The New Light of Myanmar

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Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects three-wheel motorcycle Factory of Three Friends Co Ltd in Yenangyoung Industrial Zone. — MNA

Secretary-1 stresses need to cooperate among departments to continuously produce road rollers of high quality

Yenangyoung Industrial Zone to produce necessary parts on large scale to be installed in gas-automobiles

Chairman of Industrial Development Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, together with SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, arrived at the hall of Yenangyoung Industrial Zone on 11 September evening.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Zaw Min, Commander of No 88 LID Col Aung Than Hlut and senior military officers, departmental heads and members of Yenangyoung Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee.

Chairman of Yenangyoung Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee Chairman of Magway District PDC Lt-Colnel Kyi Tun reported on facts about the Industrial Yenangyoung and the entrepreneurs, on their products and the chairman of Magway Division PDC on the use of natural gas vehicles in Chauk regions. Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi gave a supplementary report. (See page 8)

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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Towards development of private industries

The State Peace and Development Council, enlisting the national forces and making effective use of natural resources, has been striving for all-round development of the nation.

The Union of Myanmar, being an agricultural country, relies on its agriculture sector for the development of the national economic life. And at the same time, it places special emphasis on the development of its industrial sector so that it can keep abreast of other nations of the world.

For the development of the industrial sector, the State has been building new factories and mills and establishing industrial zones where the situation permits. As a result, there are now 19 industrial zones all over the nation and, out of them, Yangon, Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi Ayethaya industrial zones are now gaining momentum.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, also Chairman of the Industrial Development Committee, visited Mandalay Industrial Zone and met industrialists there on 11 September.

In his meeting with the industrialists, the Secretary-1 urged them to strive for the development of their industries properly as the Government is going to give moral support and render as much assistance as possible.

With the purpose of upgrading Mandalay Industrial Zone, construction of foundries and forging machines are being carried out. With the assistance of the State and establishment of modern workshops, the standard of industrial zones and its production quality will surely become higher. Now, at Mandalay Industrial Zone, innovations are being made to change petrol and diesel engines into gas engines.

The annual growth rate of the industrial sector has been on the increase since the year 1992-93 and private industries play a pivotal role for the development of the industrial sector as the industrial sector is mostly pivotal role for the development of the industrial sector.

The State Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein and officials viewed round in Mayangon Township at 8.30 am today.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn inspected the activities.

At the meeting hall, educative activities on prevention of DHF being carried out in Kyimyindine Township, Yangon West District this morning.

Chairman of Kyimyindine Township Development Affairs officials reported on yearly and monthly outbreaks of DHF in the township, prevention of DHF being carried out at schools and wards in townships and out of YCDC and control of larvas so as to prevent breeding of mosquitoes. Next, the commander, the minister and the mayor gave instructions and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Commander, minister inspect activities for prevention of DHF

YANGON, 14 Sept — With the sponsorship of the Ministry of Health and the Yangon City Development Committee, activities on prevention of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever were launched as part of mass campaign in Kyimyindine Township, Yangon West District this morning.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects dengue fever preventive measures being carried out in Kyimyindine Township. — YANGON COMMAND

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint delivers an opening address at Training Course on Technical Transfer and Application of Food Test Kits — MNA

Technical Transfer and Application of Food Test Kits opens

YANGON, 14 Sept — Under the programme of Myanmar-Thailand Bilateral Cooperation in Food Safety, Training Course on Technical Transfer and Application of Food Test Kits was opened this morning at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel here.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an opening address. In his address, he said many inter-related factors are involved in foodborne illness and the increases are in part due to changes that are taking place in food production on the farm, food processing and distribution and preparation system. From these training courses, the participants had acquired the knowledge and skills in the field of Food Analysis, Food Control, Food Administration, Food Inspection and methods for Utilization of Food Test Kits, he added.

Dr Suphan Srithamma of the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand also made an address. A total of 100 laboratory staff are attending the course which will last till 16 September.

Myanmar delegation leaves for China

YANGON, 14 Sept — A 19-member Myanmar delegation led by Vice-President of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association Daw Nu Nu Yi left here by air this morning to attend the 11th Global Conference of Women Entrepreneurs to be held in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China, from 16 to 19 September. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by MWEA President Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Khin Myint Myint, Vice-President Daw Thet Yi, Adviser Daw Sein Sein and executives and officials. — MNA

Minister of Food Processing, Shipping and Export Dr Khin Myint Myint delivers an opening address. — MNA

Appointment of ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 15 Sept— The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mrs Maria Luisa Fernandez, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to the Union of Myanmar.

Mrs Fernandez is accredited to the Union of Myanmar, with residence in Bangkok, Thailand.

MWEA members seen at Yangon International Airport before their departure for Beijing. (ii)

MNA
Two Australians, two Asians kidnapped in Iraq

**SAMARRA, 13 Sept—**Two Australians and two East Asians have been kidnapped in Iraq, said a statement in the name of the Islamic Secret Army handed out in the Sunni Muslim guerrilla bastion of Samarra.

The statement gave Canberra a 24-hour deadline to end its interests in Iraq or see the hostages executed, but there was no immediate confirmation of the ultimatum’s authenticity.

“One of our brave brigades ambushed civilian cars belonging to the American army on the motorway from Baghdad to (the main northern city of) Mosul,” said the statement from the so-called Horror Brigades dated Monday.

“It took four prisoners, two Australians and two East Asian nationals who were working as security contractors for important people,” it said.

“We tell the infidels of Australia that they have 24 hours to leave Iraq or the two Australians will be killed without a second chance.”

Australia took part in last year’s US-led invasion and still maintains 850 troops in Iraq. “The (Australian) Prime Minister (John Howard) must announce the withdrawal personally if he is concerned about his two citizens,” said the statement.—Internet

但是一场爱和愤怒的居民否认了US声称的囚犯是全部扎卡维的。

“50 to 55 bodies. Among them is a motorcycle driver and two nurses, plus five wounded who were in the ambulance when it was bombed,” said territorial officer Falah Abdullah.

Pick-up trucks carried the bodies to the cemetery, where a crowd of furious relatives washed and buried their loved ones, an AFP correspondent said.

Hamid Abbas, 32, said his wind-

screen smashed when a jet dropped a motorcycle on the car in front.

“All of a sudden I heard a powerful explosion. A few seconds later, I saw the car on fire and charred bodies inside. People on the street were in a state of panic.” Medics said 20 people were wounded in the latest US strike on the militant stronghold since seven US marines were killed in a car bomb last Monday.—Internet

Ambulance hit as US planes pound Fallujah

**BAGHDAD, 13 Sept—**US forces have launched airstrikes on the Iraqi town of Fallujah, killing up to 18 people, including women, children and an ambulance driver.

Up to 29 others have been injured in the strikes which began at 0100 GMT on different parts of the city, just west of Baghdad.

Seven people, including the driver of an ambulance, were killed when US aircraft fired a missile at the vehicle while it was transporting casualties near the northern gate of the city.

“There is an ambulance, it gets targeted,” Dr Rafia al-Issawi, director of Fallujah hospital, told Aljazeera.

“Women and men have died,” he said about his two citizens,” said the state-

 Ambient and victims killed.

“Amid the county’s relentless hostage crisis and desperate efforts by Canberra, Paris and Rome to secure the release of, or word on, nationals, grisly footage of the execution of a Turkish hostage was posted on an Islamist website.

In the notorious Sunni Arab guerrilla bastion of Fallujah, US warplanes launched the latest in a string of strikes on alleged bases of Iraq’s most wanted man, suspected Al Qaeda operative Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi, who is accused of masterminding some of the deadliest attacks since last year’s US-led invasion.

“Intelligence reports indicated that only Zarqawi operatives and associates were at the meeting location at the time of the strike,” the US military said.

Zarqawi loyalists claimed responsibility for a string of missile attacks and suicide bombings that saw 45 people killed and scores wounded in Iraq on Sunday.

Nearly 500 illegal immigrants arrive Lampedusa in Italy

**PALERMO (Sicily), 14 Sept —**A boat carrying nearly 500 illegal immi-grants arrived overnight in the southern Italian island of Lampedusa, port authorities said on Sunday — the largest number to arrive there on a single vessel.

The 484 migrants were crammed aboard a 25-metre-long boat. There was no immediate word on their condition or where they had come from.

The previous record for a single landing was 275 immigrants, who washed up on Lampedusa on August 24.

The tiny tourist island lies some 125 miles southwest of Sicily and just over 62 miles north of Tunisia.

Authorities said Lampedusa’s reception centre for immigrants had been swamped after a recent flood of fresh landings.

Two hundred new arrivals were transferred to Sicily on Saturday morning, where their request for residency papers will be processed.

Most will be ordered to leave the country.

Italy’s European Affairs Minister, Rocco Buttiglione, who will take charge of EU immigration policy as justice and home affairs commissioner later this year, wants camps set up outside EU borders to screen migrants before allowing them to enter.—MNA/Reuters
Italy FM flies to ME to plead for release of hostages

ROME, 13 Sept—Italy’s Foreign Minister has flown to the Middle East to plead for the release of two hostages ahead of a purported 24-hour deadline by their captors to kill them unless Rome pulls troops from Iraq.

Simona Pari and Simona Torretta, who worked on projects to help Iraqi children, were the first Western women to be kidnapped in Iraq where militants have seized and killed dozens since last year.

They were seized at gunpoint in the Baghdad office of the aid agency “A Bridge To...” last Tuesday along with two Iraqi colleagues. Franco Frattini arrived first in Kuwait where he was scheduled Monday to meet government and religious officials, the Italian Foreign Ministry said.

Authorities in Rome say they are working hard to free the aid workers after Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was criticized last month for not doing enough to free a journalist who was later killed by kidnappers.

“In the framework of the government’s political initiatives carried out to bring about the liberation of the hostages taken in Iraq, Foreign Minister Franco Frattini will undertake a mission to the Gulf region in the upcoming hours,” the ministry said in a statement Sunday evening.

“Frattini will renew the appeals for solidarity and for respect for the life of innocent civilians generously working for the Iraqi people,” the ministry said.

The announcement came hours after an Internet statement purportedly by a militant group that said the two women would be killed unless Italy begins withdrawing its forces from Iraq.

“We will extend our deadline 24 hours from the issue of this statement after that if we don’t see Italian soldiers withdrawing from Iraq we will implement execution,” the statement signed by the Islamic Jihad Organization.

The authenticity of the statement, dated September 12, could not be verified. Rome sent about 2,700 troops to Iraq last year despite huge opposition at home, and has said it will not bow to demands by militants to withdraw the force.

Iraqi police free seven hostages north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 13 Sept—Iraqi police on Sunday freed seven hostages, including Turks, Iraqis and other Arabs seized by Iraqi militants last night, the American Radio Sawa reported.

The radio quoted Colonel Mazher Khalifah Hamad as saying that the hostages were being held in cars when police freed them in Baiji, 180 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Police arrested three kidnappers, who had taken the hostages to demand ransom rather than for political reasons, he said. During recent months, Iraqi militants have kidnapped many foreigners to pressure their governments to withdraw troops or demand their firms to stop business in Iraq.

However, some Iraqi criminals have taken hostages for ransom.

Xinjiang to cultivate 55,000 bilingual teachers in eight years

URUMQI, 13 Sept—Northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region plans to increase language training for 55,000 young teachers in the next eight years, to enable them to teach in both Chinese and minority languages.

The teacher training programme initiated in May this year is believed to be the largest-scale bilingual teacher training programme ever launched in Xinjiang. It will offer bilingual training to science teachers under 40 years old from 2004 to 2011.

By the end of 2002, there were 4.35 million students at schools in Xinjiang, of which about 60.5 per cent are minority students.

Seven languages have been used in all middle and primary schools in Xinjiang: Uygur, Chinese, Kazak, Mongolian, Xibe, Kirgiz and Russian.

Local sources said that the central government will invest 76 million yuan (about 9.2 million US dollars) to help Xinjiang carry out training programmes for teachers.

Malaysia’s Air Asia to add daily flight linking Bangkok, Macao

MACAO, 14 Sept—Malaysia’s Air Asia will add a second daily flight on its new route between Macao and Bangkok starting on October 15.

The low-fare airline company launched its first air service in Macao linking to its hot Asian destination of Bangkok on July 5.

Thai Air Asia Chief Executive Officer Tassapon Bejleveld said Tuesday that since the flight was running near full capacity during the past two months. He hoped that the company would soon open the third daily service on the route.

Air Asia set the normal two-way fare at 54.5 US dollars on the three-hour Macao-Bangkok route to become the first low-cost airline in Macao.

The exposure of the low-cost airline forced the local carrier to respond in a sharp price-reduction.

An Asia will offer a fillip of one-way promotional fare at 18 US dollars on the initial run of the second flight.

Philippine Airlines expects to complete recovery plan in advance

MANILA, 14 Sept—The 10-year rehabilitation plan of the Philippine Airlines is likely to be completed ahead of schedule this year or early next year, officials said Monday.

The move has been approved by all except one of the airlines’ creditors, which would mean the airlines exiting the programme five years ahead of schedule, airline presidente Jaime Bautista said in a statement.

“Having got the signatures of nearly all aircraft-secured creditors, we’re almost out of rehabilitation. It has been accepted by most of our creditors, except for one,” Bautista said.

“Our vision is to get out of rehabilitation in 2004 and we’re almost there,” he added.

Irak militants warn Jordanian truckers

RAMADI, 13 Sept—Masked gunmen walking the streets of this Sunni guerilla stronghold Monday handed out leaflets warning that any Jordanian truckers entering Iraq would be killed. The threat accused them of transporting supplies to American forces.

“We tell all those who do not abide by this statement … that your only punishment will be death,” said the leaflets, signed by a group calling itself the Islamic Army of Iraq.

The group said Syrian truck drivers would not be harmed in recognition of Syria’s refusal to allow Israeli goods to be transported across the country into Iraq.

A group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq claimed responsibility last month for the kidnapping of two French reporters. It was not clear if the group was the same as the one that issued Monday’s threat.

Militants waging a 16-month insurgency have increasingly turned to kidnapping to force coalition forces and contractors from the country. More than 100 foreigners, including at least 12 Jordanians, have been abducted since the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003; many of them have been executed.

Australian soldiers on patrol in Baghdad recently.—INTERNET

Iran's FM flies to ME to seek solidarity for hostages

ROME, 13 Sept—Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini arrived in Kuwait on Sunday to seek solidarity for two hostages being held by Iraq’s Islamic Jihad Organization.

The authenticity of the statement, dated September 12, could not be verified. Rome sent about 2,700 troops to Iraq last year despite huge opposition at home, and has said it will not bow to demands by militants to withdraw the force.

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Three US armoured vehicles destroyed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 13 Sept — Guerillas attacked a US military convoy on Baghdad’s Airport road, destroying three hampers and causing unknown casualties, a Xinhua photographer at the scene said Sunday.

The attack took place Sunday morning southwest of the capital. The US armoured vehicles were still ablaze at around 11.30 am (07.30 GMT), he said.

“US helicopters flew overhead as US troops blocked the road of Baghdad’s International Airport. Several four-wheel drive cars were at the scene as armed foreigners spread in the area and started to search civilian cars,” the photographer said.

The number of the casualties among the US soldiers was not immediately known.

MNA/Xinhua

US chopper fires on unarmored Iraqis in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 13 Sept — Most of the young Iraqi men and boys mingling around the burning wreckage of a US armoured car in Baghdad were unfazed by the clattering of an American helicopter gunship overhead. Moments later they were under fire.

Some had pointed to the Apache helicopter. Others jogged slowly from the burning Bradley fighting vehicle, which the US military said had been set ablaze by a bomb. None expected it would shoot at them.

“I didn’t imagine the helicopter would fire on the crowd,” Reuters cameraman Seif Fouad said from his hospital bed, where he was recovering from two shrapnel wounds. He had been recording the scene.

As for the insurgency

The first explosion sent Fouad’s colleague and friend Mazen Tomezii, a producer for Dubai-based Al-Arabiya, was killed as he prepared to give a stand-up piece to camera.

“I looked at the sky and saw a helicopter at very low altitude,” Fouad said.

“Just moments later I saw a flash of light from the Apache. Then a strong explosion,” he said.

The first explosion sent Fouad crashing to the ground.

“Mazen’s blood was on my camera and face,” Fouad said. Tomezii screamed to Fouad for help: “Seif, Seif! I’m going to die. I’m going to die.”

A second blast hit some 15 seconds later, lodging shrapnel in Fouad’s leg and waist as he was trying to pull Tomezii from danger.

Fouad’s camera, its lens stained with blood, filmed the chaos.

The US military said the Bradley’s crew of four were slightly wounded by the bomb and had been evacuated from the scene.

“Air support destroyed the Bradley fighting vehicle to prevent looting and harm to the Iraqi people,” the US military said in a statement.

Reuters footage showed the crowd to be made up of unarmed boys and men, two of whom were standing on top of the Bradley. Some had been celebrating the destruction of the armoured car.

Others were discussing what had happened and quietly watching the Bradley burn, sending thick black smoke into the sky. Then the attack began. — MNA/Reuters

China to hold 11th Global Conf of Women Entrepreneurs

BEIJING, 14 Sept — The 11th Global Conference of Women Entrepreneurs will be held from September 16 to 19 in Beijing, a senior official of the All-China Women’s Federation (ACWF) said Monday.

The conference, with the theme of “women entrepreneurship and global cooperation”, will serve as a platform for women entrepreneurs from different countries to share information and experience, said Zhao Shaohua, ACWF’s vice-president at a Press Conference.

Besides discussions around sub-themes, such as partnership in globalization and developing women’s small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the conference will hold an exhibition of Chinese women entrepreneurship and trade talks.

Over 500 participants from 25 countries and regions will participate in the event. Among them, more than 200 are from overseas, mainly from Asia and Europe. Mme. Svetlana Orlova, vice-chairman of the Federal Assembly, Parliament of Russia, will also attend the conference. — MNA/Xinhua

New ultimatum reportedly issued for Italian hostages

ROME, 13 Sept — A group claiming to be holding two kidnapped female Italian aid workers has issued a new ultimatum demanding that the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi order the withdrawal of all Italian forces deployed in Iraq, Italian media reported on Sunday.

The group, which calls itself the Islamic Jihad, warned that if their demands were not met, then “we will execute the sentence of God which will be to slit the throats of the two Italian hostages, if God will it”.

The ultimatum was posted on the Yasiah.org website and also made reference to a previous ultimatum which gave the Italian Government 12 hours to have all female Muslim prisoners in Iraq released from jail.

The group also said that the kidnapping of the two Italian aid workers was the direct result of the actions of the Italian contingent in Iraq and that no alternative was acceptable to the withdrawal of these troops. Simona Pari, Simona Torretta and two Iraqi aid workers, a man and a woman, were kidnapped by armed gunmen in Baghdad on Tuesday afternoon. — MNA/Xinhua

Powell admits miscalculating difficulty in post-war Iraq

WASHINGTON, 13 Sept — US Secretary of State Colin Powell admitted Sunday that the United States miscalculated the difficulty in post-war Iraq and the insurgency in the country would go on for some time.

“We did miscalculate the difficulty, but we are not miscalculating the challenge we are facing now,” Powell said in an interview with the Fox News Sunday programme.

That is why the United States is leaving nearly 140,000 troops in Iraq after the handover of sovereignty to the Iraqi interim government, Powell said.

As for the insurgency in Iraq, Powell said: “it will go on for some time”.

“This insurgency is not going to go away, but with the buildup of Iraqi security forces... increasingly, Iraq will be able to deal with its own security problem, and I think the insurgency could be brought down to a level, and I would like to see it go away entirely,” Powell said.

“I want to see it defeated, but I think, over time, you will see it being brought under control,” Powell said.

Powell also defended the Iraq war launched by the Bush Administration, claiming that the war was justified by toppling the Saddam Hussein regime.

“We did the right thing at the right place and the right time to get rid of that leader and to give the Iraqi people a chance for peace,” Powell said.

More than a year after the end of the Iraq war, the United States has failed to find any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, a major excuse for US President George W Bush to go to war in Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

Three Iraqi national guardsmen killed south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 13 Sept — At least three Iraqi national guardsmen were killed and three others seriously wounded on Sunday in a bomb attack south of Baghdad, the Polish military said.

The attack took place near the central city of Hilla, 100 kilometres south of Baghdad, on Sunday morning when guerrillas launched a twin bomb attack on a joint patrol of Iraqi national guardsmen and multi-national forces, it said in a statement. Hilla, a Shi’ite-dominated city, and its surroundings have become hotbeds of guerrillas attacks. — MNA/Xinhua
At least 22 Iraqi killed in heavy fighting

BAGHDAD, 13 Sept — Strong explosions shook central Baghdad at dawn on Sunday and heavy fighting erupted in a street notorious as a rebel stronghold, in violence that killed at least 22 Iraqis, the US Army and witnesses said.

“The clashes flared as the US military pressed on with new offensives aimed at retaking control of guerrilla-held areas ahead of national elections due to be held in January,” he added.

In one of the heaviest barrages in the capital for months, guerrillas fired more than a dozen mortars or rockets around the Green Zone compound housing the US and other embassies and Iraq’s Interim Government. Black smoke billowed into the sky.

The US military said some rounds landed inside the Green Zone, but there were no reports of casualties.

In other attacks, a car bomb killed a senior police officer, another police officer and a 12-year-old boy on a highway in western Baghdad. A second suspected suicide car bomber tried to force his way through the gates of Abu Ghraib Prison but was shot dead by US troops, the military said.

Three people were wounded and explosives were found in the car. Officials had earlier said the car had exploded.

Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib told reporters that much of Sunday’s violence was related to a series of raids by Iraqi security forces trying to capture 21 fugitives. Sixteen of them were seized, he said, adding: "They were all Iraqis, all of them. They are Sunnis. This a war, so we have to get them.”

The crackle of gunfire echoed for several hours across Haifa Street in central Baghdad. Witnesses and the Health Ministry said at least 13 Iraqis were killed and 55 wounded as US helicopters attacked targets in the area.

One of those killed was a Palestinian who worked as a producer for Dubai-based Arabic channel Arabiya and for Saudi Arabian channel Kbbbiry, Arabiya and friends said. Witnesses said he was shot by US helicopter fire as his crew filmed.

A Reuters cameraman was also wounded in the incident.

The helicopters bore down shortly after four US soldiers were lightly wounded when a Bradley fighting vehicle was set ablaze, the US Army said. Tanks also moved into the area.

“After evacuating the wounded, air support destroyed the Bradley fighting vehicle to prevent loot ing and harm to the Iraqi people,” the US military said in a statement.

In western Baghdad, gunmen attacked a police patrol, killing one policeman, the Interior Ministry said.—MNA/Reuters

Cuban paper reports US puts world on verge of Apocalypse

HAVANA, 13 Sept — The US Government has put the world on the verge of Apocalypse with its so-called anti-terrorist crusade, whose purpose is consolidating the leadership of Washington, Cuban daily Granma said on Saturday.

The newspaper said that three years after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, the administration of US President George W Bush has put into practice "a lethal, racist, hegemonic, occupational, colonialist and lying philosophy”.

The newspaper questioned why so many possibilities to prevent those attacks were left untended.

It recalled that the so-called anti-terrorist crusade started in Afghanistan, one of the poorest countries in the world. While thousands of people were killed and many cities destroyed in the country, Bush still could not find Osama bin Laden.

Five killed in fighting in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 13 Sept— Heavy fighting erupted early Sunday in Haifa Street in central Baghdad between US forces and guerrillas, killing at least five people, witnesses and a Health Ministry spokesman said.

The clashes broke out when US helicopters opened fire at around 8.00 am (0400GMT), targeting a mob that was churning on a burning US tank. Five people were killed and 45 others wounded in the intense fighting, according to a Health Ministry spokesman.

Witnesses said one US armoured vehicle could be seen on fire in the street, known as a militant stronghold. — MNA/Xinhua
Rural people living in Yone village in Kyaukpadaung Township are fetching potable water from a tubewell. — PBANRDA

Water is being supplied to the villagers through tubewell in Nyaungbin Village, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division. — PBANRDA

A tube-well sinking truck in action in Pyibin Village, Chauk Township, Magway Division to supply potable water to rural people. — PBANRDA

Harmonious efforts of the State and the people for clean water supply

Photo shows sinking of a tubewell in Ywama Village, Kantbalu Township, Sagaing Division. — PBANRDA

A drilling machine at work to sink a tubewell in Muse, Shan State (North). — PBANRDA

Local people tapping potable water from a tubewell in Dimawhso Township, Kayah State. — PBANRDA
There are now 156 gas-driven cars in Yenangyoung area. Two filling stations are distributing enough gas for them. After transforming the petrol-run buses and trucks in Yangon city area into gas-driven vehicles, over 300,000 gallons of petrol and about 2.3 million gallons of diesel can be saved every month.

The Secretary-1 stressed the need to make cooperation among the respective departments to continuously produce rollers of high quality. He then inspected the production process of rollers and the two-wheel and three-wheel rollers. Two-wheel rollers are eight-ton and ten-ton vehicles installed with 80-hp engine. Three-wheel rollers are ten-ton and 12-ton vehicles installed with 80-hp engine. Production of rollers in the nation has saved foreign exchange. The Secretary-1 and party arrived back here by car via Pyay in the evening.

A long experience of using natural gas. So, Yenangyoung Industrial Zone is to produce necessary parts on a larger scale to be installed in gas-automobiles. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party viewed vehicle parts, water pumps and accessories, grinder and parts. They proceeded to Star Motorcycle Factory of the Golden Dragon Industry and inspected around the factory viewing exhaust pipes, handle settings, rear and front forks, frames, moulds, dials and shock absorbers produced by factory as well as brake belts, milage belts, choke belts, lever belts and accessories which were imported. Secretary-1 and party also inspected the products and production process at the factory. Owner Daw Win Maw Tun and officials conducted the Secretary-1 and party round the factory. The Secretary-1 called on the officials to continue making endeavours for extended production of motorcycles for local markets. The Golden Dragon Industry has started producing of Star Brand motorcycles, of which 65 per cent is local-made parts and 35 per cent is foreign-made parts. With a production capacity of 70 motorcycles per day, it is making efforts to distribute its products locally.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party headed for Three Friends Co Ltd in Yenangyoung Industrial Zone and looked into production process of three-wheeled motorcycles (petrol) and (diesel). Owner U Myo Naing conducted the Secretary-1 and party round the factory. The Secretary-1 called for innovative measures for production of the products that can win customers’ satisfaction. Three Friends Co Ltd is conducting test-production of parts to assemble three-wheel motorcycles, and single-piston six-hp power-tillers. At CNG-1, an automobile gas-filling station in Yenangyoung, the Secretary-1 and party heard a report on the number of gas-filling stations in Magway Division, plans to extend more stations, the condition of gas-run cars, use of compressors at the stations, laying of six-inch gas pipe from Paleik to Mandalay, opening of gas stations on Myingyan-Magway-Yenangyoung-Aunglan-Pyay-Gyobingauk-Yangon Road on the western sectors of Bago Yoma, opening of five stations for passenger buses and trucks in Yangon city area, and opening of more stations in Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Kayan, Thongwa, presented by Minister for Energy Irrigation Gen Lun Thi. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the gas compressor and the filling station 1.

There are now 156 gas-driven cars in Yenangyoung area. Two filling stations are distributing enough gas for them. After transforming the petrol-run buses and trucks in Yangon city area into gas-driven vehicles, over 300,000 gallons of petrol and about 2.3 million gallons of diesel can be saved every month.

At a factory of Myanma Agricultural Machinery Industry of the Industry-2 Ministry in Minhla Township, the Secretary-1 and party heard a report on plans to produce road rollers with the aim of manufacturing new types of machinery, developing technology and manufacturing import-substitute finished goods, success in production and distribution of eight-ton two-wheel rollers, production of ten-ton three-wheel rollers, and production and import of parts for the rollers, presented by Managing Director of the industry Col Myo Tint. Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw presented a supplementary report. The Secretary-1 stressed the need to make cooperation

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects road rollers produced by Myanma Agricultural Machinery Industries of the Industry-2 Ministry in Minhla Township, Magway Division. — MNA
Families of war veteranag ...

He said the students are to try their best to be brilliant ones and good citizens of the State. Only when they are well-qualified can a modern developed nation be built. He spoke of the need for parents, teachers and students to discharge their respective tasks dutifully.

Next, the Secretary-2 presented prizes to four students who won distinctions in the matriculation examination and gifts to the teachers. Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) and officials prises to the outstanding students. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented sports gear to Headmaster U Thein Lwin. Wellwishers presented K 2.5 million donated by families of the ministry to Brig-Gen Khin Yi.

The Secretary-2 cordially greeted the guests and left the school at 9.30 am.—MNA

Cash assistance, prize presentation ceremonies held

A ceremony to present prizes for outstanding students and athletes in conjunction with extending cash assistance for students of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the year 2003-2004 was held at the meeting hall of the ministry on University Avenue, Bahan, this afternoon, where Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing attended the ceremony and made a speech on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, directors-general, deputy directors-general and officials of the department of the ministry, students, athletes, staff families of the ministry, guests and wellwishers.

After making a speech on the occasion, the minister presented prizes to five six-distinction winners in the matriculation examination for 2003-2004 academic year.

Next, wife of the minister, Daw Khin Hla Hla, wife of Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Daw San San Wai and Brig-Gen Khin Yi presented prizes to the distinction-winners and the directors-general, prizes and cash assistance to outstanding students.

After that, the minister and wife presented prizes to seven victorious athletes who won gold and bronze medals in external tournaments. And Brig-Gen Khin Yi, wife of Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Daw San San Wai and Brig-Gen Khin Yi presented prizes to the distinction-winners and the directors-general, prizes and cash assistance to outstanding students.

International Day for Older Persons

To hail the International Day for Older Persons which falls on 1 October 2004, cash and medicines were donated to the Muslim Home for the Aged in Thingangyun Township this morning. Secretary of the work committee for organising the International Day for Older Persons Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department U Hla Myint explained the purpose of the donations and presented K 50,000 and medicines to Muslim Home for the Aged Supervisory Committee Secretary Haji U Hla Hla and U Kyaw Win. Work committee members cordially greeted the aged. —MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appraised
Whether the act of imposing of economic sanctions on a country is constructive or destructive, and can also understand the sufferings of the people. Which is to be dealt with first, the economy or the politics, if we are to modernize a nation? According to the modern political economics, the development of economic production forces serves as the best touchstone for evaluating the advancement of the human society. The superstructure including politics, administration, legal affairs, culture, democracy and human rights changes together with the development of the basic economic production forces, and China’s reform programmes these days stand witness to this fact. We should take lessons seriously from the blood baths and sufferings of some former socialist countries of the East Europe, that is to put freedom in the forefront, without strengthening the economy.

The modern political economics said that the historic duty of capitalist production strategy is to achieve unlimited progress, while always changing the types of production. In this regard, China is achieving rapid progress as its system is based on the capitalist class.

With human rights and democracy as an excuse, the US and some countries of the West are imposing economic sanctions on Myanmar that is in the process of setting up a capitalist economy. Democracy never flourishes in a society facing poverty and hardships. Democracy never flourishes in a society facing poverty and hardships. No other thing is more harmful to human rights than the food, clothing and shelter difficulties. Thus, the acts of America and its cohorts are ruining the lives of Myanmar people and not improving them. The case of the so-called political problem in Myanmar is just the result of the difference between the democracy day-dreamers representing the US foreign policy and the endeavours of the Tatmadaw Government, representing the Myanmar social life, to introduce democracy in the nation. The US is bullying not only Myanmar, but also others.

America’s one-sided acts of domination can also be seen in the field of trade and commerce. According to CEPI, a Washington-based think tank on economics and policy, the ones that continue to reach trade agreements with the US, with the belief that the US imports will continue to rise as they were 10 or 12 years ago, will regret one day.

A number of developing countries signed the CAPTA agreements which cover many other areas in addition to economy. For example, the agreement signed between the US and Thailand also includes promotion of bilateral cooperation in warfare and anti-terrorism matters. As the agreements involve the political aims, the developing countries are anxious about the possible encroachments on their sovereignty.

They may face punishments of various forms such as fines or economic or political sanctions if they go against the wish of the US. The agreements include stipulations that are in favour of the US government and entrepreneurs, but detrimental to the rights of others. Conditions are included in the agreements requiring consultation and consideration in matters that may harm the American interests when changes are made politically or legally in future; it is done so in the name of transparency. If a matter goes beyond the normal business procedures, the US demands to protect its own investments and interests. The US entrepreneurs become the equal rights holders along with the host citizens if their expected incomes are not earned. As the terms and definitions in the agreement are wide, there may arise conditions in which everything may be considered. For example, the privatization of environmental services may cover the whole environmental issue and biodiversity.

Every country should be aware of America’s acts of protectionism, manipulation and domination.

In his address delivered at the conclusion ceremony of Special Refresher Course No 5 for Faculties of Institutions of Higher Learning held at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phayagyi) Township, Yangon Division, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said, “Whether there is encouragement or opposition or sanction by anyone, the Union of Myanmar will continue to strive for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation, that is in accord with the wish of the majority of the national races. As we are going to use only the means that are in conformity with the objective condition, history and traditions and culture and customs of our race, the seven-point future policy programme of the State has been laid down and implemented at present.”

Whatever sanctions the US and its allies of the West are imposing on Myanmar is just the process of setting up a market economy and a democratic nation, the new global capitalist order, in which three great powers are emerging, will push Myanmar forward along the course to progress. The world at present is not like that of the past, during which England alone dominated the world economy and the US was the only global power.

There are now three capitalist powers — the group led by the US, the EU and the group of Japan, the Republic of Korea, China and the ASEAN. Thus, Myanmar promoting cooperation with other ASEAN members, neighbouring countries and BIMSTEC in various fields. Its relations and cooperation with neighbouring China and India are improving. At the ASEAN-China Summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 4 January 2002, China agreed to provide special tariff exemption for some Myanmar exports. According to the agreement, China will reduce the tariff on 110 kinds of Myanmar goods to zero level. Of them, 107 items are agriculture-related goods, and the other three are garments. Thanks to the agreement, Myanmar exporters can sell more goods to China. In addition, because of trade facilitation practices between Myanmar and her trading partners, there is increase in exports and imports and development in transport and bilateral cooperation based on common interest. Hence, Myanmar’s economy looks forward to bright prospects at present.

(Translation: TMT)

(Myanma Alin + Kyemon 14-9-2004)

### Health Minister attends Inter-Country Workshop on Development of Standard Operating Procedures for Blood Centres

**YANGON, 14 Sept — The Inter-Country Workshop on Development of Standard Operating Procedures for Blood Centres, jointly-organized by the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) was opened at the hall of Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning, with an address by of Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.**

Present on the occasion were directors-general and deputy directors-general of the departments under the Ministry of Health, rectors, directors, medical superintendents, Resident Representative of WHO Dr Agostino Borra and officials and participants.

In his address, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint said that strengthening and improving the quality of the National Blood Transfusion Services of Member Countries has been one of the key endeavours of the World Health Organization’s Global Blood Safety Initiative (GBSI) for years. Appropriate policy guidelines and effective strategies are essential for the planning and organization of Nationally Coordinated Blood Transfusion Services, with careful consideration to use the available resources efficiently so that the universal goal of ensuring timely and adequate supply of safe blood and blood products in a cost-effective manner will be achieved in as near a future as possible.

The minister continued that realizing the need for the development of a National Blood Policy and strong legislative support, the Government of the Union of Myanmar has enacted the National Blood Law, which came into effect the 29th of January 2003. The Law has assigned to the National Blood and Blood Products Committee and its subcommittees the overall responsibility of supervising the performance of National Blood Transfusion Services in Myanmar. Furthermore, the Resident Representative of WHO Dr Agostino Borra has conducted the Workshop on Formulation of National Blood Policy from 27-29 October, 2003, resulting in the formation of a task force which has been responsible for formulating the Myanmar National Blood Policy.

During this workshop, participants from the Member Countries of the South-East Asian Region will be trying their best to develop Standard Operating Procedures for various procedures that are performed in Blood Transfusion Services. This will help greatly in capacity building in the Quality Management of Blood Transfusion Services so that ensuring consistency in performing various activities involved in producing safe blood and blood products is guaranteed.

He said that he also look forward to the development of SOPs which will be extremely useful in helping many blood banks in the region to achieve their objective of continuously providing adequate, safe and quality blood to those in need.

Next, Resident Representative of WHO Dr Agostino Borra made a speech and the ceremony ended. The directors, professors and doctors from Blood Centres in Myanmar, India, Bultan, Nepal, Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka took part in the discussions. The meeting continues until 17 September. — MNA
Bago Division’s monsoon paddy sown acreage to reach 3 million in three years

Yangon, 14 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departments, arrived at Menin Creek in Thayawady Township, Bago Division, yesterday morning, and was welcomed by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Bago Division Peace and Development Affairs Col Hla Min, Col Khin Zaw Oo of the regional station, local authorities and officials.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party visited paddy farm of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading of the Ministry of Commerce at Kywe-thakwin village, in the township. They heard a report on original species of the Myasinyaung paddy strain, progress in cultivation of the crop, types of fertilizers, pesticides and weed killing chemicals used at the field, cost of cultivation and market condition, presented by officials. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than discussed distribution of paddy seeds, dissemination of technology, and use of natural fertilizers for success of cultivation. After inspecting the paddy fields, he cordially greeted local farmers.

Myasinyaung is not a hybrid or GM strain, it is an improved high-yield strain that can produce up to 164 baskets per acre. Test cultivation of the strain is being conducted in Thayawady, Letpadan, Gyobingauk, Zegon and Paungde townships in the western sector of Bago Division. In Minhla, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with officials, social organizations and local elders. After hearing reports on salient points of the township, he said that Bago Division is included in one of the six major contributors to the national economy. As it has large stretches of land for farming, the Head of State has given guidance to officials to effectively work for the development of the farming sector. The Government has built 162 dams and 265 water pumping stations. Thanks to the 40 dams built by the Government in the division, it can now cultivate summer paddy in addition to monsoon paddy. A target has been set for the sown acreage of the division to reach three million within a three-year period. This year’s target for the division is 2.6 million acres — 1.6 million acres in the eastern sector and 1 million acres in the western sector. Officials at different levels are required to make field tours to supervise the cultivation work. Thanks to the cultivation of summer paddy and ten major crops in addition to monsoon paddy, per capita income of the local people is increasing and their living standard is improving. As its transport is good, poultry farming should be extended in the division. Community peace, the rule of law, and development of human resources and the national economy are the main sources for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. In addition to its all-round efforts to develop the nation, the Government laid down and is implementing the seven-point future policy programme to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. At present, the National Convention has been held successfully as the first stage of the programme. Peace and stability is prevailing in the whole nation. As the Government has already laid down projects covering the agricultural sector for national economic development, Bago Division is required to strive for progress of its farming sector. The Government has set up 24 development zones for human resource development.

The Government is also making arrangements for the enrollment of school age children and enabling students to pursue education from primary level to high school level without facing difficulties.

He then cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

Out of the target of 75,684 acres of monsoon paddy for 2004-2005 season, Minhla has already put 73,185 acres of land under the crop. Officials and farmers are making efforts to reach the target.

MNA

PBNRDA Minister receives guests

Yangon, 14 Sept — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt received Deputy Executive Director of World Food Program and party at his office at noon yesterday. They discussed matters related to distribution of rice to the farmers in Kokang and Wa regions who no longer cultivate any poppy and border region development.

The minister also received Former Senior Advisor Mr Tomomitsu Ikawaka of Liberal Democratic Party of Japan at 2 pm on that day. During their meeting, they discussed matters pertaining to opium-substitute back wheat cultivation project and seeking markets.

Also present at the calls were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Director-General of Border Areas and National Races Department Lt-Col Myint Swe and officials.

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

Alternate power cuts in some townships while gas pipeline is under repair

Yangon, 14 Sept — The Ahlon Gas-fired Power Station has suspended electricity generation as the gas pipeline from Nyaungdon Gas Field to the Station this morning leaked into Hline River.

There will be alternate power cuts in some places of Latha, Lannadaw, Ahlon, Sangyoung, Kamayut, Kyinmingde, Hline, Tame and Mingla Taungnyunt townships while the gas pipeline is under repair.

Education Minister back from Switzerland

Yangon, 14 Sept — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Education U Than Aung attended the 47th International Education Conference held at Geneva, Switzerland, from 8 to 11 September and they arrived back here by air yesterday evening.

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

Minister U Than Aung, Permanent Representative of Myanmar Permanent Representatives Office in Geneva Ambassador U Mya Than, Ambassador of Myanmar Embassy in Paris U Wunya Maung Lwin, Pro-rector of Yangon University Dr Myo Myint and service personnel of Myanmar Permanent Representa-

The Myanmar delegation dealt with the education promotion plans and educational tasks being implemented in Myanmar.

On 10 September, the minister delivered an address at the conference.

During the stay in Geneva, the leader of Myanmar delegation met Director-General of UNESCO Mr Koshiro Mataura.

MNA
Tender Documents are available at the Office of the Managing Director, Myanma Railways, Room No. 511, 4th Floor, No. 357/361 Merchant Street, Botataung Township, Yangon, during office hours on payment of US$ (or) FEC 200 per set.

Bids are to reach the office of the Managing Director, Myanma Railways, No 357/361 Merchant Street, Botataung Township, Yangon, Myanmar, on or before the Closing Date and Time shown against each Tender. The Bids will be opened publicly at 14:00 hour on the Closing Date at the Myanma Railways Head Office.

All Bids not accompanied by earnest money (Bid Bond) will not be considered. No Telegraphic/Telex/Fax/e-mail proposal will be considered of accepted.

Myanma Railways reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders without furnishing reasons. Tenders will be accepted only from bidders who has purchased Tender Documents officially. (Those purchased through Embassies must declare for whom they are purchased).

The above Goods and Services are to be purchased from the proceeds of OPEC Fund in various currencies towards the cost of Yangon-Nyaunglaybin Railway Line Rehabilitation Project.

For further details please call: 298589, 291982, 201555 Ext-510, 540, 228

Managing Director
Myanma Railways

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**UNION OF MYANMAR**

**MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER**

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following Office Machines which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tender No-36/MA MAJ/Local/Office Machines</th>
<th>Sr. Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Electric Calculator</td>
<td>5 - Nos.</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colour Printer</td>
<td>1 - Nos.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dot Matrix Printer, A3</td>
<td>1 - No.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copy Printer</td>
<td>2 - Nos.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scanner</td>
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<td>FA System</td>
<td>10 Sets</td>
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Closing Date - 29-9-2004 (Wednesday) (12:00) Hours

Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 15-9-2004 during the office hours.

For further detail, please call: 291982, 291994, 201555 Ext-602, 613

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

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**Zimbabwe increases poverty datum line**

*Harare, 13 Sept —* Zimbabwe’s poverty datum line has increased to 1.4 million Zimbabwean dollars (about 250 US dollars), the New Ziana reported on Sunday.

The Consumer Council of Zimbabwe (CCZ) was quoted as saying that figures for August this year showed that a family of six now requires 1,400,386 Zimbabwean dollars a month for basic needs. Previously the same family needed 1,2 million Zimbabwean dollars (about 214 US dollars).

The CCZ said the baseline figure has increased from the July figure due to increases noted in food such as margarine, fresh milk, cooking oil, bread, salt, meat among others.

“We have noted that there has been a wave of increases of basic commodities in July and August 2004 and hope that the increases along with the recent rise in fuel will not derail the fight against inflation,” said the CCZ.

The New Ziana

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**Raypak**

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**RBBZ issue new bonds to market operations**

*Harare, 13 Sept —* The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) issued new bonds here on Sunday worth 200 billion Zimbabwean dollars (about 55.65 million US dollars) to finance its market operations.

In a statement, the central bank said the bonds are for 181 days, and the interest rate would be determined on an open tender yield basis.

MNA/Xinhua

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**Egypt stakes claim to permanent seat on UNSC**

* Cairo, 13 Sept —* Egypt staked a claim to a permanent seat on the UN Security Council on Saturday, saying the powerful body should better represent all the world’s civilizations and cultures.

The Security Council’s five permanent members with veto power — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — have held seats since its creation from the ruins of World War II. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit told a conference any expansion of the Security Council should not be confined to some countries to the exclusion of others.

“... it will be difficult to achieve real progress on this subject without a comprehensive view... which grasps the importance of representing all civilizations and cultures in the expanded Council,” said Aboul Gheit, who was Egypt’s ambassador to the United Nations until his appointment in July.

“... contributions to the activities and achieving the objectives of the United Nations and its peacekeeping operations qualify it to take on the responsibility of the new membership in the expanded Security Council.”

Egypt joins other major powers such as Germany, Japan, India and Brazil which are seeking permanent seats on the Council.

The UN General Assembly has debated for decades a reform of the body, to which an additional 10 countries are elected for two-year terms. Secretary-General Kofi Annan plans to put forward his own plan for reshaping the Council this year and press for its acceptance in 2005. Aboul Gheit told the conference on reform in the Middle East the way to avoid conflict between the West and Muslim countries was not to allow civilizations to impose their values on others.

Westerners should stop advocating changes in Islamic inheritance laws or promoting gay marriage, he said. “We do not think of forcing anyone to follow our values,” Aboul Gheit said. “The openness is the simplest way to serve and others must respect that in dealing with us,” he added.

MNA/ Reuters

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**African countries focus on agri to combat poverty**

* Lagos, 13 Sept —* Rural poverty was a danger to security in Africa and African countries planned to improve the agricultural sector, a backbone of the continent’s mostly rural economies, to tackle the problem, a Nigerian minister said Sunday.

“Rural poverty has the potential to breed social tension, hunger, insecurity, conflict and other vices on the continent,” said Nigerian Minister of Labour and Productive Hanass Lawal while briefing reporters on the just concluded African Union summit on employment and poverty alleviation in Burkina Faso.

With the realization at the summit, he continued, more than a dozen leaders from across Africa have adopted a new strategy recognizing that 20 percent of the continent’s population devote 10 percent of its budget to agriculture to facilitate a smooth access to world markets as well as promote trade among African countries themselves, the official News Agency of Nigeria on Sunday reported.

MNA/Xinhua
“Ivan” kills at least 16 in Jamaica

KINGSTON (Jamaica), 13 September—Hurricane Ivan, one of the most powerful storms to batter the Caribbean, killed at least 16 people in Jamaica, where it wrecked houses and washed away roads on Saturday, but appeared to have spared the island the devastation wrought on Grenada.

Ivan, blamed for the deaths of at least 44 people — most of them when it ravaged Grenada — was upgraded to a rare, top-intensity Category 5 hurricane with winds of 165 mph as it blasted past Jamaica on Saturday afternoon heading toward the Cayman Islands and Cuba.

The hurricane, forecast to strike Florida early next week, is the sixth-strongest recorded in the Atlantic basin, according to the US National Hurricane Centre, which described it as “extremely dangerous.”

“It’s definitely one of the most powerful hurricanes to have occurred in the Atlantic Ocean,” said hurricane centre meteorologist Gene Haefele.

Ivan ripped off roofs across Jamaica and torrential rains triggered mudslides, washing out roads. The storm brought trees and poles crashing down in the capital, Kingston, where ravines overflowed and flooded streets.

Jamaica’s death toll rose to 16, and included people whose houses collapsed when trees fell on them and others who drowned when their home was submerged by floodwaters.

“Vera Drake” wins Venice Film Festival Award

VENICE, 13 Sept — “Vera Drake”, Mike Leigh’s tough tale of a working-class mother who is caught performing illegal abortions in 1950s England, scooped up the prizes at the Venice Film Festival on Saturday, including the coveted Golden Lion.

Its star, acclaimed British stage and film actress Imelda Staunton, also won the best actress award for her portrayal of a back-street abortionist who acts not for financial gain but out of concern for girls and women in trouble.

The winners were cheered at the gala ceremony in Venice’s sumptuous La Fenice opera house, but the jury’s failure to recognize the Italian favourite, Gianni Amelio’s “Le Chiavi di Casa” (The House Keys), is sure to spark controversy at home. International critics, however, had predicted “Vera Drake” would be the hands-down winner in the 61st year of the world’s oldest cinema competition, where it faced 21 other films in the main section.

“It’s a great honour,” said British director Leigh as he accepted the Golden Lion. “I would like to thank most sincerely the Cannes film festival for rejecting this film so I could come to Venice,” he joked.

The film raises difficult questions about abortion in a world where the wealthy have access to discreet and legal abortions and the poor throw themselves on the mercy of practitioners like Drake.

Staunton anchors the movie as a working mother who risks her close-knit family’s love after a girl on whom she performs an abortion falls seriously ill and she is jailed. Alejandro Amenabar’s “Mar Adentro” (Out to Sea), the true story of a Spanish sailor who fought for 30 years for the right to die after a diving accident left him paralyzed, also took home its fair share of prizes on Saturday.

The latest film by the director of “The Others” won the Jury Grand Prix, while the best actor prize went to Spain’s Javier Bardem for his portrayal of Ramon Sampedro, the quadriplegic euthanasia activist whose wry humour seduced followers. — MNA/Reuters

Three rehabilitation centres closed in Mexico

TIJUANA (Mexico), 13 Sept — Authorities closed three rehabilitation centres in northern Mexico this week and deported hundreds of US teenagers sent there for treatment of drug, alcohol or behaviour problems, immigration officials said on Saturday.

Authorities shut the three centres in the Baja California towns of Ensenada and Rosarito on Friday and began deporting 590 youths, many of whom were in Mexico illegally.

A man who answered the phone at one of the centres identified by the immigration officials, the House of Hope Academy in the Pacific coastal town of Ensenada, refused to comment. The other two centres could not be immediately identified and contacted for comment. Mexico investigated the centres after complaints of maltreatment, and found the youths had entered Mexico as tourists, not residents of treatment programs, the National Immigration Institute said.

Immigration officials also said at least one of the centres was run by an American who had also entered on a tourist visa and had no legal right to run a business in Mexico.

“Seventy-five per cent of the undocumented Americans have left the country. The rest will stay in the care of the US Consulate in Tijuana until their parents are contacted,” said Raoul Zarate, spokesman for the immigration institute. — MNA/Reuters

India’s shilling shoemaker in “Guinness Book of World Records”

SHILLONG, 13 Sept — For Syiemiong, a city-based professional shoemaker, it was the “ultimate glory” when he received a certificate from the Guinness Book of World Records for making the “highest heeled shoe commercially available”.

“As of February 2004, the highest heels commercially available boast a combination of 43-centimetre platform and 51-centimetre heels, produced by James Syiemong (India) for boldnboots.com,” said the certificate from the London-based Guinness World Records Ltd, which reached him Friday.

“It is the ultimate glory for me,” Syiemong told PTI on his achievement situated in his shop, ‘Theodore’, in Barabazar area of the city. The shoes were made not just for records’ sake but were available commercially, he said adding these would not be uncomfortable for even non-professional models to walk with.

And this world record was not the first in his life. The professional shoemaker also had his credit another certificate from the Guinness Book for ‘most joint cracks of body parts simultaneously’ in February last.

Singapore police patrol boat collides with cabin cruiser

SINGAPORE, 13 Sept — A man is missing after a Singapore Police Coast Guard patrol boat collided with a cabin cruiser of the Pangol Jetty, northeastern part of the island state on Saturday night.

According to local Press reports on Sunday morning, the collision occurred at about 8.25 pm local time (1225 GMT) on Saturday, and the cabin cruiser, which is about 5.5-metre in length with a single outboard engine, was damaged in the stern on the rear starboard side.

Police have already towed the damaged cruiser to the shore, but a Malay man on board the cabin cruiser is reported missing. — MNA/Xinhua

Two-year-old Basset ‘Jeck’ is posed for a photographer in a public park in Fulda near Frankfurt on 9 September, 2004. The Basset bound living in Fulda has made it into the Guinness book of records for having the longest ears in the world, measuring 33.2 centimetres. — INTERNET

Guinness World Records Ltd, which received a certificate from the House of Hope Academy in the Pacific coastal town of Ensenada, refused to comment. The other two centres could not be immediately identified and contacted for comment. Mexico investigated the centres after complaints of maltreatment, and found the youths had entered Mexico as tourists, not residents of treatment programs, the National Immigration Institute said.

Immigration officials also said at least one of the centres was run by an American who had also entered on a tourist visa and had no legal right to run a business in Mexico.

— MNA/Reuters
Rangers slip 7 points behind Celtic

Glasgow, 13 Sept—Rangers slipped seven points behind Scottish champions and league leaders Celtic on Sunday after drawing 0-0 at Hearts in a frantic encounter.

The Glasgow side missed several chances to collect the three points but Hearts also had opportunities and deserved the draw after battling gamely in a match hampered by strong winds.

Celtic have a maximum 15 points from five games after their 3-0 win against Dundee on Saturday with Aberdeen and Kilmarnock in second place on nine.

"I was disappointed we didn't play better," said Rangers manager Alex McLeish. "We created a couple of chances, but maybe not enough although on another day we might have taken them."

McLeish believes his side can close the gap on arch-rivals Celtic despite winning only two of their first five league games.

"There's a long way to go in terms of the league situation and Celtic have still to come here," he told reporters.

FIFA to re-examine calendar for int'l double-headers

London, 13 Sept—FIFA is to re-examine arrangements for playing international double-headers to help ease the strain on players, clubs and their coaches.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said world soccer's governing body will consider a suggestion from Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger among others, that international double-headers should be played on Wednesdays and Saturdays instead of the other way around.

"This is a very intelligent proposal from Mr Wenger and we will examine it next month," Blatter told a media briefing on Sunday, adding that a number of other calendar issues would be discussed at a Strategic Committee meeting early next month.

FIFA introduced their international co-ordinated calendar two years ago in a bid to streamline the dates for competitive internationals and friendlies and while the idea has generally worked well, there is still a huge burden on players appearing for both their clubs and countries a few days apart.

Kaiserslautern beat Hansa 3-2 in Bundesliga

Berlin, 13 Sept—Kaiserslautern moved off the bottom of the Bundesliga with a 3-2 victory over Hansa Rostock on Sunday.

The four-times champions' first win of the season after three defeats lifted them four spots up to 14th. Defender Thomas Drescher and midfielder Thomas Rozied scored in quick succession just before the break to give the southwesterners a 2-0 lead at halftime.

Striker Halil Altintop made it 3-0 in the 56th minute but the home side then fought back with two late goals from Sweden striker Marcus Allback.

Rostock, still waiting for their first home win, drop two places to 13th.

Marseille defeated by Sochaux in French Ligue 1

Paris, 13 Sept—Ambitious Olympique Marseille lost contact with the Ligue 1 leaders after suffering a 2-0 defeat at UEFA Cup contenders Sochaux on Sunday.

Marseille, beaten at home by Metz in their last match, slipped to 10th place on seven points, four behind the leaders.

Sochaux, who face Norway's Stabaek in the UEFA Cup on Thursday, are just behind on goal difference.

They opened the scoring in the 37th minute thanks to a long-range shot from Jeremy Mathieu that was diverted into the far corner by Fabien Barthez's goal by Marseille midfielder LeytiNdoye.

Striker Santos made it 2-0 from the spot seven minutes from time to lock four points behind the leaders.

London, 13 Sept—ENGLAND: Tottenham Hotspur were left to rue missed chances after being held to a 0-0 draw by Premier League newcomers Norwich City at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

Spurs dominated the first half, with England striker Jermain Defoe rifling a shot against the post and having another cleared off the line as Jacques Santini's side created five clear scoring chances.

Norwich keeper Robert Green, who opposite number Paul Robinson a member of the England squad, continued to keep Spurs at bay after the break with a series of excellent saves.

Norwich striker Darren Huckerby would have snatched a winner on the counter were it not for a last-ditch block by England defender Ledley King.

Cuco Zuniga's goal in the 37th minute beat Fool's goalkeeper Roy Stroeve to put the visitors a point clear in 13th place.

For the first 31 minutes from Wesley Sonck, Steven Pienaar and Nourdin Boukhari put Ajax in control but Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Knafield blew a three-goal lead at home to Feyenoord.

Feyenoord took over at the top of the Dutch first division by defeating Twente Enschede 3-1.

Goals in the first 31 minutes from Wesley Sonck, Steven Pienaar and Nourdin Boukhari put Ajax in control but Den Haag hit back to earn a 3-3 draw.

"I was disappointed with the first half," said Ajax's Giovanni van Bronckhorst.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said world soccer's governing body will consider a suggestion from Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger among others, that international double-headers should be played on Wednesdays and Saturdays instead of the other way around.

"This is a very intelligent proposal from Mr Wenger and we will examine it next month," Blatter told a media briefing on Sunday, adding that a number of other calendar issues would be discussed at a Strategic Committee meeting early next month.

FIFA introduced their international co-ordinated calendar two years ago in a bid to streamline the dates for competitive internationals and friendlies and while the idea has generally worked well, there is still a huge burden on players appearing for both their clubs and countries a few days apart.

If the switch was adopted and the first of the double-headers was played on Wednesday rather than Saturday, players would have a full week to recover before their next club match.

Blatter was critical of the England players who refused to speak to the media after being lambasted last week when they drew 2-2 with Austria in Vienna after leading 2-0 with just 19 minutes to go.

Blatter said: "International footballers are recognizable public personalities with an obligation to communicate with the media and the public and accept from time to time that they are going to be criticized.

"This is a world of total communication now and to lose communication is wrong, and to instigate a media blackout was wrong."
Coordination meeting to host Fourth World Buddhist Summit on grand scale held

YANGON, 14 Sept—For successful holding of the Fourth World Buddhist Summit to be held in Myanmar on a grand scale, the Work Committee and the Sub-Committee for Organizing the Fourth World Buddhist Summit held the work coordination meeting at the coordination meeting held of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in Mayangon Township this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the Work Committee Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Secretary Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and work committee members, the chairmen of the respective sub-committees and secretaries and officials.

In his address, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung stressed the need for timely completion of the work as the day on which the Fourth World Buddhist Summit to be held is drawing nearer day after day; and that the respective sub-committees are to present their work, progress, future tasks and requirements at this meeting. The minister called on officials concerned to make relentless efforts for showing off the prestige and dignity of Myanmar as the world community is taking interest in the Fourth World Buddhist Summit.

Next, Secretary of the Work Committee Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko reported on matters related to preparations being made sub-committee-wise for successful holding of the Summit was followed by a general round of discussions. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Chairman of the Work Committee Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

After the meeting, the minister and party inspected work progress at the Maha Pasana Cave Ordination Hall on Kaba Aye Hill where the Fourth World Buddhist Summit will be held.—MNA

Workshop on National Performance Assessment and Strategic Environment Framework concluded

YANGON, 14 Sept — The National Workshop on National Performance Assessment and Strategic Environment Framework for the Greater Meikong Subregion Project Phase-II organized by the Myanmar National Commission for Environment Affairs (NCEA) in cooperation with Asian Development Bank (ADB) which commenced yesterday concluded at the Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel today. First group discussions on selecting environmental indicators and group presentation and panel discussion were made by 4 subgroups.

Next, presentation of factsheet development for environmental indicators and explanation of the next steps in environmental performance assessment were presented by domestic consultant and international consultant.

The workshop came to a close in the evening with the closing remarks made by Joint Secretary of the National Commission for Environment Affairs Daw Yin Yin Lay. — MNA

Let’s render help to establish self-reliant libraries at every village

Up to 14 September 2004, altogether 8,104 self-reliant libraries were opened nationwide

Books and periodicals can be donated at District/Township Information & Public Relations Departments

Ministry of Information

Information and Public Relations Department

Wednesday, September 15

View on today:

7:00 am
Recitation of Patittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamaithara
7:25 am
To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
Morning news
7:40 am
Nice and sweet song
7:55 am

8:00 am
9:00 am
11:00 am
12:00 pm
1:00 pm
2:00 pm
3:00 pm
4:00 pm
5:00 pm
6:00 pm
7:00 pm
8:00 pm
9:00 pm
10:00 pm

Children And Beginners
1. Martial song
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
3. Practice in Reading
4. Musical programme
5. [Newspaper and periodical] (30 minutes)
6. Song of national races
7. Independence Day-March 27
8. Children’s day-March 8
9. International Women’s Day-March 8
10. Independence Day-March 27
11. Discovery
12. Evening news
13. Weather report
14. Strong and healthy Myanmar
15. Musical programme
16. [Newspaper and periodical] (30 minutes)
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. Independence Day-March 27
21. Independence Day-March 8
22. Independence Day-March 27
23. Independence Day-March 8
24. Children’s day-March 8
25. Children’s day-March 8
26. Independence Day-March 27
27. Independence Day-March 8
28. Independence Day-March 27
29. Independence Day-March 8
30. Independence Day-March 27
31. Independence Day-March 8
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 life. Natural gas burns cent per cent and is environment-friendly. Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.

YANGON, 14 Sept—A prize presentation for outstanding students of Basic Education High School in Laydaunkkan No 1 war veterans model village in Dagon Myothit (South) this morning, attended by Chairman of Central Organizing Committee of MWVO Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd), members of Central Organizing Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, senior military officers, officials of MWVO (Central), local authorities, school head, teachers and students.

In his address, the Secretary-2 recalled the No 1 model village was established in 1986; at that time Senior General Than Shwe got it set up. Accommodation, lands, cattle and livestock breeding farms were provided for retired war veterans. The State and MWVO built 16-bed hospital and schools and made arrangements for bus service and power supply. Efforts were made for opening of multimedia teaching centre and arrangements were also made for construction of monastery and a replica pagoda of the Shwedagon.

He said families of the war veterans are to be loyal to the State in gratitude for the goodwill of the State, the Head of State and MWVO and nurture their offspring to become good citizens of the State in the future. He urged teachers to train their pupils to be clever and polite, disciplined, patriotic and to teach them in accord with the prescribed curriculum.