Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyawng Kyaing see off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe on their departure for Singapore.

YANGON, 12 Sept — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party left here by special flight of Myanmar Airways for Singapore at 10 am today to pay a working visit to Singapore at the invitation of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of the Republic of Singapore.

The Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyawng Kyaing, 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 and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Man M of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Nwe, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, the ministers, senior military officers, Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of the Republic of Philippines Mme Phoebe A Gomez and heads of foreign missions in Yangon, the UN Resident Coordinator, Charge d’Affaires ai of the Singaporean Embassy and officials. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe were accompanied by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and wife Daw San Yon, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and departmental heads.— MNA

International Rice Year 2004’ is aimed to ensure adequate supply of food, to eradicate poverty, and to ensure vitamin enrichment. (Article on page 7.)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Be a police force imbued with nationalism

The State Peace and Development Council has been striving for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation after laying down the political, economic and social objectives.

In this process, the seven-point future policy programme of the State has been laid down and is being implemented for ensuring the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. As a result, the National Convention, the first step of the road map is being successfully held.

Concerted efforts are to be made in all sectors with the national outlook for successful realization of the already laid down work programmes. Meanwhile, the strong political forces are to be fortified for perpetuation of the State.

Chairman of Myanmar Police Force Administrative Reform Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein addressed the first and second four-day systematic coordination meeting of MPF for 2004 held at the MPF Headquarters of the Ministry of Home Affairs on 11 September and made a speech on the occasion.

In his address, Lt-Gen Thein Sein stressed the need for the country to build political might, economic might and military might in order not to be influenced and bullied by others.

Community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order are imperative in ensuring the strong political might. The Tatmadaw and MPF are key players in discharging those duties. Like the Tatmadaw that has shoulderied national duties conscientiously through the course of history, the MPF will have to follow suit. They are to protect the people to enable them to earn their living in a secure and peaceful society.

Economy is connected with politics. Strong economy will lead to national stability. Thus, effective measures are to be taken for ensuring security of the people, entrepreneurs and farmers who reside in the Union with peace of mind.

Being a reserve force of the State, the MPF are striving for ensuring the strong military might for peace and stability of the State. In so doing, they are to safeguard the State, fortifying the political, economic and military might.

With this end in view, the MPF, the reserve force, are urged to make relentless efforts in safeguarding the nation for its perpetuation while striving for turning themselves into a strong force with high calibre.

30th rice offering ceremony to be held in Pyay

YANGON, 12 Sept—The 30th Maha Bonnathaka rice offering ceremony will be held in Pyay on 22 September under the aegis of Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Yadana Manaung Taw-yakyaung Kaba Shweyin Aye Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Vijabala in Pyay, Bago Division (West).

Provisions will be offered to 300 members of the Sangha and 150 nuns.

The Sayadaw will deliver a sermon at D h a m m a c a k k a Dhammayon on that day. Those wishing to donate cash and kinds are invited.

PHK donates hockey equipment to MHF

YANGON, 12 Sept—Pakistan Hockey Federation donated hockey gears to the Myanmar Hockey Federation on 10 September at Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna.

Yn. Maj-Gen Thura Aye Myint next spoke words of thanks and accepted hockey equipment donated by Pakistan Ambassador Mr. Muhammed Nawaz Chaudhry.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint next spoke words of thanks and presented gifts to officials of the Hockey Federation of Pakistan.

No 11 LID Commander’s Shield Shooting Championship concludes

YANGON, 12 Sept—The prize distribution of the No 11 LID Commander’s Shield Shooting Championship was held at the hall of the LID yesterday.

Present were Commander of No 11 LID Col Hta Htay Win and wife, senior officers, Tatmadaw members and families and shooters from ten teams.

Commander of No 11 LID Col Hta Htay Win presented the championship shield to the team that stood first in the competition and officials also presented prizes to the winners.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint accepted hockey equipment donated by Pakistan Ambassador Mr. Muhammed Nawaz Chaudhry.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

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
UK soldier killed in Iraq road crash

BAGHDAD, 11 Sept—A soldier from north Wales has been killed in a road traffic accident in Iraq, the Ministry of Defence has confirmed.

Fusilier Stephen Jones, 22, from Denbigh, was serving with the Royal Welch Fusiliers when the accident happened. He was killed 10 miles south of Al Amarah, an MoD spokesman said. Mr Jones, who was married, was serving with a company of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. He went to Iraq in April a month after he married his 19-year-old wife, Zoe. His father Ian said from their family home in Llanheadr that it was “difficult” to cope. “You never think it is going to happen to you,” he said. Mr Jones, who had also served in Ireland and Iraq, was due to fly home on Tuesday for two weeks leave - before returning to Iraq for a further four or five weeks. A statement on the MoD’s website read: “It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence has to confirm that Fusilier Stephen Jones died in a road traffic accident south of Al Amarah on 10 September 2004. His funeral will be held at Llanheadr Parish Church. A date has yet to be confirmed.”

Blast near US Embassy in Basra kills two

BASRA, 11 Sept—A roadside bomb detonated near the US embassy office in the southern Iraq city of Basra Saturday, killing two people and wounding three, a Reuters witness said.

The two killed were traveling in a vehicle at the time of the blast, some 50 meters from the US embassy compound, the witness said, adding the vehicle was destroyed.

Those wounded were passers-by. The US embassy in Baghdad and US military officials had no immediate comment. The nationality of those killed was not known.

The key oil city of Basra, where British forces are deployed, has witnessed frequent clashes between guerrillas and US-led forces. There have been frequent car bomb and roadside bomb blasts in the city over the past 17 months.

Three Lebanese shot dead in Iraq

BEIRUT, 11 Sept—Three Lebanese were killed and one wounded by a group of gunmen in Iraq on Friday, said an official of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry.

The three are identified as businessmen Gebrane Badine and Karim Khoury, and Khoury’s wife Evelyn. About Dib and all of them are working in food exports in Iraq.

The incident occurred in the early hours in a Baghdad residence, said the official who refused to be named. Meanwhile, according to Iraqi Interior Ministry, the attack seemed to be crime-related in stead of politically motivated.

“Apparently, they were looking for something. They scattered things around. I don’t think it was the insurgents. I don’t know the motive, yet but I don’t think it is political,” said Sabah Kadhim, the spokesman. Lebanese Foreign Minister Jean Obeid condemned the killing and called on the Iraqi Interim Government to investigate the incident.

He said he wanted “protection provided to Lebanese nationals and other Arabs and foreigners in Iraq who have been subjected to abduction and murder without committing any crime”.

Judge may throw out criminal charges against US Marine

LOS ANGELES, 11 Sept—A judge may throw out criminal charges against a US Marine accused of killing an Iraqi prisoner in an American-run jail near Nasiriyah because of problems with the evidence, a Marine Corps spokesman at Camp Pendleton in California said on Friday.

A court martial for Major Clarke Paulus was set to begin on Monday but has been postponed to September 20 while lawyers grapple with what evidence can be presented during the proceedings, said Captain Christopher Logan.

“There are several issues they are actually working on ... some of this is make or break,” Logan said. A pretrial hearing is scheduled for September 17.

Logan would not comment on a San Diego newspaper report that prosecutors admitted a US Government pathology lab may have lost or misplaced body parts that show how the inmate, 52-year-old Hagem Sadoom Hatab, died at Camp Whitehorse in Iraq on July 6, 2003.

Prosecutors also said they cannot find a confidentiality intelligence report and photo of Hatab, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported on Friday.

The judge, Colonel Robert Chester, threatened to take “extreme measures to make things right” if prosecutors don’t locate the missing parts by next week, the paper reported. Prosecutors say Paulus, 35, ordered a fellow Marine to drag Hatab out of his cell by the neck after he defecated on himself.

An autopsy conducted by a US Navy pathologist in Iraq found Hatab died of strangulation or asphyxiation caused by a broken hyoid bone in his neck. He also had six broken ribs.

The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, DC, where parts of the body were sent, has told prosecutors that Hatab’s rib cage and hyoid bone are missing, the Union Tribune reported.

Defence attorneys said they wanted their own pathologist to examine the body parts to show that Hatab did not die as prosecutors said he did, the newspaper said.

Tanzania, Rwanda get funds for railway project

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 11 Sept—Tanzania and Rwanda have secured 2.5 million US dollars from the African Development Bank to undertake feasibility studies of a proposed railway line linking the two East African countries.

The proposed railway will link Isaka in northwestern Tanzania with Kigali, capital of Rwanda, and will be further extended to cities in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The African Development Bank is expected to release the funds within the next six months, according to Mark Mwandosya, Tanzania’s Minister in charge of Communications and Transport.

An injured man is carried away after US helicopters fired missiles at a crowd of people cheering near a burning US Bradley Fighting Vehicle at Haifa street in Baghdad, Iraq on 12 Sept, 2004. Five people were reported to have died and over 40 injured in the incident.—INTERNET

Internet

MNA/Xinhua
Blasts rock Baghdad

Baghdad, 11 Sept—Six explosions rocked Baghdad and a US military vehicle was blown up in violence across Iraq.

Aljazeera reported that a US Humvee vehicle was destroyed on Saturday and its crew members wounded when an explosive device fired six mortar rounds into central Baghdad and smoke was seen rising close to a hotel complex used by foreign contractors and media. There were, however, no immediate reports of casualties.

Iraqi Interior Ministry sources said the blasts caused some damage to a minaret in a mosque near the Palestine Hotel.

A spokesman for the US 1st Cavalry Division said some civilian vehicles were also damaged.

Aljazeera also reported that the bodies of four Iraqis have been found from the debris of a house that US warplanes bombarded several days ago in al-Sikhyary village southwest of Baghdad.

Chinese economy begins to interact with globalization

Beijing, 11 Sept — The Chinese economy has begun to interact with globalization, said Vice-Premier Huang Ju, here Friday.

At the International Forum on the Common Development of China’s Economy and the World Economy opening here Friday, Huang, also member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made a speech on Seizing Opportunities in Opening-Up and Cooperation to Jointly Promote New World Economic Growth.

Analyzing the current economic situation, Huang said economic globalization is a deepening trend, coupled with sustained international trade growth and larger international capital liquidity. Regional economic integration has been accelerated, and the world economy is likely to keep its current momentum of growth as the pace of scientific advancement and industrial upgrading quickens, he added.

In the meantime, Huang said, unbalanced economic growth becomes increasingly prominent and the gap between the south and the north keeps widening. International economic and technological competition is also becoming increasingly fierce, which makes national economies more vulnerable to the external impacts.

Nigeria Govt urged to join in W African battle against locusts

Lagos, 11 Sept—The Nigerian Senate on Thursday approved a motion, urging the federal government to join a dozen of West African countries to combat locust swarms currently ravaging the sub-region, state media reported.

“It is a long-overdue motion. We must also appeal to the affected (Nigerian) states and local governments to do something about these agricultural terrorists,” said Senate Majority Leader Seriki Tafida, cited by the official News Agency of Nigeria.

The motion recommended that the Federal Ministry of Agriculture be directed to immediately extend aerial sprays to the northeastern state of Borno and other affected areas.

West Africa is currently fighting the locust crisis as a 12-country regional ministerial meeting in Dakar, Senegal, had agreed to use the Armed Forces to counter the threat. The 12 countries have also agreed to set up five operational bases in Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad to coordinate crop-spraying efforts by sharing pesticides, vehicles, communication and other logistics.

Italy given 24-hour ultimatum on release of hostages

Baghdad, 11 Sept — An Islamic militant group has given Italy 24 hours to promise the release of Muslim women from Iraqi prisons in exchange for information about the two abducted Italian women aid workers, a statement released on a website said Friday.

“We want Italy to promise unconditionally to release all Muslim women prisoners from Iraqi prisons in 24 hours to promise the release of Muslim women from Iraqi prisons in exchange for information about the two abducted Italian women aid workers, a statement released on a website said Friday.

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There were, however, no immediate reports of casualties. Iraqi Interior Ministry sources said the blasts caused some damage to a mosque near the Palestine Hotel. A spokesman for the US 1st Cavalry Division said some civilian vehicles were also damaged.

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Kerry rebukes Bush over renewal of assault weapons

ST LOUIS, 11 Sept — Democratic candidate John Kerry on Friday said President George W Bush's failure to fight for a renewal of a ban on assault weapons will make it easier for terrorists to get the lethal weapons.

Campaigning in Missouri, where he trails Bush in opinion polls less than two months before the 2 November election, Kerry said as a hunter and outdoorsman he vowed he would never try to change the Second Amendment to the Constitution giving Americans the right to bear arms.

Under a 10-year ban enacted in 1994, weapons such as AK-47s, TEC-9s, and Uzis were outlawed, as were high capacity ammunition magazines holding more than 10 rounds. That law expires on Monday and Congress does not plan to extend it.

Kerry rebuked Bush and others for "talking about the war on terror, trying to scare Americans." Vice-President Dick Cheney said this week that if the Democrat were elected the United States could be hit by another attack like the one on September 11, 2001.

"It's real, we've got a war," Kerry said. "But we should do more than just talk about it and try to scare people about it and make it a political issue."

Citing the 9/11 commission and other reports, Kerry said that al-Qaeda, blamed for the attacks on America three years ago, had issued a manual that urged followers to "come to America and buy assault weapons."

"Why is George Bush making the job of terrorists easier and making the job for America's police officers harder?" he asked in a separate written statement.

The Massachusetts Senator told a town hall meeting in St Louis: "You can't fight a war on terror and you can't make our streets safe ... (by) selling assault weapons in the streets of America."

"But George Bush who says 'Oh, I'm for that' never asked the Congress to pass it, never pushed the Congress to pass it, never stood up, caved into the NRA (National Rifle Association), gives into the special interests and America's streets will not be as safe because of the choice George Bush is making."

Kerry, a New England blueblood who served 20 years in the Senate after two decorated tours in the Vietnam War, has tried to appeal to the more conservative voters in important battleground states by presenting himself as a lifelong outdoorsman.

Spanish PM says US loses credibility in M-E peace efforts

TUNIS, 11 Sept — Visiting Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said Thursday that the United States has lost its credibility in the Middle East peace efforts and stressed the need to return full sovereignty to Iraq.

Zapatero made the remarks at a press conference at the end of a two-day visit to Tunisia, which are currently holding the rotating presidency of the Arab League, saying "the US-led military intervention has proved totally negative".

"Those who committed this flagrant error are no longer entitled to carry out the peace process (in the Middle East)," he said, noting a greater role thus "falls to Europe, the United Nations and the Arab League."

The Spanish leader, while stressing the need to "return (full) sovereignty to the Iraqi people as soon as possible", said Spain's decision to withdraw from Iraq was a "very correct decision" for it conforms to the interests of the majority of Spanish people.

He called on other countries which have troops in Iraq to follow Spain's example of withdrawal. He said: "If there were more decisions along the lines of the Spanish Government's (decision of withdrawal), more favourable prospect would be opened up."

Zapatero, whose country is holding the current rotating presidency of the UN Security Council, also condemned the kidnappings in Iraq and called on the United Nations to take "urgent political steps."

Zapatero and his Spanish Socialist Party beat the Popular Party led by former Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar in the general elections in March 14. The new government completed the withdrawal of its 1,300 soldiers from Iraq in May.

Russia accuses West of double standards on terrorism

MOSCOW, 11 Sept — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov slammed the West for adopting double standards on terrorism in the wake of recent hostage-taking tragedy in the south of the country, Vremya Novostey daily reported on Thursday.

Lavrov told the newspaper that the West had yet to shake off its adversarial mindset since the end of the Cold War, and their security services were not fully co-operating with Russia in the fight against terrorism.

Russia is angry that Britain and the United States have given asylum to spokesmen for Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov who Russia suspects of being behind the school siege with another rebel chief Shamil Basayev. "I would use a neutral term: It's a double standard," Lavrov said.

On September 1, more than 30 armed militiamen took about 1,200 hostages in a secondary school of the Beslan Town in Russia's North Ossetia Republic. The crisis ended on the third day after fierce exchanges of gunfire between Russian troops and the militants, but leaving at least 335 dead, half of them children.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered an internal investigation into the tragedy, which authorities blamed on Chechen separatists.

Russia's Federal Security Service on Wednesday offered a reward of up to 300 million roubles (over 10 million US dollars) for information that will help hunt down Basayev and Maskhadov.

UN to draw scores of dignitaries to New York for UNGA session

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Sept — The United Nations this month is expected to draw scores of dignitaries to New York for its General Assembly session, but on Friday it welcomed a new contingent of a different sort — bomb sniffing dogs.

Scout, Jet and Candy, a trio of Labrador retrievers, were introduced to reporters before the main General Assembly session begins on September 21.

The trained dogs were a gift from New York police. Three more bomb-sniffers will join the canine contingent at the United Nations before year's end, replacing a costly two-dog team used since 1998 that was hired through a private contractor.

Supporter of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr are barred from arguing with Iraqi soldiers by their leaders as they congregate to show support for al-Sadr in Baghdad, Iraq on 10 Sept, 2004. —INTERNET

Photos of dead US soldiers in Afghanistan, Iraq laid out in NY

NEW YORK, 11 Sept —Photos of more than 1,000 US soldiers who died in Afghanistan and Iraq were laid out in Union Square Park in New York on Friday in a display intended to put faces of the fallen before the public.

Coming just days after the 1,000th US soldier died in the war in Iraq, the display was organized by Army veteran Nicholas Cohen, who said merely listing deaths in the newspapers each day did not capture the human cost of the war.

"There's no political organization behind this," said Cohen. "This is about the soldiers."

Dozens of passersby stared quietly as volunteers laid out photos in Union Square, which three years earlier had been the site of makeshift memorials for victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Cohen's mother, Arlene Harrison, said the display was not meant as an anti-war statement.

"We're anti using military force in a knee-jerk way," she said. "We have to have a good, honest, compelling reason before we sacrifice our children." — MNA/Reuters
US Army generals say CIA detained more Iraqis than disclosed

WASHINGTON, 11 Sept — Army jailers in Iraq, acting at the request of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), kept dozens of detainees at Abu Ghraib Prison and other detention facilities off official rosters to hide them from Red Cross inspectors, The New York Times reported on Friday.

An Army inquiry completed last month found eight documented cases of so-called “ghost detainees.” But two of the investigating generals said in testimony before two Congressional committees and in interviews Thursday that depositions from military personnel who served at the prison indicated that the real total was many times higher, the report said.

“The number is in the dozens, perhaps up to 100,” General Paul J. Kern, the senior officer who oversaw the Army inquiry, told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Another investigator, Major General George R. Fay, put the figure at “two dozen or so,” but both officers said they could not give a precise number because no records were kept on most of the CIA detainees.

Under the Geneva Conventions, the temporary failure to disclose the identities of prisoners to the Red Cross is permitted under an exemption for military necessity, but the Army generals said they were certain that the practice used by the CIA in Iraq went far beyond that, the report said.

The disclosure added to questions about the CIA’s practices in Iraq, including why the agency took custody of certain Iraqi prisoners, what interrogation techniques it used and what became of the ghost detainees. It also left unanswered the question of why Colonel Thomas M. Pappas, the military intelligence officer who oversaw interrogations at the prison, agreed to let CIA officers use the prison to hide ghost detainees.

To date, two cases have been made public in which prisoners in CIA custody were removed from Iraq for a period of several months and held in detention centres outside the country, according to the report.

US airstrike kills one Iraqi in Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 11 Sept — An Iraqi was killed and two others were wounded on Friday in a US airstrike on the flashpoint city of Fallujah, 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, witnesses and medical sources said. The attack killed an employee of the Fallujah municipality, said Ahmed Thaer of the Fallujah General Hospital. The US airstrike on Fallujah has entered the fourth straight day.

After weeks of fighting that killed hundreds of Iraqis in Fallujah, US Marines pulled out of the city in May and handed over control of security to an Iraqi force. That force, the Fallujah Brigade, has collapsed and the city is now controlled by guerrillas.

Report says insecurity limiting UN presence in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Sept — International staff working for the United Nations in Iraq are “operating at the outer limit of acceptable and prudent risk” and the world body’s presence on ground is limited because of insecurity, a new UN report has said.

The “volatile security situation”, it said, is also playing havoc with the Iraqis’ confidence in their political future, especially as the electoral process as it heads towards polls scheduled for January next year.

The only solution to the insecurity and violence is a political process that is not based on threats or Armed Force, but instead a genuine willingness to tackle political, economic, social and cultural grievances peacefully, it added.

In the report, Secretary-General Kofi Annan pledged to “do everything possible, as circumstances permit, to support Iraq’s efforts in political and economic reconstruction of the country.”

“But no country has yet committed to providing any security staff for the UN workers,” he pointed out.

The UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) needs four personal security details, each comprising 12 officers, to protect the Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Iraq, Fred Eckhard told reporters on Thursday that the world body has conducted “an exhausting and exhauster search” for security units, adding that there have been “some promising leads.”

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Indian Minister says modest progress made in talks

New Delhi, 11 Sept — Observing that “modest progress” has been made in the just-concluded Indo-Pakistan ministerial talks, Indian External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh on Thursday said the two sides have “moved forward” while pending to continue the Composite Dialogue process.

Singh saw a “departure from the past” in Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri’s statement that Islamabad was “not unfodal” and committed to carry the Composite Dialogue process forward on all issues.

Bangladesh steps up security; orders close watch on border

DHAKA, 10 Sept—Bangladesh has ordered heightened vigil along its borders to prevent the suspects of the 21 August bombing from sneaking out of the country. More than 50 people were killed and over 300 sustained injuries on that date when a rally of opposition Awami League was attacked with grenade and bombs. League chief and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina survived narrowly.

As part of stepped-up security in view of the recent incidents of violence in the country, the Home Ministry ordered the formation of four anti-crime divisions with bomb disposal units to be deployed for quick response to bombing or bomb threat, officials said.— MNA/PTI


INTERNET

Hu Jintao stresses importance of helping poor children

BEIJING, 11 Sept — Chinese President Hu Jintao urged the Communist Party and all levels of government to ensure all children from poor families receive an education, on Friday.

“So that they could feel the love of the Party and the government and the big socialist family,” he said while visiting schools and teachers in Beijing on the 20th National Teachers’ Day.

The trip first brought him to Hongzhi High School, a welfare school in the Eastern District of Beijing devoted to enrolling outstanding students from poor families. The nearly 700 students are exempt from paying for books and uniforms and are exempt from paying for tuition.

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Members of the Iraqi National Guard secure the area during a rally in support of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq’s most influential Shiite cleric in the city of Najaf, on 10 Sept, 2004.—INTERNET

More than half of the world population mainly live on rice. As shown in the statistics of the FAO, the world demand for rice in 2030 will reach more than over 38 per cent of the 1999's agricultural output. New technologies are in need to satisfy the world demand for rice in future. Ways and means are to be sought for adequate supply of rice in the world. It is important for all the peoples of the world to know that rice is the most crucial crop.

The year 2004 was designated as ‘International Year of Rice’ at the 57th UN General Assembly held in December 2002. ‘International Year of Rice 2004’ is aimed to ensure adequate supply of food, to eradicate poverty, and to ensure vitamin enrichment. On 12 and 13 February 2004, the FAO held an International Rice Conference in Rome, Italy, where its headquarters is located. Hopes have been pinned on reducing the starvation facing 840 million of the world population by half in 2015. The onus is on all the peoples of the world to collectively realize that goal. The obvious answer to the surplus production of rice on which a majority of the world population rely is the extension of sown acreage. There must be an increase in per-acre yield. Under the patronage of the FAO together with member countries and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), ‘International Year of Rice’ is being observed all over the world in this year 2004.

The consumption of rice is greater in Asian countries. The topographical conditions also favour the cultivation of paddy. It is therefore safe to say that the Southeast Asian region including Myanmar is the start of paddy cultivation. The practice of paddy cultivation in the world has come into existence since some ten thousand years ago. Records have it that rice has been major sustenance in the Southeast Asian region since some 6,000 years ago. Myanmar had annually put over two million tons of its rice and rice products on the world market for nearly two decades from 1920 to 1940, and became the world’s leading exporter of rice. Rice has been produced enough and even in surplus since many years ago, when the population of the country was thin. Till this day, targets have been set on the surplus production of rice. As a result, the country enjoys sufficient and surplus rice. Relying on rice, Myanmar has had a tradition of building economic, social and cultural infrastructures since many years ago. From the times of ancient kings to the present era in Myanmar, the successive governments have striven through various ways and means for the betterment of cultivation and production of rice. Like major rice-growing countries, encouragement and assistance are offered in earnest to rice research works. Across the country, the culture of high-yield paddy and quality strain suited to the water and soil conditions of a particular area has proved successful. In consequence of it, monsoon and summer paddies are cultivated on a broader scale. Plans are also under way to cultivate and produce rice enough to feed the population that will grow in the future. In this process, measures are being taken to introduce technologies for boosting the rice yield, to extend paddy-sown acreage, to exceed per-acre yield so that targeted output will be obtained. Now that over 71 per cent of farmland have been put under high-yield paddy strain, sown acreage and paddy output are on a significant increase.

Indivisible are Myanmar and rice. And rice is the staple food for Myanmar people. Under the patronage of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Myanmar is taking part in the activities of ‘International Year of Rice 2004’, now being observed across the world, by organizing essay, painting, poster, article and photo competitions, televised discussions with rice growers and technicians and entrepreneurs, radio talks, exhibitions, and paddy seedling ceremonies in accord with the motto “Rice is Life”. Furthermore, an exhibition will be held at Myanmar Rice Research Centre in Hmawby in the first week of October.

Translation: KTY

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

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

FMI Co Ltd holds annual general meeting

YANGON, 12 Sept — First Myanmar Investment Co Ltd (FMI Co Ltd) held its 12th annual general meeting this afternoon at the National Theatre here. Present were heads of departments of the respective ministries, the chairman and advisers of FMI Co Ltd, members of board of executive directors and others.

First, Col Win Maung (Retd) who is the chairman of the advisory board made an opening speech. At the meeting, Chairman of FMI Co Ltd U Hla Kyi extended greetings. Managing Agent U Theim Wai briefed those present on tasks of the Company and answered the queries raised by the shareholders of the company. Afterwards, financial statement and annual report for 2003-2004 were approved and executive directors were selected. Managing Agent U Theim Wai was assigned as Chairman of FMI Co Ltd. FMI Co Ltd has invested at 14 companies including Yoma Bank Ltd, FMI Garden Development Ltd, FMI Syndication Ltd, SPA Motors, SPA Motorcycle Ltd, Myanmar Nissan Co Ltd, Myanmar Suzuki Motor Co Ltd, Pan Hlaing International Hospital Ltd.

Commander inspects cultivation of Hsinshweli paddy strains in Lasho

YANGON, 12 Sept — Accompanied by officials, Shan State (North) Peace and Development Development Chairman North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing arrived at the 750-acre paddy fields of Hsinshweli strains in the irrigated area of Hmawby in Lashio, on 10 September morning.

Next, township authorities and officials reported on cultivation of paddy.

The commander greeted service personnel and local farmers and instructed them to use modern farming methods.

The commander also inspected the 41-acre paddy fields of Hsinshweli strains (F-1) owned by the Immigration and National Registration Department and 250-acre paddy fields of local battalions of Lashio Station.

He next gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the needs. Later, the commander viewed the thriving Hsinshweli paddy plantations in Manna
Secretary-2 offers provisions to a Sayadaw at the donation ceremony for monasteries and nunneries in Thimgyangun Township.

Donations to 27 monasteries and 7 nunneries in Thimgyangun Township total K 7,949,640, 793 bags of rice, 3,018 viss of iodized salt and others.

Senior military officers donate provisions to a Sayadaw at the donation ceremony in Thimgyangun Township.

MNA
YANGON, 12 Sept — The Myanmar delegation arrived back from Bangkok. The delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Suwat Liptapallop of Thailand extended greetings.

Next, GMS Business Forum Chairman Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung and Asian Development Bank Vice-President Mr Luqan Jin delivered opening addresses.

Next, leaders of delegations from Myanmar, Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (Yunnan Province), Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam gave speeches.

Mon State opens Traditional Cultural Performing Arts competitions

YANGON, 12 Sept — The 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts competitions of Mon State were opened in the State Hall of Mawlamyine on 10 September. Present on the occasion were Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and wife, Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the competitions Secretary of Mon State PDC Lt-Col Soe Myint Aung and officials, departmental officials, social organizations and guests. The commander briefed on the purpose of holding the competitions and formally opened the competitions by cutting a ribbon. The commander and the guests watched dancing contest, musical instrument playing contest and song composing contest in designated places. The competitions continue till 12 September. — MNA
**Establishment of Archaeological Zone starts in Tagaung region**

*Yangon, 10 Sept.—Archaeologists and staff of the Department of Archaeology excavated ancient Tagaung city beginning early 2003 and found evidences of Pyu periods such as urns, earthen plates, goglets, jars, various kinds of colourful beads, bricks, other artifacts, foundations of buildings of Pyu period, over 30 kilns, ironing, bracelets, weapons, brasswares and stone weapons there and its nearby regions.

In July and August 2004, they excavated mound No TG-31 in the compound of Tagaung Basic Education High School and found 64 urns, goglets, pots and jars in No 1, 2, 3, and 4 pots. These artifacts firmly show that Pyu city state like Hanlin and Beikthano cities existed in Tagaung region. It was a finding of great importance for Myanmar history and archaeology.

The excavated urns, earthen plates, goglets, jars and pots were decorated with drawings and other works of art such as pictures of human, animals and flowers. Inside the artifacts are bronzewares, ashes and charcoal. The experts of the Department of Archaeology put on record of the level of architecture in those days. They believe that they can assess the value of the artifacts and the ancient objects will be preserved under the supervision of experts from the Ministry of Culture.

The experts will study the skull and bones found in No 14 pot and excavated the height and the way of living of Pyu people.

Now Tagaung region and its environs have been designated as Tagaung Archaeological Zone. An archaeological museum will be built and the archway of Tagaung will also be built beautifully with the decoration of pictures of blacksmith U Tint De and hero Pyusawhti. Hotels and other places of interest will be built there for tourist attraction.—*MNA*

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**Yangon Division women’s soccer match opens**

*Yangon, 12 Sept.—Yangon Division women’s open football tournament organized by Yangon Division Organization for Women’s Affairs and Yangon Division women sports federation was opened at Aung San sports ground here this afternoon.

Ministry of Transport Team played against Ministry of Defence Team.

A total of six soccer teams (women) participates in the tournament which lasts till 26 September. Dr Sai Saing Tun (Alpine safe drinking water) presented K 2.5 million for the tournament through Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay. —*MNA*

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**First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004 to be held**

*Yangon, 12 Sept.—Central committee for holding of the First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004 held its fourth coor- dination meeting on 9 Sep- tember at Myanmar Con- vention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township.

Before the meeting, Patrons of the committee, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Minister for Commerce Patrons of the committee, Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Minister for Finance and Planning Minister for Commerce, Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin made ad- dress.

At the meeting, Secret- ary of the central com- mittee Director-General of the Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye reported on preparation and chairman and officials of the sub- committees reported on arrangements for holding the fair. The First CLMTV-ECS Trade Fair-2004 will be held at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township from 1 to 5 December. —*MNA*

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**Programme on Basic IT for IT Engineers concludes**

*Yangon, 12 Sept.—Under the arrangements of Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF) and the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS), the Programme on Basic IT for IT Engineers (MMFE2W-1) concluded at MIC Park in Hline Township this af- ternoon.

President of MCF U Thein Oo and General Manager Mr Kazuhsia Ogawa of AOTS (Bangkok Office) gave speeches. Next, certificates were pre- sented to 30 trainees. The training course lasted 10 days. —*MNA*

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**Medical agents to meet for 51st Medical Conference**

*Yangon, 12 Sept.—The 51st Medi- cal Conference will be held at the Myanmar Medical Association in Mandalay from 19 to 25 January 2005. A meeting between the Committee for Organizing the Medical Conference and medical and medical equipment agents will be held at the Auditorium of MMA (Yangon) on Theibhun Street, Mingalar Taungnyunt Township on 18 September for the success of the conference. All medical agents have been invited to attend the meeting. —*MNA*
**India’s Plan Body to review feasibility of growth target**

**NEW DELHI, 12 Sept—** Identifying deceleration in agriculture growth, poor infrastructure and lack of private investment as impediments to faster economic growth, India’s Planning Commission Friday said it would examine the feasibility of the 10th plan growth target of 8.1 per cent.

The Plan Body said its Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA), to be completed by year-end, would focus on “policy correctives” in critical areas in terms of priorities laid down by the coalition government’s Common Minimum Programme.

Indicating that the 10th Plan growth target may have to be scaled down, the Plan Body warned against “populism” as it had contributed to “disappointing” performance in power sector.

In the last two years, the approach paper for the MTA said, “plan allocations have been below expectations. States have not received as much resources as envisaged through devolution”.

Listing out various reasons for dismal resource position in the first two years of the 10th plan, including the government’s ratio of tax revenue to GDP, the Commission said the appraisal would examine trends in resources and “identify priority corrective steps”.

Pointing at low agriculture development and growth of infrastructure at “far below” the level required for the 8-per-cent economic growth, the paper sought review of the regulatory mechanism in each sector and blamed states’ populism for the “disappointing” performance of the power sector.

On employment scenario in the country, the paper pointed out that 400 billion rupees would be required to introduce an employment guarantee for rural areas as it termed the labour laws reform as one of the crucial factors, both for sustained industrial growth and creating high quality job opportunities.

Criticalizing the lack of the stock-taking of schemes for providing food and nutritional support, the paper said appraisal needs to reflect on this to rationalize the overall food and nutritional interventions made by the government.

**Sore eye epidemic in Philippines puzzles doctors**

**MANILA, 12 Sept —** An outbreak of viral conjunctivitis, or sore eyes, in Dagupan City, northern Philippines, has puzzled local doctors as this is not the season for such an epidemic outbreak, reported the Philippine News Agency (PNA) on Saturday. PNA quoted Dr. Leonardo Carbonnel, assistant city health officer in Dagupan City, as saying that the spread of viral conjunctivitis could be due to a possible shift from the normal epidemiology of the disease owing to environmental degradation.

He said in a radio interview that he was surprised to find out why there are so many people afflicted with sore eyes when it is not summer yet. Confirming that conjunctivitis is a summer disease, it is taking medical practitioners by surprise why the disease is raging this rainy season, which usually sees the outbreak of such diseases as gastroenteritis and dengue, he said. The summer season in the Philippines covers the period from February to April, during which time diseases such as sore eyes and chicken pox break out.

But Carbonnel assured those afflicted with sore eyes that viral conjunctivitis is not fatal, and can be cured within seven days unless the patient is further infected.

He called on people to be careful because if they touch anything held by an infected person, chances are that they may also get sore eyes, a very contagious disease whose transmission is very fast.

People can wash their eyes with soap and lukewarm water, he said, advising people to develop the habit of washing their hands frequently with clean water and soap if they cannot afford to buy alcohol. He also said that since too many people are sick of sore eyes in Dagupan City, people should avoid crowded places already infected stay at home.—PNA/PTI

**China offers emergency aid to Russia**

**BEIJING, 12 Sept —** China offered 10 million yuan (1.2 million US dollars) worth of medical equipment and medicine to Russia as emergency aid for the country’s recent tragedy, Saturday.

The aid, collected from the whole nation during the past two days, has been loaded at the Tianjin Airport and will be sent to Russia, according to Vladimir Zhanli, manager from a drug company that is responsible for the collection.

Miao said that the aid includes hospital beds, heart electric monitoring equipment and anesthetic machine.

On September 1, more than 30 armed militants took about 1,200 people hostage in a secondary school in Beslan, a town in northern Russia. The crisis ended on the third day after a fierce exchange of gunfire, but left at least 335 dead — half of them children.

Chinese President Hu Jintao sent a message on September 8 to Russian President Vladimir Putin, strongly condemn the “atrocious terrorist acts”. He said that the Chinese Government would offer goods to assist those affected by the tragedy and to show China’s sympathy and support. —MNA/Xinhua

**Traditional Chinese medicine has broad prospects in int’l market**

**BEIJING, 12 Sept —** Chinese and foreign experts agreed at a symposium here Saturday that traditional Chinese medicine has broad prospects in international market as Chinese therapy and pharmacy have helped treat many severe diseases.

Last year, traditional Chinese medicine was successfully used in treating SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) patients, said Professor Tian Jingfu, former deputy director of the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Currently, many Chinese companies and individuals are studying ways to treat HIV/AIDS patients.

China’s success has increased international awareness about traditional Chinese medicine and served to push traditional Chinese medicine into the international market.

According to Hiromi Kunom and Hanuki Kaku from Okayama University of Japan, Japanese medical universities have been ordered to resume teaching the subject of traditional Chinese medicine this year.—MNA/Xinhua

**Former soldier turns himself in to US base in Japan**

**TOYOKO, 12 Sept —** A former US serviceman accused of deserting while serving in South Korea in 1965 turned himself in on Saturday to the US military at a base near Tokyo. Charles Jenkins, 64, departed from a hospital in Tokyo early morning and later arrived at the Camp Zama. He was accompanied by his Japanese wife Hitomi Soga and their two daughters, Kyodo News reported. Jenkins is expected to begin legal procedures at the base to avoid imprisonment by seeking a plea bargain for a dishonourable discharge from the US military in consultation with his military defense lawyer, Kyodo quoted sources as saying, after charges was charged by the US military with escaping to North Korea in 1965.

He later married Soga who was one of the Japanese North Korea admitted to abduct in late 1970s and early 1980s.

Soga returned to Japan in 2002 after Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi’s visit to Pyongyang.

Jenkins was arrested in Tokyo in July via Jakarta. He was soon admitted into a hospital to receive medical treatment. —MNA/Xinhua

**China finds first ceramic balls used by ancient hunters**

**LANZHOU, 12 Sept —** Four ceramic balls unearthed in northeast China are believed to be weapons of ancient hunters some 3,000 years ago.

Chinese archaeologists discovered four such balls, 2-4 centimetres in diameter, in Gaungue County, Gansu Province, and before the finding people only knew of the ceramic balls from historical documents.

The balls are red, yellow and black. Some are solid with slick surfaces, some are hollow with frittile grains inside.

“These ceramic balls, in their shapes, sizes and weights, are very suitable for people to hurl by hand or with a rope,” said Wang Donghai, deputy head of the provincial institute of coloured pottery in Gansu.

“They must be efficient in hunting fast running animals,” he said, adding that the hollow ceramic balls would make sounds during the movement.

The four balls provide evidence about the life of ancient people recorded in historical documents. They are of great value also for studies on ceramic culture, the history of human development and the history of Chinese civilization, said Wang.—MNA/Xinhua

**Asia’s longest tracked roller coaster built in Beijing**

**BEIJING, 12 Sept —** A roller coaster with an 888-metre track, believed to be the longest in Asia, now in its final phase of installation at the Shijingshan Amusement Park in Beijing, will be operational during National Day holiday period in early October.

The roller coaster cost 50 million yuan (approximately six million US dollars) to build. It runs at a maximum speed of 80 kilometres per hour and its maximum height is 33 metres. All essential parts and equipment were imported from overseas, the park’s general manager Liu Jingwang disclosed here Friday.

The park will continue to import the latest superb amusement facilities from various parts of the world as part of the preparations for the 2008 Olympics to be held in Beijing, Liu said. —MNA/Xinhua
**ADVERTISEMENTS**

**Turkish police seize 90 kilos of heroin**

**ANKARA, 11 Sept —** Turkish police seized 90 kilos of heroin in two separate operations in Ankara and Istanbul, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Thursday.

Sources were quoted as saying Turkish police acted on a tip-off and followed a lorry on the motorway from Ankara, capital of Turkey, to Istanbul, the commercial hub and the largest city of Turkey, and confiscated 66 kilos of heroin hidden in the lorry.

The heroin was brought from the eastern city of Van, reported Anatolia, adding the driver of the lorry was detained in the operation. Meanwhile, Istanbul deputy police chief Halil Yilmaz was quoted as saying the police staged an operation against an illegal international drug trafficking gang in Istanbul and confiscated 24 kilos of heroin.

**VIETNAMESE DRUG COMPANIES GIVEN IMPORT NOD**

**HANOI, 11 Sept —** Private and state-owned enterprises in Vietnam will be allowed to import hundreds of foreign medicines which are currently imported by Switzerland-based distributor Zuellig Pharma. The drugs, expected to be offered at a lower price than Zuellig imports, will ensure a steady supply of special medicines currently distributed by the company, Vietnam News on Friday quoted Cao Minh Quang, director of the Vietnam Administration of Drug under the Ministry of Health as saying.

Zuellig, in recent months, has been at the centre of a national controversy on drug pricing and distribution, with government authorities saying that the company monopolizes Vietnam’s medicine distribution industry.

The ministry does not plan to renew Zuellig’s distribution licence which expired on 5 September, an official said on Friday.

**India to help Nepal in upgrading police force**

**NEW DELHI, 11 Sept —** Observing that Maoist insurgency in Nepal was a “shared security threat”, India Friday told the Himalayan Kingdoms it would help it upgrade its police force to deal with terrorists more effectively even as the two sides agreed to finalize an extradition treaty and mutual legal assistance treaty on criminal matters.

As part of efforts to strengthen security cooperation, New Delhi will soon launch a pilot project for modernization of Nepali police with special focus on counter-insurgency training and designed to strengthen its capabilities to enable it deal with terrorisms more effectively.

Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba who is on a five-day visit, Friday met Chairperson of the ruling coalition platform United Progressive Alliance and Congress President Sonia Gandhi.

The two sides have decided to explore the possibility of enhancing cooperation in flood control and power generation beside upgrading road and rail networks, Saran said here describing Deuba’s visit “as very successful and a landmark” in the direction of further consolidating bilateral links.

**MMR vaccination not linked to developmental problems**

**LONDON, 11 Sept —** Scientists published a new study on Friday which they said adds to evidence that the triple measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination is not linked to autism or other developmental disorders.

Fear that the triple jab might cause autism have resulted in a decrease in the number of vaccinated children in Britain from 92 per cent in 1995-96 to 82 per cent in 2002-2003.

“We have found no convincing evidence that MMR vaccination increases the risk of autism,” Dr. Lisa Smith, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said in a report in The Lancet medical journal.

“No significant association has been found in rigorous studies in a range of different settings.”

Medical experts are worried that as the number of unprotected children rises more will become susceptible to infection and cases of the illness will increase.

The drop in vaccinations followed the release of a controversial report in 1998 that suggested a possible link. Ten doctors who co-authored the study have since said there is not enough evidence to draw that conclusion.

Smeeth and his colleagues compared the rate of MMR vaccinations of 1,294 children who later developed autism or other developmental disorder and 4,469 who did not.

They found that those with disorders were actually slightly less likely to have been vaccinated with MMR than those who developed normally.

**Volkswagen’s Skoda to be produced in China next year**

**BEIJING, 11 Sept —** Czech carmaker Skoda announced it was preparing to launch local production in China next year, Oriental Morning Post reported on Friday.

The car manufacturer, part of Germany’s Volkswagen group, has chosen south China’s Shenzhen to locate its biggest overseas auto plant, which will also become Skoda’s No 1 car distribution centre facing in Asia, said the Shanghai-based newspaper.

Walter Hanek, a Volkswagen executive vice-president who is visiting China, was quoted as saying that Volkswagen was actively preparing local production and he hoped Chinese consumers would see top-quality Skoda cars produced in China in the near future.

But he did not specify which Skoda model would be produced here and how much the company would invest.

Skoda’s Shenzhen base, which will occupy an area of 10,000 square metres, will offer services including car distribution, auto parts supply, technological support, training, after-sale service and feedback.

The German car giant, though still the market leader in China, has seen its share slide as US competitors such as General Motors and Ford have introduced more car models in China and cut prices to attract consumers.

**Police seize big haul of pangolins in S-Thailand**

**BANGKOK, 11 Sept —** Police in Thailand seized 300 pangolins in the southern Thai province of Songkhla, the biggest haul so far this year, the official Thai News Agency reported Friday.

The pangolins, wrapped in nylon bags and stuffed into plastic boxes, were found in a rubber plantation in Songkhla, about 950 kilometres south of Bangkok.

The two men guarding the plantation fled when police searching the area approached them.

The protected ant-eating mammals were smuggled into southern Thailand from Malaysia, and were destined for restaurants in other provinces, said police, adding that they were bringing the smugglers to justice and searching for the receiver of the animals in Thailand.

**Vietnamese drug companies given import nod**

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Aluminium could be unusual saviour for Atlantic salmon

On 10, 11 Sept — Aluminium could be an unusual saviour for Atlantic salmon in prized Scandinavian and Russian fishing rivers because it kills a voracious parasite, researchers said on Friday.

The findings may help fly fishing enthusiasts, fish farming companies and nations from the United States to Scotland who boast rivers free of the tiny gyrodactylus salaris fresh water parasite and want them to stay that way.

An unprecedented test in western Norway this summer showed that tiny concentrations of ground aluminium, dripped into the Batnsfjord River, apparently killed the parasites stuck on the salmon skin without hurting the fish or other riverlife.

“We’ve not found parasites on the last 90 fish we’ve tested,” Sigurd Hytteroed of the Norwegian Veterinary Institute told Reuters. “A year ago, all of the fish had it.”

“As far as we know, aluminium has never been tested like this elsewhere in the world,” he said of the study by several Norwegian research groups. High concentrations of aluminium can damage fish gills.

Salmon have been almost wiped out in some of the about 40 rivers in Norway containing the parasite, which attaches itself to the fish with tiny hooks. It then eats through the skin, often bringing ulcers and infections that kill the fish.

The parasite has also affected rivers in other Scandinavian nations and Russia, Hytteroed said.

The aluminium was dripped into the river from three main points along the river in a dose of 200 microgrammes per litre of water — a microgramme is a millionth of a grammes (0.003527 ounce).

Previsouly more drastic cures often used rotenon, a pesticide that can also kill the fish.

Researchers stumbled across aluminium’s parasite-killing side-effects after finding that rivers without gyrodactylus salaris had high natural levels of metals, washed from the ground. Laboratory research showed aluminium was the best.

Other experts welcomed the findings, if confirmed.

“We don’t have the parasite on this side of the Atlantic but we’re scared to death of it,” said Fred Whorskey, vice-president of research and environment at the Atlantic Salmon Federation in New Brunswick, Canada.

“Scotland and Ireland are also free of it,” he said. The parasite dies in salt water where salmon spend most of their lives, but there were risks that ships, for instance, might transport the parasite in ballast water over the Atlantic.

Scientists say “Genesis” crash landing left solar material intact

WASHINGTON, 11 Sept— After peering inside NASA’s broken Genesis capsule with flashlights and mirrors, scientists said on Friday the craft’s unexpected crash landing left solar material intact and most scientific objectives within reach.

“We should be able to meet most if not all of our primary science goals,” Roger Wiens, a key scientist on the project, said at a telephone news conference. “Overall, we’re quite confident that we can achieve a high degree of success from a science point of view.”

The 264-million-US-dollar mission was designed to collect charged solar particles on delicate wafer-like plates and return them to Earth for examination.

The wafers were believed to be so fragile that a helicopter-assisted parachute landing was planned. But the parachute failed to deploy on Wednesday, sending Genesis hurtling to Earth at 200 miles per hour.

China becomes a powerhouse of world economy

BEIJING, 11 Sept — In the new economic map, China has become a powerhouse of the world economy, said Rubens Ricupero, secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), here Friday.

Addressing the International Forum on the Common Development of China’s Economy and the World Economy, Ricupero said the economies of the developing countries used to rely on support from developed countries, but China’s growth has changed this, he said.

The rapid increase of China’s demand has created a new market for both developed and developing countries. In 2003 and the first half of 2004, the increase of China’s imports has exceeded that of its exports, he said. But at the same time, China provided products for both developed and developing countries, he said. Ricupero said he believed that China’s strong growth will benefit the world economy, reduce global poverty and stimulate the economies of other developing countries. Ricupero’s view was reinforced by both domestic delegates and representaives from abroad. Yew-Kwang Ng, fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia, analysed the impact that China’s development will bring, from an economic viewpoint. He said China is a big country with a big population and a big market.

India steps up efforts to market home-grown helicopter

NEW DELHI, 11 Sept — India has stepped up joint efforts with Israel to market an indigenously developed helicopter around the world and is hopeful of receiving an order for it from Chile, the Indo-Asian News Service reported Friday.

NR Mohanty, chairman of India’s aviation major Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) that makes the Dhruv advanced light helicopters, said his organization had signed an agreement with Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) to develop and market the Dhruv.

HAL sold two of the home-grown helicopters to the Nepali Armed forces last year and it was recently demonstrated to the military in Chile by a team of Indian and Israeli experts.

“The Chileans were satisfied with the technical demonstrations and the commercial negotiations are yet to begin, but we are hopeful of orders from them,” Mohanty told reporters here.

Teachers best regarded in China

BEIJING, 11 Sept — Teachers are the most respected group of people in China, followed by scientists, doctors, soldiers, policemen, public servants, engineers, lawyers, entrepreneurs, farmers, athletes, artists, correspondents and workers, a national survey has found.

According to the outcome of a survey commissioned by the China Association of Sciences and Technology, 58 per cent of the 8,474 people surveyed across the country believe teachers are the most prestigious people in China. But 67 per cent of the surveyed at the age group 60-69 described teachers as the most prestigious one, while only half of the young people aged 18 to 29 think so, according to the survey conducted in 2003. Nearly half of those surveyed hope their kids would take up teaching as a profession, and more women than men are willing to see their kids become teachers. —MNA/Xinhua
**SPORTS**

**Powell to resurrect career by leaving Charlton**

**LONDON** 11 Sept — Former England defender Chris Powell hopes to resurrect his career by leaving Premier League club Charlton Athletic to join Second Division West Ham United on loan.

The 34-year-old left back, capped five times by his country, signed a new one-year contract before the season but has not played in any of Charlton’s four matches.

Powell will drop a division after agreeing a one-month loan with West Ham, who are chasing promotion having been relegated from the top flight last year.—**MNA/Reuters**

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**Maradona still stuck in Argentina**

**BUENOS AIRES**, 11 Sept — Diego Maradona was still stuck in Argentina on Friday, frustrated by his family’s refusal to allow him to continue his cocaine addiction treatment in Cuba.

A judge ruled this week that the 43-year-old former Argentina captain could leave a psychiatric clinic outside Buenos Aires, where his family has confined him since major problems landed him in intensive care in April.

But Maradona’s family has until next Tuesday to appeal the court decision, and some relatives have declined to sign forms allowing him to leave the country before then.

“It’s very frustrating for him, I think it could even make him have a breakdown,” Nestor Marchant, one of Maradona’s psychiatrists, told local radio.

“Not much sacrifice to get his spirits up for him to travel, for him to recover. And now these problems just fell out of the sky. This man should have been in Cuba by now,” Marchant said.

A virtual army of news cameras has been camped outside the clinic, and television stations regularly break into live programing with the latest speculation on when Maradona might depart.

Maradona has made Cuba his second home in recent years, saying the island offers a respite from the media and frenzied activity outside Argentina. Maradona is regarded as one of the most gifted players in the history of soccer and led Argentina to victory at the 1986 World Cup finals.

He says he has been fighting drug addiction for much of the last 20 years. —**MNA/Reuters**

**Man Utd no longer inspire fear in opponents**

**LONDON** 11 Sept — Once-dominant Manchester United no longer inspire fear in their opponents, according to club captain Roy Keane.

“Man United applies for permission to expand stadium**

**LONDON** 11 Sept — Manchester United have applied for planning permission to expand their stadium in a move which would take the capacity of Old Trafford to 75,000.

United’s stadium is the largest in the Premier League, holding almost 68,000, with Newcastle United’s the second biggest at just over 52,000.

Champions Arsenal are in the process of building a new ground, costing 357 million pounds (637 million US dollars), which will hold 60,000 when it opens for the start of the 2006-07 season.

“Manchester United announces that it is today submitting an application for planning permission to Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council to expand the North East and North West Quadrants of the Old Trafford stadium,” United said in a statement to the London Stock Exchange on Friday.

“I believe, here at Liverpool, we will have a long time to enjoy watching Steven Gerrard,” club’s manager Rafael Benitez.

**Nistelrooy, Heinez return from injury**

**MANCHESTER** (England), 11 Sept — Argentinian international Gabriel Heinez is set to make his Manchester United debut and Ruud van Nistelrooy could return from injury via the substitute’s bench at Bolton Wanderers on Saturday.

However, new signing Wayne Rooney is still three weeks away from a return to action with the England striker still recovering from a broken foot sustained at the European Championship in June, manager Alex Ferguson said on Friday.

Heinez is yet to play for United since a 6.9 million-pound (12.31 million US dollars) move from Paris St Germain in January, with a series of international commitments at the Copa America and the Olympic Games, where he won a gold medal in the soccer tournament. —**MNA/Reuters**

**Real not interested in signing Gerrard**

**LIVERPOOL** (England), 11 Sept — Real Madrid are not interested in signing England midfielder Steven Gerrard from Liverpool, according to the Premier League club’s manager Rafael Benitez.

Spaniard Benitez admitted he was concerned to read reports of Real Madrid’s desire to add Gerrard to their trio of England internationals, David Beckham, Michael Owen and Jonathan Woodgate.

“I have read stories about Real Madrid wanting to sign Steven Gerrard but it is not true,” Benitez told reporters on Friday.

“I have talked with the player and also talked to Real Madrid and they have both told me it is not true. “I believe, here at Liverpool, we will have a long time to enjoy watching Steven Gerrard.” —**MNA/Reuters**

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**Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle**

**M I L L E R**

**T A R R Y**

**O E L L U A**

**D R I V E R T R A W L E R**

**E S V I K E R**

**S A U S A G E T R I O**

**T R E T R A W L E R**

**S T R O P T R I A P T E R W R Y**

**S T R I P T E Z E R**

**H O C K E Y O V E R D U E**

**R O O S T R I T U L**

**I M P E T U S L O C A L**

**N S U E B O R E A**

**K N E A D O R E A**

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**Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia holds the Russian flag and the US Open trophy after defeating compatriot Elena Dementieva, in the final at the 2004 US Open in New York, on 11 Sept, 2004. Kuznetsova defeated Dementieva 6-3, 7-5 to win the championship. —**INTERNET**
13-9-2004 (Monday) (Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission (9:00 - 10:00)
9:00 Signature Tune
9:10 Headline News
9:12 Folk Art of Pottery
9:20 Thithathura Throne
9:25 Kachin Dance
9:28 Inn-Waing Waterfall
9:30 National News
9:35 Myanmar’s Pride : The Art of Carving
9:40 Songs on Screen “What Love is”
9:42 Tour In Myanmar “Bagan, Popa”
9:45 National News
9:50 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-I)
9:58 Songs of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
13:9-2004 (Monday) Evening Transmission (15:30 - 17:30)
15:30 Signature Tune Greeting
15:32 Songs of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
15:36 Noble Month of Wao
15:40 Headline News
15:42 Folk Art of Pottery
15:45 National News
15:50 Thithathura Throne
15:55 Kachin Dance
16:00 National News
16:05 Myanmar’s Pride: The Art of Carving
16:10 Songs on Screen “What Love is”
16:12 Tour In Myanmar “Bagan, Popa”
16:15 National News
16:20 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-I)
16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Senti- ment”
16:30 National News
16:35 Myanmar Traditional Fun
16:40 Lacquerware Museum
16:45 National News
16:50 The Alaung Daw Katha National Park
16:55 Dance of the Oil Lamps
17:00 National News
17:05 Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments (Bungo gong) (Maung Saing)
17:10 Myanmar Modern Song “Flower Alice”
17:12 Plaster Toys
17:15 National News
17:20 Mountnau Maywae
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and see Myanmar”
19:30 Signature Tune Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Senti- ment”
19:36 The Art of Basket Weaving
19:40 National News
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes “Brown Mol- lusc Soup”
19:45 National News
19:50 Myanmar Movie Impact “The Sea, the Prince”
20:00 National News
20:05 Off-Shore Fishing Industry
20:10 Song “Towards Kachin Special Region”
20:15 National News
20:20 Myeik, a Town in the Southern part of Myanmar
20:25 Myanmar Modern Song “You From Next Door”
20:30 National News
20:35 Shrimp Farm Project (Ma Aing Island)
20:40 Myanmar Traditional Mariinette (The royal Page Dance)
20:45 National News
20:50 Naga Traditional handicrafts
20:55 Kachin Traditional New Crop Feast and Drum Dance
21:00 National News
21:05 Pa-na-nma Aau Khan Gita Than (Welcoming music, a curtain raiser)
21:10 Myanmar Modern Song “Heralding Clouds”
21:15 National News
21:20 Myanmar Marine Products For All Na- tions
21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
21:35 Noble Month of Wao
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23:28 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and see Myanmar”

WEATHER
Sunday, 13 September
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours
MST; During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taungthmyi Division, rain or thunderstorms have been scattered in Chin, Mon and Kayah States, Ayeuyawy Division and widespread in the remaining areas with lo- cally heavy falls in lowland Sagraing Division, isolated heavy falls in upper Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay Divi- sions and Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rain- fall recorded were Kyauktaw (5.6 inches), Kanbaw (4.25 inches), Homalin (3.1 inches), Thandwe (2.95 inches), Hpakan (2.76 inches), Myitkyina (2.72 inches), Nyau Ngao (2.56 inches), Thaton (2.32 inches) and Chank (1.93 inches).

Maximum temperature on 11-9-2004 was 85°F. Minim- um temperature on 12-9-2004 was 67°F. Relative hu- midity at 9.30 hrs MST on 12-9-2004 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 11-9-2004 was (2.3) hour approx. Rain- fall on 12-9-2004 was 0.90 inch at Kaba-Aye and 1.07 inches at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 104.21 inches at Yangon Airport, 98.50 inches at Kaba-Aye and 99.65 inches at central Yangon.

Bay inference: According to the observations at 06:30 hrs MST today, the depression over North Bay has crossed the Coast between Chittagong (Bangladesh) and Maungdaw (Myanmar) at early night yesterday and weakened. Monsoon is strong in the Bay of Bengal. Fore- cast valid until evening of 13-9-2004: Rain will be iso- lated in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, Taungthmyi Divi- sion, scattered in Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, Yangon and lower Sagaing Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate to rough in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Decrease in rain in lower Myanmar waters.
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-9-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%). Fore- cast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-9- 2004: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Rainfall on 12-9-2004
- 0.90 inch at Yangon Airport,
- 0.67 inch at Kaba-Aye and
- 1.07 inches at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was
- 104.21 inches at Yangon Airport, 98.50 inches at Kaba-Aye and 99.65 inches at central Yangon.

Flash bulletin
Issued at 13.00 hrs MST on 11.9.2004
The water level of Dolekhatwadi River at Myintgye is (35) cm (1 ft) above the danger level at 1060 hrs MST today. The water level may remain above the danger level during the next (3) days commencing noon today.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 13 September, 2004

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14th Waning of Wakhaung 1366 ME
Monday, 13 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

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

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

YANGON, 12 Sept — Families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated rice, oil, salt, gram and cash to 12 monasteries and a nunnery in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District, this afternoon.

The donation ceremony was held at Thayagon Pariyatti Monastery on Minye Kyawswa Road in Ward 4, Hlinethaya Township, at 1 pm today, attended by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were Presiding Nayaka of Thayagon Pariyatti Monastery Ganthavaçaka Pandita Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejavamsa and members of the Sangha, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council (See page 8)

**Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil**

YANGON, 12 Sept — The 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions of Yangon Division were opened today at Latha Township No 2 Basic Education High School. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe formally opened the competition and delivered an address.

Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions of Yangon Division will be divided into two categories — professional level and amateur level. A total of 193 artists participate in the competitions which will last till 14 September.

At the opening ceremony, artistes entertained the audience with songs and dances. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay presented flower baskets and cash to the artistes, and the cere-mony came to an end.

MNA

**Performing arts competitions of Yangon Division opened**

MNA

**INSIDE**

Perspectives

Be a police force imbued with nationalism

(Page 2)

Article

International Year of Rice 2004

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