the UN Security Council to take up the situation immediately.

The report states that "Burma" is a form preferred by leaders of the so-called "Burma's democracy movement". The word "Burma" is the name of the British Colonialists imposed on Myanmar. This misnomer could not be rectified by a then subject,

colonized people. The reversion to "Myanmar" in 1989 is in fact the restoration of an authentic name to its rightful official status. The United Nations and all other international organizations address the country as Myanmar. The name has been accepted and recognized by all countries and peoples of the world, save a few. These few insist on using the discarded name. It is not only a discourtesy towards Myanmar and its people but it is also a politically motivated ploy deliberately used to show opposition to the government.

The report portrays Myanmar in the most negative light. There is no basis whatsoever to its claims. It has used human rights by which to heap accusations upon the government. Myanmar has on several occasions officially denounced those allegations that engage from rape, forced labour, child soldiers, refugees out flow, forced relocation, etc. These are vast exaggerations or mere outright distortions. The truth is that the government does not condone human rights violations and is in fact the guarantor of human rights in the country. The accusations are at times absurd. For instance, the allegations that as many as 70,000 children have been forcibly recruited into the army is based on an NGO interview with 20 or so deserters, in a foreign land. The allegation that 700,000 refugees have fled Myanmar in recent years is without any official authority whatsoever.

The allegations about drug trade is at total variance with the situation on the ground. As a result of the relentless efforts by the government the sown opium acreage continued to drop in line with the national plan to eradicate poppy cultivation by the year 2014. The UNODC reported a 73 per cent decline in opium cultivation between 1996 and 2004. The diplomatic corps in Myanmar have participated in public destruction of drugs for 19 successive years to the US street value estimate of over 14.661 billion US dollars. The government is also taking urgent measures with neighbouring countries to control illegally trafficked chemicals used in the production of synthetic drugs. It has been able to declare opium free zones in the country and has signed an MoU with six sub-regional countries for the creation of a Greater Mekong Sub-region drugs free zone.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is of the view that the report is yet another attempt to discredit the government of Myanmar. It is based on misinformation by a few remaining insurgents and foreign funded expatriates who are now fearful that they will soon be irrelevant when Myanmar crosses the threshold to a new era. They are after all expatriates who are funded by some western countries with a hidden political agenda.

The government is striving to overcome the challenges faced by the nation relying mainly on its own resources. It welcomes the understanding and support of the international community. However, reports as the above, are counterproductive and not of assistance in the efforts of Myanmar towards democratization. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs therefore rejects the report in its entirety.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Dated: 29 September 2005

Myanmar, State of Qatar establish diplomatic relations

YANGON, 30 Sept — The Union of Myanmar and the State of Qatar, desirous of establishing friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and norms of International Laws in accordance with the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and on Consular Relations, have decided to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries at Ambassadorial level with effect from 26 September 2005.

The agreement to establish diplomatic relations between the Union of Myanmar and the State of Qatar was signed by the Ambassador of the two countries in New York on 26 September 2005.— MNA

Govt providing health...

(from page 16)

medical studies have been organized since 1964, and a seminar on post-graduate medical studies was held in 1998 and the sixth seminar on medical studies in 2003.

In today's seminar, all are to discuss an academic system of post-graduate medical science to be harmonized with the health care system of the nation and progress of international medical sciences, to review principles, rules and regulations of post-graduate courses at home and abroad, to scrutinize curricula of the post-graduate courses, and to seek ways to solve difficulties and problems related to the post-graduate courses.

The participants of the seminar are urged to give suggestions on bringing out highly-qualified post-graduate trainees for ensuring uplift of the standard of medical science. Especially, it is necessary to discuss realization of the academic system for post-graduate medical science to be able to turn out the health staff who will serve the interests of the nation and the people with patriotism.

In conclusion, the minister urged all the participants to produce adequate number of well-versed post-graduate trainees who will give health care service to the people; the post-graduate medical persons to discharge the duties for ensuring health and fitness of the entire people; and scholars in the medical field to perform development of the medical science and hand down their experiences to new generation.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Director of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Than Aung, directors-general, rectors and medical superintendents, WHO Resident Representative Professor Adik Wibowo, presidents of Myanmar Academy of Medical Science, Myanmar Medical Council and Myanmar Nurses Council and guests.

The seminar will be held at the Medical Science Department on Bogyoke Aung San Street, here, up to 1 October.— MNA

English Course for Hockey Coaches and Umpires concludes

YANGON, 29 Sept — Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address at the concluding ceremony of the English Course for Hockey Coaches and Umpires organized by Myanmar Hockey Federation at the hall of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon), here, this morning. Present were officials of the Ministry of Sports, President of MHF Commandant of Defence Services Records Office Brig-Gen Myo Myint and executives, President of the Central Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federa-

tion Daw Aye Aye and officials. The Minister and the President of MHF gave speeches.

The Minister presented gifts to three instructors, the president certificates to the trainees and the director-general of Sports and Physical Education Department prizes to three outstanding trainees. Next, the Minister attended the opening ceremony of Inter-Ministry Table Tennis Tournament at the hall of Myanmar Table Tennis Federation. Altogether 12 teams are taking part in the tournament up to 3 October. — MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ်၊ စက်တင်ဘာလ (၂၀) ရက်နေ့အထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင် ကျေးရွာ ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၁၁၉၂၄)တိုက် ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးလက်နေပြည်သူများ ပညာဗဟုသုတ တိုးပွားစေရန် ကျေးရွာကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် စာအုပ်များကို ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ကြပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန



A VW-Porsche 914, a joint production of Volkswagen and Porsche in the seventies, is seen at a Porsche car dealer in Frankfurt, central Germany, on 26 September, 2005.

INTERNET

Thailand to host forum on housing for the poor

BANGKOK, 29 Sept — Thailand will host one of Asia's biggest forum on housing for the poor next week, local Press reported on Wednesday.

The event, which runs from Monday till Saturday, is aimed to demonstrate the government's cheap housing programme as a model to the region, said an organizer of the forum.

Participants will visit Ban Mankong cheap housing-loan projects in 15 provinces, organizer Somsook Boonyabancha was quoted by *The Nation* newspaper as saying.

The Ban Mankong projects seek to utilize local residents as a driving force and encourage people to develop their communities, mostly in urban areas and slums, on their own initiative,

Somsook said.

Some 150-200 participants from 15 countries in Asia and Africa are expected to attend the conference. Local communities involved in housing and slum development projects will exchange ideas with foreign experts.

Thai delegations from communities in the government-sponsored cheap housing-loan project will also exchange ideas at the forum.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will deliver a speech at the opening of the conference next Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

High global rice price to sustain in medium term

BANGKOK, 29 Sept — The retail prices of rice, which has gone up in many Asian countries recently, will sustain in the medium term due to increased fuel cost, fertilizers and transportation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) said here on Tuesday.

In the first weeks of September, global rice price continued to firm, which will stretch into the coming months resulted from rising production and marketing costs, the FAO said in a Press release.

In the short term, prices are reacting strongly to new developments regarding crops and government policies, such as the return of Indonesia as an important buyer, strong sales to Africa and a new contract for deliveries to Iraq.

As anticipated export contractions by Thailand and China could be

compensated by increased shipments from Egypt, India and other countries, FAO has raised its forecast for global rice trade in 2005 to 27 million tons, 1 per cent higher over last year's 26.7 million tons.

Meanwhile, rice deliveries are anticipated to grow in Bangladesh and the Philippines despite the strong rise in domestic prices. Likewise, imports by Cuba, the European Union (EU), Niger and Senegal are also expected to increase.

However, prospects for rice production seem much less buoyant this season, especially in the

case of China and India, as well as Colombia, Cuba, the Republic of Korea, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan and Venezuela.

In general, Asia will reap larger crops although less marked than last anticipated. Africa will point to a 4-per-cent increase. In Latin American and the Caribbean, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru are set to harvest more crops, while Colombia, Cuba and Guyana may face contraction. The rice output in the European Union (EU) and the United States will also fall slightly, according to the FAO.

MNA/Xinhua

Elusive mouse grounds Qatari airliner for 13 hours

MANILA, 29 Sept — A mouse upset the best-laid plans of an airline and nearly 250 passengers in the Philippines, grounding a plane for 13 hours while engineers tried to smoke out the rodent.

The Qatar Airways plane was preparing for take-off from Manila Airport earlier this week when a crew member spotted the mouse scampering across an aisle in the economy class section, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* quoted airport officials as saying.

The captain ordered the passengers to disembark while maintenance staff fumigated the aircraft and laid

traps, but the mouse was nowhere to be found.

The Doha-bound aircraft eventually took off 13 hours late, presumably with the mouse still on board, dead or alive.

"There was an incident before with a cockroach, but it's the first time that we had to deal with a mouse," the *Inquirer* quoted airport operations chief Octavio Lina as saying. — MNA/Reuters

Google to team with NASA in space research

SAN FRANCISCO, 29 Sept — Web search company Google Inc <GOOG.O> said on Wednesday that it plans to partner with NASA on space research projects and to build a new campus at a NASA research centre in the heart of Silicon Valley.

Google and the National Aeronautical and Space Administration said they plan to cooperate on research projects such as large-scale data management, nanotechnology, massively distributed computing and the entrepreneurial space industry.

NASA Ames Center Director G Scott Hubbard said in a statement that the public-private partnership holds "an enormous range of potential benefits to the space programme".

The deal calls for Google to develop up to 1 million square feet of real estate within the NASA Research Park at Moffett Field, a former naval air base that is surrounded by thousands of high-tech companies in the heart of Silicon Val-

ley.

The building plan is roughly double the size of its current headquarters in the adjoining town of Mountain View, California, where Google moved into the old offices of Silicon Graphics Inc. <SGI.N> just two years ago.

Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed. Seven-year-old Google has been hiring employees at a rapid pace to meet explosive demand for its advertising-supported search and other Internet businesses. Google currently has 4,100 employees worldwide.

Hubbard said examples of the sorts of projects envisioned under the partnership include new types of remote sen-

sors, improved analysis of engineering problems and "materials from collaborations on bio-info-nano convergence."

The NASA Ames director said other research would focus on "Earth, life and space science discoveries from super computing and data mining, and bringing entrepreneurs into the space programme."

The government research centre now known as NASA Ames was founded in 1939.

Early on, it played a role in the design and testing of the P-51 Mustang and P-38 Lightning fighter planes during World War II. The facility later conducted research for the Apollo moon missions.

MNA/Reuters

အများပြည်သူ သိရှိရန် အသိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

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| စဉ် | ဆေးအမည် | ထုတ်လုပ်သည့် ကုမ္ပဏီအမည် | နိုင်ငံ |
|-----|---|---|----------|
| ၁ | Zema Lotion 15 ml (Salicylic Acid 11.8%, Resorcimal 3.8%, Phenyllic Acid 0.25%) | Union Drug Laboratories Ltd. | Thailand |
| ၂ | Cyproheptadine Hydrochloride Tablet (Cyproheptadine Hydrochloride, Anhydrous 4 mg) | New Life Pharma Co. Ltd | Thailand |
| ၃ | Wincom-B 1612 Injection 3mL (Thiamine HCl 100 mg, Pyridoxine HCl 100 mg, Cyanocobalamin 1000 meg)/3ml | Liwinner Pharmaceutical Limited Partnership. | Thailand |
| ၄ | Nivagin 1 G/2 ml Injection (Sodium phenyl-dimethyl-pyrazolone-methyl-aminomethane sulphonate sulphonate (Metamizol) 0.5 G, Lidocaine HCl 0.01 G)/ml | T.P. Drug Laboratoreis (1969) Co, Ltd Bangkok | Thailand |
| ၅ | Vita-M Capsule (Multivitamin & minerals) | Patar Lab Ltd Part | Thailand |

၂။ အများပြည်သူများသည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတွင် မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားခြင်းမရှိသော ဆေးဝါးများကို ဝယ်ယူ သုံးစွဲခြင်းမပြုကြရန်နှင့် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတွင် မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားသော ဆေးဝါးများကိုသာ စူးစမ်းဝယ်ယူ သုံးစွဲရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

၃။ ဆေးဝါးတင်သွင်းဖြန့်ဖြူးသည့် ကုမ္ပဏီ၊ ဆေးဝါးရောင်းချသည့် ဆေးဆိုင်များသည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ တွင် မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားခြင်းမရှိသော ဆေးဝါးများ၊ ဆေးဝါးအတု၊ စံမညီဆေးဝါးများ တင်သွင်းဖြန့်ဖြူး ရောင်းချခြင်း လုံးဝမပြုလုပ်ရန်နှင့် လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း မရှိပါက သက်ဆိုင်ရာ အာဏာပိုင် အဖွဲ့အစည်းက တည်ဆဲ ဥပဒေအရ အရေးယူမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးအပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Aquatech Asia 2005 to be held in Thailand next week

BANGKOK, 29 Sept — As one of the leading world water shows and the largest water and waste water event in southeast, the sixth Aquatech Asia will be held here on 6-8 October to promote water and waste water management.

The three-day show, which will involve some 100 exhibitors from 20 countries, is undoubtedly a leading trade event for the region's water and waste water management, Marchel Ewals, managing director of AsiaCongress Event, which organizes the exhibition, said here. "The show will bring in a lot of international knowledge and innovations from countries around the world, such as China, India, Singapore, the Netherlands, and the United States," he said.

An entire range of requirements for Southeast Asia including water treatment, sewage transport distribution, process control equipment, research constancy as well as utilities will be covered at the show.

Vichian Udomratanasilpa, Assistant Governor of Provincial Waterworks Authority, said in Thailand most people have enough water to drink and to use. However, 9 per cent of population still face water problems. — MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN agrees to accelerate regional integration

VIENTIANE, 19 Sept — ASEAN economic ministers here on Wednesday reiterated their commitments to realize the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) despite regional and global challenges, agreeing to adopt a dynamic approach using prevailing mechanisms to speed up regional integration.

"The meeting agreed that tourism and air travel can be integrated at a faster pace, before 2005. In doing so, it would also facilitate ASEAN's ongoing FTA negotiations with dialogue partners," Lao Commerce Minister Soulivong Daravong said at a Press conference after the 37th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) meeting.

Economic ministers from the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) called on all relevant officials to spare no effort in taking measures to realize AEC by 2020 as targeted, partly by stepping up integrations of priority sectors, he said, adding that they also urged the officials to rapidly define new sectors for and levels of integration after the integration of the 11 defined sectors is completed by the end of 2007.

Earlier, ASEAN countries have agreed to remove tariffs on 85 per cent of the products in the 11

priority sectors, namely agro-based product, air travel, electronics, e-ASEAN, fishery, healthcare, tourism, textile and apparel, rubber-based product, automotive product and wood-based product, by 2007 for Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, and 2012 for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV).

At the 37th AEM, the ministers said that the ASEAN Single Window (ASW), the single most important initiative of Customs which will ensure expeditious clearance of goods and reduce the cost of doing business in the block, would be inked at the 11th ASEAN Summit slated for December in Malaysia.

"The pilot implementation of ASW by Thailand and the Philippines is now targeted by the end of this year. It's envisaged that ASW will be fully implemented by 2008," the Lao Commerce Minister said. Underscoring the importance of trade in services liberalization, the ministers agreed that 2015 shall be the end-date for the liberalization of all services sectors, and that the waiver of the 30-per cent national equity requirement under the ASEAN Industrial Cooperation (AICO) Scheme will be extended until 31 December, 2006.

MNA/Xinhua



Sydney commuters carrying umbrellas walk through the rain during the morning rush hour on 26 September, 2005. —INTERNET

ASEAN+3 economic ministers want closer eco cooperation

VIENTIANE, 29 Sept — Economic ministers and officials at ministerial levels from the 10-member ASEAN and its dialogue partners, China, Japan and South Korea, are to seek new measures here Thursday to broaden and deepen their ties, especially economic ones.

"Trade of ASEAN+3 rose 25 per cent last year. Projects and initiatives have been progressing well, contributing to the economic development in the region," Lao Commerce Minister Soulivong Daravong said at the 8th AEM (ASEAN Economic Ministers) Plus 3 Consultation and Consultation with the East Asia Business Council (EABC).

The delegates will mainly discuss factors that will lead to the enhancement of ASEAN+3

economic cooperation, endorse proposals on establishing an international engineering project management training programme for members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) by China and a regional disaster management system by South Korea. A memorandum of the first Joint Expert Group of feasibility study on the East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) is also to be signed.

In 2003, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao pro-

posed the establishment of the EAFTA, which has received active responses from leaders of Japan, South Korea and ASEAN members.

At the consultations, economic ministers will also review progress of the realization of the ASEAN-ASEAN Free Trade Area, and measures to speed it up. The establishment of the area will create an economic region with 1.8 billion consumers, a regional gross domestic product of about two trillion US dol-

lars and total annual trade volume of 1.23 trillion US dollars, ASEAN Secretary General Ong Keng Yong said in a recent statement exclusively for Xinhua.

The ASEAN+3 countries have seen closer cooperation on economic, monetary and financial fields in recent years. Their total trade rose by roughly 14.5 per cent to 195.6 billion dollars in 2003, according to the ASEAN Secretariat.

MNA/Xinhua



Yuhui, a young orangutan, practises weight-lifting in Chongqing Safari Park in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, on 26 September, 2005. The park is to organize a contest nationwide with animals to show their performance in sports, which will be held from 1 to 7 October, local media reported.

INTERNET

Senior UN official urges US Congress not to withhold UN dues

UNITED NATIONS, 29 Sept — The UN member states have made progress in the push for institutional reform, but a threat to withhold some US' dues if benchmarks are not met by certain deadlines could provoke a backlash from other states on such important issues as a clear definition of terrorism, a senior UN official warned on Wednesday.

Briefing the International Relations Committee of the US House of Representatives on the world summit, UN chief of staff Mark Malloch Brown said the negotiations on many issues fell short of UN hopes, having been hampered by unresolved differences between member states and "a regrettable amount of mistrust".

"In March, when the Secretary General proposed an agenda for the summit, he deliberately set the bar high, since in international negotiations you never get everything you ask," he said in the speech prepared for delivery.

Annan also presented the reforms as a package — development, security,

human rights and UN reform — not because he expected them to be adopted without change, but because states would be more likely to compromise on some issues if they received concessions on the issues to which they assigned a higher priority, Malloch Brown said.

"To be quite specific, the US and others who share the same reform agenda were not going to get what they wanted on management reform, on human rights, or on terrorism unless they showed sensitivity to the views of those many governments for whom development is the overriding priority — and vice versa," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

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Ph: 371 990 30.Sep.2005

One killed in capsizing immigrant boat off northern Cyprus

ANKARA, 28 Sept— One people was killed and 33 others missing when a fishing boat carrying illegal immigrants capsized off the northern Cyprus, Turkey's semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported on Tuesday.

Two Syrian immigrants managed to swim to the shore while three others were rescued by Coast Guard officials, said the report.

Search-and-rescue efforts are underway to find the missing people, it added.— *MNA/Xinhua*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOYNO (388)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOYNO (388) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.9.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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Vietnam's seafood exports increase by 14.5%

HANOI, 29 Sept— Vietnam earned nearly 1.9 billion US dollars from seafood exports so far this year, a 14.5-per-cent increase over the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Fisheries on Wednesday.

Besides, domestic demand for tra and basa catfish also increased. Local consumption has made up about 20 per cent of the products yield of the Mekong Delta, the largest producer in the country.

Although the annual fishing season has started, Vietnamese fishermen are

operating their vessels at limited capacity due to high fuel prices and the arrival of the storm season. For higher incomes, some shrimp farmers have shifted to tilapia production, the ministry said.

Vietnam plans to export 2.5 billion dollars' worth of the products in 2005.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Pomegranate juice promising for prostate cancer

NEW YORK, 28 Sept— Pomegranate extract may prevent prostate cancer or slow its growth, if results of lab experiments conducted at the University of Wisconsin in Madison translate to real-world benefits.

Dr Hasan Mukhtar and his colleagues note in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* Early Edition that pomegranates are high in polyphenolic compounds,

making its juice higher in antioxidant activity than red wine and green tea.

When they incubated

prostate cancer cells with low concentrations of pomegranate extract, they observed a dose-related inhibition of cell growth.

In prostate cancer cells driven by male hormones (androgens) and expressing prostate specific antigen (PSA), treatment with pomegranate

A Chinese acrobat performs at a street in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province on 28 September, 2005.

INTERNET

Mexico cops crack down on tinted car windows

TIJUANA (Mexico), 28 Sept— Mexican police in Tijuana are enforcing a local law outlawing tinted car windows in a bid to crack down on rampant crime in this violent city on the US border.

Municipal police sources in the city, a tourism and drug smuggling hub south of San Diego, say officers have fined almost 600 people since the crackdown on tinted glass began last month.

The municipal by-law prohibits plastic film placed on vehicle windows, and does not include factory-tinted glass or ve-

hicles crossing into the city with US registration plates.

"It's a security measure as it's common for kidnappers to use tinted windows to effect their escapes, and for other criminals... who don't want to be seen," said Victor Loza, the chief of the Municipal Police's traffic division.

The bylaw has been on the books since 1996 but was only patchily enforced until the crackdown began on 23 August.

Drivers stopped and found to be in breach of the regulation are given spot fines of up to 700 pesos (65 US dollars) and are ordered to have the film removed.

MNA/Reuters

US' "economic war" on Cuba hurts Americans

HAVANA, 28 Sept— The intensified US' "economic war" on Cuba has meant more fines for Americans visiting the Communist-run island and foreign firms doing business there, a Cuban government report said on Tuesday.

Sanctions adopted by the Bush Administration since June 2005 to speed change in Cuba by denying it funds included a ban on the purchase of Cuban cigars and rum by US citizens, even in third countries, the report to the United Nations said.

Pleasure craft owners leaving US ports for Cuban waters face fines of up to 25,000 US dollars or five years in jail, it said.

"The blockade on Cuba is an act of economic war," the report said.

Washington has enforced a trade embargo against Cuba since 1962, seeking to undermine the left-wing government of Fidel Castro, in power since a 1959 revolution.

Critics of the embargo say it has failed to bring change to Cuba and allows Castro to blame Cuba's economic woes on the United States. American farmers succeeded in amending it in 2000 to allow food sales, now averaging 400 million US dollars a year. The US Treas-

ury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, which enforces the sanctions, fined 307 US citizens in the first quarter of 2005, compared to 316 in all of 2004, for unauthorized travel to Cuba, the report said.

The number of US tourists who visited Cuba dropped 40 per cent last year to 51,027 from 85,809 in 2003, it said.

More dramatic was the drop in the number of Cuban residents of the United States who returned to visit, which fell 50 per cent from 115,050 in 2003 to 57,145 last year.

Measures taken by the Bush Administration to squeeze Cuba's economy included limiting trips to the island by Cuban Americans to once every three years. Cubans living in the United States are a vital source of cash remittances for relatives enduring economic hardship in their homeland.

MNA/Reuters

Germany says clothing imports from China rise

BERLIN, 29 Sept— German clothing imports from China increased by more than 50 per cent in the first half of this year, the German Federal Statistics Office said on Tuesday.

The office, headquartered in the southwestern city of Wiesbaden, said that the imports from China were valued at 1.7 billion euros (2.04 billion US dollars), a rise of 51.7 per cent from one year earlier.

The office reported that a total of over 7.5 billion euros (9 billion dollars) clothing was imported in the same period. Compared with the same period a year earlier, such imports were down 4.6 per cent.

In 2002, the share of clothing imports from China was 13.8 per cent, while in the first six months of this year it was 22.5 per cent.

Turkey ranks the second after China in supplying clothing to Germany.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွားများတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Swaziland's King chooses 13th bride

MBABANE, 28 Sept— The King of Swaziland has picked a teenage student to be his 13th bride less than a month after more than 50,000 bare-breasted virgins vied to catch his eye at the annual Reed Dance ceremony.

King Mswati III, who is 37, presented 17-year-old Phindile Nkambule as his new wife-to-be at a traditional ceremony this weekend, where she was donned in red feathers worn only by royalty for the first time.

Women's groups

and political opponents say Mswati's penchant for multiple young brides ill befits a country with the world's highest rate of HIV/AIDS, but the monarch says polygamy is part of Swazi tradition and

helps cement national unity.

"It is Swazi custom for the King to marry into prominent Swazi clans. Now it is the time for the Nkambule family," a palace source told Reuters.

Nkambule — who beat off a glamorous TV presenter and Miss Swaziland to become the King's new bride — joined 10,000 maidens in a regional Reed Dance ceremony this weekend to dance in traditional beaded mini-skirts.

She will be known as Inkhositaki LaNkambule, SiSwati for the "the wife of the king from the Nkambule (clan)".

MNA/Reuters



Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman of Philippines presents traditional costume during the final of the Miss International beauty pageant in Tokyo, on 26 September, 2005.—INTERNET

3,000 illegal weapons burnt in Uganda

KAMPALA, 28 Sept — At least 3,000 guns captured from illegal holders have been burnt here on Monday at a public ceremony presided over by Ugandan Minister of Internal Affairs Ruhakana Rugunda, reported local Press on Tuesday.

The destruction took place on Monday at Nsambya Primary School grounds in Kampala.

The symbolic destruction marked the beginning of an exercise under the National Plan of Action to destroy illegal weapons stockpiled by the Army and the police countrywide.

The weapons included rifles, pistols and sub-machine guns. Soldiers poured fuel on the guns and Rugunda used a long stick with fire at the top to ignite the weapons. Rugunda said the government was committed to reduce weapons in society.

"The destruction is intended to ensure that weapons seized, collected or deemed excess to national security requirements do not find their way back into illegal circulation or recycled into conflict areas," he said.

"The economic value of a gun cannot outweigh the human cost arising from death and injuries resulting from easy availability," the minister added.

The illegal weapons were recovered from illegal holders in various parts of the country, especially in Karamoja region. The Ugandan Government has launched a disarmament exercise in the northeastern region, where civilians carry guns openly, without hiding them. Recent statistics indicated that in past year, over 1,000 guns have been collected from the region. —MNA/Xinhua

Nepal's NGOs to spend \$50m

KATHMANDU, 28 Sept— Nepal's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will spend 50.57 million US dollars through a government organization in the current Nepal's fiscal year (16 July, 2005-15 July, 2006), a government official said here on Tuesday.

"About 300 NGOs affiliated to Social Welfare Council (SWC) will be spending the money through SWC," Sharad Sharma, member secretary at SWC, told reporters.

SWC had approved 725 programmes of 229 NGOs, Sharma noted, adding, "Majority of the programmes are related to women development, community development,

children education, environment protection, health services, disabled services, and human rights and conflict managements."

The amount of the money spent every year in the NGOs sector could be much more than this as there are about 15,000 NGOs, which are not affiliated with the SWC and registered with the District Administrative Office, a local government

office, Sharma noted.

"In the last Nepali fiscal year a total of 86 NGOs had applied at the SWC for approval of 8.83 million US dollars they had received from outside without prior approval of the SWC," Sharma revealed.

There are more than 18,500 NGOs and 131 international NGOs affiliated with SWC, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

"Statin" drugs reduce fracture risk in men

NEW YORK, 28 Sept — Men who take a cholesterol-lowering "statin" drug (such as Lipitor or Zocor, for example) may be protecting more than their heart. A large study comprised mostly of elderly men shows that the drugs reduce the risk of suffering a bone fracture.

Previous research investigating the link between statins and fracture risk, conducted primarily among women, has yielded mixed results.

The current study, reported in the Archives of Internal Medicine by Dr. Richard E. Scramton and his colleagues, represents one of the largest studies to date.

The roughly 91,000 subjects — approximately 95 per cent men — were drawn from patients receiving care in the New England VA Health System between 1998 and 2001.

Among the participants, 28,063 were prescribed statins, 2,195

were on some other type of lipid-lowering medication, and 60,794 were not prescribed any lipid-lowering medications.

In analyses that took account of age, weight, whether or not the individual had the bone thinning condition osteoporosis and other disorders, and other medications, the investigators found that taking statins was associated with a 36-per-cent reduction in fracture risk compared with taking no lipid-lowering therapy, and a 32-per-cent risk reduction compared with non-statin lipid-lowering therapy.

MNA/Reuters

Mother and five children die in Portugal fire

LISBON, 29 Sept — A mother and her five children died in a fire in a shack in a smart district near Lisbon on Thursday, a fire official said.

The fire started at about 5 am in a district of Cascais, about 20 km (12 miles) west of Lisbon, assistant fire chief Jose Leite told private TSF radio.

Portugal has areas of poverty in many of its richest areas.

When firefighters arrived, the shack was engulfed in flames. "It was impossible to save the people inside," Leite said.

MNA/ Reuters

Earthquake rocks Kuril Islands, Russia

Moscow, 29 Sept— An earthquake measuring 6.5 points on the Richter scale struck the Kuril Islands in the Far East of Russia on Thursday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties and damage, the Interfax news agency said.

The earthquake occurred 175 km southeast of the town of Severo-Kurilsk on the Kuril Islands at around 1:17 pm Moscow time (0917GMT) on Thursday, Viktor Beltsov from the press service of the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry was quoted as saying.

According to Beltsov, the earthquake wave in Severo-Kurilsk reached four points on the Richter scale. No casualties or damage have been reported yet.

Meanwhile, the Russian ministry predicted a major earthquake in the Far Eastern peninsula of Kamchatka for the end of this year.

MNA/Xinhua



A 2 1/2-week-old baby armadillo sniffs the lens of a television camera on 28 Sept, 2005, at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Atletico Mineiro players boycott training over pay delay

RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 Sept— The players at struggling Brazilian club Atletico Mineiro boycotted a training session on Wednesday in protest of the late payment of their wages.

Walking off the pitch without kicking a ball, the squad members claimed they had not been paid for two months.

Ricardo Guimaraes, president of the Belo Horizonte-based club, said he was surprised at the incident as he thought an agreement had been reached on Tuesday for the payment of the July and August salaries.

"The cheques are ready to be handed over to the players tomorrow (Thursday) and I don't understand why they

withdrew from training," he told reporters. He said there would be no reprisals but criticized the side, who are 19th in the 22-team table with 30 points from 28 games.

"The club recognizes that it owes money," he said. "But, given the standard of the group and the salaries they earn, we shouldn't be in this position."

The players were expected to train as usual on Thursday morning, a club spokesman said. —MNA/Reuters



Liverpool's Djibril Cisse (L) fouls Chelsea's William Gallas (C) during their Champions League clash at Anfield in Liverpool. The two teams ended in a goalless draw.—INTERNET

Belgium's national coach De Cauwer quits

BRUSSELS, 29 Sept— Belgium's national cycling coach Jose De Cauwer has resigned just two days after Belgian Tom Boonen won the world road race title in Madrid.

De Cauwer will officially announce his decision at a news conference on Wednesday, Belgian national television station Sporza reported on Tuesday.

The 56 year-old is leaving after eight years at the helm to take up a post with Belgian ProTour team Davitamon-Lotto.

De Cauwer took charge as Belgium's national coach from Eddie Merckx in 1997. Ironically, the five times Tour de France winner quit right after Johan Museeuw was crowned world champion. —MNA/Reuters

Early strikes give Panathinaikos win over Werder

ATHENS, 28 Sept — Panathinaikos scored twice in the first eight minutes to beat Werder Bremen 2-1 in their Champions League match at the Olympic Stadium on Tuesday.

Panathinaikos, who lost their opening Group C game 3-0 to Udinese two weeks ago, took the lead in the sixth minute with a debatable penalty by Argentinian midfielder Ezequiel Gonzalez.

Three minutes later, Evangelos Mantzios doubled their advantage when he pounced on a pass from Sandor Torghelle. Miroslav Klose pulled one back for the Germans just before halftime but it was Panathinaikos who made more chances in the second half with Gonzalez twice hitting the woodwork.

Four minutes from time Bremen were reduced to 10 men when Ivan Klasnic was sent off for his second yellow card to complete a bad night for the Germans who have now lost their opening two games following their 2-0 reversal against Barcelona two weeks ago.

MNA/Reuters

Lille held to goalless draw by Villarreal

PARIS, 28 Sept — Lille were held to a goalless draw by Villarreal in their Champions League Group D clash at the Stade de France on Tuesday.

The Ligue 1 side, whose stadium does not meet UEFA safety requirements, snatched their first point in the competition two weeks after a 1-0 injury-time defeat at Benfica.

Villarreal, who at the weekend recorded their first win in the Primera Liga this season to drag themselves off the foot of the table, now have two points after a 0-0 draw with Manchester United in their opening group game.

Lille dominated throughout the game but were too clumsy in the box to grab all three points.

The northerners put early pressure on Villarreal with midfielder Mathieu Debuchy heading wide from a Gregory Tafforeau cross from the right.

Matt Moussilou gave the Lille fans a glimmer of hope when he netted in the 23rd minute but the striker was flagged off-side.

One minute later, Nigerian striker Peter Odemwogie suffered the same fate.

Villarreal had their first clear chance after 28 minutes when a Juan Roman Riquelme free kick went just wide of Tony Sylva's left post.

MNA/Reuters

Injured Salas hits back at critics in Chile

SANTIAGO, 29 Sept— Chile's record scorer Marcelo Salas hit back at his critics on Wednesday, saying they complained when he turned out for his country and bemoaned his absence when he did not.

The injury-plagued former Juventus, Lazio and River Plate striker made the comments as he ruled himself out of next month's potentially decisive World Cup qualifier away to Colombia.

Salas suffered his latest setback, a muscular problem in his right leg, during the warm-up of Chile's 5-0 defeat in Brazil earlier this month.

"Before the game against Brazil, I'd played in the last two games and there was a lot of talk about how the team would have played without me," he told reporters.

"Now that I'm not playing, they want me back. I don't understand it."

He added: "I'm not ready to face Colombia as I haven't been playing... we'll see if I can play against Ecuador."

Salas returned home when he signed

for Universidad de Chile in July but has yet to make his competitive debut for his new team.

He broke his country's scoring record when he netted the 35th goal of his international career in the 3-1 win over Bolivia in June.

Colombia and Chile are fighting to claim a fifth-placed finish in the 10-nation South American qualifying group which would earn them a two-leg playoff against Australia. Both have 20 points from 16 games and are just behind Uruguay (21 points), who currently occupy fifth spot in the race to make next year's finals in Germany.

They meet in Barranquilla on October 8 before Chile host Ecuador in their last game four days later, while Colombia visit Paraguay.—MNA/Reuters

Juventus enjoy 3-0 win over Rapid Vienna

TURIN (Italy), 28 Sept — Juventus cruised to a 3-0 win over Rapid Vienna in Champions League Group A on Tuesday to make it two wins out of two for the Italian champions.

A 27th minute goal from forward David Trezeguet put Fabio Capello's side in charge and although the Turin side suffered a few minor scares they wrapped up the win with goals from Adrian Mutu and Zlatan Ibrahimovic in the last eight minutes.

The result keeps Juve top of the standings ahead of Bayern Munich, who also have six points from two games after beating visitors Club Bruges 1-0 in the other group match.

But it was a low-key performance from the Italians in a match played in front of a pitiful crowd of 11,156 in the 70,000 capacity Delle Alpi Stadium.

Nonetheless, Capello's side maintained their 100 per cent record in Serie A and Europe this season with their seventh straight win.

Juventus, who had former Lazio midfielder Giuliano Giannichedda deputising for the suspended Patrick Vieira in midfield and again left forward Alessandro Del Piero on the bench, took

a firm grip on the game from the outset.

Swedish striker Ibrahimovic tried the first of several long-range efforts in the eighth minute before Brazilian Emerson fired just over the bar and Mauro Camoranesi hit the side netting with a drive from the edge of the area.

Despite the pressure and little trouble for the Italian side's defence, a lack of precision near goal let Juve down and the prospect of a frustrating night looked on the cards.

But in the 27th minute Juventus took the lead with a goal of textbook simplicity.

Ibrahimovic fed Gianluca Zambrotta down the left and the Italy international picked out Trezeguet with a pinpoint cross that the Frenchman, having lost his marker, casually slotted home.

Rapid's first real effort on goal did not come until 10 minutes after the break when substitute Axel Lawaree, on for Muhammet Akagunduz, broke free down the left and shot powerfully but Juve keeper Christian Abbiati parried the ball to safety.

Capello replaced Trezeguet with Del Piero on the hour and then added Romanian Adrian Mutu for Camoranesi as he looked to liven up his attack in search of a potentially decisive second.

At the other end Lawaree went close with a toe-poked effort from the edge of the area but Rapid rarely threatened.

Juve should have wrapped the game up 15 minutes from time when Del Piero broke free and selflessly fed Ibrahimovic but the Swede fired straight at Rapid keeper Helge Payer.

The final 10 minutes brought a flurry of activity with Payer in action again when Pavel Nedved set up Del Piero whose stinging volley brought a fine save from the Austrian keeper.

Rapid responded with Andreas Ivanschitz's well-struck effort from the edge of the area forcing Abbiati to full stretch but the game was put beyond the Austrians in the 82nd minute.

MNA/Reuters



Real save : Real Madrid's goalkeeper Iker Casillas makes a flying save against Olympiakos during their Champions League Group F football match at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid.

Real Madrid won 2-1.—INTERNET

Crude oil falls as storms, strikes put refiners under gun

LONDON, 29 Sept — Crude oil fell briefly below 65 US dollars on Tuesday after Saudi Arabia said there were no takers for OPEC's spare barrels with hurricane-battered US refineries still closed and a strike at one of Europe's biggest plants. A shortage of refined products like gasoline and heating oil has driven crude towards

levels unseen in real terms since 1979, the year after the Iranian Revolution. But with the world's refineries working flat out, buyers are scarce for the extra two million barrels per day OPEC has said it can offer. Give us the customers and we will pump more oil," Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi told reporters in Johannes-

burg. A Saudi source said the world's biggest oil exporter may even pump less crude in October with roughly a quarter of US refining capacity still shut after hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"Basically crude oil is no use to anybody. You can't put it in a car," said Tony Machacek of Bache Financial brokerage. A strike has closed France's 328,000 barrels per day Gonfreville refinery in Normandy, France.

French shipping workers are also blockading the Lavera-Fos port near Marseilles that feeds refineries with a total 570,000 bpd of capacity, although oil firms say operations have not been affected yet.

"This couldn't happen at a worse time," said Kevin Norrish, an analyst at Barclays Capital.

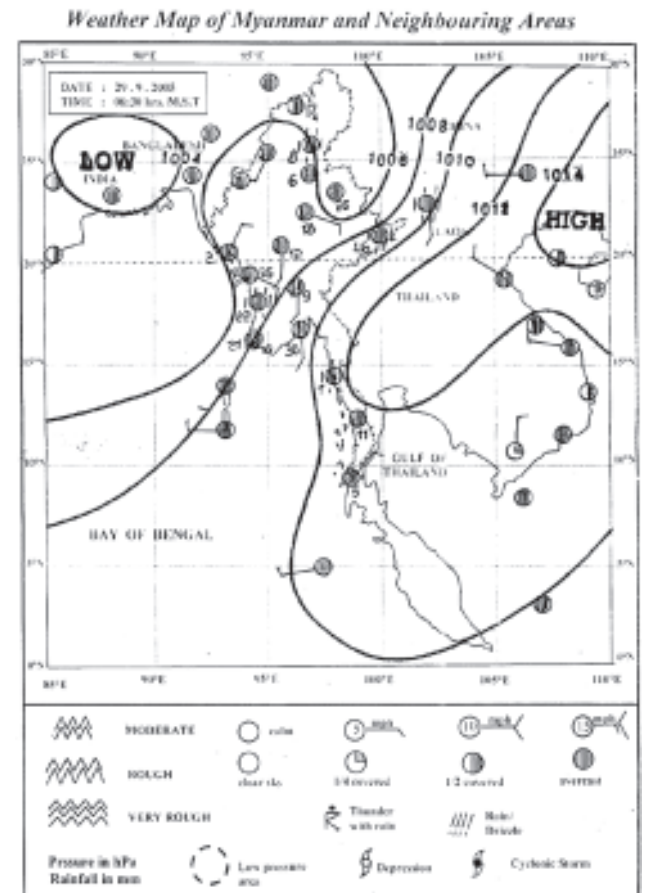
US crude settled down 75 cents at 65.07 US dollars a barrel, after

falling as low as 64.60 US dollars. London Brent crude was down 96 cents at 62.97 US dollars.

Naimi said Saudi Arabia would soon boost its proven oil reserves by 200 billion barrels from 264 billion now and enough global output would be added in the next three to four years to restore "some margin of safety" to oil markets.

"The problem is getting the oil where it is needed in the form it is needed," said Norrish. The United States is losing about two million barrels of gasoline with every day that passes since Rita thundered onto the Gulf coast, according to the US Energy Information Administration. Seventeen refineries remain offline.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Thursday, 29 September, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kayah State, upper Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Belin (6.30) inches, Kyaikkami (4.17) inches, Thaton and Panlaung (2.76) inches each, Bhamo (2.48) inches, Kanbalu (1.18) inches, Mandalay (1.03) inches and Shwebo (0.75) inch.

Maximum temperature on 28-9-2005 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 29-9-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 29-9-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 28-9-2005 was (1.0) hour approx. Rainfalls on 29-9-2005 were (0.87) inch at Mingaladon, (1.18) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.99) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (93.19) inches at Mingaladon, (95.47) inches at Kaba-Aye and (99.49) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from South at (04:20) hours MST on 28-9-2005.

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

Special feature: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, the low pressure area over Myanmar moved to the Northwest and weakened.

Forecast valid until evening of 30-9-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin States, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-9-2005: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-9-2005: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.



Friday, 30 September
View on today

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
5. လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင် စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်
- 8:00 am**
6. အတိုးမြှင့်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am**
7. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:20 am**
8. သံလွင်မြစ်နံနက် လက်စုပ်သံစေ့
- 8:30 am**
9. International news

- 8:45 am**
10. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm**
4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒ အထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 5:00 pm**
5. Songs of national races
- 5:15 pm**
6. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ တေရသမ အကြိမ်(၁၃ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆိုအကားအရေး၊ အတိုးမြှင့်ပွဲဝင်များ လေ့လာနိုင်ကြရန် (ဓမ္မပူဇော်တေး) (အခြေခံပညာ ၁၅-၂၀ နှစ်) (အမျိုးသမီး)
- 5:35 pm**
7. တိုးတက်ဖွံ့ဖြိုး စိမ်းလန်းသာယာ ကွန်ပျူတက်နယ်၊ နန်နင်း ဖြူတော်မှာ
- 7:50 pm**
8. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေညွှတ်ရှင်

- 6:30 pm**
9. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
10. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ဝက်ပါ" (အပိုင်း-၂၂)
- 7:30 pm**
12. Songs of yesteryears
- 7:45 pm**
13. အမြင်သစ် အသွင်သစ် တို့ ကျေးဇူး (ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်) တောင်ပိုင်း၊ ရပ်ကော်မြို့နယ်၊ ပင်ခြစ် စံပြကျေးရွာ
- 8:00 pm**
14. News
- 8:15 pm**
15. International news
- 8:30 pm**
16. Weather report
- 8:45 pm**
17. လပတ်စီလေဝေသနှင့် ဇလဗေဒ ခန့်မှန်းချက်
- 8:55 pm**
18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မခွဲအတူ" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)
- 9:10 pm**
19. "သုံးနာရီသုံးဆယ့်ငါး" (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 9:25 pm**
20. သူထူးစံ၊ ပပဝင်းခင် ဒါရိုက်တာ-ရဲဝန်ထမ်းဟောင်း တစ်ဦး၊ ချောချစ်စံ
- 10:00 pm**
20. The next day's programme



Friday, 30 September
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music: -Love is love
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music: -Can we talk
- 8.50 am** National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music: -Space Indavers
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music: -Once in a while
- 1:30 pm** News / Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Lunch time music -Heart heat -To love somebody -Home
- 9.00 pm** World of music Songs from -Spain, France, Germany, Laos, China
- 9.15 pm** Article/Music
- 9.25 pm** Music at your request -Everyday I love you -I take you with me -Sentimental of you
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

Govt providing health care to people in all parts of country

International community acknowledges higher qualification of Myanmar medical persons due to passing rate in medical exams abroad

YANGON, 29 Sept— A ceremony to open the seminar on post-graduate medical studies organized by Medical Science Department of the Ministry of Health was held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here, this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint said that the Ministry of Health has drawn the national health plan, the rural health development plan and the 30-year long-term health plan in line with the national health policy for ensuring uplift of health, fitness and education standard of the entire nation, which is one of the social objectives, and is striving for providing health care services to the people in all parts of the country including border areas and rural regions.

Especially, the Ministry has implemented the national education promotion special four-years plan (health sector) and the education promotion plan for universities and training schools during the period from year 2000 to 2004 successfully.



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint addresses the opening ceremony of seminar on post-graduate medical studies. — MNA

It is known to all that the Government is placing emphasis on human resource development that plays an important role in implementing the health plans.

At present, new universities have been built and opened in accord with the needs of the nation to nurture more and more outstanding students for development of human resources. Beginning

At present, new universities have been built and opened in accord with the needs of the nation to nurture more and more outstanding students for development of human resources.

2001, medical and its related universities under the Ministry of Health are giving training to the trainees more than the past. There are 14 medical institutes and 43 nursing, midwifery and nursing-related training schools under the Ministry of Health. As medical institutes under the Ministry of Health have been conducting six items of post-graduate diploma

courses, 29 masters courses, seven PhD courses and 30 Dr MedSc courses, totalling 72, not only doctors and dentists but also nurses, pharmacists and pharmacologists have the opportunity to pursue modern and advanced medical courses.

Now, 1,585 post-graduate diploma holders, 2,856 masters graduates, 30 PhDs and 90 DrMedSc graduates have been nurtured. Post-graduate students are being nurtured at doctorate courses at home, and the Government makes arrangements for the students to learn modern medical sci-

ences at international level. For enabling the academic matters of medical science in

Myanmar to keep abreast of international medical science, the seminars on (See page 9)

Special Weather News

Low pressure weakened

YANGON, 29 Sept— According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, the low pressure area over Myanmar moved to the Northwest and weakened. — MNA

INSIDE

Life expectancy today is on the rise due to better diets, exercise, mental engagement, the advance in regenerative medicines and the new pioneering sciences of restoring human organs.

PAGE 7

YENANMYAY KO TIN

Educative talks given to women workers of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone

YANGON, 29 Sept— The Organizational Department of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation held talks at No 3 Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Head of Organizational Department Dr

Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo said that MAAF was formed with seven noble objectives. More than a half of population of the nation is women. If the entire women will be organized as a national strength that will serve interests of the nation and the people, a new peaceful, modern,

developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation would be built. Altogether six working groups and six departments are formed under MAAF. Furthermore, women's affairs organizations are organized at village, ward, township, district and state/division

levels. The talks will be given to women employees of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone with a view to enabling them to have knowledge about functions of MAAF and to serve the interest of the nation in their respective sectors. It is necessary not only for meeting success

in implementation of the noble aims of the federation but also for the emergence of the polite and gentle women with dynamism of patriotism. Only when women will participate in the tasks of the federation will the entire women improve.

Secretary of the

Education Sub-Working Group under the Social and Cultural Working Group Deputy Director of Education Planning and Training Department Daw Kyi Kyi Hla gave a lecture.

Two hundreds and fifty women workers from eight factories in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone and 50 executives of Yangon Division, District and Township WAOs, totalling 300 attended the talks.

Next, Head of Organizational Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and officials visited Tairi International Footwear Factory and cordially conversed with women workers of the factory.



Head of Organizational Department of MAAF Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo gives talks at No 3 Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya. — MAAF

°MNA