Dhammacariya ca, lawful-conduct; this is the way to auspiciousness.

The New Light of Myanmar

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Friday, 10 September, 2004

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

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

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


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 Thha Thara 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, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, senior military officers, the Mandalay Mayor, officials welcomed them.

In the briefing hall, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan reported that Upper Myanmar Government Press (Mandalay) was established with a view to printing necessary school textbooks in Mandalay and distributing them to basic education students from Upper Myanmar. In addition to the school textbooks, printing jobs of organizations of the State would be done. In future, the Ministry of Information would print sufficient number of basic education textbooks for the whole country.

Next, he continued to report on progress in construction of buildings of the press, arrival of parts of press machines including the modern rotary press and completion of installation, gathering of paper, ink and other related materials, water supply, coordination to ensure round-the-clock power supply, organizational set-up and planting of shade trees, windbreak trees and other crops in the compound of the press.

In response to the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions, saying that as new Government Presses have been established in Mandalay and distributing them to basic education students from Upper Myanmar. In addition to the school textbooks, printing jobs of organizations of the State would be done. In future, the Ministry of Information would print sufficient number of basic education textbooks for the whole country.

Apart from the one in Mandalay, other sub-printing houses in Kalay, Myitkyina, Lashio, Taunggyi, Kengtung, Magway and Sittway are printing and publishing newspapers for distributing them to the people daily.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects progress in installation of four-unit rotary press at Upper Myanmar Government Press (Mandalay). — MNA

Established 1914

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

The world today is experiencing a rapid development in science and technologies and therefore every nation is taking all the necessary measures to turn out educated citizens and to constantly raise the educational standard of the people.

Since September 8 was designated as the International Literacy Day in 1967 by the United Nations Organization, Myanmar, like the other member nations of the organization, has commemorated the Literacy Day every year.

The International Literacy Day and the United Nations Literacy Decade commemorative ceremony was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall in Yangon on the morning of 8 September and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, also Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee, attended the ceremony and delivered an address on the occasion.

In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt called on all those responsible in the education sector and the entire people to strive for the literacy movement to ensure that all Myanmar citizens become literate persons creating a constant learning Myanmar society.

Myanmar has started her literacy campaign since Bagan era, during which the tradition of teaching boys and girls at monastic education schools free from any gender discrimination was born.

Today, the Government of Myanmar is taking steps to ensure literacy for all citizens and to provide access to permanent learning at any time for people of all ages and standards of education for creating a continuous learning society. Only if all are educated will their vision to distinguish between right and wrong and deeds and misdeeds improve. In addition, they will be able to ward off the deceits of others and the harmful acts of destructive elements to push the nation towards the wrong road with ill intention.

As the Government is fulfilling all the requirements to ensure literacy for each and every citizen and success for Education for All programmes, the community, social organizations and wellwishers, on their part, are rendering enthusiastic cooperation and collaboration. As a result, great strides have been made. The literacy rate of adults has increased from 83 per cent in 1996 to 92.2 per cent in 2003 and 93.3 per cent in 2004.

We would like to call on responsible personnel in the education sector and the entire people to continuously lend themselves in the literacy movement to maintain what has already been achieved and to ensure greater success.

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

Myanmar delegation leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 9 Sept — The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu left here for Thailand by air this morning to attend the Greater Mekong Sub-region High Level Public-Private Consultation Meeting to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 9 to 11 September.

The deputy minister was accompanied by senior officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the Ministry of Industry-1, the Ministry of Industry-2, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the Ministry of Commerce and private entrepreneurs led by Vice-President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung.

Meeting 3/2004 of MSWF held

YANGON, 9 Sept — Meeting 3/2004 of the Myanmar Sports Writers’ Federation was held this afternoon at Aung San Stadium here.

At the meeting, President of the MSWF Dr Tin Tun Oo briefed on the extension of members of the MSWF and arrangements being made by the federation to publish sports journals and calendars. Those participants also took part in discussions on future plans. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the president.

Wellwishers invited for sinking tubewells

YANGON, 9 Sept — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Mawlamyine Division DAC) (Tel: 075-21012), the Director (Myitkyina Division DAC) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division DAC) (Tel: 02-54657).

UMFCCI CEC member leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 9 Sept — Central Executive Committee member of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Tun Aung (Taw Win Tun Co) yesterday left for Bangkok, Thailand, to attend the first meeting of Task Force to Review the Sectors and Sub-sectors for Economic Cooperation Under the UMFCCI. General Secretary of the UMFCCI U Sein Win Hlaing, Executive U Tin Myint and officials saw him off at Yangon International Airport.

Photogrammetry Course concludes

YANGON, 9 Sept — Photogrammetry Course was concluded and use of digital camera was demonstrated at the Survey Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here yesterday.

At the concluding ceremony, Managing Director Mr William R Love of Myanmar Intergraph Co. presented the concluding certificates to the trainees.

UMFCCI CEC member of U Tun Aung seen at the airport before departure for Thailand. — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated.
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered.
* Do not be softened whenever appeased.
1,005 US troops killed since beginning of war in Iraq

Baghdad, 8 Sept—As of Wednesday, 8 September, 1,005 members of the US military have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 759 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

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.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 867 US military members have died, 650 as a result of hostile action and 217 of non-hostile causes, according to the military’s numbers Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- One soldier was killed by an explosive Wednesday in eastern Baghdad.

Foreign aid groups in Iraq boost security

Baghdad, 8 Sept—Foreign aid workers in Iraq bolted their doors, hired more guards or installed spy cameras outside their Baghdad offices Wednesday as they considered whether to leave the country altogether after the kidnapping of two female Italian relief workers.

“We’ve been feeling vulnerable for a long time, but now it’s become unmanageable,” said a French aid worker, asking that neither he nor his agency be identified out of fear they could become targets. He said his organization, which has three expatriate staff members in Baghdad, will decide whether to withdraw in the coming days.

The French aid worker said they have reinforced their security measures after a dozen gunmen railed the house of an Italian humanitarian group Tuesday, abducting four hostages including the two Italian women.

The seizure of Simona Pari and Simona Torretta, both 29, shocked Iraq’s foreign community—especially humanitarian workers. It forced many to rethink whether operating in Iraq is worth the risk amid a deteriorating security situation.

“We have stopped leaving the house and try to keep a low, low profile,” said Frank McAveety, of the German demining group HELP. He said the German Embassy advised them against trying to leave the country now because the road to the airport was too dangerous.

McAveety said his group hired an extra guard Wednesday and was installing close circuit television cameras to monitor suspicious activities.

But he said he wasn’t ready to quit. “We can’t leave because our work here is very important.”

Medecins Sans Frontieres, also known as Doctors Without Borders, said it had ramped up activities.

The number of tourists coming into the country stood at 22,331 in August, up from 21,572 the same period of last year, said an official of the Immigration Department.

Tourists increase in Nepal

Kathmandu, 8 Sept—Tourist arrivals are increasing in Nepal, an immigration official told Xinhua on Tuesday.

“Twenty flights arrived with about 1,000 tourists from India and other foreign countries on Monday and Tuesday,” said an official.

The number of tourists coming into the country this month is 22,331, up from 21,572 the same period of last year, said an official of the Immigration Department.

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Kerry steps up attacks on Bush’s economic record

WASHINGTON, 8 Sept—US Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry on Tuesday stepped up his attacks on President George W Bush’s economic record, saying that Bush’s economic policy has resulted in the loss of US jobs.

“Because of George Bush’s wrong choices, this country is continuing to ship good jobs overseas — jobs with good wages and good benefits,” Kerry said at a rally in Greensboro, North Carolina.

“All across America, companies have shut their doors, putting hardworking people out of a job, leaving entire communities without help or hope,” he said.

He also criticized Bush’s tax policy which give tax breaks to US companies that ship jobs overseas and said that he would close the tax loophole.

The United States has lost about one million jobs since Bush became the President in 2001 although US job market has been improving this year. And the US jobs market was seen by many analysts as one of the weak spot for President Bush.

The US major newspapers have reported that former president Bill Clinton had advised Kerry last week that he must sharpen his criticism of President Bush’s record and offer voters a more compelling case in his own behalf if he hopes to win presidential election in November.

Lord Butler’s Iraq war inquiry report is whitewash

LONDON, 8 Sept — The head of an inquiry into the case Britain made for attacking Iraq hit back on Tuesday at allegations his report was a whitewash as Prime Minister Tony Blair battled to shift the media focus to domestic matters.

Former civil servant Lord Butler, who cleared Blair in July of deceiving Parliament and the public over intelligence on Iraq, said his report had identified “collective shortcomings” in the penning of a September 2002 dossier on Iraq’s weaponry.

“We did not of course say that no one was to blame for the shortcomings,” Butler told Parliament’s upper chamber.

“I said no individual was to blame.”

The failure to find any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq — the primary Anglo-American motive for war — plunged Blair into one of the rockiest periods of his premiership as his public trust and popular ratings nosedived.

India, Pakistan need to write a new chapter

NEW DELHI, 9 Sept — Noting that both India and Pakistan were committed to continuing the dialogue process, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday said the two countries needed to cast off the “burden of history” and “write a new chapter”.

“The importance of “full implementation” of the January 6 commitment of President Pervez Musharraf of not allowing any territory of Pakistan for use by terrorists was also emphasized by Singh when Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri called on him here.

The Prime Minister affirmed government’s commitment to progress on the bilateral dialogue.

Noting that problems are complex, he said “progress may be possible only step-by-step”.

There is “need for the two countries to cast off the burden of history and write a new chapter,” Singh said. The Prime Minister said his government would like to encourage people-to-people contacts between India and Pakistan.

In response to Kasuri’s suggestion that India and Pakistan should cooperate in the construction of an oil pipeline from Iran to India, the Prime Minister said “such individual projects should be part of a wider bilateral economic engagement between the two countries”.

Singh said normal trade relations would benefit both countries and the region.

He expressed satisfaction over the progress in composite dialogue as well as in the meetings between Foreign Ministers Natwar Singh and Kasuri.

Kasuri, who was with the Prime Minister for 40 minutes, is understood to have briefed him on the two-day talks he had with Natwar Singh on composite dialogue.

Britain, China to enhance cooperation in ICT

BEIJING, 8 Sept — Britain is willing to enhance cooperation with China in the fields of information and communication technology (ICT), Stephen Timms, Minister for E-Commerce of Britain, said here Tuesday on Britain-China ICT Week.

Timms told a Press conference that Britain has kept close cooperation with China in the field of ICT recently and hopes to further the relationship to benefit both sides.

The British Government would offer more opportunities and assistance for Chinese companies that are willing to invest there, he added.

More Britons want Kerry to beat Bush

LONDON, 8 Sept — A majority of Britons want Democrat candidate John Kerry to beat President George W Bush in the forthcoming November US election, according to a poll published in a Wednesday newspaper.

The survey by Populus — showing 52 per cent of Britons back Kerry versus 29 per cent for Bush — confirms the US leader’s unpopularity in the nation considered his closest ally.

“Britain, a clear majority of all age, social and political groups favour Mr Kerry,” said The Times newspaper, which published the poll.

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“Britain, a clear majority of all age, social and political groups favour Mr Kerry,” said The Times newspaper, which published the poll.
Determined and genuine armed force and to pursue that the problem of insecurity proved much since the US-led invasion in March 2003. An unidentified resident retrieves intact household goods after US air attacks in Baghdad. Last month he sent a small, permanent team there, led by Pakistani diplomat Ashraf Jehangir Qazi. Annan said he urged the United Nations to have a duty to help Iraq’s Independent Electoral Commission, which UN officials helped to set up to organize and conduct the polls.

Revival of border crossings, trade benefits

Ankara, 9 Sept—A visiting official of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (IKDP) said here Tuesday that reviving border crossings and trade between Iraq and Turkey serves the interest of both countries.

Nechirvan Barzani, who is currently on a visit to Turkey, said after his meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul that the current border crossing system between the two countries should be strengthened before a second border gate is opened.

Barzani added that he and Gul discussed issues concerning Iraq and the Turkish-Iraqi relations in their meeting, noting that dialogue should continue for regional stability.

The airport in northern Iraq, which was being constructed by several companies including Turkish companies, could be opened within a few months, he said.

Meanwhile, Turkish sources said Barzani told Gul in their meeting that the IKDP continues to consider the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) as a terrorist organization.

Ankara says security environment has not improved in Iraq

United Nations, 8 Sept—The violence in Iraq may threaten elections planned in January 2005 and has already restricted UN international staff in the country to 35, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Tuesday.

In a report to the UN Security Council, Annan said the security environment in Iraq had not improved much since the US-led invasion in March 2003 and he urged the United States to re-ly more on the political process than on force.

“If it must be recognized that the problems of insecurity can only be addressed through a political process,” he said. “This requires a commitment to stop relying solely or mainly on threats or actual use of armed force and to pursue determined and genuine efforts” to address concerns.

Annan said security continued “to pose a very profound challenge for the successful achievement of voter registration and polling for Iraq’s first free elections.”

“And in addition to severely disrupting everyday life for Iraqis, the ongoing violence could undermine confidence in the transitional political process, making it more difficult to create the conditions necessary for the holding of elections in January 2005,” he added.

Annan withdrew all foreign staff from Iraq in October after two bomb attacks on UN offices in Baghdad. Last month he sent a small, permanent team there, led by Pakistani diplomat Ashraf Jehangir Qazi.

Annan said the ceiling for deployment of international staff, humanitarian and security staff in Iraq was set at 35—all based in the US-guarded international zone in Baghdad. Any expansion would require a special force, not yet organized, to guard UN staff as well as “a qualitative improvement in the overall security environment,” he said.

Annan restated the world body’s commitment to helping Iraq’s Independent Electoral Commission, which UN officials helped to set up to organize and conduct the polls.

But he said this too would not happen unless violence subsided, aside from UN electoral advisers now in Baghdad.

“Unless and until there is a significant improvement in the overall security situation, the United Nations will have to continue to work both inside and outside Iraq, as circumstances permit, with a restricted presence on the ground in Iraq,” Annan said.

— MNA/Reuters

British soldier bailed on Iraqi murder charge

London, 8 Sept—A British soldier accused of killing an Iraqi civilian has been released on bail after appearing in London’s Bow Street Magistrates’ court on Tuesday.

Kevin Williams, 21, a trooper from the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, was told to surrender his passport, remain at his barracks in Yorkshire, northern England, and report daily to Royal military police. He was not permitted to leave except by permission of an officer.

Williams, the first British soldier to face a murder indictment in connection with British troops’ presence in Iraq, was expected to appear before London’s Central Criminal Court on 28 September.

Williams was arrested on Tuesday morning by the Metropolitan Police on charge of unlawful killing by shooting of Hassan Said during the course of an arrest in last August in south-eastern Iraq.

Williams’ case was referred to the police by the Attorney-General Lord Goldsmith, who said the trooper’s case could not be tried by court martial after his charges were dismissed by the soldier’s commanding officer.

The British Government has already launched 131 investigations into deaths and injuries of Iraqis allegedly caused by British troops in Iraq.

—a MNA/Xinhua

An unidentified resident retrieves intact household goods after US air attacks destroyed his home in Fallujah, Iraq, on 8 Sept, 2004. On Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, US jets fired several missiles into Fallujah in retaliation for Monday’s militant attacks on Marine positions outside the city that killed seven Marines. — INTERNET

Support for Labour was 32 per cent, unchanged since last month but representing a seven-point drop since September 2003, a Populus poll for The Times newspaper showed.

Tory support stood at 30 per cent, down two percentage points since last month and four points since the same month last year.

Support for the Liberal Democrats, gaining two percentage points in the past month to 26 per cent, is seven points higher than this time last year.

“Taking all published polls since April, the Tories are now doing no better under (leader) Michael Howard (averaging 33 per cent) than in the same period last year under (the then leader) Iain Duncan Smith (33.3 per cent),” The Times concluded.

Labour is also less popular than last year, averaging 34 per cent over the past six months, down from 35.5 per cent in the same period last year.

On the contrary, the Liberal Democrats have averaged about 22 per cent over the past six months, fractionally up from 21.4 per cent in the same period of 2003.

Populus interviewed a random sample of 1,009 Britons aged over 18 by telephone across the country between September 3 and 5.

The poll was published on the same day as the British Parliament’s return from its summer break and the start of the party conference season.

—a MNA/Xinhua

Spanische König trifft chinesische Führer

Madrid, 8 Sept—Spanischer König Juan Carlos I. hat hier in Madrid zu Beginn der Parteikonferenzen mit chinesischen Führungspersonal abgekreuzt.

Der König hat mit Jia Qinglin, dem Vorsitzenden des Nationalen Volkskongress, über die Verstärkung der Sino-Spanischen Kooperation gesprochen.

Der Vorstandsratsvorsitzende (CNPC) der staatlichen Ölgesellschaft CNPC, der sich zu Beginn vor dem Palast aufhielt und vor den chinesischen Führungspersonal, nahm an dem Treffen teil.

Während des Treffens, hat Jia Qinglin, der Präsident des Nationalen Volkskongresses, auf die Verstärkung der Sino-Spanischen Kooperation hingewiesen.

Dagegen, hat der chinesische Führer, der Präsident des Nationalen Volkskongresses, auf die Verstärkung der Sino-Spanischen Kooperation hingewiesen.

—a MNA/Xinhua
ASEAN meeting in Vietnam focuses on air transport liberalization

HANOI, 8 Sept—The ongoing 10th Air Transport Working Group Meeting of the ASEAN (ATWG-10) in Vietnam has focused on an action plan on air transport liberalization and services, and operations of ASEAN airlines.

Under the action plan, the aviation tourism market between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries will be established in 2015, and the air cargo transport services in the region is likely to be liberalized in 2006, according to local newspaper "Vietnam Today." In order to facilitate the implementation of the roadmap toward the air transport liberalization, ASEAN countries are encouraged to take part in or establish new sub-regions for aviation cooperation, offer preferential treatment to less developed member countries, and intensify investment in construction of new airports.

During the four-day meeting, which will close on September 9, aviation officers from ASEAN countries are also expected to discuss technical assistance programmes covering the exchange of information, organization of seminars, consultation sessions and training courses. Many multilateral agreements among ASEAN members were signed in preparation for the implementation of the aviation officer's agenda.

Developed nations must share energy burden

SYDNEY, 8 Sept—The developed countries should not exploit energy and power resources of the developing world, but must share the burden and expect a reasonable return on their investment, India's Minister for Power P M Sayeed said on Tuesday.

Delivering the keynote address at the World Energy Congress being held here, Sayeed pointed out that today more than 60 per cent of energy is consumed by only 20 per cent of the global population, slightly above one billion people, and for 60 per cent of the total energy consumption while the remaining five billion people in developing nations consume only 40 per cent.

"The haves should have the generosity to share with the have-nots in the power sector," he said. In India, almost 57 per cent of the rural population does not have access to electricity and in the case of those who do have electricity, reliability and quality are matters of great concern.

"Therefore, if the accessibility of energy is to be appreciated in the global context, the prevailing position in the developed countries would warrant serious consideration."

Sayeed, who is leading a high-level delegation here, was chairing a panel discussion under Secretary General of the UN Department of Economics and Social Affairs Jose Antonio Ocampo; President and CEO of RWE EG, Harry Roels; and Charles Goodyear from Yale and Wharton.

During the four-day visit, the minister and his delegates have been having useful interactions with key energy providers and suppliers. Earlier the Minister inaugurated the India Energy Pavilion and launched a publication on the Indian Energy Industry - Destination India.

"Energy used for private households, transportation and leisure activities in the developed countries are not only increasing progressively, and they are also extremely low in terms of efficiency. The industrialized nations should not therefore impose on the developing countries the burdens of their own environmental profligacy.

"It is also therefore necessary that the developed countries help the developing countries with technologies for clean energy," Sayeed said.

Two foreign drug traffickers arrested in Bali

JAKARTA, 8 Sept—Two South African nationals have been arrested on the Indonesian resort island of Bali for attempting to smuggle more than two kilos of heroin, the biggest arrest in the last 12 months, an officer said on Monday.

The two were travelling from Java by land but officers, who got an earlier tip-off about the drug trafficking, postponed the arrest until they stayed at a hotel near Denpasar, carrying a black suitcase, said Dewa Pansara, deputy police chief of the provincial capital of Denpasar.

Cambodian police unearths high-tech forgery ring

Pnom Penh, 9 Sept—A high-tech forgery ring was uncovered and five suspects were arrested by Cambodian police over two days in a joint bust between central security police and the municipal prosecutor, local media reported on Thursday.

Police confiscated instruments for committing crimes including three computers and scanners, and collected thousands of fake documents ranging from royal decrees of King Norodom Sihanouk to bachelor's degrees of universities in Cambodia, local newspaper The Commercial News reported.

In the more than two years that the ring was in operation, at least 30 foreigners illegally obtained Cambodian citizenship and passports using documents purchased from the group for 20,000 to 40,000 US dollars, police said. "The evidence is overwhelming," said Deputy Municipal Prosecutor Khat Sothean, who led the arrests. "What they did was like setting up a ministry. The damage is huge," Khat Sothean was quoted on Thursday by The Cambodia Daily as saying.

China sets up working mechanism to improve Asian regional cooperation

BEIJING, 9 Sept—China on Wednesday set up a cross-departmental working mechanism in a bid to enhance cooperation and improve regional cooperation in Asia.

Twenty-two Chinese ministries and commissions are involved in the mechanism, including the Foreign Ministry, the State Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce.

Regional cooperation in Asia has improved greatly since the 1990s, and recent years have witnessed closer economic and political exchanges between China and other Asian countries.

Thailand to spend $12b to ease traffic-clogged Bangkok

NONGKHAI (Thailand), 8 Sept—Thailand plans a 12-billion-US-dollar expansion of a new subway and elevated railways in traffic-clogged Bangkok over the next five years, Transport Minister Suriya Jungreangkit said on Tuesday.

The network would grow seven times to 180 miles by 2009 as part of an ambitious transport "masterplan" for the capital and its 10 million people, who make up a sixth of the country's population.

The scheme, approved by the Cabinet on Tuesday, would add seven underground and elevated railway lines to those now extending only 21 miles, he said.

"Every 500 metres, we will see one station in and around the city which will serve at least 4.5 million passengers," a day, Suriya told reporters after the Cabinet meeting in the northeastern province of Nongkhai.

Both mass transit systems are run by concessionaires and the government is trying to take them over and merge them into a single operation.

Bangkok's long battle with traffic jams has sharpened as global oil prices have risen and the government is encouraging motorists to leave vehicles at home and use public transport.

One of the seven new mass transit lines would stretch 12 miles from central Bangkok to the city's new Suvarnabhumi international airport, due to be completed next year, cost 30 billion baht and be finished in three years, Suriya said.

"We will find a contractor in November and take two years and nine months to complete the project, which will take about 15 minutes to take passengers out of the airport to downtown," he said.

The Cabinet also gave the Transport Ministry the go-ahead to elevate main railway lines that now cross main Bangkok streets, using the abandoned pillars of Hong Kong's Hopewell Holdings Ltd <0054.HK> project now dubbed the "hopeless project".

"We will make use of 550 support pillars by elevating the provincial railway to solve the traffic problem," Suriya said.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS/PHOTOGRAPH BY AP/REUTERSY

Crane fill the sky as work progresses at a residential project in downtown Bangkok. —INTERNET

The network would be completed by the end of 2009, at which time it will have 10 stations from Central Bangkok to Nongkhai.

"We will make use of 550 support pillars by elevating the provincial railway to solve the traffic problem," Suriya said.
National development through industrial sector

Efforts are being made for industrial development. Photo shows transformers, which are being manufactured in South Dagon Industrial Zone-1. —KYEMON

Cylinder blocks of farm machinery plant in Ingon Village in Kyaukse Township. —KYEMON

Kyaukse Cement Plant which can produce 120,000 tons of cement a year. —MNA
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects …

(from page 1)

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected progress in installation of the four-unit rotary press.

If necessary, the press will cooperate with Sub-printing House (Mandalay) to print more newspapers, in addition to its normal functions.

Apart from the one in Mandalay, other sub-printing houses in Kalay, Myitkyina, Lashio, Taunggyi, Kengtung, Magway and Sittway in addition to Mandalay are printing and publishing newspapers for distributing them to the people daily.

Furthermore, arrangements are being made for opening a sub-printing house soon in Myeik, Taninthayi Division.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived back here yesterday morning by Tatmadaw aircraft via Mandalay.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gives instructions to officials on installation of four unit rotary press at Upper Myanmar Government Press (Mandalay).—MNA

In the briefing hall, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan reported that Upper Myanmar Government Press (Mandalay) was established with a view to printing necessary school textbooks in Mandalay and distributing them to basic education students from Upper Myanmar.

Coord meeting to put land under summer and monsoon paddy held

YANGON, 9 Sept — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered an address at the coordination meeting of Yangon Division Agricultural Supervisory Committee to put land under summer and monsoon paddy at the meeting hall of Yangon Command this afternoon.

Also present were Joint-Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Aung Soe, authorities and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that as the target was set to cultivate 1,200,080 acres of monsoon paddy in Yangon Division this year, efforts are to be made for exceeding the target and growing late-monsoon paddy in time. Plans have been laid down for cultivation of pulses and beans and edible oil crops to exceed the target.

Chairmen of Township PDCs from Hlegu, Taikkyi, Htanthabin, Hmauby, Dagon Myothit (East), Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Mingaladon, Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships reported on their respective sectors.

U Aung Soe submitted reports on completion of monsoon paddy cultivation and arrangements for putting land under summer paddy.

Next, township authorities presented reports on supervision works being carried out for exceeding the target to cultivate monsoon and summer paddy and cold season crops in respective districts.

Departmental officials took part in the discussions.

MNA
YANGON, 9 Sept — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received the visiting Chinese delegation led by Executive Vice-President Mr Li Ping of China Telecom of the People’s Republic of China at Zeyathiri Beikman,Konmyinttha this evening.

Also present at the call together with General Khin Nyunt were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of Political Department U Thaung Tun and officials and Chinese guests with Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun.

During the call, the two sides discussed cooperation in communications sector. — MNA

YANGON, 9 Sept — A ceremony to present prizes for the 4th competitions of cultural performing arts of Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare under the Ministry of Defence was held at No 3 Mobile Public Relations Unit, Mandalay Division yesterday morning. Present on the occasion were Col Nyo Win of the Ministry of Defence and senior military officers, commanding officers of regiments and units, rector of Institute of Culture (Mandalay) U San Win, members of board of judges, doyen artistes, competitors and audience. After Col Nyo Win had made a speech on the occasion, he and officials presented prizes to winners. — MNA
Today’s historic duty of the entire Myanmar people is to collectively strive for the emergence of a State constitution and flourishing of democracy in the nation. In accord with the seven-point future policy programme of the State, the National Convention has been performing the national duty for the emergence of a constitution. Thus, the success of the National Convention is the most basic requirement and cause for the emergence of a constitution and a democratic nation.

Hence, the entire national people will have to make concerted efforts for the successful completion of the National Convention. And with the concerted efforts, any kind of difficulty must be overcome in doing so, because they (the collective efforts) are the investment for every success. Although the internal and external perpetrated to wreck the National Convention, a portion of the Convention has already been completed successfully, and it is one of the developments of Myanmar. Experts in the social science field have said that lessons and experiences can be gained from problems. In other words, the hardships the nation faced during the time when the National Convention was suspended had been overcome with the resumption of the National Convention itself. At the same time, the seven-point future policy programme must be implemented step by step. We all will have to march to the goal — a discipline-flourishing democratic nation — without fail.

A constitution for emergence of a democratic nation must be based on the objective social conditions of the people of Myanmar. It cannot be based on the social conditions of the US, the UK or Japan. Because man can improve his food, clothing and shelter conditions only with his own available strength and through his human relations. Man cannot extend his human relations as he likes. Here, we can say that the collective force of human relations is the economic system of a human society. The modern political and economic science says that the human relations serve as the foundation where the social knowledge, laws and political systems emerge.

Human history starts with the search for food, clothing and shelter. The follow-up stage is the setting up of an administrative, legal, social and education systems in accordance with the food, clothing and shelter condition and production standard.

Democracy grows only from the seed of the domestic social condition. Likewise, a constitution emerges from the domestic social foundation. We cannot copy the social systems of the US and the UK. Because the historical background and the standard of social environment of Myanmar is not the same as theirs. Thus, the practice of the basic principles of democracy must be in line with the objective social conditions of a particular country. In this way, the National Convention will materialize a constitution based on the objective condition of the Myanmar society.

The late Churchill, the former prime minister of Britain, the so-called grandfather of democracy, once said, “Democracy is a terrible system, but rather than others.” It is true that democracy is terrible, if it is not handled properly. Abuse of democracy will lead to eruption of anarchy, unruly and rowdy acts, attacks against the public, violations of majority’s rights and laws, gangland bullying, assassinations, illegal self-seeking practices, and acts harmful to majority’s interest. In the end, it will lead to disintegration of the nation.

In order to save the nation from facing such terrible situations and to provide protection for flourishing of democracy in it, the Tatmadaw Government has made a firm resolve to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

As democratic practice starts from the people, they are going to play a decisive role in the State administrative machinery. So, the people need to understand their rights as well as their responsibilities. They must be endowed with general knowledge and must be sensible. Every citizen must be able to make fair decisions. He must be free from anarchic acts, must follow only the moderate way and must be free from bias.

But the question here is whether the entire people can be equipped with all the above-said qualifications in a short period. A certain period of time is required to nurture and develop them. The nations of the West also have to set up their democracy throughout the successive generations to reach the present stage.

There is another question. Will it work just by installing a democracy system in a developing country? We must seriously think about the consequences. But till now, practical rationalization concerning the matter is still weak. Nobody gave serious attention to the weakness and cracks appeared in the foundation of a number of eastern, central and southern European nations emerging as new democratic nations after the end of World War I. Although the democracy powers of the West had already reached the stage of advancement and development, they too practised the limited voting rights some three or four decades ago. They should remember this.

They should realize the fact that most western constitutions were not like the present ones when they were not developed yet.

Hence, Myanmar at present, is in the process of setting up a democratic nation, after laying down the seven-point future policy programme, that is in accordance with her social condition. We all will have to study and take lessons from the weaknesses and advantages of the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 Constitution in doing so, while striving with the strength of the entire nation for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation that is in conformity with the nation’s objective social condition.

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(Translation: TMT)


Local and foreign airlines meet for improvement of airport services

YANGON, 9 Sept—A meeting was held at Nay Myo Bala Hall of Yangon International Airport yesterday afternoon to upgrade the airport and to ensure airlines safety and smooth air services.

It was attended by Patron of the Supervisory Committee for Upgrading of Yangon International Airport Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Managing Director of the Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services U Hlay Aung, Deputy Director-General of the Department for Civil Aviation U Myint Thein, Secretary of the Committee Maj Win Tun Oo (Air), representatives from local and foreign airlines and officials of the airport.

The patron delivered a speech on the occasion, saying that the forming of the committee led to greater success in airport upgrading and airport services. However, he said, the meeting is necessary for getting information about the requirements of respective airlines and departments and for ensuring smoothness and convenience when airports are busy with tourists. He pledged that immediate actions will be taken to tackle the reports and serious cases will be submitted to the State leaders as soon as possible as necessary.

The deputy minister presented a report, saying that this year’s tourist arrival is more than the same period last year. Amendments to the procedures concerning passengers at airports are related to an extent with the increased inflow of tourists. Concerted efforts will be made in conformity with directives of the committee.

Maj-Gen Kyaw Win delivered the closing remarks.

MNA
YANGON — The Advisory Committee on Community Development (COCI) has announced that the second day of the workshop on People-to-People Exchange Programme ASEAN Cultural Interaction at Grassroots, Phase III will be held at Swan Hotel on 7 September afternoon.

Present were Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, retired ambassador U Win Lwin, Chairman of Myanmar ASEAN Culture and Information National Committee of ASEAN (A & I) Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, as well as advisor Dr Pattiya Jimreivat, director (Construction 9) Konchaung-2 dam, the director of Irrigation Department and staff, followed by Dr Myint Thein Swe of COCI Director-General U Myint Thein Swe of Department of Cultural Institute, officials, delegates of ASEAN countries Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, delegation members of partner country China and observers.

Thai delegation leader Dr Pattiya Jimreivat presided over the workshop together with Singaporean delegation leader Ms Teoh Sook Hian, San Win and engineers.

Next, the minister observed irrigation projects on the map and construction site of Konchaung-2 dam, the director of Irrigation Department reported to the minister on tasks of constructing conduit, control tower and spillway. He instructed them to finish the constructing feeder canals under construction dams at the same time, minimize loss and wastage.

A & I: Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin inspected Bwetgyi Dam in Aunglan Township, Magway Division. — (A & I)
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Dated 10 September 2004

Hurricane “Ivan” killed at least 3 in Grenada

PORT OF SPAIN (Trinidad), 8 Sept — Powerful and strengthening Hurricane Ivan killed at least three people in Grenada and devastated its capital, St. Georges, as it pounded the tiny islands of the southeastern Caribbean on Tuesday.

Ivan, the ninth storm in a busy Atlantic hurricane season, swept south of Barbados and directly over Grenada, brushing past Tobago as it headed into the Caribbean basin far enough south to prompt precautions on the coasts of Colombia and Venezuela.

Ivan strengthened into a dangerous category 4 storm on the five-step scale of hurricane intensity, and its 155 mph winds were expected to strengthen as it moved through the Caribbean, the US National Hurricane Center said.

As it crossed the fragile Windward Islands on Tuesday, Ivan tore down trees, blew off roofs, knocked out power and forced thousands of people to evacuate coastal areas. — MNA/Reuters

Venezuela suspends air, sea traffic for fear of hurricane

Caracas, 8 Sept — The Venezuelan Government declared a “yellow alert” Tuesday for the two states, and the meteorological division of the Air Force of Venezuela (FAV) warned that the hurricane will bring rain, gusts of wind and three-metre waves north of Sucre. — MNA/Xinhua
**Hippo deaths increase to 60 in Ugandan National Park**

**KAMPALA, 8 Sept—** The death toll of hippos in Queen Elizabeth National Park in western Uganda has reached 60 and is still on the rise, while the cause remains a mystery, local media reported on Tuesday.

The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) dispatched a expert team in mid-August to the park after about 25 hippos died from a strange disease there.

Chief warden of the park John Bosco Nuwe said “a quick discovery of the cause is needed to stem it before it runs out of hand.”

However, he said the 4,000-5,000-strong hippo population was not under serious threat although the incidents are very disturbing.

He said the recent dry weather led to turning of the water in Kazinga channel, lakes Edward and George to a blue-green colour, a process now being suspected to be toxic.

Hippos are ranked the fourth in tourist attraction for the park after lions, elephants and buffaloes. They live in water most of the day, and come out in the evening to graze.

MNA/Xinhua

**China to spend $37b for 2008 Games**

**BEIJING, 8 Sept—** China will save money by building five Olympic stadiums in Beijing instead of the 10 originally planned, state media reported on Tuesday.

China is due to spend 37 billion US dollars on the 2008 Games, with at least two billion US dollars going towards ultra-modern facilities, many of which are already under construction.

But it has stressed the requirement to save where it can and downsizing the venues would spare the need for thousands of tons of steel, one of several overheating sectors in the fast-growing Chinese economy.

MNA/Xinhua

**Colombian Army rescues mayor kidnapped by guerillas**

**BOGOTA, 8 Sept—** The Colombian Army Tuesday rescued the mayor of the municipality of Ricalito, who had been kidnapped by guerillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN), military sources said.

The rescue operation that released Orlando Hernandez, kidnapped on August 25, was undertaken in the rural area of Miraflores in the southwest state of Narino. Six guerillas were killed and two others were captured in the operation, said Third Army Division Commander General Antonio Ladrón de Guevara.

MNA/Xinhua

**Hydro-electric project at Three Gorges Dam on flood alert**

**BEIJING, 8 Sept—** China has put the Three Gorges Dam, the world’s largest hydro-electric project, on flood alert, Xinhua news agency said on Tuesday.

after rain and mudslides

Water levels at hydro-electrical stations were above “warning levels” and rising and navigation on the giant reservoir above the dam had been halted for the first ever, it said.

Southwestern Chongqing municipality and central Hubei Province, on the upper and middle reaches of the Yangtze River, had put all departments on flood alert, increased patrols along dams of the river and reinforced reservoirs.

Engineers blocked the Yangtze at the Three Gorges Dam in June last year, filling the reservoir for a 25-billion-US-dollar project that is a point of national pride in a country desperate for power but which critics fear will become an environmental nightmare.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been relocated from the area around the reservoir, which has swallowed villages, cities, factories and hospitals as well as some archaeological treasures.

The dam is in Hubei Province, to the east of Sichuan Province and Chongqing. It was the first time since the reservoir opened to tourist and cargo traffic last July that it has been closed.

The central government has allocated 40 million yuan (4.82 million US dollars) for emergency funds to flood-stricken areas in Sichuan and Chongqing after the most destructive rainstorm this year.

According to the latest figures released by local flood control offices, the death toll from floods in Sichuan and Chongqing is at least 76 with 27 missing. More than 130,000 people have been evacuated from their homes.

The storm hit north-eastern parts of Sichuan and Chongqing on Thursday and rain is predicted to continue through Tuesday.

MNA/Reuters

**Bangladeshi police to set up cyber crime unit**

**DHAKA, 8 Sept—** The Bangladeshi police have planned to set up a special unit to curb cyber crimes.

The New Nation newspaper on Tuesday quoted a high official of the police as saying that the Bangladeshi police so far have not any such unit, but are working with IT experts in the police department to track down such criminals.

Abdul Quayum, chief of the special branch of police said that the police want to set up the unit before such crimes go beyond control and “we have already initiated a process.”

Although the present situation is not beyond the control of the security forces, the special branch takes the matter seriously he said.

An e-mail message was sent to a Bengali daily newspaper on August 23, issuing a life threat to Awami League chief and leader of opposition Sheikh Hasina.

The life threat was issued only two days after the grenade attack on a rally of Awami League in the capital which left 20 people killed and about 300 others injured. Foerner prime minister Sheikh Hasina narrowly escaped the attack.

MNA/Xinhua

**Broadband TV over Internet for BSNL subscribers**

**JERUSALEM, 8 Sept —** An Israeli company has signed a licensing agreement with an Indian firm to provide broadband commercial television over Internet for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited subscribers.

Atlas Interactive (India) has bought Israeli company Orca Interactive’s suite of middleware applications – RGHTV – to deliver Interactive TV services over IP networks to BSNL subscribers.

The Atlas netTV project is scheduled to launch services under BSNL’s brand name of DATAONE with an initial 50,000 subscribers. The company expects that its system will enable the provision of Live TV, Near Video On Demand and Video On Demand service.

MNA/PTI

**The remains of the Genesis capsule is examined after it crashed on 8 Sept, 2004, in Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. The space capsule, containing particles of solar wind, was supposed have been snatched from the sky by a helicopter before hitting the ground. But the parachutes failed to deploy. — Internet**
Germany produces combative display to hold Brazil to 1-1

BERLIN, 9 Sept — Germany produced a combative display to hold world champions Brazil to a 1-1 draw in a fiercely contested friendly international on Wednesday.

Midfielder Ronaldinho opened the scoring for the visitors from a free kick nine minutes into the first clash between the two since Brazil’s 2-1 victory over Germany in the 2002 World Cup final.

Brazil-born striker Kevin Keirany was left unmarked in the penalty area when he equalised for Germany eight minutes later, delighting over 70,000 fans packed into Berlin’s newly renovated Olympic stadium.

Both the result and performance will encourage new Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann, who took over after the team’s group stage exit from Euro 2004.

Wednesday’s game was Klinsmann’s home debut as coach after a 3-1 win over Austria in a friendly last month in Vienna.

The match started in worrying fashion for Germany, warming up for the 2006 World Cup on home soil with a string of friendlies.

Central defender Frank Fahrenhorst, winning his second cap, brought down Arsenal midfielder Edu just outside the box to enable Ronaldinho to open the scoring by casually flicking the ball over the wall and into the net.

The goal woke up the Germans, who pressed forward after equalizing and were clearly the better side in a lively first half.

Kuranyi, who had scored a hat-trick in the Austria victory threatened again on 24 minutes with an angled effort from inside the box that required a brilliant save from Julio Cesar.

**Netherlands given dream start, beat Czech Republic 2-0**

AMSTERDAM, 9 Sept — Striker Pierre van Hoojdonk scored twice to give Netherlands and new coach Marco van Basten a dream start to their World Cup qualifying campaign as they beat the Czech Republic 2-0 on Wednesday.

Van Hoojdonk grabbed a goal in each half to provide the Dutch with a measure of revenge for a 3-2 defeat to the Czechs in a pulsating match in the group stages of Euro 2004.

Czech Republic were missing three first-choice midfielders in playmaker Pavel Nedved, Karel Poborsky and Tomas Galasek but Karel Brueckner’s weakened team coped well early on.

The Czechs dominated the first half and Tomas Rosicky, Milan Baros and Marek Heinz all missed good opportunities created by the effective use of their counter-attacking weapon.

Netherlands went in front against the run of play on 33 minutes as Dirk Kuyt’s defence-splitting pass found Rafael van der Vaart, who set up van Hoojdonk to score.

**Defoe helps England to precious 2-1 victory over Poland**

CHORZOW (Poland), 9 Sept — England needed an own-goal from centre back Arkadiusz Glowacki to overcome Poland 2-1 in their Group Six World Cup qualifying tie on Wednesday and relieve the pressure on manager Sven Goran-Eriksson.

Glowacki deflected the ball past goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek under pressure from striker Michael Owen on 58 minutes after a dangerous low cross from left back Ashley Cole.

The visitors took the lead on 37 minutes through an excellent turn and strike from forward Jermain Defoe, who started in place of Alan Smith, but Maciej Zurawski equalized for Poland three minutes after halftime after being through.

Eriksson opted to play goalkeeper Paul Robinson in place of David James after his error allowed Austria to claim a 2-2 draw in Vienna on Saturday.

England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson hailed striker Jermain Defoe after the youngster helped his team coped well early on.

“After earlier hitting the post with a header, Del Piero fired home a fine shot in the 32nd minute to ensure Italy followed up their 2-1 win over Norway on Saturday with three more points in European zone Group Five.

The goal, Del Piero’s first since finding the target against Wales last September, came shortly after the Moldovans had gone close when Gianluigi Buffon pushed a Serghei Covalciuc header against the post.

Moldovan substitute Serghei Dadu was sent off for a second bookable offence in the 77th minute of a scrappy second half.

Del Piero had come in for plenty of criticism after Italy’s early exit from Euro 2004 and was left out of the squad for Lippi’s first game in charge — a friendly defeat to Iceland last month.

A slight injury meant del Piero watched Saturday’s game from the stands and his return was vital to his chances of securing his place to the Group Five campaign with Milan midfielders Massimo Ambrosini and Andrea Pirlo, Sampdoria winger Aimo Diana and del Piero coming into this side.

Del Piero made his presence felt in the 17th minute heading against the post from a Pirlo corner and then had a well-struck shot saved by Moldova keeper Evgenii Hmaruc.

His goal drought ended when he turned sharply on the edge of the area before firing a low shot past Hmaruc.

Diana missed two good chances for the Italians in a first half they dominated but the second half was poor with little created by the Azzurri.

Buffon was forced into action in the 53rd minute to keep out a shot from Serghei Lascencov but the Italian goalkeeper was in no-mans land as he cashed in on a defensive error to score with a cool finish.

The result left both teams sharing third place in the group with Belgium, two points behind Serbia and Montenegro and three behind Lithuania, who crashed unfancied San Marino 4-0 earlier on Wednesday.

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“It was very important to win today after drawing on Saturday, but I like the way we played in both games,” Eriksson said.

Defoe’s strike helped England make amends for Saturday’s 2-2 draw in Austria, when they let slip a two-goal lead.

“I’m impressed,” Eriksson told a news conference. “He’s been very sharp in training this week and he’s very hungry.

“It’s a big, big, big talent and he will always score goals.”

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Prime Minister to pay a working visit to Singapore

YANGON, 9 Sept — At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore His Excellency Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt will pay a working visit to the Republic of Singapore in the near future. — MNA

12th Myanmar Performing Arts Competitions

YANGON, 9 Sept — Leading Committee for Organizing the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions met representatives from states and divisions at the National Theatre today, with an address by Chairman of the Leading Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Office, paid a visit to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay on 7 September evening.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party paid reverence to the Buddha Image. Next, they offered gold foils to the image. They signed the visitors’ book. Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye made cash donations to the funds of the Buddha image through members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees. — MNA

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

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

Perpetration to discredit dignity of Tatmadaw explained

YANGON, 9 Sept — Newspapers issued in Thailand dated 9 September 2004 carried a news report entitled “Report alleges army rape of ethnic women is systematic”.

The news report mentioned of the report released by an organization called “Women’s League of Burma (WLB)”, entitled “System of Impunity” containing allegations that Myanmar Armed Forces are committing sexual violence against ethnic women. The Women’s League of Burma (WLB) is an illegal organization established outside Myanmar.

These allegations are found to be baseless and totally devoid of truth. Rape is considered a serious crime and accordingly severe action is taken against those who commit rape in accordance with the existing law. According to the Penal Code Section 376, either a sentence of life imprisonment or a sentence of up to 10-year imprisonment is given. In addition, fine can also be imposed.

In Myanmar effective action is taken against those who commit rape regardless of status. From the point of view of tradition and culture as well as religion rape is totally unpardonable. Effective action is taken against those who commit rape according to the existing laws Myanmar Armed Forces. It is learnt that similar allegations in the past have been made under the caption “License to Rape”. It is evident that this article was purposely written to cause disunity among the national races and to create mistrust and disunity between the armed forces and the people to defame the honour of Myanmar ethnic women and the Armed Forces.

Myanmar is now on its way to establishing a new disciplined democratic state and is endeavouring to impart to the Armed Forces personnel and the people knowledge of humanitarian and human rights matters. If there are reports concerning criminal offences, action is taken in accordance with law regardless of the status of those who commit the crime.

It is learnt from the news release from the department concerned that at a time when the Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs and the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation are focusing to provide life-security for women through the Working Group on Violence Against Women and the Working Group on Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons such unfounded allegations are merely fabrications to degrade the integrity of the Government and the Armed Forces. — MNA