YANGON, 4 Sept—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the coordination meeting of Work Committee for Upgrading Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and inspection of Parami Overpass Project, renovation of Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill this afternoon.

The coordination meeting was held at the Agricultural Museum at the gardens at 2.45 pm.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the Work Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and guests. First, the commander reported on upgrading tasks at the education zone, the central symbol zone, the relaxation zone and the recreation zone. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin submitted reports on construction of nine agricultural technology educative booths, the agricultural museum and shops in the education zone and conducting of agricultural technology courses.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presented reports on progress in building the fresh water fish garden in the education zone and preparations for breeding fresh and sea water fish.

Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein reported on construction of gates at the central symbol zone and growing of flowery plants, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu on preparations for opening restaurants and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin on building of Timber Walkway in the relaxation zone and construction of the rock garden and Mount Popa Tower.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Nyi Hla Nge reported on measures for quality control.

Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association U Khin Shwe submitted reports on completion of tasks at the recreation zone and arrangements for public relaxation.

Next, those present took part in the discussions. Afterwards, the Prime Minister delivered an address, saying that almost all the upgrading tasks have been completed due to the cooperation of respective departments, and the officials are to honour the schedules for timely completion of the project. Suitable landscaping trees and seasonal flowering plants are to be added to the gardens without causing any damages to the natural style to be able to draw greater interest of the visitors.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects progress of implementing Parami Overpass Project.— MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
All national people participate in border area development measures

The Government is making all-out efforts to ensure equitable development in all regions across the Union and to raise the social status of the entire nation.

National unity and stability being the foundation of the development, national races residing in border areas blanekted with peace are now enjoying the fruitful results of development.

Union Solidarity and Development Association Patron, State Peace and Development Council Chairman, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Than Shwe, in his address delivered at the USDA Myanmar Affairs and International Studies Course No 6 and the Special Refresher Course No 7 held at Pyidaungsu Hall of USDA Training School in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 9 June 2004, gave guidance on development of border areas, saying that efforts are being made with added momentum to improve economic, social, education, health and transport infrastructures, to further strengthen the friendly relations among national brethren, and to ensure security in border areas, prevalence of law and order and regional stability by enacting laws for the development of national races.

The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs has so far invested over K 56,000 million and over US$ 550 million in the drive for development of national races living in border areas.

The basic development principle of the State is aimed at the achievement of equitable development throughout the nation. With the border areas and national races development project, the 24 special development zones project and the five rural development tasks project, measures are under way to bridge the development gaps between border and interior areas, between urban and rural areas, and between one region and the other, to ensure equitable development in all regions, and to build a more consolidated Union.

Under these projects, the assistance has been provided in border areas for cultivation of poppy-substitute crops, agriculture, livestock breeding, production, and the establishment of other economic enterprises. Besides, infrastructures such as river-crossing bridges, motor roads and railroads, hospitals and dispensaries and communication stations have also been established in these areas. As a result, national people living in border areas are now enjoying the taste of unprecedented development.

This being so, the onus is on the leaders of national races and respective local national people to accelerate the development momentum in harmony, while the Government is rendering assistance to the implementation of border area development tasks.

The second ceremony to donate cash, books and periodicals for self-reliant village libraries will be held as follows:

Date: 7 September 2004
Time: 2 pm
Venue: Ministry of Information (Meeting Hall)

All are invited to participate in Book Charity.
Ministry of Information
Information & Public Relations Department
# 2204, Pyidaungsu Street, Yangon,
Tel: 371339, 379769, 379771, 252451

MNA

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
**Iraq President halts French visit**

Baghdad, 3 Sept — Iraq's President Ghazi Yawar has postponed a visit to France scheduled for next week, following the kidnapping of two French journalists in Iraq.

The French foreign ministry said that it was due to the "circumstances linked to the situation of our countrymen".

Tensions have grown after Iraq's Prime Minister Iyad Allawi recently told a newspaper France was soft on terrorism - remarks France called "unacceptable".

France's prime minister has said the hostages' situation was still uncertain.

Jean-Pierre Raffarin said urged caution over reports that Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot could soon be released.

Mr Yawar had been due to meet top French officials next week, but the visit was put on hold over the hostage crisis.

He is still expected to meet political leaders in Germany, Italy, Poland and Belgium.

"The conditions are not very favourable for such a visit," French diplomats were quoted by French news agency AFP as saying.

Tensions between Paris and Iraq were fuelled by comments by Iraq's Prime Minister Allawi in the Iraqi National Accord newspaper saying France's opposition to the war in Iraq had not spared it from terror.

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**Austrian President meets with Chinese leader on bilateral ties**

Vienna, 3 Sept — Austrian Federal President Heinz Fischer on Thursday met with a Chinese leader to discuss bilateral ties and current international events.

Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), first extended congratulations to Fischer on his assumption of the federal presidency.

Through his three-day visit. Jia said, he had experienced the friendship of the Austrian people to the Chinese people and the importance the Austrian Government has attached to developing relations with China.

Jia said that the world is undergoing profound changes. China and Austria have extensive common recognition and common interests in safeguarding world peace and promoting development of the mankind.

"Attaching great importance to ties with Austria, the Chinese Government is willing to further expand cooperation at various levels with Austria, Jia said.

Fischer said Austria admires the rapid and healthy development of China's society and economy and accords the positive role China has played within the framework of the United Nations to promote world peace and development.

Austria will continue to maintain its One China policy and to dedicate itself to expanding and deepening cooperation with China, the President noted.

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**Fire rages near Iraqi oil fields**

Baghdad, 3 Sept — Firefighters fought a massive oil pipeline fire in northern Iraq on Friday, after guerrillas detonated explosives in what authorities described as one of the worst sabotage attacks in the region since the US-led invasion.

The explosion Thursday on the line extending from fields southwest of Kirkuk to the oil refinery in Beji set off a fire that pumped balls of fire and black smoke over the area. The fire continued to rage late Friday evening.

Officials at the state-run Northern Oil Co. decided to temporarily stop pumping oil to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan, fearing the fire could spread to the key pipeline running to the port, said Maj Gen Anwar Mohammed Amin of the Iraqi National Guard in Kirkuk.

"The pumping to the Ceyhan port has stopped because of this act of sabotage," Amin said. "It is the biggest sabotage operation on the oil installations in Kirkuk since the invasion."

Northern Oil Co. officials couldn't be immediately reached for comment.

Authorities fighting the blaze Friday said it might take two days before engineers could fix the pipeline.

The pipeline running to Ceyhan is a major export route that has suffered from frequent sabotage.

Iraq's oil industry, which provides desperately needed money for Iraq's reconstruction efforts, has been the target of repeated attacks by insurgents in recent months. — Internet

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**UN to help overhaul Afghan criminal justice system**

Karshi, 3 Sept — The United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) as part of its efforts in rebuilding postwar Afghanistan has decided to help overhaul the criminal justice system in this country, a UN spokesman said here Thursday.

"To increase the capacity of the criminal justice institutions to deal with serious crimes in particular with drug-related crimes, a new project will be launched in the month of October," spokesman Manoel de Almeida Silva told journalists at a news briefing.

The aim of the project, he noted, is to train judges, prosecutors and the counter-narcotics police of Afghanistan in the area of arresting criminals, investigation, detaining and imprisonment of serious criminal offenders.

He declined to furnish information about the fund sanction in the project but added the UN Office on Drug and Crime would implement this scheme.

"According to UNODC the criminal justice system in this country is almost non-functional regarding prosecution of drug-related crimes," added the spokesman.

"It is important that the arrested people spend the maximum 24 hours in prison and later on freed," the official stressed. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Poland to withdraw its troops from more of Iraq: Defence Minister**

Warsaw, 3 Sept — Poland will hand over another part of the zone it administers in Iraq under a planned reduction of its forces next year, Defence Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski said.

The key US ally, which heads a multinational force of 6,500 administering a swathe of south central Iraq to which it sent more than 2,500 of its own troops, will hand over control of the province of Karbala, he said.

"We will leave the province of Karbala. The contingent will remain deployed in the provinces of Babil, Wasit and Al-Qadisiyah," the defence minister said in an interview with the daily Trybuna.

He did not specify which forces would assume responsibility in Poland's place.

Last month, Polish troops in Iraq already handed over some of the zone they control to US forces, including the province of Najaf, the scene of fierce fighting with Shiite militiamen.

Szmajdzinski confirmed that Poland was expecting to reduce troop levels in Iraq after the Iraqi elections in January and also announced that it will hand over its troops' headquarters in the Iraqi city of Babylon to the Iraqis.

"We have decided to hand over Babylon to the Iraqis. The headquarters will probably move to the province of Al-Qadisiyah (south of Baghdad)," he said.

His comments came as Warsaw hosted a two-day conference of military experts from the 11 nations in the Polish-led sector and the United States to thrash out plans to cut back the Polish military presence in Iraq. — Internet

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**Egypt, Argentine highlight bilateral ties**

Cairo, 3 Sept — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abdel Gheit here Thursday held talks with his visiting Argentine counterpart Rafael Bielsa over wide-ranging areas especially the bilateral ties.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Abdel Gheit said that he discussed with Bielsa means to enhance bilateral ties, particularly in economic, technical, technological and trade fields.

"We also discussed the Palestinian problem, the situation in Iraq, the Darfur crisis and the ongoing efforts to re-form the United Nations," he added.

The two sides have satisfied with the growth of bilateral relations, noted the Egyptian official. For his part, Bielsa said that Argentina's relations with Egypt were strategic and the two countries have shared identical views on various issues.

He revealed that a ministerial conference would be held in Morocco in January to prepare for the first Arab-Latin American summit due in Brazil in April. Bielsa arrived here on August 30 for a visit to Egypt. — MNA/Xinhua
Iraq’s survival still at stake, report warns

LONDON, 3 Sept—Iraq could splinter into civil war and destabilize the whole region if the interim government, US forces and United Nations fail to hold the ring among factions struggling for power, according to a British thinktank.

The intermediate government would prove able to keep majority Shite Muslims, minority Sunni Muslims, secular nationalists and Kurdish leaders broadly engaged in the political process. “No one will be very happy, but no one will monopolize power either,” the report said. The United Nations would manage preparations for elections due by January. The United States would avoid trying to shape the outcome and focus instead on providing basic security. US forces would not launch big urban assaults, allowing Iraqi militias and nascent Iraqi security forces to deploy in line with local sensitivities, as in the Sunni bastion of Fallujah and Shiite holy city of Najaf.

Under a darker scenario, Iraq would fragment and, if US-led forces left prematurely, collapse into civil war. “Even if US forces try to hold out and prop up the central authority, it may still lose control,” the report said.

Two killed, six wounded by US fire in Fallujah

Fallujah, 3 Sept—Two Iraqi civilians were killed and six wounded when US forces shelled a residential area in the flashpoint western city of Fallujah, a hospital official said.

US forces fired heavy artillery at some houses in the southeastern neighbourhood of Shuhada, leaving wounded and six wounded, said Dr Raad Mohammed of Fallujah General Hospital.

Four of the wounded were listed in serious condition, Mohammed added.

The US military had no immediate confirmation of an attack.

Fallujah is a bastion of the Sunni Muslim insurgency against US-led forces in Iraq. The US airstrike on a suspected militant safehouse in the city killed 20 people late Wednesday.

The US military has reported the death of 15 to 30 members of the Sunni militant network. The US military released footage of the aerial sorties Thursday.

Two killed, six wounded by US fire in Fallujah

Fallujah, 3 Sept—The site of a Fallujah house bombed by US warplanes.

Residents of Fallujah took to the streets after Friday prayers to denounce the continuous bombing of the city's residential houses and to support their city's security forces.

Hundreds of protestors condemned the killing of civilians by US warplanes, calling on US soldiers to fight them on the battlefield.

“Airstrikes are cowardly. Get down and face us on the battlefield,” the crowd chanted.

Shaykh Abd Allah al-Janabi head of the Muhajideen (holy warriors) Consultative Council addressed the crowd, warning that if war erupts again it will likely last till the last man standing.

“This war will be over, only with their dead bodies or ours, and, if they want it like this, we welcome,” he said.

On Wednesday, a US aerial assault targeted what the Department of Defence said was a Fallujah safe house for “wanted terrorists”. However, Fallujah hospital sources said 20 people, including women and children, were killed in their homes. Fallujah, a hotbed of anti-American insurgency, has become a no-go zone for troops of the US-led occupation forces since an April offensive in the city ended with an agreement for Iraqis to police themselves and bring to justice hardcore members of Iraqi armed factions.

Chinese Premier emphasizes bilateral links with Cambodia

BEIJING, 3 Sept — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Thursday China will continue to support the efforts that Cambodia makes to maintain national stability, reinforce national solidarity and develop national economy.

Premier Wen made the remark during a meeting with visiting Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen who is here before attending the 3rd International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) to be held in Beijing from 3 to 5 Sept.

Wen said China and Cambodia are close neighbours. The profound and sincere friendship between several generations of Chinese leaders and King Samdech Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia and the friendship between the people of the two countries have guaranteed the maintenance of bilateral relations and the progress of mutually beneficial cooperation.

The Chinese Government will continue to pursue the foreign policy of promoting the friendship, security and prosperity of its neighbouring countries, he added. Wen said China and Cambodia have good political relations and achieved remarkable results in trade and economic cooperation. Acknowledging that the two sides signed a number of agreements on trade and economic cooperation in the first half of this year, Wen said the agreements have laid foundation for further growth of bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

He went on to say that China will continue to expand trade and economic cooperation with Cambodia in compliance with the principle of mutual benefits. He said China is ready to provide assistance to Cambodia within its own capacity.

Citing China as a sincere friend of Cambodia, Hun Sen said the precious support and assistance that China provided for Cambodia have played an active role in maintaining national stability, developing national economy and improving the Cambodian people’s standards of living.

Hun Sen said the Cambodian Government firmly adheres to the one-China policy, supports the peaceful reunification cause of China and opposes any forms of activities aimed to seek “Taiwan independence.” He also said Cambodia is ready to have closer cooperation with China and earnestly implement the agreements that the two countries signed in the first half of this year so as to advance bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

US mortgage rates fall to lowest level since April

WASHINGTON, 3 Sept — Mortgage rates in the United States fell this week, with rates on 30-year mortgages dropping to their lowest level in five months, Freddie Mac reported on Thursday.

The mortgage company’s weekly nationwide survey showed that rates on 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages dropped to 5.77 per cent for the week ending September 2. That was down from 5.82 per cent last week and was the lowest since the week ending April 1, when rates averaged 5.52 per cent.

Rates on 30-year mortgages hit a high this year of 6.34 per cent the week of May 13 and have drifted downward slowly since then as economic activity cooled in the late spring and early summer.

For 15 years, fixed-rate mortgages, a popular option for refinancing, rates dipped this week to 5.15 per cent, down from 5.21 per cent last week. Rates on one-year adjustable rate mortgages declined to 3.97 per cent, compared with 4.05 per cent last week.

A year ago, rates on 30-year mortgages averaged 6.32 per cent with 15-year mortgages at 5.66 per cent and one-year adjustable rate mortgages at 3.88 per cent.

The decline of mortgage rates was a good news for potential home buyers.

Freudell by low interest rates, the nation’s home sales reached a record high last year. Analysts forecast that sales of both new and existing homes will hit all-time highs for all of this year.
Czech police chief denies reinforcement to Iraq

PRAHRA, 3 Sept— Libor Lochman, chief of the police rapid-deployment unit (URN)A) protecting Czech diplomats in Baghdad, said Thursday that he does not assume reinforcements will be sent to his unit.

Following Wednesday’s unsuccessful attack by Iraqi extremists on the car of the Czech ambassador, Lochman said, this matter will have to be discussed by the Foreign and Interior ministers.

“We rotate our men every three months. I see no reason why we should change anyone, because this is our work. If we changed a person because someone shot at him, this would be bad,” he said.

According to local media, some unknown shooters fired at the armoured Toyota of Martin Klepetko, the Czech Ambassador to Iraq early Wednesday morning. Klepetko, however, was not in the car, since he was in Prague for a meeting of Czech diplomats at the Foreign Ministry.

“The car took 30 hits, but it’s armoured so it cannot be shot into ribbons. The glass needs to be replaced, but otherwise it can continue to be used,” Lochman said.

According to Lochman, there are now 18 UNR(A) members in Baghdad. Their mission was originally to protect not only diplomats but also the Czech experts in the coalition administration of Iraq, though the latter left the country when sovereignty was transferred to the new Iraqi Government in June.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Vit Kolar conceded Thursday morning that the ministry will be considering raising the status of its elite Czech policemen who guard the building and the ambassador.

“But there are enough of them, there is a standard, very high regime of protection, so there are not too many possibilities left to further raise it,” Kolar said.

Pipeline attack halts Iraq’s northern oil exports

BAKU, 3 Sept— Iraq’s northern oil exports were halted Thursday after a vital pipeline to Turkey was hit by a big attack, said an official for oil security in the region.

“The pipeline with Turkey was shut down,” said Ahmad Hassan Ghahfi, head of security for gas and oil pipelines in northern Iraq.

“The Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline targeted this afternoon around about 40-inches wide and today’s attack can be considered the biggest since sabotages started a year and a half ago,” he added.

It was reported that the bomb attack happened at 6:30 pm (1430 GMT) on a road next to the pipeline near the town of Riyadh, 50 kilometres south of Kirkuk. The oil-rich city was engulfed in a thick cloud of black smoke.

The pipeline was attacked on its southern section, where it heads to Iraq’s largest oil refinery in Baiji, before cutting back north toward Turkey.

Fire Department, National Guard and Iraqi police have been making efforts to prevent the oil from spreading as a first step. It was predicted that 48 to 72 hours were needed to extinguish the fire.

Kirkuk oil has been pumping 600,000 to 800,000 barrels per day recently. Repeated sabotage of Iraq’s oil industry has cost the country more than a billion US dollars in revenue.

Iraqi militant group kills three Turkish hostages

BAKU, 3 Sept— An Iraqi militant group calling itself Tawhid and Jihad killed three Turkish truck drivers in Iraq, the Qatar-based al-Jazeera television reported on Thursday.

The channel showed a footage of the three Turks held by armed masked men, but it did not show the footage depicting the killing.

It was not immediately clear if the group was the same as Juma al-Tawhid and Jihad headed by al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, which was blamed for several deadly bombing attacks and hostage takeovers.

A Turkish official in Ankara said the footage “seems credible.” Earlier, Iraqi police said they found bodies of two Turkish truck drivers on the roadside north of Baghdad.

Another body was also found near the two bodies, but without identification card, according to the police.

The bodies were found near a village named Jalays, south of Samarra, some 110 kilometres north of Baghdad.

The area is bastion of Sunni Muslim guerrillas fighting US forces since the US-led invasion beginning in March 2003. The killings came one day after seven truck drivers, three Kenyans, three Indians and one Egyptian, were released after their company, the Kuwait and Gulf Link company, paid a $2 million US-dollar ransom to the captors.

Wen Jiabao calls for closer trade links with Philippines

BENZING, 3 Sept— Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Thursday China is willing to further explore the potential of trade and economic cooperation with the Philippines, expand two-way investment and carry out various forms of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Wen made the remarks during a meeting with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who is in Beijing for a three-day state visit to China.

Wen expressed satisfaction on the fruitful trade and economic cooperation between China and the Philippines in recent years. He said the volume of bilateral trade is growing rapidly at present, with cooperation in agriculture, infrastructure development and other areas continuously expanding.

Bilateral trade hit 9.4 billion US dollars in 2003, surging 78.7 per cent over the previous year. Arroyo expressed appreciation on China’s active efforts to push forward bilateral trade and economic cooperation. She said Philippine-Chinese cooperation in agriculture has already achieved rich returns. The Philippines is ready to join hands with China to further promote the development of bilateral cooperation in all fields.

On the relations between China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Wen said in order to further deepen China-ASEAN relations, China will actively cooperate with ASEAN to push forward the strategic partnership between the two sides.

Chinese Vice-Premier stresses cooperation with UNICEF

BEIJING, 3 Sept— China is willing to enhance cooperation with the United Nations Children’s Fund to solve the problems concerning the development of China’s various children and women, said Vice-Premier Wu Yi here Thursday.

Wu made the remark in a meeting with Executive Director Carol Bellamy of the United Nations Children’s Fund. Speaking highly of the UN Children’s Fund’s aid to China over the past 25 years, Wu said the balanced development of China’s various areas and poverty still restrain the development concerning women and children.

Bellamy praised China’s achievements in AIDS prevention and treatment as well as the protection of children, expressing the wish to strengthen cooperation with China in this regard.

Two French hostages in Iraq still alive

PARIS, 3 Sept— French authorities were “almost sure” that the two French journalists held in hostage in Iraq were still alive on Wednesday evening, Jean De Belot, Editor in Chief of the French daily Le Figaro, said Thursday at French radio Europe 1.

De Belot said he had a “prudent hope” that they were still alive, adding he had indirect and serious contacts with some envoys, who were sent to Iraq for talks on rescuing the two hostages.

The two Frenchmen, Christian Chesnot of Radio France Internationale and Georges Malbrunot of Paris daily Le Figaro, were reportedly kidnapped on their way from Baghdad to Najaf, Shiite holy city of Iraq, on August 20.

Late Saturday, a group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq claimed it had kidnapped Malbrunot and Chesnot.

Chinese road, water transportation to double by 2020

BEIJING, 3 Sept— China’s road and water passenger and freight transportation will double by 2020, and the number of vehicles will rise to 140 million, six times that at the end of 2003, a senior Chinese official predicted here Thursday.

Weng Mengyong, Chinese Vice-Minister of Communications (MOC), made the prediction at the on-going Forum on Sustainable Development of China’s Transportation.

He said that, by the year of 2010, China will be relieved from a tense transportation situation, which will help further the development of the national economy.

In 2020, the transportation situation will be further optimized, and the sector will start to meet challenges from the development of the economy, social progress and national security, Weng added.

Weng pledged that the MOC would adopt substantial, effective approaches in the construction of major national highways to connect most of Chinese cities.

He predicted that the current construction of the highways between China and those in the Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta, would be completed by 2010.

Statistics from the MOC showed that 1.81 million kilometres of road was built by the end of 2003, covering 99.6 per cent of towns and 91.9 per cent of administrational villages around the country.

China has also built a 30,000-kilometre network of highways, second longest in the world.

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Neighbours look at the damage caused to a residence in Baghdad, Iraq, on 3 September, 2004, after mortar shells landed on it.

An Iraqi boy walks through the crater left after an overnight airstrike in the restive city of Fallujah on 2 September, 2004.

Two Iraqi boys lie with injuries in a hospital following clashes on 29 August, 2004 around Tal Afar, near the northern city of Mosul.

Heavy smoke billows from an oil pipeline in Kirkuk, northern Iraq, on 3 September, 2004.
Bridges that help strengthen unity and friendship among national brethren.

The construction of the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) nearing completion in Mon State. — MNA

Kattel suspension bridge across Manipur river is located in Tiddim Township, Chin State. — MNA

Pannmon Creek Bridge on Kalay-Gangaw Road near Natchaung Village in Kalay Township, Sagaing Division.
Prime Minister addresses …

(from page 1)

The Prime Minister put the onus on departmental officials concerned for cleanliness of the water surface of the Kandawgyi Lake, raising the water storage, and maintaining the gardens for its durability.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on those responsible to seek ways and means through coordination to build a more natural garden in which local and foreign visitors can have recreation with peace of mind and enhance their knowledge. He also called for constant maintenance of the gardens for its durability. After the meeting, the General looked into the scale model of a conference hall to be built in the gardens, and arrangements for opening of booths in the agricultural museum.

Next, the General inspected the progress of building an elephant plaza in the Relaxation Zone, and flower saplings shop and agricultural booths in the education Zone. The General also inspected the building of a fresh water aquarium being undertaken by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries at the Recreation Zone, construction of 23 booths in the Fresh Water Fish Garden, the building of Rock Garden at the Relaxation Zone, construction of Mt. Popa Tower, water fall, Myanmar traditional handicraft shops and construction of a barbecue garden. Afterwards, the General and party headed for Parami Overpass Project, where they were welcomed by Deputy Ministers for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Than, departmental heads and officials. Deputy Minister U Pe Than reported on progress of work. The General gave instructions to the officials.

He looked into progress of building the overpass, approach roads, pavements and asphalt road, and left necessary instructions. So far, 90 percent of the project has been completed.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects upgrading tasks at Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens. — MNA

Deputy minister inspects Dalla Shipyard, Antgyi Shipyard

YANGON, 4 Sept—Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Thaung reported on progress of work at the Shipyard and Deputy General Manager U Myint Thaung on large-scale repair and small-scale repair of boats being undertaken at the Shipyard and others.

The deputy minister gave instructions on systematic repair and construction of boats, minimized use of fuel and power and safety measures.

Outstanding students, athletes presented prizes

YANGON, 4 Sept—The Ministry of Transport presented prizes to students who passed the 2003-2004 matriculation exam with flying colours, those who won titles and medals, and those who were outstanding in sports at a ceremony held at the Ministry this afternoon. It was attended by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Myint Thaung.

Next, Daw San San Myint, the deputy ministers and heads of departments presented prizes to outstanding students.

Afterwards, the deputy ministers presented prizes to those who won titles and medals.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects preparations for agricultural educative booths at Agricultural Museum. — MNA

YANGON Division starts 12th Performing Arts Competitions at basic education level

YANGON, 4 Sept—Yangon Division launched its programmes of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions at basic education level at No 6 BEHS in Botataung Township this morning.

Present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htyai, Commander of No 4 Military Region Col Yan Naing Oo, local authorities, the director-general of No 3 Basic Education Department (Yangon City) and contestants.

Chairman of the Committee for Competitions Deputy Director (Education) of No 3 BED (Yangon City) U Nu formally opened the competitions.

Next, students of No 6 BEHS in Botataung Township sang “Zaritmania”.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htyai presented flower baskets and cash awards to the students who entertained the audience. Altogether 259 contestants participated in song, dance, song composing and music competitions which were held at No 1 BEHS, Latha, No 6 BEHS, Botataung, No 2 BEHS, Dagon and No 1 BEHS, Lanmadaw.

The competitions continue up to 6 Sept.

MNA

Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife present cash awards to students who have participated in Yangon Division Basic Education Level Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA

Myint presented prizes to athletes who won 13 gold and ten silver in the traditional boat race and canoe race at XXII SEA Games. Next, the deputy ministers and heads of departments presented prizes to athletes who were outstanding in domestic sports events.

On behalf of outstanding students and outstanding athletes, six-distinction winner Maung Aung Khine Lin and athlete Maung Phone Myint Tezar spoke words of thanks. — MNA

MNA
Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

Altogether 587 CNG vehicles have been used safely in Insein, Hmawby, Yenangyoung and Minbu since 1986. It is found that there is no ill effect on engine of the vehicle. The use of natural gas saves costly petrol and diesel and transport charges and it prevents polluting the environment.

The use of natural gas can give these benefits. Since the Octane No of natural gas is 130, the engine is free from knocking and can be used longer. As the use of natural gas helps bring about complete combustion, there is no content of hydrocarbon but less emission of carbonmonoxide gases in exhaust gases. Therefore, the process protects the environment from pollution.

Two filling stations are opened in Yangon, two in Yenangyoung and one in Chauk. Two vehicles can be filled with natural gas at the filling station in Paleik. The filling of natural gas takes only five minutes.

As natural gas causes full combustion only in the engine, it does not dilute the power of engine oil. As a result, a gas engine can run nearly double of a petrol engine on the same amount of engine oil. Clean engine oil extends the engine duration.
Ah, the programme is “from youths to youths”. Absolutely wonderful for adults like us. We had never heard a programme like it when we were young. We were brought up under strict disciplines of our elders. As there are differences in opinion, feeling and decision between youths and adults, sometimes strict disciplines of elders only hurt youths.

In addition, some youths see the admonishments of elders as restrictions. But some are able to live to the rules of elders. Some youths fell victim to the arrogance of their parents. And there are many youths trying to free themselves from the bad environment they are living in.

Whether they are good or bad or rich or poor, what youths really need is a correct discipline of their parents and the fruitful discussions among themselves. And what really matters for elders is to know the changes in mind, body and actions of youths according to their age. Regrettably, we were not able to know all about the changes of youths in the past. But now we have come to realize them.

The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association began its youth programme in 1998, and since then it has been holding lectures on teenage reproductive health and culture. In 1999, it held talks on the subjects for non-school-student youths, especially for those who are attending domestic science or vocational training schools.

The Association opened its first youth training camp in 2000, conducting a course for youths of Yangon and Mandalay. Forty youths from the two cities completed the course.

At the opening of the camp, Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address.

Youths who have completed their course contribute their services to the multiplier courses conducted at other camps in states and divisions. So far a total of 2,305 youths have completed the multiplier courses conducted at the state/division centres. Thanks to the brilliant efforts of the member youths in their public welfare services, the Association won the ASEAN Youth Award for Community Services in 2000.

Youths who have completed their course contribute their services to the multiplier courses conducted at other camps in states and divisions. So far a total of 2,305 youths have completed the multiplier courses conducted at the state/division centres. Thanks to the brilliant efforts of the member youths in their public welfare services, the Association won the ASEAN Youth Award for Community Services in 2000.

The launching of the youth training camps served as the foundation for opening of the Youth Centre in August 2003. The aims of the Centre are to feed youths with correct information on the reproductive health, while enabling them to use their talents effectively.

Standing as an organization, the Centre permits every person of age between ten and 24 to join it as members. The Centre now has over 5,400 members.

Altogether 10 youth centres were opened in 2003 alone: two each in Yangon, Mandalay, Monywa of Sagaing, Pathein of Ayeyawady and Kengtung of East Shan State. Another two were later opened in 2004: one each in Mawlamyine and Hpauk model village of Mon State. Arrangements are being made to open another four in 2004 too.

The aim of the youth centre is to provide the youths with knowledge of reproductive health, sound advice for health and social problems, general knowledge, happiness and safety, recreation and so on. There will also be such special programmes as excursions, youth get-togethers, exchange of their views, entertainment programmes, and exhibitions and competitions. With these programmes, the youth centres extend their warm welcome to all the youths.

The youth centres will train the youths as to how to improve relationship among themselves, adapt themselves to their respective social circles, and live a safe and secure life. Therefore, the adults will have nothing to worry about their children’s being at the youth centre.

Such things had not existed when I was young. So the youths of today should not let this kind of opportunity go. It is necessary for youths to take everything into account to know what should be done. Nearly 6,000 youths have come to join the youth centres every month and are making the most of their free times.

The youth programme initiated by the MMCWA in 1998 can be compared to the process of seeding. Now it is heavy with branches, leaves and buds.

* Use daylight as the main source of light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
* Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-mega-watt power station can supply.
Sports Minister hosts dinner to Hong Kong football club

YANGON, 4 Sept — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the ceremony of hosting a dinner to Hong Kong Kitchee football club held at Kandawgyi Karaweik Palace at 7 pm today.

Present on the occasion were members of MOC, officials of the ministry, the president of Myanmar Football Federation, CEC members and members of Kitchee football club.

First, the minister extended greetings and exchanged the souvenirs with Chief Executive of Kitchee football club Mr Ken K Ng. Afterwards, Mr Ken K Ng expressed thanks and they were entertained with Myanmar traditional culture dance troupe, followed by hosting the dinner.

Next, the minister presented K 100,000, cash of honour to the dance troupe and the ceremony came to a close.

Myint of Yangon University, Professor Daw Hla Myint of Institute of Economics, Chairman of UMTA U Khin Zaw and CEC members, officials of UMTA, tour operators, guests and enthusiasts.

Deputy Minister made a speech on the occasion. Next, Chairman of UMTA U Khin Zaw explained matters related to Myanmar tourism. Afterwards, Professor Mr Ogata Masakatsu lectured on tourism in Asia and Pacific region and replied queries raised by those present, after which the meeting came to a close.

Talks on Myanmar tourism development held

YANGON, 4 Sept — With the assistance of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, talks on Myanmar tourism development sponsored by Union of Myanmar Travel Association were held at the Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road here this morning.

The talks on Myanmar tourism development were held at the Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road here this morning.

Next, Chairman of the Management Committee for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents a souvenir to Chief Executive of Kitchee Football Club Mr Ken K Ng of Hong Kong at the dinner. — mna

Vice-Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission addresses coordination meeting of NCCC. — mna

National Convention Convening Commission holds coord meeting

YANGON, 4 Sept — The National Convention Convening Commission held the coordination meeting at the meeting hall of NCCC in Kyakkausana Grounds, here, this morning.

Present were Vice-Chairman of NCCC Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htu, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Vice-Chairman of the Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members of the commission. Joint-Secretary-2 of the Commission Director-General U Myint Thein of Pyithu Hluttaw Office reported on agendas of the meeting.

The Work Committee is to compile the paper on findings of the Panel of Chairmen on them. And, briefed them on compilation of the history of the National Convention and matters to be submitted by the Work Committee to the National Convention.

Next, Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung presented reports on progress in renovation and maintenance of buildings at Nyaungmagun Camp.

Next, those present took part in the discussions. Later, the Vice-Chairman of the Commission Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htu gave the concluding remarks. — mna

CEC member attend prize presentation ceremonies at schools in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 4 Sept — Member of the Central Executive Committee of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and wife Daw Wai Wai and party arrived at Basic Education High School in Natogyi Township on 31 August morning and attended the prize presentation ceremony for outstanding students.

The CEC members presented certificates of honour to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination for 2003-2004 academic year and teachers.

Next, the deputy minister donated 1,000 dozens of exercise books to Natogyi Township USDA Secretary U Aye Than Swe. The deputy minister met USDA members and officials at Pyinsi Model Village and urged them to actively participate in the rural development tasks.

Afterwards, he attended the ceremony to present prizes to outstanding students in the matriculation examination for 2003-2004 and certificates to the headmaster and teachers.

He accepted two computers donated by U Maung Maung Win-Daw Tin Tin Aye and U Nyo Win-Daw Thi Thi and K 1,140,000 by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Adviser to the ministry U Khin Maung Latt and officials. Professor Mr Ogata Masakatsu of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Tokyo, Japan, Professor Daw Khin Thida of University of Tokyo, Japan, Professor Daw Hla Myint of Institute of Economics, Myanmar, Professor Daw Hla Myint of Thai University, Thailand and Professor Daw Hla Myint of Institute of Economics, Myanmar, Professor Daw Hla Myint of Thai University, Thailand and Professor Daw Hla Myint of Institute of Economics, Myanmar, Professor Daw Hla Myint of Thai University, Thailand.

On 1 September morning, the deputy minister attended the prize presentation ceremony for outstanding students at Wehto Model BEHS. Then, he inspected 200 feet deep tube well sunk by Township USDA in Kyunzadung Village.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister, wife and party attended the prize presentation ceremony for outstanding students at Wehto Model BEHS. Then, he inspected 200 feet deep tube well sunk by Township USDA in Kyunzadung Village.

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1. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager Thursday, 9th September 2004 at 6:30 pm.

2. 33 KV Over Head Line (4000 ft) 1 Lot

3. 33 KV Voltage Transformer 1 Set

4. 33 KV Disconnecting Switch with Earthing Device 1 Set

5. 3 P 33/0.4, 500 KVA Power Transformer 1 Set

6. Earthing Materials Economy Type 1 Lot

7. Battery Charger, Battery Bank 1 Set

8. 600/100/15 Armoured Multi Core Control Copper Cable 1 Lot

9. Earthing Materials Economy Type 1 Lot

10. 33 KV Terminations Clamp & Connecting Materials for SWG 1 Lot

11. 0.4 – 1 KV Under Ground Cable 200 Meter

12. 400 V LV Receiving Panel 1 Lot

13. 33 KV Dropout Fuse complete and Spare Fuse link 1 Lot

14. 33 KV Over Head Line (4000 ft) 1 Lot

Closing Date: 20.9.2004 (Monday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 514 Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 6.9.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details, please call: 291982, 291994

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon

WB approves poverty reduction support credit

ISLAMABAD, 4 Sept — The World Bank has approved a credit of 300 million US dollars in support of the Poverty Reduction Strategy of the Pakistani Government, said a statement issued by the Bank Friday.

The poverty reduction strategy credit is the first phase of a three-year programme to support Pakistan’s efforts at sustaining rapid growth and reducing poverty.

The interest-free credit is from the International Development Association, the World Bank’s concessional lending arm, and has a 35-year maturity, a 10-year grace period and a 0.75 percent service charge.

MNA/Xinhua

Zambia, Tanzania to create joint investment promotion network

LUSAKA, 3 Sept — Zambia and Tanzania have begun talks on the possibility of creating a joint investment promotion network with a view to enhancing investment flows to the two southern African countries.

The initiative has been necessitated by the findings of two studies conducted in the two countries which revealed that though the countries have made strides in liberalizing their economies, there has been minimal investment flows.

The World Bank has a credit of $300 million in support of the Poverty Reduction Strategy of the Pakistani Government.

MNA/Xinhua

Musical Concert by the musicians of St Catharine’s College, Cambridge University, Britain will perform as follows:

Date & Time  Venue
Monday, 6th September 2004 National Theatre (Mandalay) At 6:30 pm.
Thursday, 9th September 2004 National Theatre (Yangon) At 6:30 pm.

*Free Entrance Fees

Donate Blood

Britain tests satellite tracking for criminals

LONDON, 3 Sept — British police Thursday started three pilot schemes to test the use of satellites to track prolific offenders and paedophiles after their release from prison so as to reduce the risk of repeat crimes.

It is the first time that a European country has used satellites to monitor the actions of offenders.

Under the scheme, convicted burglars, robbers and car thieves will be fitted with an electronic device on their ankles that can be tracked by satellite 24 hours a day. The device can alert police if the offender strays into restricted areas.

“We estimate there are 5,000 prolific offenders causing major problems and mayhem with their offending behaviour, day in, day out,” Home Office Minister Paul Goggins told BBC Radio.

“It will be a very, very clear constant reminder to the offenders that we’re watching them, we know where they’ve been, we know what they’re doing and if they stray, we’ll act to stop them,” he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Wen Jiabao calls for closer ties with Thailand

BEIJING, 3 Sept — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Thursday that China takes Thailand as a “true partner” and hopes the two sides would seek opportunities to boost relations.

Wen made the remark during a meeting with Thai Prime Minister and President of the Thai Rak Thai Party Thaksin Shinawatra, who is here to attend the Third International Conference of Asian Political Parties slated for 3-5 Sept in Beijing.

Wen said Sino-Thai relations have been developing well in recent years. The consensus reached between leaders of the two countries when Chinese President Hu Jintao visited Thailand last year has laid a foundation for the advancement of bilateral relations.

China and Thailand have seen a promising future in trade and economic cooperation, said the Chinese Premier. The two sides can cooperate well in areas of infrastructure construction, biological energy development and agriculture.

MNA/Xinhua
Pakistani Prime Minister allocates portfolios to Cabinet members

ISLAMABAD, 4 Sept — Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz kept the Finance Ministry for himself and retained Khushgrud Kasuri as Foreign Minister when he allocated portfolios to 32 members of his Cabinet on Thursday.

A large-scale reshuffle has been made in portfolios of ministers who were in the cabinets of Zafarullah Khan Jamali and Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and have now joined Aziz’ Cabinet. The names of the federal ministers and their portfolios are as follows:

1. Rao Sikander Iqbal, Senior Minister for Defence;
2. Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, Foreign Affairs;
3. Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Information and Broadcasting;
5. Humayun Akhtar Khan, Commerce;
6. Chaudhry Nouraiz Shakoor, Science and Technology;
7. Muhammad Naseer Khan, Health;
8. Faisal Salih Hayat, Kashmir Affairs;
9. Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Labour and Manpower;
10. Chaudhry Shahbaz Hussain, Population Welfare;
11. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao, Interior;
12. Sher Afgan Niazi, Parliamentary Affairs;
13. Javed Ashraf Qazi, Education;
14. Zobaida Jalal, Women Development and Special Education;
15. Ijazul Haq, Religious Affairs, Zakat and Udhr;
16. Awas Ahmed Khan Leghari, Information Technology;
17. Shamin Siddiqi, Communication;
18. Abdul Razaq Taheem, Local Government and Rural Development;
19. Amanullah Khan Jadoon, Petroleum and Natural Resources;
20. Muhammad Ajmal Khan, Tourism;
21. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Privatization and Investment;
22. Mushaq Ali Cheema, Textile Industry;
23. Muhammad Wasii Zafar, Law and Justice;
24. Habibullah Warsiach, Defence Production;
25. Tahir Iqbal, Environment;
26. Yar Muhammad Rind, States and Frontier Regions;
27. Ghazi Gulab Jamal, Tourism;
28. Babar Khan Ghauri, Ports and Shipping;
29. Ghans Balochi Mahat, Narcotics Control;
30. Jehangir Tareen, Industries and Production;
31. Syed Salwanulah, Housing and Works;
32. Mian Shamim Haider, Railways.

As the first bands of Hurricane Frances approach the coast of Florida, the MODIS instrument on NASA’s Aqua satellite captured this stunning image on 3 Sept. 2004.

China’s President praises Chinese athletes’ performance at Athens

BEIJING, 3 Sept — President Hu Jintao congratulated the returned Chinese Olympic delegation on the athletes’ outstanding performance at the Athens Olympic Games during a meeting with them Thursday.

Hu said the indomitable spirit and ethics the China’s athletes demonstrated during the 17-day games “greatly enhanced Chinese people’s self-confidence and sense of pride, and have become a strong spiritual force to push forward our cause”. He also called on Chinese athletes to remain clear-headed and be aware of their shortcomings at the time of the historic victory.

He encouraged Chinese athletes to strive for good performance at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and make bigger contribution to China’s endeavour to build of a relatively affluent society in an all-round way and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

ASEAN economic ministers begin convening in Jakarta

JAKARTA, 4 Sept — Economic ministers of the ten-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) began here on Friday their 36th annual gathering to seek ways to accelerate economic integration in the region and to boost intra-regional trade.

The ministers are expected to focus on the 11 priority sectors for the economic integration. The sectors include automotive, textile, electronics, information technology, health services, rubber-based products, wood-based products, tourism, agriculture, fisheries and aviation. The sectors are where ASEAN members hold competitive advantages and are particularly urgent.

The three-day meeting is also expected to come out with an effective dispute settlement mechanism and harmonization and standardization of trade facilities and investment procedures.

Chinese Vice-Premier satisfied with eco cooperation with Cambodia

BEIJING, 3 Sept — The economic and trade cooperation between China and Cambodia has witnessed significant improvement and marked achievements, achieved Vice-Premier Wu Yi here Thursday in a meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Hun Sen came to China to attend the Third International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), which is to be held from 3 to 5 September.

In the first half of this year, the two sides signed some agreements on economic and trade cooperation, laying foundation for the expansion of bilateral economic cooperation, Wu said.

The Chinese side is actively implementing relevant agreements in accordance with the consensus reached by leaders of two countries, she said.

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Information technology prerequisite to African development

KIGALI, 4 Sept — Rwandan President Paul Kagame on Friday called on African governments to embrace the information and communication technology (ICT) strategy as the only modern roadmap for development in the region.

Kagame made this remark when addressing delegates at the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) High Level ICT Policy Forum that convened in Kigali.

“We in Africa and other developing countries must regard digital highway as one of the vectors of growth and maximally strive to harness its potential,” he said.

The President urged COMESA member states to make use of the available ICT tools as they leapfrog in the 21st Century.

“The 19th and 20th centuries were driven by a network of railways and highways but the 21st Century is driven by digital highways and the ICT value added services,” Kagame noted.

Kagame called on the
Mauresmo, Hewitt advance, Ferrero upset at US Open
New York, 3 Sept— Former world No 1 Lleyton Hewitt extended his match winning streak to 12 and Austrian Stefan Koubek pulled off the biggest upset so far as both advanced to the third round of the US Open. Hewitt rallied to beat Ilicich Arzii Hicham Arzii 7-6(9)/7-6 1, 6-2 in one hour and 55 minutes. "I feel like I really stepped it up in the second set," Hewitt said. "I was just getting used to the conditions out there." Hewitt has been in the final of the last three tournaments winning the last two at Washington and Long Island. The win was marked Hewitt and in last 18 attempts. Hewitt blasted nine aces and made just 27 unforced errors to Arzii, of Morocco. 'It is nice to get a win against a guy like him who is flashy and capable of coming up with some great shots," Hewitt said. Austria's Stefan Koubek won his second consecutive five-set match by upsetting last year's runner-up Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain 7-6(2), 4-6, 6-7(6), 6-2, 6-3. Ferrero, the 2003 Roland Garros champion, was playing in the US Open for the sixth straight year. Ferrero has been hobbled by injuries and illness after a stellar season last year. —Internet

Venus Williams, Henin-Hardenne, Davenport advance at US Open
New York, 3 Sept—Four-time Grand Slam winner Venus Williams, the 2000 and 2001 champion, overcame four double faults and 25 unforced errors to defeat Shikha Uberti 7-6(1) 7-6(1) in the second round of the US Open. "In that first set was weak off the ground but as the match continued I got better with my groundstrokes," Williams said. The 24-year-old American is trying to make the most of her US Open appearance after missing last year's event with an stomach injury. Williams, who has 31 career singles wins and four Grand Slam titles, took 81 minutes to advance to the next round where she will play countrywoman Chanda Rubin, who beat Italian Antonella Serra Zanetti, 7-5, 6-3. —Internet

refreshed beckham relishing final shot at world cup glory
Vienne, 3 Sept—David Beckham has admitted that the 2006 World Cup is likely to be his last chance of winning a major tournament with England. The England skipper will be 31 by the time of the finals in Germany in two years time and he recognises that his all-action style of play is unlikely to encourage longevity on the international stage. "Maybe my legs will keep going for a few more years but maybe it is my last shot at a World Cup, to win something as big as that," Beckham said on the eve of England's opening qualifier, against Austria. "There is a lot more football to be played but it would be nice to go into that competition and win it." Having fallen at the quarter-final stage at the last World Cup and at Euro 2004, Beckham knows that his confidence in the current England squad being good enough to win a major tournament may look misplaced. "I suppose some of the criticism we have had is fair," he said. "The last couple of competitions we have not gone as far as we would or as we expected to. "With the talent we have got in the team we should get further in competitions. Hopefully it is going to be our year in Germany and that's what we've got to believe. "We've got to go into this competition believing we can win it." Beckham's England career has always involved rollercoaster rides. Highs — the free-kick that secured England's opening goal against Argentina at the 2002 World Cup or the penalty against Argentina in those finals — have been followed by lows, most recently in the form of the criticism that greeted his below-par displays at Euro 2004. Typically, Beckham is using that experience as the spur towards a new high. "If you are a high profile player and you play at a high standard, when you drop below that, even if it is not by that much, you get criticised," he said. "You can either take that and go into your shell and not perform again or you can fight back. My mentality is to fight back and prove to people that I can play some pretty good football." —Internet

Rodrick, Serena advance at US Open
New York, 3 Sept—Hardly at her best, barely beating one of the tour’s pesky teens, Serena Williams suddenly found herself face-down at the US Open. Running for a ball she couldn't reach, the six-time Grand Slam champion slipped and planted both palms on the court to brace herself. Williams shook the sting out of her hands, beckoned a ball boy to retrieve her fallen racket, then took her sweet time before facing break point. Recomposed, Williams smashed a service winner at 111 mph, an ace just as fast, and forced an error. Just like that, she held serve en route to beating 30th-seeded Tatiana Golovin 7-5, 6-4 Friday night to reach the Open’s fourth round. "I was playing two opponents: her and myself," Williams said. —Internet

Gerrard set to miss England World Cup opener
Vienne, 3 Sept—Steven Gerrard is set to miss out on England’s opening World Cup qualifier against Austria on Saturday after falling to shake off a groin injury he suffered in training earlier this week. Head coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said the Liverpool midfielder had a 50-50 chance of being fit for the match but admitted he would be reluctant to run the risk of aggravating the injury and potentially losing Gerrard for England’s second qualifier, in Poland on Wednesday. "I think it is 5050 if he plays or not," Eriksson said. "We will take that decision only tomorrow around lunch-time. "If we think the injury will be (made) worse by playing then we will not play him. It would not be fair to take that risk. "But whatever happens tomorrow I am sure he will be ready for Wednesday." Gerrard had been earmarked to play in central midfield alongside Frank Lampard. —Internet


Brazilian coach Alberto Parreira, left, talks with soccer star Roberto Carlos, centre, who plays in Real Madrid, and Adriano who plays for Inter Milan, during training in Teresopolis for The World Cup qualifier match against Bolivia, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 3 Sept, 2004. —Internet

Poborsky could miss World Cup qualifier
Prague, 3 Sept—Czech midfielder Karel Poborsky is questionable for Wednesday’s World Cup qualifier against Holland due to a back injury. Poborsky injured his back earlier in the week while lifting up his daughter. He was expected to captain the squad due to a knee injury to Pavel Nedved. Uncapped midfielder Karel Pitak was called up Friday in case Poborsky can’t suit up. Poborsky, 32, has earned over 100 caps in addition to playing for Manchester United, Benfica, and Lazio. He currently plays for Sparta Prague in the Czech first division and played a significant role during the Czech Republic’s run to the semifinals of Euro 2004 earlier this summer. —Internet
CNG saves cost, and less transport charges can bring down commodity prices
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win attends opening of gas-filling point in Paleik

Yangon, 4 Sept — Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy opened a gas-filling point on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Paleik.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects CNG Filling Point at Paleik on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Singaing Township — MNA

Highway in Paleik, Singaing Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Division, this morning.

The opening ceremony took place in front the station, attended by State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council members Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, the Mandalay mayor, the deputy commander, senior military officers, local authorities, departmental heads, members of social organizations, teachers, students, pompom troupes, Kyaukse elephant dance troupes, and local people.

At the ceremony, MOGE Director U Myint Htay reported on noteworthy facts about 'Compressed Natural Gas' (CNG). Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi formally opened the gas shop.

Later, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party inspected the system of keeping the compressors and air cylinders in the compound of the shop.

The Secretary-1 inspected two filling points and filling of compressed natural gas in a Kyaukse-Mandalay passenger bus and had a chat with local car owners and people.

He said inland natural gas fields in the country produce sufficient natural gas for consumption in vehicles. Instead of petrol and diesel engine cars, CNG cars have been used for some years. Natural gas is safe and this does not affect the engine. He spoke of the need to use CNG vehicles safely.

The use of CNG saves the cost and less transport charges can contribute to bringing down commodity prices, he added.

Altogether 587 CNG vehicles have been used safely in Insein, Hmawby, Yenangyoung and Minbu since 1986. It is found that there is no effect on engine of the vehicle. The use of cheaper natural gas saves costly petrol and diesel and transport charges and it prevents polluting the environment.

Two filling stations are opened in Yangon, two in Yenangyoung and one in Chunk. Two vehicles can be filled with natural gas at the filling station in Paleik. The filling of natural gas takes only five minutes.

CNG kits were installed in 35 vehicles in Kyaukse District initially and arrangements have been made for installation of CNG kits in 165 vehicles. Arrangements are being made for installation of CNG kits in vehicles in Yangon and other major cities. — MNA

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

- In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.
- The use of natural gas can not only save fuel oil but also extend engine duration.
- Natural gas exploited at home can be used effectively and safely.
- Natural gas burns cent per cent and is environment-friendly.
- Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.

Sanitation, proper flow of water at drains carried out in Yangon City

Yangon, 4 Sept — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected beautifying of Yangon City, proper flow of water at drains and upgrading of roads in the city and attended to the needs.

The commander and the mayor saw over substitute of concrete tiles at the platform in front of the Ministry of Industry-1, sanitation at drains along Kaba Aye pagoda Road in Yankin Township, cleaning tasks and dredging of drains along Mindhamma Road and Yangon-Bago six-lane highway, spraying of pesticide and repaving of roads.

The commander and the mayor gave instructions on upgrading of the city to have characteristics of international cities.

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