Cultural performing arts competitions held successfully on a national scale with participation of youths

PM General Khin Nyunt addresses First Coord Meeting of Leading Committee for 12th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

YANGON, 5 Sept — The Leading Committee for the 12th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions held its first coordination meeting this morning at the National Museum on Pyay Road here. Patron of the Leading Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the meeting and delivered an address.

It was also attended by Chairman of the Leading Committee Chairman of Yangon Division of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, scholars, chairmen of the work committees and sub-committees, members of the panel of judges, and officials concerned.

In his speech, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said the performing arts competitions are being held without missing a single year and now it has entered its 12th year. It is held with lofty aims set to promote the years countable by the thousand.

The cultural performing arts are handed down traditionally from one generation to another. The cultural performing arts competitions are now being held successfully on a national scale with the participation of youths. This shows that new generations that cherish and uphold the national culture and arts have emerged in our country. The holding of such competitions successfully every year will enable the new generation youths who will hold responsible for the future State to feel and understand the high standard and the delicate but deep essence of traditional cultural arts, cultural traits with meaningful national outlook. Moreover, the mind of taking pride in their country and people and that of cultivating nationalistic sentiment and patriotic spirit will surely arouse in them.

(See Page 8)

Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, committee members, officials national dignity and character by continuing the task for maintaining the art of singing, dancing, writing and music which have been preserved by Myanmar people for

Some western countries, destructive elements and unscrupulous businessmen are now trying to disrupt patriotism, nationalistic spirit and the spirit of safeguarding traditional culture on political as well as economic fronts. Their motive is clearly targeted at the young wanting to go recklessly with the tide of modern lifestyle.

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

**Monday, 6 September, 2004**

**Wider use of natural gas in place of petrol and diesel**

The Union of Myanmar is rich in natural resources. Of the natural resources of aboveground and underground in the nation, offshore and onshore natural gas is abundant. Myanmar has been able to create a new milestone by substituting natural gas for petrol and diesel in vehicles, thereby meeting the domestic fuel demand.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance on using natural gas widely in place of petrol and diesel. Hence, efforts are now being made to widely use CNG vehicles the length and breath of the nation.

In Myanmar, fuel such as natural gas, liquefied natural gas and methanol have been used safely in vehicles since 1986. The Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy opened a gas-filling point on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Paleik, Singaing Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Division, on 4 September. Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the ceremony and made a speech on the occasion.

In his speech, he said that inland natural gas in the country alone is sufficient for consumption in vehicles. Instead of petrol and diesel engine cars, CNG has been used for some years. Natural gas consumption in vehicles is not new. In practice, it has already been known that the use of natural gas in cars is safe and this does not affect the engine. He spoke of the need to use CNG vehicles safely.

Altogether 587 CNG vehicles have been used safely in Insein, Hmawby, Yenangyoung and Minbu since 1986. Two filling stations are opened in Yangon, two in Yankin and one in Pyay. Nowadays, 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. The use of natural gas can not only save fuel but extend engine duration. It also saves the cost and less transport charges can contribute to bringing down commodity prices and reducing levels of environmental pollution.

Therefore, it is urged to widely use CNG vehicles safely in place of petrol and diesel cars, making effective use of natural gas that has been exploited in abundance at home.

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**Book Charity to be held on 7 September**

YANGON, 2 Sept — A meeting to coordinate measures for opening self-relying libraries at various villages under the aegis of the Information & Public Relations Department will be held in conjunction with the ceremony to donate books and printed materials at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information at 2 pm on 7 September 2004. Those wishing to donate printed materials for the libraries can contact the IPRD through Tel: 01-252457, 252458, 371339, 379769, 379771 and 252451. — MNA

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**Literary Charity**

The second ceremony to donate cash, books and periodicals for self-relying 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
* 22B/4, Panadaw Street, Yangon
  
**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

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**Seven-point future policy programme of the State lectured**

YANGON, 5 Sept — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein gave lectures to 200 trainees of Basic Organizational Multiplier Course No 20/21, organized by North Okkalapa Township USDA on successful realization of the seven-point future policy programme of the State from 12 noon to 4 pm today. — MNA

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**Tatmadaw families, wellwishers offer provisions to monasteries, nunneries in Yankin, Lanmadaw**

YANGON, 5 Sept — Families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated rice, oil, salt, medicine, gram and cash to the funds of nine monasteries and two nunneries in Yankin Township at Maha Bawdi Monastery on Mogoung Road in Yankin Township this afternoon.

Present were Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Dhammi-karama Kyai Kpi Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Gunesana, members of the Sangha and nuns, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Re-settlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Vice Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Brig-Gen Ngwe Thein of the Ministry of Defence, Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla, No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, local authorities and wellwishers.

On behalf of the families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), Vice Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Lt-Col Than Hlaing of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) donated rice, oil and gram to members of the Sangha. Senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence offered donations to the Tatmadaw families to nuns. Next, the commander presented rice donated by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council to the Sayadaw.

(See page 11)

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**Senior military officers present provisions to nuns from nunneries in Yankin Township.** — MNA

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(See page 11)
**Aljazeera outraged by Iraq ban extension**

Iraqi security forces stormed into Aljazeera's Baghdad office on Saturday and sealed it with an estimated one-billion-US-dollar worth of investments and soft loans, a wanted“terrorist cell” and losses in two incidents, the US troops, backed by a small national guard detachment, poured into the city after dawn to hunt down a “terrorist cell” and detained a wanted individual, the military said.

The station also said the ban was inconsistent with the Iraqi administration’s pledges on press freedom. 

"Aljazeera channel is outraged at the procedures they took photographs and sealed it up," Aljazeera spokesman Jihad Ballout said. But Ballout defended Aljazeera’s Iraq coverage and denied any wrongdoing. "Yes, we have been getting pictures out of Iraq, but like most others we are depending on the news and footage agencies to get our pictures. So we are outraged at the decision."

**Arroyo back home after state visit to China**

MANILA, 4 Sept— Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo returned home shortly before midnight Friday from her three-day state visit to China, with an estimated one-billion-US-dollar worth of investments and soft loans secured from the Chinese Government.

The plane carrying Arroyo, her family members and some Cabinet officials, arrived at the Manila International Airport in the early morning.

Arroyo’s “extremely successful” trip has also brought about a “diplomatic breakthrough “between the two countries in defence and security cooperation, and in the South China Sea issue. 

The two countries signed a joint marine understanding process and prepare the entire gamut of the composite dialogue process and prepare the agenda” for the meeting between Indian Foreign Minister K Natwar Singh and his Pakistan’s counterpart Khurshid Mehrwood Kasuri on 5 and 6 September. — MNA/PTI

**Bombing at Iraq police station kills 20**

KIRKUK, 4 Sept — A suicide attacker detonated a car bomb Saturday outside an Iraqi police academy as hundreds of trainees and civilians were leaving for the day, killing 20 people and wounding 36 others in the latest attack designed to thwart US-backed efforts to build a strong Iraqi security force ahead of January elections.

US and Iraqi forces, meanwhile, launched an operation in another northern town, Tal Afar, to flush out a militant cell allegedly smuggling men and arms into Syria, sparking a fierce gunbattle that left at least eight people dead and more than 50 injured.

South of Baghdad, attackers fired mortar rounds at an Iraqi police patrol, killing three officers, said Col Adnan Abdul-Rahman of the Interior Ministry. The attack occurred between the towns of Mahmoudaya and Latifiyah 5 miles from the capital.

The car bomb in Kirkuk litted the street with bloodied bodies, gutted cars, shards of glass and twisted metal. The police academy’s steps were covered in blood.

“I saw one of my friends killed before my eyes. I couldn’t do anything to help him,” said Bassem Ali, a student at the academy who was hurt in the blast.

Kirkuk police put the toll at 20 dead and 36 wounded.

“This is a terrorist act against members of Iraqi police who were going home,” said Kirkuk police Col Sarbat Qadir.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Guerillas see police as collaborators with US-led forces and are bent on disrupting American efforts to build a strong Iraqi security force ahead of January elections.

Militants have blown up police stations all over the country, gunned down officers in drive-by shootings and battered police recruitment centers with mortar barrages and rocket-propelled grenades — leaving policemen increasingly terrified and deterring would-be recruits. — Internet

**Pakistan Foreign Secretary arrives India**

NEW DELHI, 4 Sept — Pakistani Foreign Secre- tary Riaz Khokhar Friday night said he viewed Sat- urday’s talks with his In- dian counterpart Shyam Saran “positively” and stressed that while the dia- logue process is important, “time is also important”. 

Kohkar, who arrived by an Indian Airlines flight from Lahore, was asked by reporters at Delhi air- port how he approached his upcoming parleys. "Positively," he re- sponded and went on to add that “our talks are a lot sim- ple. We will have a joint review of the entire gamut of the composite dialogue process and prepare the agenda” for the meeting between Indian Foreign Minister K Natwar Singh and his Pakistan’s counter- part Khurshid Mehrwood Kasuri on 5 and 6 Septem- ber. — MNA/PTI

**Internet**

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**A policeman stands by a car that was involved in a car bomb explosion that killed at least 20 and wounded 36 others in Kirkuk, Iraq, on 4 Sept, 2004. A suicide attacker detonated a car bomb outside the police academy as hundreds of trainees and civilians were leaving for the day.**

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**Internet**

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Govt asks all Indians in Iraq to return

KOZHIKODE, 4 Sept—The Centre urged all the Indians working in the insurgency-hit Iraq to return home in view of the situation prevailing in the war-torn country.

“The government will facilitate the safe return of about 5,000 Indians working at various places in Iraq, if they are willing to come back,” Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahamed told reporters in Kozhikode on Saturday. Share your joy and relief with the truckers’ families.

He said the Centre had already instructed the envoys in Baghdad and Kuwait to take necessary steps in this direction.

“We must realise the situation prevailing there in order to avoid the incidents such as hostage taking,” he said referring to the ordeal of three Indian truck drivers

Local residents stand near destroyed cars that were hit in an US airstrike in Fallujah, Iraq, on 2 Sept, 2004. 17 people, including 3 children were killed by a lack of maintenance due to months of sporadic fighting between US sol-

Four USN “Seals” charged with Iraqi prisoner abuse

WASHINGTON, 5 Sept—The US Navy has charged four of its elite Special Operation Troops Seals with abusing detainees in Iraq.

This is the first time that Seals have been accused of such offences in the expanding probe into the US military’s mistreatment of prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The charges against the four sailors include assault, maltreatment of detainees and making false statements to investigators.

The Navy said the names are being withheld because of the sensitive nature of the sailors’ work, which can take them behind enemy lines on reconnaissance and sabotage missions. Many of the charges brought against the Seals grew out of a previously reported incident on November 4, 2003, in which a detainee in the custody of the CIA died at Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq, officials told The Washington Post.

It is expected to produce additional charges against other sailors, they said. Until now, the only service members facing legal action for alleged abuses of Iraqi prisoners are seven members of an Army reserve military police unit that worked in the Abu Ghraib Prison. Navy Seals are highly skilled troops trained to operate in extremely dangerous situations. Being a Navy Seal is highly prestigious. Seal stands for “Sea, Air and Land,” underscoring the versatility of the units. The four new charges came after announcements from the Pentagon that dozens of additional charges against soldiers were likely to be filed.

India, Pakistan agree to deepen engagement

NEW DELHI, 5 Sept—India and Pakistan agreed Saturday that the composite dialogue process they had initiated to resolve bilateral issues, including Kashmir, has been “productive” and should be continued to “deepen and broaden” bilateral engagements.

The agreement, announced in a joint statement issued at the conclusion of the talks here between the foreign secretaries of the two countries—India’s Shyam Saran and Pakistan’s Raza Khokhar —set an optimistic backdrop for the meeting of the two foreign ministers Sunday, the Indo-Asian News Service reported.

India’s External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh will hold two days of talks with his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri in the Indian capital to review the progress of the first round of the dialogue process that concluded in August.

The joint statement issued at the end of the talks between the two foreign secretaries said they assessed “positively” the discussions held on the eight subjects covered under the Composite Dialogue. “The foreign secretaries agreed that the discussions had been productive and had taken place in a cordial and constructive atmosphere. Several useful ideas and suggestions were made by both sides,” the statement said. — MNA/Xinhua

UN to provide technical aid to developing nations to fight AIDS

NEW YORK, 4 Sept—The United Nations and Brazil have agreed to enhance the technical capacity of developing countries to fight AIDS, the deadly virus which kills about 16,500 people worldwide every day.

The agreement provide for setting up an International Centre for Technical Cooperation on AIDS in Brazil.

“The new initiative will give other countries the necessary tools to effectively fight AIDS, now that financing is greatly increasing,” UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot said in Brasilia Thursday.

“Making this money work is now a priority. We urgently need to identify new ways for countries to build technical capacity to tackle the epidemic, the largest human development crisis in history.”

Children walk on a main street filled with garbage and stagnant water caused by a lack of maintenance due to months of sporadic fighting between US sold-

China to launch three new meteorological satellites

BEIJING, 4 Sept—China will launch three indigenously-made high-resolution meteorological satellites by 2010, the first of which could be in orbit by next month, a report said on Thursday.

The three Fengyun-2 batches of 2 (FY-2 02) meteorological satellites will be launched with Long March carrier rockets 3A, aerospace officials said.

“The satellites, independently developed and manufactured by China, will be in synchronous orbit with the Earth and operational until 2012,” a spokesman for China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation said.

The corporation has completed its appraisal of the first satellite of the batch with contracts on the research, manufacturing, launch and monitoring of the satellites signed on Tuesday between the corporation and the China Meteorological Administration (CMA). — MNA/PTI

Egyptian hostage held in Iraq released

KUWAIT, 4 Sept—An Egyptian man released this week with six other drivers held hostage in Iraq said in remarks published on Friday the captors took away his money, but never beat them.

Mohamed Ali Sanad was one of seven drivers

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German minister says Iraq war “a true crime”

BERLIN, 4 Sept — A German minister came under fire on Friday for labelling the Iraq war “a true crime”, a remark which could reopen wounds between the United States and Germany.

Germany’s conservative opposition urged Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on Friday to reprimand Heidekamp Wieczorek-Zeul, Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Wieczorek-Zeul said in a speech late on Wednesday the Iraq war had caused terrible human suffering.

“That is a true crime,” said the left-wing member of Schroeder’s Social Democrats (SPD) who is also a peace campaigner.

Leaders of the opposition Christian Democrats (CDU), who supported the US-led invasion of Iraq, called on Wieczorek-Zeul to retract the remarks and Schroeder to silence her.

“The chancellor needs to put a muzzle on Wieczorek-Zeul and her anti-American attacks,” said Christian Ruck, a CDU deputy.

“Statements like that will cause devastating political damage in the United States,” said Gerd Mueller, foreign policy expert for the Christian Social Union, the CDU’s sister party.

Government officials and SPD deputies defended her remarks.

Schroeder criticized US steps against Iraq right up until the war started. In his 2002 re-election campaign, he derided plans to attack Iraq as a military “adventure” that would “set ablaze” the Middle East.

Tensions worsened when Schroeder’s Justice Minister Herta Daeubler-Gmelin was reported to have compared Bush’s political tactics with those of Adolf Hitler, which she partially denied.

Schroeder did not re-appoint her but the United States took a dim view of his decision not to fire her right away.

Last year Junior Defence Minister Walter Kolb was reported saying unilateral US decisions on Iraq looked like the actions of a dictator. But he denied labelling Bush a dictator, saying his remarks referred to US positions on Iraq and the environment.

The rest of troops will arrive at Bang¬kok when he met with Thai Prime Min¬ister Thaksin Shinawatra during his visit to the kingdom in July for the interna¬tional AIDS conference, confirmed Pisanu.

Since last September, Thailand has sent two batches of troops to the southern Iraqi city of Karbala to fulfil its one-year commitment for postwar construction.

The government has maintained its decision not to withdraw troops early, despite of increasing domestic pressure after two soldiers were killed in an attack in last December.

Jiang Zemin hails cooperation with Philippines

BEIJING, 4 Sept—Chairman of China’s Central Military Commission Jiang Zemin on Thursday hailed the smooth development of friendly and coopera¬tive relations between China and the Philippines since the two countries established diplomatic relations some 30 years ago.

With the continued strengthening of political trust and deepening of the cooperation, China and the Philippines have enjoyed good coordination and cooperation in interna¬tional and regional affairs, said Jiang while meeting with Philippine President Gloria Arroyo.

The two countries have conducted fruitful coopera¬tion in maintaining sta¬bility and promoting joint development in the South China Sea, Jiang added.

During the talks, Jiang also expressed his hope that the two sides make joint efforts to further develop bilateral relations.

Arroyo, who arrived in Beijing Wednesday after¬noon for a three-day state visit, said China is an im¬portant neighbour to the Philippines and has pro¬vided friendly support and assistance to her country’s economic and social de¬velopment.

China to work with S Korea for stable, healthy relations

BEIJING, 4 Sept—Chinese top legislator told a party leader from South Korea here Thursday that China is willing to work with South Korea for the development of “long-term, stable and healthy” bilateral relations.

Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People’s Congress (NPC) and member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, met with Lee Bu-young, chairman of the Uri Party of South Korea, who is to attend the Third International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), slated for September 3-5.

Wu said Sino-S Korean relations have been charac¬terized by frequent high-level visits, mutual political understanding, trust and support and a fast-growing economic and trade cooperation.
Megawati says ASEAN must remain open to global economy

JAKARTA, 4 Sept — Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri reiterated here Friday that the Association of South-East Asian Nations must remain open to the global economy.

"An economic integration should not be understood as merely building a common internal strength, while shutting the world out. On the contrary, ASEAN must remain open to the global economy," Megawati, who chaired the last year’s summit, said "we are all convinced that the ASEAN economic integration is crucial for the entire ASEAN community. Let us seek together the ways to encourage regional trade and accelerate economic integration. Let us show the world our real strength, by becoming the Economic Community that we aspire for," she said.

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri (R) sits with Ministers of ASEAN member nations during the opening ceremony of the 36th Southeast Asian Economic Ministers Meeting at the presidential palace on 5 Sept, 2004. — MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN eco ministers agree to liberalize 10 sectors by 2007

JAKARTA, 4 Sept — Economic ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) agreed here Friday to liberalize 10 out of 11 priority sectors by as soon as 2007.

ASEAN leaders during their upcoming summit in Vientiane, capital of Laos, Indonesian Industry and Trade Minister Rini Soewandi told a Press conference.

"We had an open discussion and tried to really iron up all problems facing us. We have some good results and already put many agendas for the ASEAN Summit in Vientiane," said Rini, who chaired the meeting.

The ministers, gathered here for a three-day meeting, proposed the liberalization of the 10 sectors to be endorsed by ASEAN leaders during their upcoming summit in Vientiane, capital of Laos, Indonesian Industry and Trade Minister Rini Soewandi told a Press conference.

The auto industry is among the 11 sectors ASEAN want integrated before 2010.

The 10 sectors include automotive, textile, electronics, information technology, health services, rubber-based products, wood-based products, tourism, agriculture and fisheries.

ASEAN exports in March this year reached US$109.8 billion, recorded in 2003 when compared to 99.7 billion US dollars. In 2002, ASEAN exports grew by 12.12 per cent to 359.32 billion US dollars, recorded a significant growth in trade performance last year.

ASEAN, with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of 680 million US dollars in 2003 and a population of over 520 million, recorded a significant growth in trade performance last year.

Total ASEAN exports grew by 12.12 per cent to 430.39 billion US dollars in 2003 when compared to 2002 and imports rose by 9.51 per cent.

The auto industry is among the 11 sectors ASEAN want integrated before 2010. Southeast Asian economic ministers meeting in Jakarta began talks on ways to speed up regional economic integration and free trade. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam wants closer ties with China’s Yunnan Province

HANOI, 4 Sept— Vietnam’s four northern cities and provinces have begun up multi-faceted relations with the Chinese province of Yunnan, especially in the construction of an economic corridor involving the five localities.

Nguyen Phu Trong, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and Secretary of the Hanoi City Party Committee, made the statement when meeting a Yunnan delegation led by Xu Rongkai, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and provincial governor, here on Friday.

"The cooperation between Vietnam and China in general and among the five localities, namely Hanoi, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Lao Cai and Yunnan in particular, is being deepened," Trong said, adding that the traditional ties between the two countries have recently been diversified and expanded to many other fields such as economy and culture.

The four northern localities and Yunnan should strengthen their multi-faceted cooperation, especially economic one, because their current ties have yet to correspond to their potential and strengths, he noted, pointing out that the Vietnamese province of Lao Cai and Yunnan have great potential in economic, trade and tourism cooperation as the two sides share a long border.

On Friday morning, top leaders of the five cities and provinces reached an agreement on developing the economic corridor mainly by beefing up cooperation in trade, tourism, and investment promotion, Trong said, expressing his hope that they will enhance their scientific and technical ties in the coming time.

He called for Yunnan’s authorities and businesses to pay attention to developing historical and cultural relics; infrastructure, especially industrial parks and urban areas; and import-export activities in the capital of Hanoi. — MNA/Xinhua

Tech initiatives to widen computer use in developing countries

WASHINGTON, 4 Sept— Chip and computer manufacturers and an Indian expert at Carnegie Mellon University are joining hands to widen computer use among the poor and illiterate by making the gadgets cheaper and easier to handle.

Dr Raj Reddy is working with partners to design a new class of devices that will let semi-literate people use a remote control to watch television and DVDs, make voice calls and receive e-mail with video clips in it, a US media report has said.

Reddy’s project, dubbed PCtv, hopes to deliver systems priced at about 250 US dollars, using low cost chips from Intel and Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), stripped down versions of the Linux or Microsoft operating systems, and subsidies from monthly subscription fees, the Wall Street Journal said.

The project, funded by a 3.4-million-US-dollar National Science Foundation grant, includes graduate students and faculty at Berkeley, collaborating with researchers at Intel, the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, and other institutions.

Participants hope to design and deploy new technology in two years’ time in rural India. Efforts in Africa and Latin America are also being considered.

Company executives and university researchers are trying to strike profit-making partnerships with business entities in India, China and other countries that could help market new technology, the report said. — MNA/PTI

The auto industry is among the 11 sectors ASEAN want integrated before 2010. Southeast Asian economic ministers meeting in Jakarta began talks on ways to speed up regional economic integration and free trade. — MNA/Xinhua
Myanmar aviation industry spreads its wings

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party pose for a documentary photo at the opening of Momywa Airport. — MNA

Newly-inaugurated runway seen at Kyaukhtu Airport built in Saw Township, Magway Division. — MNA

Mandalay International Airport in TadaU Township in Mandalay Division equipped with modern facilities. — MNA

The newly opened runway of Pathein Airport in Ayeyawady Division. — MNA
PM General Khin Nyunt...

(from page 1)

A glance at the international scene will uncover the traditional culture and performing arts which have been preserved since the times of their ancestors but are now dying out bit by bit in some countries on account of thinking too big of material development. It will be found that their national character is also deteriorating. Drawing lessons from these incidents, some countries like ours are now placing emphasis on the drive to safeguard their national culture in fear of the same fate. Otherwise, their national cultures and traits will be on the verge of extinction, whereupon the national interests will be harmed under the influence of other countries.

At a time when every world nation is now faced with the danger to national traditions and cultures which are near deterioration as a result of globalization process, Myanmar, on her part, can preserve her traditional cultures as well as national character and values till this day. It is therefore clear that these achievements are the product of the efforts to maintain and uphold Myanmar traditional culture and to hold the performing arts competitions.

However, some big countries gaining superiority in wealth and technology in international community have now come to make developing countries including Myanmar fall under the sway of their traditions by bringing them in through the doors of trade and culture. Momentum has to be added to the efforts to continue the promotion programmes for the safeguarding and uplift of our national cultures with nationalistic fervour. In particular, some western countries, destructive elements and unscrupulous businessmen are now trying to disrupt patriotism, nationalism and the spirit of safeguarding traditional culture on political as well as economic fronts. Their motive is targeted at the young wanting to go recklessly with the tide of modern lifestyle. It has been found that there are some youths entertaining in their minds the attitude of paying no heed to their traditional culture. It is therefore of especial importance to launch educational campaigns to protect the youths from having their minds stained with such attitude.

The onus is on the officials concerned and maestros from the leading committee and subcommittees to sustain the momentum of the successful performing arts competitions with dauntless perseverance. The Prime Minister continued that it is found that preparatory measures have already been taken based on the past experiences for the 12th performing arts competitions. Ramayana Drama has been set for this year’s drama contest. The Prime Minister also said that hope has been set high for this year’s performance level higher than that of previous years since it is the fourth time that the drama has been allowed for the competitions. Ramayana Drama is one of Myanmar classical dramas that needs many days to perform. It is delightful to know that arrangements have been made to include some suitable plots to make the drama more perfect year after year. Later, the Prime Minister expressed his belief, saying that these measures will be of great help to maintain Ramayana Drama as it has been before. Mahawthada Drama has been one more advanced than those in the previous years. Later, the Prime Minister called for systematic leadership of the maestros and officials concerned to ensure Ramayana Drama as it has strong characters and attractive plots.

Although the art of Myanmar marionette was praised by foreign countries, it nearly vanished. Thanks to the Myanmar traditional performing arts competitions, Myanma marionette could be staged. He also urged the scholars and officials concerned to make efforts to organize the competitions in accord with the essence of Myanmar traditional culture. At the meeting, Chairman of the Myanmar Music Asian Council U Ohn Kyaw presented K 1 million donated by the MMA to the competitions through General Khin Nyunt. Marionette Master U Ye Dwe presented record books and video tapes on Asian Ramayana Drama to General Khin Nyunt.

Next, Prime Minister Khin Nyunt handed over ancient silverwares excavated in ancient Pakhangyi town, Yesagyo Township, to Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung. — MNA

The Objectives of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions — MNA

* To vitalize patriotism and nationalism in all citizens
* To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage
* To perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts
* To preserve Myanmar national character
* To nurture spiritual development of the youths
* To prevent influence of alien culture

On behalf of Ma Than Htwe of Nayarwin Ward of ancient Pakhangyi town, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hands over silver artefacts excavated from ancient Pakhangyi town to Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected settings for 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA
Air transport, which has been able to cover…

(from page 16)

Pakokku region situated in the western bank of Ayeyawady River is a gateway of southern part of Chin State and it is also the focal point of the southern Chin State and western part of Magway Division for development of socio-economic status of the local people including education and health sectors. Therefore, Pakokku region was designated as a development region of the State. So, all-round development tasks are being carried out in the region to emerge a city of western bank of Ayeyawady River. Universities, colleges and hospitals were built as well as railroads and new motor roads were constructed in the region. Thanks to building Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay Railroad and Haka-Gangaw Motor Road, nowadays locals can enjoy fruitful results of the transport sector. Though Pakokku has been cut off the aviation links for many years, at present the region can rejoin network of airways links. Magway Division possessed airports for light aircraft only in the past. At present, new airports such as Magway Airport, Kyaukhtu Airport and Pakokku Airport have been built for use of major aircraft. Out of 32 airports throughout the country, there are 24 airports where jets can land including Pakokku Airport.

Nowadays, the air transport, which has been able to cover a long journey in a short period of time, is of utmost importance both at home and abroad. This being the case, the government has been giving priority to enhancing the air transport standard.

Pakokku Airport opened today has magnificent airport building and the control tower. The runway is 8,500 feet long tarred road. So, F-28 jets can land there. And, arrangements are being made for upgrading the runway to become 10,000 feet long one.

The government is making all-out efforts for development of education, health, agricultural, livestock breeding and industrial sectors after laying down development projects with the aim of bringing about equitable development across the nation. Hence, significant progress has been made in all parts of the nation.

Meanwhile, it has laid down and is implementing the seven-point future political programme of the State for the emergence of genuine democratic nation while striving for all-round development of the State.

Those future political programme are an own process of transition to democracy in conformity with the prevailing political situations of the State.

Stability of the State and prevalence of law and order in all parts of the nation are required for successful realization of those future political programmes of the State. Only when there is community peace and tranquillity will economic and social sectors develop, thereby contributing to ensuring prevalence of law and order.

So, emphasis is to be placed on stability of the State and development of economic, education and health sectors.

In conclusion, he expressed thanks to the Ministry of Transport, the company concerned, local authoriies, local people and others who contributed their shares in construction of the airport.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe delivered an address, saying that Pakokku located in Magway Division is focal point of the western bank of Ayeyawady River. Therefore, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance to designate Pakokku as the City of the Western Bank of Ayeyawady River. And, development of Pakokku and its surrounding areas is being carried out to have city characters. The Head of State gave guidance to implement Pakokku Airport Project for facilitating equal development of Magway Division and Chin State, ensuring smooth transportation and enhancing socio-economic standard of the local people.

Though an old airport used in the pre-war era was situated near Pakokku, the area is not enough to extend the runway. So, feasibility study was conducted for new runway and construction tasks were started on 28 July 2002. Now, as the 8,500 feet long and 100 feet wide tarred runway has been built, local flights can operate to use it. In addition, a one-storey modern airport building for passengers was built of reinforced concrete. It is 180 feet long and 600 feet wide. The airport building can accommodate 250 passengers each for departure and on arrival at the same time.

In addition to new Pakokku Airport, plans are being implemented to build Nyuang U Airport in Mandalay Division, Hkamti Airport in Sagaing Division, Lashio Airport and Kengtung Airport in Shan State, Bhamo Airport in Kachin State and Dawei Airport in Taninthayi Division in main regions of the country.

In conclusion, the minister urged all to ensure durability of the airport and safeguard greening and beautifying of the airport.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye spoke on the occasion. Then, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min gave a speech. Later, representative of the local people U Kyaw Tint thanked the government for construction of the airport. Next, Li-Gen Ye Myint, Commanders Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Maj-Gen Ye Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers and senior military officers took the designated places. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Col Zaw Min and the general manager of the airport construction company formally unveiled the archway of the airport.

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe unveiled the signboard of the airport and sprinkled scented water on it. Li-Gen Ye Myint also pressed the button to unveil the stone plaque of the airport and sprinkled scented water on it. Later, they posed for documentary photos with local people in front of the airport archway.

Next, they visited the airport building. The runway of the Pakokku Airport opened today is of tarred road mixed with concrete. The runway is 27 inches thick, 8,500 feet long and 100 feet wide. — MNA

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, transport infrastructures, the prerequisite for national development, were built one after another on self-reliant basis. Myanmar engineers themselves have been making relentless efforts in building new airports, upgrading the old ones, extending motor roads and rail roads, building river-crossing and creek-crossing bridges and jetties. The opening of Kyaukhtu airport and Pakokku Airport opened today will strengthen the networks of airways links. Magway Division in main regions of the country.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 6 September, 2004
There was a village in Myanmar where a traditional physician resided. One day, an elderly man sent for him. The physician arrived at the patient’s house and found him lying in bed, his face pale. Asking about the patient’s condition, the physician was told that he was suffering from a menstrual disorder, but the family was not sure if it was normal. The physician, realizing that the patient was a male, was shocked. He retorted that it was wrong to give medicines to a male who had no need for them. The patient’s family insisted that they had no idea what was wrong with the patient. To this, the physician replied that it was ‘masculine menstrual disorder’, the physician left there. This was a talking saga of a person who was very obstinate to accept the opinion of others. He also stated that it would be wrong to give medicines to a male who had no need to suffer from menstrual disorder, but retained the unscrupulous use of human rights problems in the hope of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries; and every nation or every country group must refrain from disrupting the stability among themselves. National reconciliation is still a distant reality owing to the US government’s senseless interference in today’s internal issues of Myanmar for full 15 years gave nothing. In fact, what they are doing is just like putting pins into the patient. It is the cause of the measures to restore national stability are in vain.

Despite the UN basic principle: “Nothing contained in the Charter shall authorize the UN to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State”, they are also hatching schemes to press Myanmar Government by bringing Myanmar’s internal issue to the UN Security Council. Since it was just ‘masculine menstrual disorder’

There is no country in the world that has ever changed for the better on account of economic sanction. Nor has a country ever been transformed as democracy, nor the State Law and Order Restoration Council. The world-famous physicians and professors have also made it clear that economic sanctions cannot produce democracy nor oust the Tatmadaw Government in Myanmar. External and internal anti-government elements and the so-called pro-democracy activists in western countries are constantly making several attempts to impose severe economic sanctions bit by bit on Myanmar.

Despite the UN basic principle: “Nothing contained in the Charter shall authorize the UN to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State”, they are also hatching schemes to press Myanmar Government by bringing Myanmar’s internal issue to the UN Security Council.

The US government’s request for concerted pressure on Myanmar from ASEAN countries complying with the basic principles of the Bandung Conference: “Mutual respect in the recognition of each other’s internal affairs” and “Equality and mutual benefits”, is designed to make ASEAN the US-led west bloc’s subordinate.

Last 7 July, the US government approved of the one-year extension of the “freedom and democracy issue in Myanmar” on the pretext of the “release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the democratic reform in Myanmar”. It is the US historical event in which democracy won a victory, of which its government lost a defeat. World-famous physicians and professors have also made it clear that economic sanctions cannot produce democracy nor oust the Tatmadaw Government in Myanmar. External and internal anti-government elements and the so-called pro-democracy activists in western countries are constantly making several attempts to impose severe economic sanctions bit by bit on Myanmar.

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The restrictions on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were lifted when the National Convention was nearing completion. Before long, Madeleine Albright, the then US Secretary of State, arrived at Myanmar and met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Soon after she had left, the NLD delegates walked out the National Convention for the reason that there had not been any reply in respect of the request for a negotiation between the government and the NLD although they submitted the issue to the chairman of the National Convention. As a result, the drawing of the Constitution remained incomplete.

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Building tasks. Therefore, the Government allowed her to go anywhere and do any activities across the nation. During her tours of State’s nation-building projects, she enjoyed special privileges as a VIP. But, after visiting some regions for political purposes, she said that the NLD remained unchanged, sticking to its act of confrontation and defiance of authority.

During her trip to the Upper Myanmar, in Mogok, a person in the crowd asked when Myanmar would become a democracy. In her response to the question, she said Myanmar would become a democracy earlier than expected if Mogok dwellers were brave enough. In Wuntho, she severely criticized the Union Solidarity and Development Association. So, on arriving at Kyauktada, the US Secretary of State, made a demonstration against the NLD and her by USDA members and supporters of the Government in retaliation to her criticism on the association. The situation was on the edge of a conflict. So, the District Peace and Development Council chairman had to intervene. At Dabawin, her trip came to an end, following a severe conflict between her and the Government. On 22 August, the Tatmadaw Government made compromises in view of national consolidation, the anti-government elements held a wrong view that the government did so as a result of international pressure. (To be continued)
Tatmadaw families, wellwishers...

Similarly, officials of Yangon City Development Committee, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and ministries offered rice, oil, salt, medicine and gram to the Sayadaws.

Commander Maj-Gen Mynint Swe, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htoo, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Vice Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Brig-Gen Ngwe Thein of the Ministry of Defence, Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla and senior military officers accepted K 19,221,960 towards the funds of nine monasteries and two nunneries including K 110,000 donated by Tatmadaw families; K 33,000 by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council; K 300,000 each by Myanmar Pyitharhay KN Co; U Aung Myat (Mother Trading Co Ltd); and U Kyaw Naing Oo; K 200,000 by U Bo Gyi-Daw Than Than; K 2.5 million by U Shwe Hlaing-Daw Khin Kyawt; K 2.8 million by U Kyaw Naing Oo; K 2 million by Daw Mya Kyi and family; K 2 million by Daw Ma Ma; K 1 million by U Ye Naing Htoo, Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotiukadhati Bhaddanta Patijitasthata administered the Five Precepts.

The commander, the minister, the deputy ministers and officials donated provisions to the Sayadaws.

The chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun and Lt-Col Chan Maung of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) offered rice, oil and gram donated by Tatmadaw families to the Sayadaws.

Next, the commander and officials accepted donations from the wellwishers.

Mayor Myint-Daw Aye Po and other wellwishers.

The ceremony was attended by the Sayadaws; K 2 million by Daw Ma Ma; K 2.5 million by U Shwe Hlaing-Daw Khin Kyawt; K 2.8 million by U Kyaw Naing Oo; K 2 million by Daw Ma Ma; K 1 million by U Ye Naing Htoo, Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotiukadhati Bhaddanta Patijitasthata administered the Five Precepts.

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Bangladesh to lift import restriction on 30 categories of products

Dhaka, 4 Sept—The Bangladeshi Government plans to withdraw in phases the import restrictions on some 30 categories of products, most of which are woven fabrics, under unrelenting pressure from the World Bank (WB), reported the daily New Age on Friday.

Sources in the Commerce Ministry said import of those items was restricted on the grounds of religion, health and environment, but Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury has already assured multilateral lenders including the WB to remove the restriction.

The ministry recently formed a high-level 13-member inter-ministerial committee to recommend to the government the specific items mostly fabrics to be freed from import restriction, after they consulted the domestic textile mill owners. The textile mill owners have not opposed this move and would not be affected as the country has almost achieved self-sufficiency in the fabric products currently restricted, a committee member was quoted as saying.

Under the current import policy, some 60 kinds of items fall under import restriction.

Chinese President meets Japanese guest

BEIJING, 4 Sept—Chinese President Hu Jintao met here Friday with Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, in China to attend the Third International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP).

“Chinese and Thailand have a long history of friendship, said Hu, who is also the General Secretary of the Communist party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

Sino-Thai relations have developed rapidly over the years, with frequent exchanges of visits by leaders from both countries, enhancement of political trust between the two countries and development of all-around cooperation, he said.

UAE emerges as largest Arab investor in Sudan

ABU DHABI, 4 Sept—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) became the largest Arab investor in Sudan with a total investment of 8 billion US dollars in the past two years, the Arab financial web site reported on Friday.

According to statistics of the Sudanese Investment Ministry, the UAE capital was mainly injected to energy and agriculture as well as property and real estate sectors.

Saudi Arabia came in the second place with 6 billion dollars, mainly in industrial and agricultural projects.

Chinese President meets Thai PM

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“We are willing to make joint efforts with Thailand to advance the all-around China-Thailand relationship to a higher level, based on the principle of treating neighbours as friends and partners,” Hu said.

The Chinese President thanked Thaksin for his attendance at the parties’ conference as the president of Thai Rak Thai Party as well as his support of China’s full market economy status. —MNA/Xinhua

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<th>Sr.No.</th>
<th>Tender No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>Tyre (Rough Turn) for Diesel Electric Locomotives</td>
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2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myamnba Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 6.9.2004 during the office hours.

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

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**MUSICAL CONCERT**

by the musicians of St. Catharine’s College, Cambridge University, Britain

will perform as follows:

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

*Free Entrance Fees

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Saudi Arabia came in the second place with 6 billion dollars, mainly in industrial and agricultural projects.

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**FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN SUDAN**

Foreign investment in Sudan reached 43 billion dollars in the last two years, mainly in oil and gas sector.

Asian countries, including Malaysia, China, India and Japan, also invested large amount of capital into the Sudan’s oil sector.
China will never seek hegemony, expansion

BEIJING, 4 Sept — China Friday assured it will not seek “hegemony” and “expansion” and stressed on greater economic cooperation among Asian nations by gradually eliminating trade barriers.

“China will never seek hegemony or expansion. We will always focus on achieving peace, security, cooperation and prosperity in Asia, seek friendship and partnership with our neighbours,” Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong said in his inaugural address to the third International Conference of Asian Political Parties here.

The meeting is being attended by delegates from 34 countries representing over 80 political parties, including the Indian political parties Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party, and the two Communist parties of India, CPM and CPI. All Asian countries should strengthen economic cooperation, expand mutual investment, increase the flow of technology and personnel, progressively open their markets to each other and gradually eliminate trade barriers, Zeng, also member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee, said.

Stressing that Asian governments and political parties should seek common ground, he said there was a need to “pursue cooperation instead of confrontation, seek accord through consultation instead of imposing their will on others and try to bring about win-win cooperation”.

“We should work hard to find new models for regional security and cooperation,” he said.

Japan S Korea to start free trade talks with ASEAN

JAKARTA, 5 Sept — Japan and South Korea announced here Saturday that they will begin talks on free trade area (FTA) with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) next year.

“Japan and South Korea also agreed to commence negotiations on FTA in April 2005, all are committed to ensuring that the negotiations will be completed within two years,” Indonesian Industry and Trade Minister Rini Soewandi said at a Press conference which was also attended by the trade ministers of ASEAN countries, Japan and South Korea.

South Korea also agreed on FTA negotiations that will begin in January 2005 to be completed within two years, and on a possible readjustment of an FTA by 2009”, Rini added.

She made the remarks shortly after leading the ASEAN ministers in subsequent meetings with their counterparts from China, Japan and South Korea earlier in the day.

On the occasion, Japanese Trade Minister Shoschi Nakagawa asserted that preparations for FTA negotiations will go on and that he came to the meeting “to report how the government is trying to reach an agreement with ASEAN countries”. He said during the ASEAN-Japan summit last summer, it was expected that FTA activities would begin in 2002 and that Japanese and six ASEAN original members and in 2017 with four ASEAN newer countries.

Harry Potter wins press award in China

BEIJING, 4 Sept — Popular around the globe, Harry Potter, the bespectacled boy magician from England, had his magic in China as well, selling a total of 1.1 million copies of his new story in 2003.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix brought a sales of 5.9 million yuan (about 713,000 US dollars) across the country last year, helping its Chinese publisher, the People’s Publishing House, get an award from the State Press Authority on Thursday. Since 2000, when the first Harry Potter novel was brought to China, British author JK Rowling’s stories of the broom-riding wizard have been read by millions of Chinese fans.

More than 10,000 copies of Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix were sold on the first day the Chinese version was put on shelves last September, setting a national record for daily sales.

“It is more than a book for readers,” said Liu Yushan, director of the People’s Publishing House.

“The human elements of the story have touched many Chinese readers.”

China seeks greater trade volume with ASEAN

JAKARTA, 5 Sept — China will make more efforts to boost its trade volume with the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), one of China’s most important trading partners, to date and together have promising economic cooperation in the future, a Chinese official said here Saturday.

“For the time being, the two-way trade volume between ASEAN nations and China accounts for 11 per cent of China’s overall external trade. But I believe this proportion will greatly increase in the upcoming years and probably double,” Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai said. He noted that last year, trade between China and ASEAN grew 40 per cent compared to the previous year and similarly, in the first half of this year, China and ASEAN have registered another 40 per cent year-on-year increase.

“So I’m quite confident to believe that after we accomplished agreements in terms of both trade in goods and trade in services, this growth rate will be even greater,” Bo told a Press conference shortly after a meeting with the economic ministers of ASEAN.

Senior Chinese leader arrives Spain

BARCELONA, 4 Sept — Senior Chinese leader Jia Qinglin arrived here Friday, embarking on a four-day official goodwill visit to Spain to promote bilateral cooperation.

Upon his arrival, Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), issued a written statement praising Spain for its incessant achievements in its national construction. Spain is playing a more and more important role in international and European affairs, Jia said, adding that China attaches great importance to its ties with Spain. With joint efforts by the two sides in recent years, China and Spain and the two countries have deepened mutual understanding, jacking considerable achievements in cooperation in a variety of fields, Jia noted. To further deepen and develop Sino-Spanish ties is conducive to enhancing the common interests of the two peoples, safeguarding the world peace and promoting common development as well, Jia stressed, saying that China is willing, together with Spain, to continue to make unswerving efforts for the goals.

Jia said that he looked forward to profound exchanges and mutual understanding among Spanish leaders to make concerted efforts to explore new means and ways of expanding and developing bilateral cooperation.

Senior Chinese leader arrives Spain

Palm trees blow in wind and rain at a home on the intra coastal waterway in Boynton Beach, as hurricane Frances approaches Florida on 4 Sept, 2004. Strong winds and whipping rains began to lash eastern Florida as Hurricane Frances, an enormous storm, crept slowly across the northern Bahamas toward the United States. — Internet

Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan Presses Ahead with Peaceful Nuclear Disarmament

Japan will seek to conclude talks with the US on a bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement, Prime Minister Naoto Kan said in his first major policy speech on Monday.

Kan said he will seek to “widen and deepen” Japan’s nuclear relations with the US and other countries, which he said are important to Japan’s security.

Japan, which has a non-nuclear constitution, is seeking to increase its role in the international community after the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Kan also said he would continue to push for nuclear disarmament, although he noted that Japan’s government had not formally endorsed the struggle against nuclear weapons.

Kan’s statement came as the US and Japan prepared to start negotiations on a bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement that would allow Japan to receive nuclear fuel for a new fast-breeder reactor.

Japan and the US reached an agreement in principle on the nuclear talks last month, but the details have yet to be worked out.

The talks are expected to be completed by the end of the year and the agreement is expected to be signed by the end of 2005.

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**Sports**

**Spain scramble 1-1 draw to Scotland in friendly**

*New York, 4 Sept—* Comeback kid Tommy Haas upset 12th seed Sebastien Grosjean to move into the third round of the US Open on Friday.

The German former world number two, who missed the whole of last season after shoulder surgery, came through 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 in two hours 40 minutes.

Haas, the world number 45, returned to competition in February this year and has gradually climbed the rankings, recently defeating Andre Agassi on his way to claiming the title in Los Angeles. A single service break was enough for Haas to take the first set and he broke twice in the second before a brief Grosjean resurgence threatened to turn the match around.

Haas rediscovered his serving prowess in the fourth set, however, as Grosjean’s resistance crumbled.

The Frenchman, who has reached semifinals of three of the four grand slams, continues his miserable record at Flushing Meadows where his best showing was the third round in 2000. —MNA/Reuters

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**Singapore defeat Indonesia 2-0 as sides begin preparations for Tiger Cup soccer tournament**

*SINGAPORE, 4 Sept—* Goals from Noh Alam Shah and Indra Sahdan Daud gave Singapore a 2-0 win over rivals Indonesia in the Tiger Beer Challenge trophy as the two Southeast Asian nations began tuning up in preparation for the Tiger Cup, the region’s premier soccer tournament.

The match was also the first international for Indonesia’s English-born coach Peter Withe, who took charge last month from Bulgarian Ivan Kolev, who left after leading them to the Asian Cup finals in China that ended in August. Withe made the switch to Indonesia after leading Thailand for five years and guiding them to the 2002 Tiger Cup.

Played before 3,000 at the Jalan Besar Stadium, Noh Alam, unmarked on the left, opened scoring for the hosts in the 38th minute through a header after a good cross from naturalized Nigerian Itimi Dickson.

Indonesia, ranked 92nd in the world, earned a penalty on the stroke of halftime when Elie Abioy was fouled just inside the box by the city-state’s Noh Rahman. But top striker Bambang Pamungkas’s low spot kick to the bottom right corner was saved by keeper Hassan Sunny for the final play of the first 45.

Indra scored Singapore’s second in the 49th minute after a neat turn away from his marker outside the box to fire a crisp, low drive past Indonesian netminder Hendro Kartiko.

Ranked 121st in the world just behind Armenia and Benin, the win was Singapore’s first this year.

The Tiger Cup will be co-hosted by Vietnam and Malaysia in December and also features Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines, Myanmar, Laos, Indonesia and debutants East Timor.

Singapore and Indonesia play World Cup qualifiers Wednesday against Oman and Sri Lanka respectively but neither have much chance of making the finals in Germany and are focusing instead on the Tiger Cup. —Internet

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**Adriano to play side by side with Ronaldo in World Cup qualifier**

*Sao Paolo, 4 Sept—* Brazil striker Adriano, who scored seven goals as the world champions won the Copa America in Peru in July, is now hoping for a chance to play alongside his former idol Ronaldo in Sunday’s World Cup qualifier against Bolivia.

The match at the Morumbi Stadium pits the top and bottom teams in the 10-nation South American qualifying group. Brazil, unbeaten after seven games, leads with 13 points while Bolivia are bottom with six.

Adriano, who stepped in after Ronaldo was rested for the Copa America, has never started a match alongside the Real Madrid playmaker although he has played briefly alongside him three times after coming on as a substitute in friendlies.

“This is the best moment of my career and a partnership with Ronaldo would make it even better,” Adriano told reporters at Brazil’s training camp in Teresopolis. “He’s always been someone I look up to and now I’m making a dream come true.”

But coach Carlos Alberto Parreira has such an embarrassment of riches at his disposal that he has yet to decide whether Adriano will start the match.

Ronaldo’s regular partner Ronaldinho, who has been nursing an ankle injury which kept him out of Barcelona’s opening Spanish league game last weekend, looks almost certain to be fit and is ready to take his place in the team.

Adriano could still get a chance, however, against a Bolivia team which is exclusively on defence. Bolivia have lost 5-0 and 6-0 on their last two visits to Brazil and coach Ramiro Blacut has named three goalkeepers, nine defenders and only two forwards in their squad as they attempt to avoid a repeat performance.

Thirty-five-year-old midfielder Luis Cristaldo, who missed the 3-2 defeat by Ecuador last June through suspension, returns to a full-strength Bolivia team.

Brazil have had some injury problems with reserve left-back Gustavo Nery, central defender Juan, midfielder Diego and striker Luis Fabiano all pulling out. —MNA/Reuters

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**Answers for yesterday’s crossword puzzle**


**Butter Scotch**

**E A G E R L Y A R G U E N G I Y T E H R E**

**Chef Stock E T R A F H S H C**

**Funny Myth**

**C F R D R R A H E A R T E M O N A I R R B N G N A T I V E M I N F E T H E A D**

**Louis Saha of France, left, tripped past Tal Ben Haim of Israel, right, during the 2006 World Cup qualifying soccer match between France and Israel, at the Stade de France Stadium in Saint Denis, north of Paris, on 4 Sept, 2004. —Internet**

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**Valencia** (Spain), 4 Sept—Spain scrambled a 1-1 draw at home to Scotland in a friendly international on Friday in a game that was abandoned after an hour because of a floodlight failure and a water-logged pitch.

An ambitious and determined Scotland took the lead 18 minutes into the first half after Spain midfielder Ruben Baraja headed a Jamie McFadden corner into his own net.

The Scots should have gone further ahead before the half was out but sharp goalkeeping from Iker Casillas and last ditch defending from Carles Puyol prevented the visitors from evening their lead.

Spain barely managed to manufacture a scoring chance during the first half but levelled the match 12 minutes into the second when substitute Raúl scored from the penalty spot after Jose Antonio Reyes had been felled by Jackie McNamara when he ran on to a pass from his teammate. Three minutes later the game was brought to a sudden halt when the floodlights failed during a thunderstorm. —Internet

**Hewitt comes through sticky start, beat Arazi**

*New York, 4 Sept—* Lleyton Hewitt came through a sticky start to beat mercurial Moroccan Hicham Arazi 7-6, 6-1, 6-2 in the second round of the US Open on Friday.

The Australian fourth seed, winner in 2001, won after withstanding some early brilliance from the free-flowing Arazi, who squandered two chances to win the first-set tiebreak.

Hewitt received a warming for unsportsman-like behaviour after a slashing a ball away in anger in the opening set as he struggled to find his range. But having got his nose ahead, Hewitt broke the deflated Arazi’s first two service games in the second set to love and take firm control of the match. —MNA/Reuters
7:30 am  
9:00 Signature Tune Greeting  
9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment”  
9:09 Lumber Buffaloes  
9:10 Headline News  
9:12 Early Cooked Tasty Dishes “Seaweed Salad”  
9:15 National News  
9:20 Aungpung Oranges  
9:25 Myanmar National Races Cultural Dances (U Shwe Yoe & Daw Moe)  
9:30 National News  
9:35 Myanmar Modern Song “Fetch me in a hurucart”  
9:40 Concert de Trompette et Piano Intrada  
9:45 National News  
9:55 A Brief Account of Bagan  
9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and see Myanmar”  
10:00 National News  
10:05 Preview of the Pagoda Festival  
10:10 Myanmar Modern Song “Missing you so much”  
10:15 Myanmar National Races Cultural Dances (U Shwe Yoe & Daw Moe)  
10:20 Towards Penodning Ponnya Yaw Region (Part-3)  
10:25 Songs On Screen “A Diamond-studded Song”  
10:30 National News  
10:35 Photo Exhibitions of Shwedagon Pagoda  
10:40 A Short Introduction to Myanmar Saing Want (or) Myanmar Orchestras (Part-IV)  
10:45 National News  
10:50 Mann Ma-Ywy  
10:55 Kayin Dance (We Bu (or) Pau Wimwong Dance)  
11:00 National News  
11:05 Ah Lin Gyi Kyan Swa Cartoonist U Ba Gyin  
11:10 Myanmar Modern Song “Truth and Beauty”  
11:25 Myanmar Modern Song “Truth and Beauty”  
11:30 Unforgettable Customs of the Chin  
11:35 Myanmar Modern Song “Come and see Myanmar”  

Weather  

Sunday, 5 September 2004  
Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Rakhine and Mon States, isolated in Chin State and scattered in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hpakant (0.15 inches), Hamawi (2.99 inches) and Patau (2.84 inches).  

Maximum temperature on 4-9-2004 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 5-9-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 5-9-2004 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 4-9-2004 were 0.7 hours approx.  

Rainfall on 5-9-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, (0.08inch) at Baya-Aye and (0.04inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 96.97 inches at Yangon Airport, 94.02 inches at Baya-Aye and 95.75 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Baba-Aye) was 7 mph from Southwest at 16.30 hours MST on 2-9-2004. Bay inference: Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 6-9-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, scattered in Chin, Shan States, Ayeyawady, Bago Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).  

State of the sea: Seals will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-9-2004: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%  

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-9-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%  

Flood Warning  

Issued at 11.00 hrs MST on 5-9-2004  

The water level of Docketawady River at Myitnge is (5) cm above the danger level. The water level may continue to rise gradually and remain above the danger level during the next (2) days commencing noon today.  

ASLEEP IN JESUS  
DR. L. ZAU BAAN (M.B.B.S.)  
Age 50  
Youngest son of Rev. L. Zau Yaw and (Sarum A)  
Nang Hsing), and of the late Zau Kjain. The family has been in Myanmar for five generations.  

Beloved family  

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YANGON, 5 Sept — A ceremony to inaugurate Pakokku Airport in Pakokku, Magway Division, was held at the pandal near the airport this morning, with an address by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Vice-Quartermaster-General Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Director of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Tin Tun of the Ministry of Defence, Acting Commander of No 101LID Col Thein Tan, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads of the Ministry of Transport and departments concerned, local authorities, local people from Pakokku District, Pakokku, Yezagyo and Myaing Townships, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, teachers, students and dance troupes.

Speaking on the occasion, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence said that Pakokku Airport had a 3,600-foot-long earth runway in the past. After conducting feasibility study, the new runway and airport were built in accord with the guidance of the Head of State without upgrading the old runway.

It can be seen that Pakokku Airport opened today have magnificent airport building and the control tower. The runway is 8,500 feet long tarmacked road. So, F-28 jets can land there. And, arrangements are being made for upgrading the runway to become 10,000 feet long one.

(See page 9)

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe unveils the signboard of Pakokku Airport. — 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 cannot 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.