Vice-Senior General Maung Aye goes on inspection tour of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project

YANGON, 8 Sept — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye who was arriving Mandalay, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, senior military officers, the Mandalay mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, went on inspection tour of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project yesterday afternoon.

First, they were welcomed by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Commander of No 33 LID Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung and officials and project engineers.

At the briefing hall, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party heard reports on background history of the project, the chosen site for the project, and pre-engineering works and salient points of the project presented by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, tasks being carried out for building of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) at both Mandalay bank and Sagaing bank by Mandalay bank in-charge Deputy Superintending Engineer U Htay Myint and Sagaing bank in-charge Deputy Superintending Engineer U San Win.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun presented reports on situation of the approach road to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

In response to the reports, Vice-Senior General (See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strive for emergence of modern airport with set standards

Development of a region or a nation depends on its transport. Good transport ensures not only the regional or national economic development but also the strengthening of friendship among the national people.

Therefore, the Government of the Union of Myanmar has been striving for the improvement of transport by taking systematic measures. Roads running from north to south area being upgraded and at the same time the new ones are being built so that travels between towns and villages in the eastern and western parts of the nation can become smooth and easy.

The construction of Anisakhan airport in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, is one of the projects for building river-crossing bridges, ports, airports and upgrading the old ones.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, together with responsible officials, inspected the construction site of Anisakhan airport in PyinOoLwin on 7 September and gave necessary instructions regarding the work being done.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that Anisakhan airport is to be upgraded to be a modern one with a runway that can be used by jets, that measures are to be taken systematically so that each construction task can meet the standards set.

It was before World War II that Anisakhan airport was built and its gravel runway was 4,445 feet long and 200 feet wide. And it was in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State that the old airport is being upgraded to become a modern one where Boeing jets can land. On completion, its concrete runway will be 10,000 feet long and 200 feet wide.

The construction of Anisakhan airport started in February, 2004, and it is being built by the Ministry of Transport and the Directorate of Military Engineers.

We would like to call on all those responsible of the Anisakhan airport construction project to try as much as they can to meet the standards set so that the airport they are building will become a modern airport that can handle international flights.

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

Ministry of F&R continues its coord meeting

YANGON, 8 Sept — Ministry of Finance and Economic Bank and heads of Internal Revenue Department in states and divisions presented reports on accomplishments. In assessing the reports, the minister gave necessary instructions. After Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung had reviewed banking services, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe gave supplementary reports. Next, the minister made a closing speech.— MNA

Literacy, Forrunner of Education

- * Education, in this world
  - Is vital.
  - Only with it’s inclusion in this world
  - Will there be smoothness, success.
  - By the same token, in religion
  - It is vital.
  - Only with education
  - Can you step, Toward heaven.
  - To acquire it you must
  - First be literate.
  - Only when literate
  - Can you seek noble education.
  - Literacy as education forerunner
  - Let’s seek it today.

(Honouring the International Literacy Day)

Education

Minister leaves for Switzerland

YANGON, 7 Sept — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Education U Than Aung left here for Geneva, Switzerland, by air yesterday to attend the 17th International Education Conference which will be held from 8 to 11 September.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister at Prime Minister’s Office U Than Shwe, Deputy Ministers for Education U Myo Nyunt and Col Aung Myo Min, directors-general of the departments under the Ministry of Education.

MKF gets new training hall

YANGON, 8 Sept — The new training hall of the Myanmar Karatedo Federation at Aung San Stadium was inaugurated by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint yesterday.

After the minister unveiled the signboard of the hall, President of the MKF Dr Ye Naing Wynn reported to him on arrangements for Myanmar karatedo athletes to win medals in international karatedo events and future plans.

Next, wellwishers donated cash to the MKF. Mr Huang of ZTE Corp Chief (Yangon Office) presented US$ 15,000; MKF Vice-President Managing Director of Mingala Co U Zaw Min K 1.05 million, MKF Vice-President K 1.55 million, and Executive of MKF Managing Director of Myanmar Millennium Group U Min Zayar Hlaing K 1.25 million.

Cultural performing arts of DPRPW continues

YANGON, 8 Sept — The Fourth Competitions of the Cultural Performances of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare of the Ministry of Defence continued for the fourth day at No 3 Mobile Public Relations Unit in Mandalay yesterday morning.

The music solo and music troupe events were held.

Selected poems book comes out

YANGON, 8 Sept — Naing-Ngan Gonyi Literary House published the selected poems book titled “String of Pearls in the Heart” composed by Poet Myinmu Maung Naing Moe who had won National Literary Awards for four times with the aim of enabbling Myanmar literature and poems to penetrate international literature world.

It is English and Myanmar versions. A total of 61 poems out of the poet’s works were composed between 1965 and 2003 were translated by Saya Amyathar. It is available at K 1,000 each at Naing-Ngan Gonyi Literary House (Tel: 374532-725530) and Tun Oo Sarpay in Mandalay (Tel: 02-39891, 02-39801). — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun makes closing remarks at the coordination meeting. — r&ka

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint accepts US$ 15,000 for Myanmar Karatedo Federation donated by ZTE Corporation Chief (Yangon Office) Mr Huang. — nwe

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint accepts US$ 15,000 for Myanmar Karatedo Federation donated by ZTE Corporation Chief (Yangon Office) Mr Huang. — nwe

Let’s seek it today.

Nwe Cho (Trs)
1,003 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Sept — As of Tuesday, 7 September, 1,003 members of the US military have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count based on Defence Department records and AP reporting from Iraq. That count includes 1,000 service members and three military civilians.

The Defence Department’s most recent published count, as of Tuesday, 7 Sept, shows 998 US service members dead. Of those, 752 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of non-hostile causes. In addition, the Defence Department lists the deaths of three Defence Department civilians, for a total of 1,001.

The British military has reported 64 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, 10; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

According to the military’s numbers Tuesday, 860 US soldiers have died since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended. Of those, 643 died as a result of hostile action and 217 of non-hostile causes, according to the military’s numbers Tuesday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

— One soldier was killed in a roadside bomb attack Wednesday near Balad.
— Seven Marines were killed Monday in a car bomb attack near Fallujah, Iraq.
— One soldier was killed when his convoy was hit by a roadside bomb near Baghdad late Monday.
— One soldier died early Tuesday from wounds sustained during an unspecified attack in Baghdad.
— One soldier was killed in a roadside bomb attack near Qayyarah, just north of Baghdad.
— Two soldiers were killed in a rocket-propelled grenade strike during clashes in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City early Tuesday.
— One soldier was killed by small arms fire Tuesday in west Baghdad.

Internet

Chinese DM says China-Jordan ties to be developed

BEIJING, 7 Sept—China and Jordan should work together to expand bilateral exchanges and cooperation, said Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan here Monday.

Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and state counselor, made the remarks at a meeting with Khalid Sarayreh, chairman of Joint Chief of Staff of Jordanian Armed Forces.

He said that the friendly relations and cooperation between China and Jordan have developed in a sustained way since the two countries forged diplomatic ties more than 20 years ago.

The two nations have conducted effective cooperation in the fields of politics, economy and culture. Cao expressed his appreciation for Jordan’s adherence to the one-China policy.

He said that the relationship between the two armies has also grown in recent years, noting that the mutual visits by high ranking officials have helped promote the friendship and mutual understanding between the two armies.

MNA/Xinhua

Four US soldiers killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 8 Sept — Guerrillas killed four American soldiers in separate attacks in Baghdad on Tuesday, the US military said.

In Baghdad’s sprawling Shite Sadr City slum, guerrillas with rocket-propelled grenades killed one soldier and wounded two, the US Army said.

In a separate attack, guerrillas armed with small arms killed one soldier in the western part of the city, the military said.

A US Army spokesman said two other US soldiers were killed in the Baghdad area on Tuesday. He did not elaborate. The US death toll in Iraq on Tuesday reached 1,000 nearly 18 months after American-led forces invaded the country, the White House said.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the latest Pentagon figures showed that 997 American troops and three civilian employees of the Defence Department had been killed in Iraq. A defence official confirmed the milestone toll.

With President George W Bush under sharp criticism from Democrats — including presidential candidate John Kerry — for invading Iraq without support from major allies, the milestone is expected to play a major role in debate ahead of the November election.

The rising death toll includes more than a dozen US troops killed in fighting and attacks by guerrillas since Friday. Nearly 7,000 American troops have also been wounded since the invasion.

MNA/Reuters

Kyushu Island bracing for Typhoon Songda

TOYKO, 7 Sept — Japan’s southernmost main island of Kyushu was bracing for torrential rain and high winds on Monday, as the third typhoon in three weeks threatened the region.

Typhoon Songda has wreaked havoc in more southerly islands over the past two days, injuring 21 people in and near Okinawa, cutting electricity to about 30,000 households and forcing schools to close.

Songda, the most powerful typhoon to hit Okinawa in several years, stranded tourists in the popular holiday area as flights and ferries were cancelled.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian women kidnapped in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Sept—Two Italian women working for a humanitarian group in Iraq have been kidnapped in Baghdad.

Witnesses said armed men stormed the offices of A Bridge for Baghdad, abducting Simona Pari and Simona Torretta, both 29, and two Iraqis.

More than 100 foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003. Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi held emergency talks with key ministers to discuss the crisis.

They issued a statement saying they had organized a meeting with representatives of the opposition for Wednesday, “convinced that the unity of the country is the way to respond to terrorism”.

One of the Iraqis captured was a male engineer who worked for the humanitarian group.

The other Iraqi, a woman, was believed to work for another Italian organization.

MNA/Reuters

Singapore to spend millions to help disabled children

SINGAPORE, 7 Sept—The Singapore Government will spend a total of 15 million Singapore dollars (about 8.8 million US dollars) over the next five years to fund special early intervention programmes aimed at helping children with special disabilities.

According to local Press reports, this was announced at a symposium on early intervention held on Monday.

The government will also give out some 15,000 CD-ROMs which give basic tips on how to care for children with disabilities from autism to dyslexia.

Last year, the government spent 2.2 million Singapore dollars (about 1.3 million US dollars) to help lessen the financial burden on parents whose children have special disabilities.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi police stand outside the office of the Italian charity Un Ponte Per Baghdad (Bridge to Baghdad). Armed men kidnapped two Italian women working for the charity and two Iraqi aid workers from their Baghdad office recently. —Internet
Sudan: US to smash us like Iraq

Addis Ababa, 7 Sept—Washington’s threat of sanctions against Sudan over the Darfur crisis is part of a US conspiracy aimed at destroying the government in Khartoum as it did in Iraq and Somalia, a senior Sudanese official said.

“Sudan is not afraid of the threat of sanctions by the United States, which is using the crisis in Darfur to weaken and destroy the government of Sudan in a similar fashion in which they devastated Iraq and Somalia,” said Angelo Boda, Deputy Speaker of Sudan’s parliament. Boda, speaking at a news conference in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on Monday, was referring to the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 and US support of a Somalia peace operation that ended in humiliation in 1993. The UN Security Council gave Sudan 30 days to disarm and prosecute Arab Janjaweed militia accused of killing, raping and driving villagers from their land in an 18-month conflict or face unspecified sanctions. The deadline expired on 30 August.

US Ambassador John Danforth has warned that the threat of sanctions was not going to go away and the European Union said on Saturday it would draw up sanctions against Khartoum, including possible measures against its oil industry, which could be enacted at the request of the United Nations. — Internet

Bangladesh achieves significant growth in tourism

Dhaka, 7 Sept—Bangladesh achieved significant growth both in number of tourist arrival and amount of income from them during the first quarter (January-March) period of the current year.

The performance of Bangladesh in the sector is significant because the growth has been achieved virtually without any marketing effort, The New Nation newspaper reported Sunday.

According to the statistics available from the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (the Bangladesh Tourist Corporation), the national tourist organization, the total number of tourist arrival into the country during the first three months of the year was 72,944 against a total of 58,258 during the corresponding period last year. This represents an increase of 25.20 per cent.

During the same period, the country earned 21.11 million US dollars compared to 941.9 million (15.7 million dollars) during the corresponding period last year, an increase of 34.39 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua

Panamanian NGO, UNICEF join hands in protecting minors

Panama City, 7 Sept—A local non-governmental organization, Casa Alhama, and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) will join their hands in protecting the minors by signing a cooperation agreement, local Press reported Monday.

The agreement, signed on August 24, seeks a more efficient way for protecting children and adolescents under 18 in Latin America and the Caribbean from violence, abuse, abandonment, economic and sexual exploitation, and human trafficking, said a statement issued by the regional UNICEF office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The two sides, according to the agreement, shared the idea that solutions to the social problem affecting the minors should involve the creation of opportunities, namely, public policies on education, health, housing, employment and protection. — MNA/Xinhua

Cuba reiterates threat from US armed aggression

Havana, 7 Sept—Cuba’s Parliament Speaker Ricardo Alarcon said Monday the Bush Administration’s relations with the United States has never ruled out the possibility of an armed attack against the island.

Alarcon, who also oversees the Cuban Government’s relations with the United Nations, reiterated the threat to the local press.

The Cuban politician, called James Cason, Chief of the US Interests Section in Cuba, “a fourth-class bureaucrat,” and said “he is in Cuba to cheat.”

Alarcon said US Secretary of State Colin Powell left open the possibility of carrying out a military attack against Cuba.

When answering the question of why the United States does not use military force against Cuba as it did against Iraq, Powell did not say that force should not be used at all, but argued that the same strategy cannot always be used, as there are other means, like political and economic pressure and subversion, Alarcon recalled. — MNA/Xinhua

Families flee US bombardment of Fallujah

Baghdad, 7 Sept—Aljazeera reported that heavy smoke was seen spewing over the industrial neighbourhood in the city.

The general hospital had received an undetermined number of civilian casualties and panic swept the city, AFP reported.

The US military said the bombardment was in reprisal for an earlier attack on US positions.

“We are responding after being under fire. We are hitting enemy positions in the city since 1830 (1430 GMT). We are using aircraft and artillery fire,” said US Marine spokesman Lieutenant Colonel TV Johnson.

However, Iraqi sources said it was civilians who were killed in the barrage on the city.

A central Fallujah hospital official, Dr Muhammad Aboud, said the dead included an eight-year-old child and a 65-year-old man. — Internet

Drive safely
Kerry vows to withdraw US troops out of Iraq

WASHINGTON, 7 Sept— US Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said on Monday that he would try to pull American troops out of Iraq within four years.

“We want those troops home, and my goal would be to try to get them home in my first term,” Kerry told voters at a campaign stop in Pennsylvania.

Kerry, meeting later with miners in West Virginia, said that the United States is carrying the burden in casualties and cost in Iraq.

“This President rushed to war without a plan to win the peace, and he’s cost all of you 200 billion US dollars that could have gone to schools, could have gone to health care, could have gone to prescription drugs, could have gone to our Social Security,” he said.

“It’s the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time,” he said.

As of September 3, 976 US soldiers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003.

Of those, 730 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of non-hostile causes, according to the US Defence Department records. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi captors set new conditions for release of French hostages

BAGHDAD, 7 Sept— The Iraqi captors of two French journalists on Monday gave France 48 hours to accept new conditions to free the hostages, according to a statement released on a web site.

The militants listed the new conditions as follows: France accept a truce offered by al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden, pay a ransom of five million US dollars and pledge not to get involved in Iraq militarily or commercially.

The militants said in the statement, whose authenticity could not be confirmed, that France has 48 hours to accept or reject the new conditions.

The two journalists, Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, were reportedly kidnapped on their way from Bahgdad to the Iraqi Shiite holy city of Najaf on 20 August. — MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka increases domestic gas price

COLOMBO, 7 Sept— The price of a cylinder of 12.5 kilos domestic gas increased by 99 rupees (about 96 US cents) from the previous 690 rupees to 789 rupees, which was effective midnight Sunday in capital Colombo, Shell Gas Lanka Limited said.

The company, one of the main domestic gas distributors in the country, said that it was compelled to revise the price as a result of the escalating price on the global market in the past few months.

This is the second price increase for domestic gas in the country since early August when the government revoked the subsidy. Since the beginning of this year, the domestic gas price had remained unchanged at 620 rupees (about 6 US dollars) until 2 August when the price increased by 70 rupees (about 8 US cents) to 690 rupees (about 6.7 US dollars). — MNA/Xinhua

Intl meeting on chemical arms opens in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 7 Sept— An international meeting on chemical arms, attended by representatives from over 45 countries, opened here Monday.

The two-day meeting is aimed at addressing the technical questions that are part of the “Convention on Chemical Arms” and their relation with respect to Customs. The Argentine Foreign Ministry said that Government officials will take part in the discussion with representatives of the private sector linked to the chemical industry.

The discussion will be aimed “essentially at the probe of the Customs control on the imports and exports of chemical weapons,” said the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, the Director-General of the Organization for the Banning of Chemical Arms (OPAQC), based in The Hague, Holland, opened the meeting at the headquarters of Foreign Ministry of Argentina, San Martin Palace.

The meeting is presided by Ambassador Carlos Di Cerisano, Director for International Security, Nuclear and Space Issues of the Argentine Foreign Ministry, as the host of the event. — MNA/Xinhua

German Volkswagen to establish company in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, 7 Sept— The United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed an agreement with German car maker Volkswagen on Monday to establish a holding company in Abu Dhabi, the official WAM news agency reported.

A contract was signed in the Fallujah Mujahedin, which gave the channel a videotape in which it said the drivers had been transporting supplies to US forces.

The company will launch a campaign to force firms and foreign troops to leave Iraq. About two dozen foreign hostages have been killed. — MNA/Reuters

UN inspectors have no evidence Iraq had developed drones

UNITED NATIONS, 8 Sept — UN inspectors said they had no evidence that Iraq had developed drones capable of delivering chemical or biological weapons, as the Bush Administration contended in making its case for war, according a report obtained on Tuesday.

The existence of the drones before the US invasion of Iraq in March 2003 were used in part by the United States to justify the war. They also created a controversy in the UN Security Council, with US officials arguing then-chief inspector Hans Blix had buried details of a robust unpiloted vehicle programme in a 170-page report on Iraqi weapons.

More recently, Charles Duelfer, now headed the US effort on Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction, told Congress in April that one of the drones went beyond the 97-mile limit set by the United Nations, perhaps as far as 500 kilometres or 312 miles. The new report from Dimitris Perricos, the acting chief of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, or UNMOVIC, said Iraq had experimented with air frame and design changes for small drones from 1999 until March 2003 “within its limited resources and technical constraints.”

But the report said “the information available to UNMOVIC so far suggests that the concept of these RPVs/UAVs (remotely piloted and unmanned aerial vehicles) was for conventional military purposes such as air defence training, data collection and surveillance”. The report, which the UN Security Council will discuss on Wednesday, also said it had found no evidence that Iraq had “achieved prohibited ranges or of the development of RPV/UAV systems for the delivery” of chemical or biological agents. From an engineering viewpoint, the drones could have been capable of a longer range were modifications made, the report said.

But the commission had no evidence from its documents or past interviews “that such modifications were actually accomplished or planned”. — MNA/Reuters
**Sustainable energy called for at world conference**

**SYDNEY, 7 Sept —** Delivery of sustainable energy has been called for at the world’s principal energy event that opened here Sunday.

World Energy Council Chairman Antonio Del Rosario told the 19th World Energy Congress that energy sustainability “is one of the critical issues facing humanity.”

About 2,000 attendants from across the world, including government officials, representatives of world’s leading energy executives, are participating in the five-day congress, whose theme is Delivering Sustainability: Opportunities and Challenges for the Energy Industry.

Del Rosario said developing countries, particularly those with large populations, would all the more need sustainable energy development in their pursuit of prosperity.

He pointed to the fact that the price of crude oil has risen from about 10 US dollars a barrel to 90 dollars for the past few years, stressing on the need of sustainable energy.

“Today, the markets are re-minding us to anticipate the future sooner,” he said. He called for enhanced exchange of experience, new technology, and policy adjustments to achieve energy sustainability.

The World Energy Congress is a triennial event hosted by the World Energy Council, where major issues facing the global energy industry are discussed. The current congress’ programme enlisted 34 discussion sessions with topics ranging from Asia’s nuclear energy to geothermal in Asia’s nuclear energy.

“The world needs a new energy model,” Del Rosario said, “and we can only achieve that through working together.”

**ASEAN countries recognize China’s ‘market economy’ status**

**BEIJING, 7 Sept —** The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has recognized China as a ‘market economy’, boosting the Communist trading giant’s quest to get similar status from countries like India and the US.

The announcement was made in Jakarta shortly after the third consultation made in Jakarta shortly after the third consultation between ASEAN nations and China. (MNA/Khurshid)

Bo said China will make more efforts to increase its trade volume with ASEAN, one of China’s most important trading partners and together they have promising economic cooperation in the future.

“Their contribution is tremendous,” he said.

ASEAN’s exports to and imports from China reached 47.3 billion US dollars and 30.9 billion US dollars in 2003 respectively. These represent an increase of 51.7 per cent and 31.2 per cent respectively from the previous year.

**Senior Chinese leader arrives in Portugal**

**PORTO (Portugal), 8 Sept —** Senior Chinese leader Jia Qinglin arrived here Tuesday on a three-day official goodwill visit to Portugal aimed at promoting exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.

In a statement released upon his arrival, Jia, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said that Portugal has made outstanding achievements in its modernization drive while playing a unique role in international and regional affairs.

**Arroyo says visit to China highly successful**

**MANILA, 8 Sept —** Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said on Tuesday that her state visit to China was highly successful with some “breakthroughs” made in the agreements concerning the South China Sea and military and security cooperation.

Invited to speak at a breakfast forum organized by the local Press organization Manila Overseas Club, Arroyo said she was happy with the visit with the visit from September 1 to 3 to China, which she described as “a very good trip” and “very worthwhile”.

She said that with five government agreements and business agreements signed, bilateral relations have enjoyed a big step forward, citing the agreement between Manila and Beijing to keep high-level visits and prepare for the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries next year.

She said that the two governments also agreed to facilitate visa-issuing process because the Philippines wishes to have China as its “number one tourist guest,” as China is a potential huge market for tourism of the country.

**India, Pakistan discuss trade in petro products**

**NEW DELHI, 7 Sept —** The issue of export of diesel to Pakistan from India came up for discussion on Monday during talks on cooperation in the energy sector between the two countries.

“(Diesel imports) have been discussed and we will take it up in detail when petroleum ministers of both countries meet,” Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri told newsmen after meeting India’s Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar.

Aiyar said he flagged off the issue of export of diesel and other petro-products like petrochemicals to Pakistan but details were not finalized.

“We will work out the details when I meet the Petroleum Minister of Pakistan,” he said while declining to give a time-frame when the two ministers would meet.

Pakistan imports 4.5 million tons of diesel every year from Kuwait and other Middle East countries, a requirement that New Delhi has proposed to meet by laying a pipeline from Jalandhar in northern India to Lahore in Pakistan.

**Indian scientists achieve breakthrough in TB treatment**

**NEW DELHI, 7 Sept —** Indian scientists have achieved a major breakthrough in tuberculosis treatment by finding a new molecule to cure the disease, Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal announced here on Monday.

“It is a day to be proud as Indians. We will be recognized as world leaders in pharmaceutical and drug development henceforth,” he told reporters here.

“Internationally, efforts are being made to find the new molecules and the breakthrough has come from India,” he added. Sibal said the finding “would help reduce treatment time from six-to-eight months to only two months.”

The molecule “Sudotorb” was a result of public-private partnership under the new millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative Project, launched by CSIR LUPIN with other institutions, he said. — MNA/PTI
Under Myanmar-US cooperation programme, the 9th opium yield survey was conducted from 24 February to 3 March 2003 in Shan State. — MNA

Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force and local people destroy poppy fields in Kyaukme Township, Shan State (North). — MNA

The Government has designated the drug elimination as a national task and has been cooperating with NGOs, UN agencies, neighbouring countries and the subregion countries to implement it.

Members of Myanmar-US opium yield survey team seen conducting opium yield survey. — MNA

Poppy-substitute perennial crops plantation in Mongma region, Shan State (East). — PBAEDPA


Endeavours to fight against the menace of narcotic drugs

Local farmers in Pinlaung Township, Shan State (South), destroy poppy field. — MNA
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye ...

(From page 1)

Maung Aye made a speech on the occasion. In his address he said that Myanmar engineers are capable of building bridges including drawing design and every construction phase through their own knowledge and they are to compile experiences in overcoming difficulties, he added. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected tasks being carried out for building on Mandalay bank and installation of frames at RP 1 and RP 2, went to Sagaing bank by watercraft and inspected installation of frames at RP 7 and RP 8 and progress in building of approach bridge.

The main bridge of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) is of steel frame.

The total length including approach bridges from both banks of Mandalay and Sagaing would be 5,614 feet. It can withstand 60 tons of loads and would be four-lane bridge being implemented by Public Works.

Up to first of September, only Ayeyawady Bridge (Inwa) could be built on Ayeyawady river which is the main artery of Myanmar.

The main bridge of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) with four-lane which can withstand 60 tons of loads is being built at a distance of 2,000 feet upstream the present Inwa Bridge. In the time of the State Peace and Development Council, the present Government is building one bridge after another for ensuring smooth and secure transport.

Nowadays, seven bridges successfully built on Ayeyawady river by Public Works of the Ministry of Construction are Nawady Bridge in Bago Division, Maubin Bridge, Bo Myat Tun Bridge and Ayeyawady Bridge (Dadaye) in Ayeyawady Division, Bala Min Htin Bridge in Kachin State, Anawrahta Bridge and Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) in Magway Division.

The Ministry of Construction, on its part, is building rail-cum-road Thandwin Bridge (Mawlamyne) which is the largest and the longest one in Myanmar based on such experiences gained from construction of bridges. After inspecting progress in building Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon), Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived back Mandalay by car and inspected development tasks of Mandalay.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects progress of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon). — MNA

Domestic Products Expo to be held

Yangon, 8 Sept — Domestic Products Expo to be organized by the Ministry of Cooperatives will be held at Cooperatives Commercial Centre (Saya San Plaza) here from 26 October to 1st November.

Meetings to organize ASEAN-India Motor Racing held

Yangon, 8 Sept — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint this afternoon delivered an address at the meeting of the ASEAN-India Motor Racing Supervisory Committee for organizing ASEAN-India Motor Racing and participation of Myanmar in it at Padamya Hall of Indoor Stadium-I in Thuwunna.

Also present were members of the supervisory committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and members of the work committee.

First, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave a speech. Director U Than Zaw of Sports and Physical Education Department reported on organizing ASEAN-India Motor Racing and participation of Myanmar in the racing. Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and officials gave suggestions.

After attending to the needs, the minister gave the concluding remarks. — MNA
Prime Minister attends…

(from page 16)

For uplift of the education standard of the entire nation, the following measures are carried out harmoniously.

— Enhancement of modern science and technology in every sector for the development of the nation,
— Producing more academicians and technicians in all fields,
— Ensuring literacy for all citizens,
— Providing access to permanent learning at any time for people of all ages and standards of education for creating a continuous learning society.
— Widening of the vision to differentiate between right and wrong and the will to contribute to the national interest in a way.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views booths to mark International Literacy Day 2004 and UN Literacy Decade. — MNA

With the aim of upgrading education of the entire nation and Education for All, endeavours to create accessibility of Basic Education for everyone, include systematically drawn up and practically implemented plans for the completion of primary school education for all school-age children and eradicate adult illiteracy.

The Union of Myanmar is endeavouring to enhance education through two parallel streams—Formal Education and Non-formal Education. This is being done by the State with the aims of creating a Learning Society in Myanmar, becoming Lifelong Learners and creating Non-formal Education. With the aim of upgrading education of the entire nation and Education for All, endeavours to create accessibility of Basic Education for everyone, include systematically drawn up and practically implemented plans for the completion of primary school education for all school-age children and eradicate adult illiteracy.

With regards to all school-age children being in schools and retaining in schools, the Education Promotion Programme (Second Phase) 1999 was conducted as a national movement. Therefore, the rate of enrolment of five-year-old children has been increased yearly. It was only 91 per cent in the academic year 1999-2000. But in 2004-2005 academic year, it has increased to 96.56 per cent. This is also the outcome of the cooperation and collaboration among the community and the organizations of well-wishers.

In addition to these regular programmes, Non-formal Primary Education Programmes for those school-age children who have difficulties to attend school and Primary School Programme for those who have completed primary education are being enhanced and implemented. The Union of Myanmar is carrying out the five rural development tasks for raising the economic and living standards of the rural people, including upgrading of education and health standards. In doing so, Non-formal Education is the most effective educational mode to promote regional and educational developments of the rural people.

Efforts are made continuously by the Union of Myanmar in cooperation with the entire nationals as national duty for ensuring literacy for all citizens. As a result, the literacy rate has been increased.

The country-wise literacy movement could help increase the literacy rate of adults from 83 percent in 1996 to 92.2 per cent in 2003.

The significance of the year 2004 is that under the guidance of the Ministry of Education literacy programme based on the regional needs was implemented in each state and division, with the participation of regional authorities, social organizations and the community. Specific achievements could be gained by implementing these programmes. As a result, the outcomes of the literacy programmes in 2004 are:

— Over 3,900 persons from remote areas have become literate through “3 Rs” programmes of border areas, Lawkai, Kutkai and Muse townships in Kokang region, Shan State (North); Hsan Oo Lwin Township, Hsan Oo Lwin District, Monghay, Mongpyin, Mongkhok, Monkong, Mongyang, Monghay, Mongyawn, Tachileik and Kengtung townships in Kengtung region, and Buthidaung Township in Rakhine State; About 410,000 persons from remote areas, such as Mongpyin, Mongkhok, Mongton, Mongyang, Monghay, Mongyawn, Tachileik, and Kengtung townships in Kengtung region and Buthidaung Township in Rakhine State;

— Over 71,000 persons have been literate through state-level literacy programmes in Kayah, Chin (East) and Shan (North) states;

— Nearly 180,000 persons have become literate through follow-up literacy programmes in the states and divisions which have completed eradication of illiteracy. These numbers total over 250,000 literate persons from the special summer literacy programme in 2004, and increase the percentage of adult literacy to 93.3 per cent, which is a good result to be proud of nationally.

In conjunction with literacy movement, to upgrade literacy skills, generate more family income and to improve quality of life of the literate people, Continuing Education Programmes are being conducted, and so 481 Community Learning Centres were opened in 2003 and the number of the centres of this kind has now increased to 855. For continuing education rural libraries were opened. At present, there are 7,364 rural libraries. Furthermore, to realize the plans for the State and Division-based literacy programme in 2004, NFE Online Capacity Building Training Programme which makes use of e-Education system, an innovation in Non-formal Education, and education college level) to Ma Kay Zin Oo (2nd year, pre-on-job training (702), Toungoo Education College), Ma Thu Thu Soe (2nd year, pre-on-job training (702), Mawlamyine Education College) and Ma Ei Mo Zar Myint (2nd year, pre-on-job training (702), Pathet Education College), article contest (open division) to Maung Zaw Lin (Myanmar, MA course-A, Kalay University, Sagaing Division), and SAT Daw Khin Mar Kyi (Kinh Khyaw Education) of the Union of Myanmar to promote literacy among people of Myanmar with a profound national spirit that could help achieve the fruitful results of “Literacy for All” and “Education for All” programmes.

It was the concerted effort of the government, individuals, organizations of well-wishers, and the people of Myanmar with a profound national spirit that could help achieve the fruitful results of “Literacy for All” and “Education for All” programmes.
The problem of narcotic drugs is an evil legacy of the colonialists. It is jeopardizing the nation’s dignity and social norms, while endangering the whole mankind. As the matter is linked to the sincere hill people of the nation, the Government is drawing up delicate and wider anti-drug plans. The problem of narcotic drugs occurs not only within the territory of Myanmar, but also reaches beyond all national boundaries, and drug trafficking has become a transnational crime. In this regard, the Government has designated the drug elimination as a national task and has been cooperating with NGOs, UN agencies, neighbouring countries and the subregion countries to implement it.

Myanmar has accepted the United State’s request to jointly conduct region-wise opium-yield and cultivation survey and production estimation in the country. Myanmar-US joint opium-yield survey has been going on since 1993. Since then, a team of US experts has been collaborating with local experts to conduct surveys and evaluations in different regions. The team conducted surveys in various regions and conducted follow-up surveys to assess the effectiveness of the alternative crop cultivation programs.

The Myanmar-US joint opium-yield survey has been conducted annually since 1993, and has been continuously improving its methodology and effectiveness. The survey involves the collection of sample data from various regions, including the assessment of poppy fields, interviews with farmers, and the study of alternative crops. The results of these surveys have provided valuable insights into the extent of opium production and have informed policies aimed at reducing opium cultivation.

The Myanmar-US joint opium-yield survey has been an important tool in Myanmar’s efforts to combat opium production and to promote alternative crops. The survey has helped to inform policy decisions, allocate resources, and track progress over time. It has also been an important source of data for international organizations and researchers interested in drug policy and the challenges of drug production in Myanmar.

In addition to the Myanmar-US joint opium-yield survey, Myanmar has also been engaging in other collaborative efforts to reduce opium production. These efforts include the implementation of alternative crop programs, the provision of development assistance, and the engagement of local communities in making decisions about their own futures. By working together, Myanmar and the United States have been able to make significant progress in reducing opium production and promoting alternative livelihoods.

The Myanmar-US joint opium-yield survey has played a crucial role in these efforts, providing critical data and insights that have informed policy decisions and supported evidence-based interventions. As Myanmar continues to work towards reducing opium production and promoting sustainable development, the Myanmar-US joint opium-yield survey will remain an important tool for monitoring progress and evaluating the effectiveness of these efforts.
UN Resident Coordinator calls on Prime Minister

YANGON, 8 Sept — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt this afternoon received Mr Charles James Petrie, UN Resident Coordinator, Representative of UNDP, at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha lane. Also present at the call were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thet Naing Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General at the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

At the meeting, Mr Charles James Petrie briefed on the health projects jointly being implemented by Ministry of Health and UNDP. — MNA

Coord meeting of Yangon City Beautifying and Upgrading Work Committee held

YANGON, 8 Sept — The Yangon City Beautifying and Upgrading Work Committee held a coordination meeting at the City Hall this afternoon, with addresses by Chairman of the Work Committee 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-Aung Thein Lin.

First, the commander delivered an address, saying that with construction of modern buildings, beautifying housing estate projects, building of modern parks for public relaxation, department stores, broad roads, bridges and growing of flowery plants, Yangon City is being built to have city characteristics of international level in accord with the guidance of the Head of State and Prime Minister. During over one-year period, some modern construction tasks, progress has been made significantly. However, efforts should be made for undertaking some tasks with might and main. That is why departments concerned must coordinate tasks to meet the target by the end of 2005 so as to achieve success in upgrading the city.

Next, the mayor explained duty and functions of YCDC in beautifying the Yangon City and upgrading tasks. Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than reported on beautifying works at the junction of Sule Pagoda Road and Strand Road, beautifying of Port and tasks of the discipline enforcement committee in the area of Myanmar Port Authority, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa on functions of the discipline enforcement committee for shops and street vendors along Strand Road and the buildings beautifying work committee, and Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than on performance of the overlaps construction work committee and the bridges security and cleanliness work committee.

Chairman of the Work Committee for Collection of Materials for Upgrading the City Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe explained coordination for availability of the materials.

Officials of the work committee reported on their respective sectors. Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Huy and departmental heads reported on assistance being provided to the beautifying and upgrading tasks. Later, the commander gave the concluding remarks. — MNA

Wellwishers donate over K 1.5m, 129,632 books and periodicals to self-reliant village libraries

YANGON, 8 Sept — The second coordination meeting to open self-reliant village libraries being implemented by Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information in conjunction with the ceremony to donate cash, books and periodicals was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Street yesterday afternoon, with an address by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Aung Aung Thein.

Also present were directors-general and managing directors of departments, departmental officials, officials of Myawady Literary House and Press Studio and Registration Division, wellwishers of private literary houses, journal and magazine houses, private publishing houses and guests.

First, the deputy minister delivered an address. Next, Director-General U Chit Naing of IPRD reported on distribution of books and periodicals to self-reliant village libraries. Those present took part in the discussions.

Next, the deputy minister presented certificates of honour to 18 wellwishers who donated cash, books and periodicals in the first donation ceremony held on 17 August.

Afterwards, the deputy minister accepted K 1 million donated by U Maung Maung Aye (Maung Hayma) of Thuwunna; K 100,000 each by Daw San Yw Lyo of Latha Township; U Myint Shwe; Daw Aye Aye Thein; and U Win Swe (Chairman of WYZ Private Ltd)-Thiha Thudhamma Theingi Dr Daw Yee Yee Hla (Yuwady Chin Oo); K 50,000 each by U Tin Maung Win of Kyimyindaung; U Khine Hwe of Bogyoke Street; and U Win Maung of Pakokku; K 30,000 by Dr Mary Phyu; K 20,000 by U Myint Thein (BEHS-1 Dagon); K 18,000 by Daw Pearl (Mya Pale Khin);

(See page 15)
Rich nation farm subsidies to suffer another blow

Geneva, 7 Sept — Rich nation farm subsidies are set to suffer another blow on Wednesday when World Trade Organization (WTO) judges reaffirm a ruling against Europe’s sugar regime.

The WTO will declare again that the European Union has violated limits set by the Geneva-based organization for the export of sugar produced with subsidies, reiterating its findings of early last month, diplomats said.

While the verdict will be seen as good news for producers in Brazil, Thailand and Australia, who brought the case against the European Union, poorer growers in Africa, the Caribbean and parts of the Pacific fear it could cost them dear.

Although subsidies are usually attacked as a threat to developing country agriculture, in this case, EU sugar policy benefits poor nations in the three regions by guaranteeing their exports at market prices.

The ruling would force the EU, the world’s second biggest exporter of raw sugar, to reduce foreign sales.

Owners of huge sugar estates in Brazil, the world’s largest exporter, and their allies will celebrate at the prospects of a surge in international sales. But African producers such as Mauritius say their industry may succumb to such competition.

“We cannot compete with Brazil,” he added.

The outcome underlines the fact that while trade liberalization and sharp cuts in rich power farm subsidies — two key goals of ongoing WTO negotiations to reform world farm trade — help the world economy overall, not everyone is guaranteed to gain, economists said.

“All we believe that trade liberalization is beneficial on a global basis and in the longer term, but that does not mean that everybody is going to be a winner,” said Sam Laird, a senior researcher at the UN development agency UNCTAD.

Brazil, Thailand and Australia will win again because final verdicts from the trade body never vary much from preliminary ones, diplomats said.

The three hailed the initial condemnation of the EU on August 4 as a victory for free trade and a blow to a system they say distorts the sugar business around the world.

MNA/Reuters

Nigeria seeks full exploration of gold reserves

Lagos, 7 Sept — The Nigerian Government has called on local and foreign investors to invest in gold mining in the country to enable the nation to achieve full exploitation of its abundant gold reserves, said a government official here Monday.

Charles Nwodo, spokesman of the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, told reporters that “Nigeria has proven reserves of 120,000 ounces of gold with 99 cent still un tapped”.

He added that the government would welcome investors in gold mining to maximize returns on the deposits that had high production potential and could complement oil as major revenue earner in the near future.

Gold mining in Nigeria began with the British colonial merchants in 1936 when an inquiry for free trade and a genuine gold mining in the country, said Nwodo.

He pointed out that some investors including the African Mining and Exploration Company based in London have shown great interest in investing in the mining of nation’s abundant gold deposits. — MNA/Xinhua

Mozambique, Zimbabwe to fight against contraband

Maputo, 7 Sep — The Mozambique and Zimbabwe authorities have agreed to jointly strengthen their fight against contraband, Mozambican media reported on Monday.

The decision was taken during a meeting between Mozambique’s foreign minister, Gershem Pasi, and his Zimbabwean counterpart,

Amazon cooperation treaty organization to meet in Brazil

Brasilia, 7 Sept — Foreign ministers from the member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) will meet on September 14 in the Brazilian city of Manaus to discuss the group’s Strategic Plan 2004-2012, local Press said Monday.

The meeting will be the first since the ACTO Permanent Secretariat was created in Brasilia 20 months ago. The ACTO groups Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela, former Ecuadorian president Rosalia Arteaga is heading the Secretariat.

According to the group’s Public Relations Office, the strategic plan will “respond to the challenges that the Amazon region faces in its sustainable development.”

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam reports mysterious duck deaths

Hanoi, 7 Sept — Over 180 ducks in Vietnam’s southern Ninh Thuan Province have recently died mysteriously, according to the provincial Veterinary Bureau on Monday.

The 180 ducks out of a flock of some 2,000 in the province’s Phan Rang Town suddenly died last month, said the bureau, adding that specimens from the deaths have been sent to the Ho Chi Minh City-based Regional Veterinary Centre for testing for bird flu virus.

While awaiting the testing result, the bureau has isolated unaffected ducks to prevent possible spread of the unidentified disease.

Vietnam’s Department of Animal Health said that bird flu has either killed or led to the forced culling of 2,500 geese in northern Hai Duong Province on August 20, and around 100 chickens in central Quang Tri Province on August 19.

After having reap- peared in 11 southern provinces and cities since June 2004, bird flu did not activate in 10 out of the 11 localities. The reappearance of bird flu has either killed or led to the forced culling of over 44,000 poultry, mainly chickens and quails.

Panama normalizes relations with Venezuela

PANAMA CITY, 7 Sept — Panama on Monday normalized its relations with Venezuela.

A Press release from the Panamanian Presidency announced that Panama “normalize their diplomatic relations,” and Ven- ezuelan ambassador Franz O. Granados returned to the Central American country last Friday.

Vice-President and Foreign Minister of Panama, Samuel Lewis Navarro, received Granados on Monday.

MNA/Xinhua

Amazon cooperates treaty organization to meet in Brazil

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MNA/Xinhua

FAC T S

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 9 September, 2004

Thousands of books are free to give you knowledge free of charge.
WHO launches new initiative for health of older population

GENEVA, 7 Sept— The World Health Organization (WHO) launched on Monday a new initiative to set guidelines for community-based Primary Health Care (PHC) centres, being promoted as ideal units to provide health care to older people.

The initiative, “Towards Age-Friendly Primary Health Care”, is based on qualitative research in five countries, both developing and developed, and focuses on more leadership, training and better information for the PHC centres, WHO said in a Press release.

According to the organization, there are 600 million people in the world aged 60 years and over today, and this figure is expected to double by 2050.

It said population aging is characteristically accompanied by an increase in the burden of chronic diseases, and early detection, appropriate intervention, management and follow-up of chronic conditions take place mainly at the PHC level.

PHC centres are ideally positioned to provide the regular and extended contacts and on-going care that older persons need at community-based level, it added.

Opportunities missed by health systems to deal with or manage age-related chronic diseases will lead to increases in the incidence, prevalence and complications of these diseases and thus may take resources away from other priorities, such as child and maternal health, WHO warned.

“An age-friendly health care centre does not favour older people, but instead benefits all patients, in line with the slogan of the United Nations to create ‘A Society for All Ages’,” said Alexandre Kalache, who coordinates WHO’s activities on aging.

MENA mobile subscribers to reach 52 million by end of 2004

ABU DHABI, 7 Sept — Mobile subscribers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) will reach to 52 million by the end of 2004, due to a rapid growth in the North African markets of Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria, the local Khaleej Times reported here Monday.

John Everington, senior analyst of the Middle East and Africa at EMC, the World Cellular Database, said in 2004, the MENA has so far witnessed the liberalization of the region’s two largest markets, Iran and Saudi Arabia. The introduction of competition in the region’s largest remaining monopolies, as well as prospective new GSM operators in Yemen, Jordan and Oman, will lead to a 34.3-per cent growth in subscriber numbers in the region, he added.

Meanwhile, the launch of the region’s first 3G networks in Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar is expected to push the market up a big leap forward, the analyst was quoted as saying.

The region has enjoyed strong growth in mobile subscribers and the number of subscribers has grown to 38.8 million at the end of 2003, an increase of 40.1 per cent of 2002, showed the figures at EMC.

By December 2005, EMC forecasts total subscribers in the MENA region will climb to 40.3 million, rising to 52.1 million by the end of 2006.

Subscribers in the region will reach 61 million by the end of 2007, and 66.98 million by the end of 2008, and 71 million by the end of 2009, according to EMC.

Illegal immigrants boat caught in southern Italy

ROME, 7 Sept — About 150 illegal immigrants aboard a small boat were rescued by Italian Coast Guard off southern Italy Monday and were taken to the island of Lampedusa off Sicily, local media reported Monday.

Authorities said these asylum seekers will be taken to a reception center in the island.

Lampedusa, closer to the coast of Tunisia than to the Italian mainland, is often in the headlines because of the large number of immigrant arrivals.

Last month 275 immigrants, including 89 children, arrived in Lampedusa. It was the largest single group ever to land there.

Three female Bengal tigers cubs, with gold, white, and brown fur colours, from left, look from their box on 4 Sept. 2004, in a photo released by the Hollywood and Safari Park in Schloss Holte-Stukenbrock, western Germany, on 6 Sept, 2004.—INTERNET

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Vijay Singh takes over world No 1 from Woods

NORTON (Massachusetts), 8 Sept— Fiji's majestic Vijay Singh took over as world number one from Tiger Woods after winning the Deutsche Bank Championship by three strokes at the Tournament Players Club of Boston on Monday.

Singh and Woods finished with identical 69s after their showdown but the Fijian had done enough in the earlier rounds as he finished on 16-under-par to eclipse the deposed Woods and defending champion Adam Scott, who tied for second on 13-under.

The 41-year-old Singh, the hottest player of the last 14 months, clinched his sixth PGA Tour title this season, the biggest haul of his career, and his 10th since the start of last year.

"My focus today was to play well for the fans and to do something special for them," the former world number one said.

"It's been a tough year but I've never lost my confidence, I've just kept on believing in myself. Today was the reward for that," he added.

Singh's 64, which included an eagle at the par-4 12th, was the lowest ever in a PGA Tour event.

"I've never felt better. I'm very happy," Singh said.

Sports

Cuban Olympic champion announces retirement from boxing

HAVANA, 7 Sept—Two-time Olympic boxing champion Mario Kindelan of Cuba announced Monday his retirement in spite of considering his discipline as an important part of his life.

Kindelan, 32, who won the gold medal in the 69-kilo category in Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004, assured the local press "time for retirement has come. Boxing is my life, but I must retire."

"I became 32 last August 10, but I don't say goodbye because of the age but for the fact that room must be left to new athletes. I believe the moment has come for me to do so," said the two-time world champion.

This technical puglist said he has obtained permission from his coaches to leave the sport, at least as a boxer.

Mario Kindelan added "I've been away from home for 17 years and I feel a need to be with my people, who have helped me a lot, now."—MNA/Xinhua

CONCACAF sends US-El Salvador match report to FIFA

NEW YORK, 7 Sept— CONCACAF officials have sent a video of the United States-El Salvador World Cup qualifier to FIFA following Saturday's ill-tempered match between the two teams.

Trinidad and Tobago referee Neal Bizian had difficulty controlling the Group A tie won 2-0 by the US.

The physical game was marred by two sendings-off and several confrontations between the players after El Salvador goalkeeper Santos Rivera appeared to kick US midfielder DaMarcus Beasley in the face in the 58th minute.

"We have sent a match report and a (video) tape of the game to (world football's governing body) FIFA," CONCACAF spokesman Steve Torres told reporters on Monday.

Torres said the video was sent after the match report detailed the dismissals of El Salvador coach Juan Paredes and forward Denis Alas.

Alas was sent off in the 26th minute for a second bookable offence, wearing jewellery on the field. Paredes was ordered from the bench minutes later for protesting against the red card.

"It was a very odd game," said US Soccer Federation spokesman Jim Moorhouse.

"There was a lot of strange occurrences out there on the field and very little rhythm but in terms of CONCACAF sending a video tape to FIFA, we know nothing about that. That is completely up to them."—MNA/Xinhua

Judge authorizes Maradona to travel to Cuba

BUENOS AIRES, 7 Sept— A judge in Argentina Monday allowed former soccer star Diego Maradona to leave the country and travel to Cuba to receive attention for his addiction to drugs.

Judge Norberto Garcia allowed for Diego Maradona to leave for Cuba "whenever he wants" but accompanied by his father, one of his sisters or his personal physician Alfredo Cahe.

Garcia changed the initial decision he took some months ago for Maradona, 44, to remain hospitalized at Del Parque Clinic, in the western suburbs of Buenos Aires, where he underwent a detox treatment. Last August 12, Maradona, in a visit to President of Argentina Nestor Kirchner, at the Presidential Residence of Casa Rosada, requested him to be allowed to leave the country, something to which the family of the ex-player opposed (his ex-wife Claudia Villafane, his daughters and his parents).

Judge Garcia told the Press some days ago that he felt pressure around Maradona, in spite of the independence of the state branches in the country.

Diego Maradona lived for three years in Cuba, where he received attention for his addiction to drugs. According to Press versions, Maradona is about to become a father again, but this time with a young Cuban woman with whom he had a relationship while in the Caribbean country. On March 24, Maradona was urgently hospitalized due to a cocaine overdose that put him on the brink of death, in an event that shocked the world soccer.

His personal doctor, Alfredo Cahe, said the new stage in Maradona's rehabilitation in Cuba will not last less than one year and a half or two, although it all depends on Diego.

—MNA/Xinhua

Cienfuegos celebrates after Santiago Arboleda kicks the winning goal against Boca Juniors in overtime in Ft Lauderdale, Florida, on 7 Sept. 2004. Cienfuegos beats Boca Juniors 2-1.—INTERNET

CONCACAF sends US-El Salvador match report to FIFA

NEW YORK, 7 Sept— CONCACAF officials have sent a video of the United States-El Salvador World Cup qualifier to FIFA following Saturday's ill-tempered match between the two teams.

Trinidad and Tobago referee Neal Bizian had difficulty controlling the Group A tie won 2-0 by the US.

The physical game was marred by two sendings-off and several confrontations between the players after El Salvador goalkeeper Santos Rivera appeared to kick US midfielder DaMarcus Beasley in the face in the 58th minute.

"We have sent a match report and a (video) tape of the game to (world football's governing body) FIFA," CONCACAF spokesman Steve Torres told reporters on Monday.

Torres said the video was sent after the match report detailed the dismissals of El Salvador coach Juan Paredes and forward Denis Alas.

Alas was sent off in the 26th minute for a second bookable offence, wearing jewellery on the field. Paredes was ordered from the bench minutes later for protesting against the red card.

"It was a very odd game," said US Soccer Federation spokesman Jim Moorhouse.

"There was a lot of strange occurrences out there on the field and very little rhythm but in terms of CONCACAF sending a video tape to FIFA, we know nothing about that. That is completely up to them."—MNA/Xinhua

Man United goalkeeper released from US national team

NEW YORK, 7 Sept—Manchester United goalkeeper Tim Howard has been released from the US national team ahead of Wednesday's World Cup qualifier against Panama in Panama City.

Howard, who played in the United States' 2-0 victory against El Salvador in a CONCACAF Group A qualifier on Saturday, has returned to England, US officials said during the team's training session on Monday. New York/New Jersey goalkeeper Johnnie Walker will be the second choice keeper after Kasey Keller for the game against Panama.

The US lead their group with four points from two games followed by El Salvador and Panama, who have three each. —MNA/Reuters

Jennifer Capriati hits a return to Serena Williams during their quarterfinal match at the US Open in New York, on 7 Sept. 2004. Capriati won a titanic struggle with old foe Williams to reach the semi-finals with a 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory after one of the most dramatic battles in the tournament's history.—INTERNET
Wellwishers donate over…

Myanmar delegation attends ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting

YANGON, 8 Sept.—A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Economic Cooperation U Tin Win arrived back here on 6 September after attending the 36th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 2 to 5 September and related meetings.

They welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Rehabilitation Maj-Gen Sein Htaw, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein and officials. On 2 September, the minister and party attended the 7th ASEAN Investment Coordinating Council Meeting and 3rd AFTA Council Meeting. At the AIA Council Meeting, the ministers reviewed the amount of bilateral investment in the region.

At the AFTA Council Meeting, the ministers discussed the implementation of resolutions passed at 9th the ASEAN Summit, especially establishment of ASEAN Economic Community in 2020.

On 4 September, the ministers met delegations led by Minister of Trade Mr Bo Xi’dai of the People’s Republic of China and Korea exchanged views on ASEAN economic development of Asian countries and discussed promotion of trade and investment for regional economic integration. Matters relating to economic cooperation, WTO, Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and Asia and Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC).

On 5 September, a coordination meeting took place between ASEAN Economic Ministers and Minister of Commerce and Trade Mr Kamal Nath of India, Minister of Trade Mr Mark Vaile of Australia and Minister of Trade Coordination Mr Jim Sutton of New Zealand.

Myanmar delegation attended ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting.

Minister U Tin Win at the 36th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting. — L. ABDU
The Union of Myanmar is endeavouring to enhance education through two parallel streams—Formal Education and Non-formal Education. This is being done by the State with the aims of creating a Learning Society in Myanmar, becoming Lifelong Learners and creating Non-formal Education.