Virati papa, to refrain from sin; this is the way to auspiciousness.

**Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Papua New Guinea**

**Yangon**, 16 Sept — On the occasion of the Independence Day of Papua New Guinea, which falls on 16 September 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Sir Paulius Matane, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea.— MNA

**Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Mexican President**

**Yangon**, 16 Sept — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Vicente Fox Quesada, President of the United Mexican States, on the anniversary of the Independence Day of the United Mexican States which falls on 16 September 2004. — MNA

**Perspectives**

Rural water supply projects: fruits of cooperation between the State and people

(Article)

The pearl of knowledge in human life

(See page 8)

**Assistance provided for health care services in rural regions and education sector as much as possible**

**Secretary-1 attends opening of multimedia classrooms at Ngaphe BEHS**

MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the opening ceremony of multimedia classrooms at Ngaphe BEHS. — MNA

Chairs of Mandalay Division and Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, the Secretary-1 arrived in Ngaphe of Minbu District by helicopter from Magway on 12 September morning.

Accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, the Secretary-1 proceeded to Ngaphe BEHS where students welcomed them by singing the song "Myanma Kyung".

The Secretary-1 attended the opening ceremony of the multimedia classrooms at Ngaphe BEHS. Also present were departmental personnel, school heads of basic education schools, members of the school board of trustees, teachers, social organizations, well-wishers and students. Headmistress Daw Win Kyi and Chairman of School Board of Trustees U Wunna formally opened the multimedia classrooms.

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

**Thursday, 16 September, 2004**

**Rural water supply projects: fruits of cooperation between the State and people**

Endowed with moderate climate and natural resources, Myanmar is a pleasant and beautiful land. However, the central part of it, a dry region where rain is scarce, used to experience extreme temperature and scarcity of water. Therefore, in accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, plans are under way for greening the dry region and sufficiently supplying safe drinking water to the three divisions in it.

There are 8,042 villages in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Divisions and 15,183 in other states and divisions that are faced with the problem of safe drinking water. Every fiscal year, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs has been spending large sums of money on safe drinking water projects for villages where water is scarce. During the fiscal years from 2000-2001 to 2003-2004, water supply projects for 4,907 villages in the dry region and 5,695 in other states and divisions were successfully implemented.

It is heartening to see that individual wellwishers, Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and international organizations are making generous donations towards the projects for supplying safe drinking water to the people in water-scarce rural areas.

The eighth cash donation ceremony for rural water supply projects of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was held at the Development Affairs Department on 13 September and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council U Aung Soe Moe expressed thanks to wellwishers. At the ceremony, 163 wellwishers donated more than K 120.3 million, US$ 500 and Euro 500.

Due to the assistance of the State, donations of wellwishers and contributions of other organizations, ChaungU, Myinmu, Taungwintyi, Minbu, Aunglan, Myittha, Kyaukse and Myingyan townships have now drinking water supply.

We believe that continued assistance of the State, donations of wellwishers and cooperation of internal and international organizations will ensure safe drinking water for more and more rural areas.

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**Cooperative local products market festival to be held from 26 Oct to 1 Nov**

**Yangon, 15 Sept** — A coordination meeting for holding cooperative local products market festival was held at the Ministry of Cooperatives on Bogyoke Aung San Street yesterday.

The cooperative local products market festival will be held at Cooperative Commercial Centre (Saya San Plaza) at the corner of University Avenue and Saya San Road from 26 October to 1 November, 2004.

Patron of Leading Committee for holding the cooperative local products market festival Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo said cooperative product exhibition and market festival will be held twice a year. He said the cooperative local products market festival will be held with the aims of developing commodity market, seeking regular market for local products and boosting production.

He called for cooperation for progress of cooperative activities. Next, officials reported on work done.

The meeting came to a close with the concluding remark by Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo. — **MNA**

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**Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Mexican counterpart**

**Yangon, 16 Sept** — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung has sent a message of felicitations to Dr Luis Ernesto Derbez Bautista, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States, on the anniversary of the Independence Day of the United Mexican States which falls on 16 September 2004. — **MNA**

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**ASEAN Region Local Administration Forum-2004 opens**

The ASEAN Region Local Administration Forum-2004, jointly-organized by the General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Japanese Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR, Singapore) was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Director-General of the General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs U Myat Ko, Deputy Director-General U Maung Win, the adviser to the minister, directors, heads of state/division and districts and township General Administration Departments, delegates from other ministries, Manag-

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**People’s Desire**

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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**Cooperative local products market festival to be held from 26 Oct to 1 Nov**

**Yangon, 15 Sept** — The 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions of Thayawady District began at Saya San Hall in Thayawady yesterday. Present were Chairman of Thayawady District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Win and members, district and township level departmental officials, township authorities, contest-

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 16 September, 2004

1,018 US servicemen killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 Sept—As of Tuesday, 14 September 1,018 members of the US military have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 768 died as a result of hostile action and 250 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

China, Albania sign seven cooperative documents

BEIJING, 14 Sept—China and Albania signed seven cooperative documents here Monday to cement their cooperation in areas of economy, education, sports, broadcasting and television, among others. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Albanian Prime Minister Fatos Nano attended the signing ceremony following a meeting between the two.

The documents included economic and technological cooperation, exemption of double taxation, and cooperation in areas of education, sports, radio broadcasting and television, and in chambers of commerce.

Nano arrived here Monday on an official visit to China. It was the first meeting between the heads of the two governments in 38 years after the two countries established full diplomatic relations in November 1949.

Wen told Nano that China attaches great importance to its relations with Albania and hopes to bring bilateral relations to a higher ground under the principles of mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit, and non-interference in each other’s internal affairs.

“China is satisfied with the smooth growth of bilateral ties as we have strengthened political trust, expanded cooperation in economy, justice, culture, education and sports and other areas,” Wen said.

Iraq oil pipeline junction blown up

KIRKUK, 14 Sept—Saboteurs blew up a junction where multiple oil pipelines cross the Tigris River in northern Iraq on Tuesday, setting off a chain reaction in power generation systems that left the entire country without power, officials said.

Firefighters struggled to put out the blaze after the attack near Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad. Crude oil cascaded down the hillside into the river. Fire burned atop the water, fueled by the gushing oil.

In Vienna, Iraqi Oil Minister Thamer al-Ghadhban said the country would try to keep up its production of more than 2.5 million barrels of oil a day, 2 million of which is exported daily, but he didn’t say how.

“I am confident security will be improved,” al-Ghadhban said ahead of an OPEC meeting here Wednesday. Beiji is the point where several oil pipelines converge, said Lt Col Lee Morrison of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

One of them apparently was a domestic pipeline that fed a local power plant. The explosion set off a fire that melted cables and led to the power outage, electricity officials said. “Beiji is the chokepoint,” Morrison said. “It’s so easy to hit.”

The 3 a.m. attack came soon after engineers had completed a two-month project to install two critical valves that had been damaged in an earlier blast.

Morrison, commander of the northern office of Task Force Shield, based in Kirkuk, said US soldiers dropped off barriers to guard the lines two days ago, but Iraqi authorities had not yet erected them.

Iraqi officials have been struggling to protect the country’s vast oil infrastructure, deploying thousands of security officers to guard the lines. Guerrillas, however, have largely acted with impunity — and often inside knowledge.

Internet

Dozens killed by Baghdad car bomb explosion

BAGHDAD, 14 Sept—A car bomb has exploded close to an Iraqi police station in central Baghdad, killing 47 people, Health Ministry officials say.

More than 100 people were injured in the huge mid-morning blast, which devastated a busy shopping area in Haifa Street.

Gunmen also shot dead 12 policemen and a civilian in Baquba, north of Baghdad.

A statement said to be from alleged al-Qaeda militant Abu Musab al Zarqawi’s group said it carried out the attacks.

Tuesday’s explosion was the deadliest such attack in Iraq since July, when 68 people were killed by a car bomb outside a police station in Baquba.

Turkey threatens to halt cooperation with US in Iraq

ANKARA, 14 Sept—Turkey has threatened to halt cooperation with Washington in Iraq after a US offensive in northern Iraq and the reported deaths of ethnic Turkmen civilians, Ankara’s Foreign Minister was quoted on Monday as saying.

US troops mounted a major offensive last week in the town of Tal Afar, a suspected haven for foreign fighters near the Syrian border which has a large indigenous Turkmen population.

“The Turks have the right to feel that their cooperation is being rewarded,” the minister said.

“Were we to make a decision, we would consult the US ambassador,” Gul added.

Turkey’s cooperation on matters concerning Turkmen will come to an end,” CNN Turk television quoted Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul as saying.

“We will continue to say these things. Of course we will not stop only at words. If necessary we will not hesitate to do what has to be done,” Gul added.

He did not specify what cooperation might suffer but Turkey is a key US ally in a largely hostile region and US forces, for example, use its Incirlik military base.

Earlier, US Ambassador to Turkey, Eric Edelman, tried to calm Turkish concerns, saying the US forces were doing their best to keep civilian losses to a minimum as they fought the Iraqi guerrillas.

“We cannot completely eliminate the possibility of civilian casualties... (But) we believe the operation is being conducted with great care,” he said after briefing Turkish officials.

Last Friday, Turkey’s Foreign Ministry urged the United States to halt its offensive. The Turkish military also said it was monitoring the situation closely in Tal Afar.

Turkish officials say Turkmen representatives put the number of Turkmen civilians killed in the violence at high as 500, but they quote US sources as putting the death toll at fewer than 50. No independently verifiable figures are available.

There should not be any civilian casualties... Even a few casualties is unacceptable,” a Turkish official told reporters.

Developments in northern Iraq have put a strain on traditionally warm ties between Turkey and the United States since the ousting of Iraqi ex-president Saddam Hussein.

MNA/Reuters

Iraqi policemen inspect the scene of an explosion in central Baghdad, on 14 Sept, 2004. —INTERNET

Iraqi policemen and oil company personnel walk on the road next to burning oil pipeline, near the town of Baiji, on 14 Sept, 2004. Engineers at the power station said they had shut down the plant on Tuesday, knocking out power to the Iraqi town, because of a sabotage attack on a nearby oil export pipeline. —INTERNET

The British military has reported 65 deaths; Italy, 18; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, six; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 877 US military members have died — 656 as a result of hostile action and 221 of non-hostile causes, according to the military’s numbers Tuesday.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 7,245 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s weekly tally.

Iraqi policemen inspect the scene of an explosion in central Baghdad, on 14 Sept, 2004. —INTERNET

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The documents in- cluded economic and tech- nological cooperation, exemption of double taxa- tion, and cooperation in areas of education, sports, radio broadcasting and tele- vision, and in chambers of commerce.

Nano arrived here Monday on an official visit to China. It was the first meeting between the heads of the two governments in 38 years after the two countries established full diplomatic relations in November 1949.

Wen told Nano that China attaches great im- portance to its relations with Albania and hopes to bring bilateral relations to a higher ground under the principles of mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit, and non-interference in each other’s internal af- fairs.

“China is satisfied with the smooth growth of bi- lateral ties as we have strengthened political trust, expanded cooperation in economy, justice, culture, education and sports and other areas,” Wen said.

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Inmates sue to force training for Iraq interrogators

LOS ANGELES, 14 Sept — Lawyers representing nine former Iraqi prisoners on Tuesday asked a federal judge in San Diego to ensure that US defence contractor CACI International trains the interrogators it sends to Iraq in international laws against torture.

The request for a preliminary injunction is the latest salvo in a class action lawsuit filed in June by the Centre for Constitutional Rights in New York and two law firms on behalf of the former inmates at Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad who said they were tortured by American military personnel and private contractors.

Titan Corp of San Diego, which is assisting CACI in international interrogations, has said it would not send interrogators it sends to Iraq in international laws against torture.

“We are not obsessed with meeting that target (of balanced budget). The important thing we are doing is that we must keep the deficit to continue reduce gradually,” the Prime Minister told a Press conference in Putrajaya, Federal Administrative Centre, on the 2005 Budget which he tabled in the Parliament last Friday.

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The US military launched several investigations into the abuse and torture of Iraqi prisoners. Several US military police soldiers and an intelligence specialist have been charged in the scandal.

Employees from both Titan and CACI were named in a report on the abuses by US Army investigator Maj General Antonio Taguba.

Residents return after days of fighting between US forces and armed groups, in the besieged city of Tal Afar, northern Iraq, on 14 Sept. 2004. — Internet

Malaysia continues to reduce budget deficit

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 Sept — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Monday the government would continue to reduce its budget deficit gradually but would not be able to achieve a balanced budget by 2006 as planned before.

“We are not obsessed with meeting that target (of balanced budget). The important thing we are doing is that we must keep the deficit to continue reduce gradually,” the Prime Minister told a Press conference in Putrajaya, Federal Administrative Centre, on the 2005 Budget which he tabled in the Parliament last Friday.

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Philippine investments grow sharply in first seven months

MANILA, 14 Sept — Capital investments in the Philippines grew by 493 per cent year-on-year to 2.58 billion US dollars during the first seven months in 2004, the government said Monday.

The capital inflows were approved by the Philippine Board of Investments and the Philippine Export Zone Authority, sharply up from 436.79 million dollars during the same period last year, the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry said in a report.

Among which, capital inflows approved by the Board of Investments totalled 2.08 billion dollars for the seven months, up from 217.14 million dollars for the same period last year, the department said. — MNA/Xinhua

Jordanian reportedly taken hostage in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 Sept — The Arab television network Al-Jazeera broadcast footage Tuesday of a Jordanian truck driver purportedly taken hostage in Iraq. Separately, a militant group said it would release a Turkish hostage but threatened to behead those who deal with the coalition forces here.

The footage shown on Al-Jazeera showed three masked men standing behind the kneeling hostage.

The man's employer gave the man's employer 48 hours to suspend its activities in Iraq. The man's employer was not named.

The footage was broadcast a day after guerrillas warned Jordanian truckers that they would be killed if they entered Iraq. The Islamic Army in Iraq accused Jordanian drivers of transporting supplies to American forces.

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Police recruits targeted in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 Sept — Guerrillas seeking to topple Iraqi interim government are targeting the young men who gather in long lines to seek jobs in the country's nascent security services, killing scores of them in a campaign that poses a direct threat to US efforts to increase the size of Iraq's police and National Guard.

In the latest attack on aspiring recruits, a suicide bomber on Tuesday, a car bomb laden with artillery shells tore through a crowd of men who had been forced to stand outside blast-absorbing concrete barriers at a police headquarters in central Baghdad. At least 47 people were killed and 114 wounded, police and public health officials said.

More than 700 policemen and prospective recruits have been killed in insurgent attacks since US forces toppled former president Saddam Hussein government in April 2003, according to Iraq's Interior Ministry. Most were killed in suicide bombings, and many were simply applying for jobs. — Internet
Iraqi President drops plans to address at European Parliament

BRUSSELS, 14 Sept — Iraqi President Ghazi Yawar has dropped plans to address European parliamentarians in France’s city of Strasbourg, a week after Paris called off a visit by him, officials said on Monday.

They said no reason had been given for the sudden cancellation of Yawar’s visit to Strasbourg on Wednesday, but it followed the Paris decision due to sensitivity over the kidnapping of two French journalists in Iraq.

“The French Government did not intervene (over the Strasbourg visit),” said a spokeswoman for European Parliament President Josep Borrell.

French diplomatic sources said last week Yawar was turned away from Paris because the kidnapping of journalists Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot by Islamic militants had made receiving the US-backed president too sensitive.

Yawar had been due to meet European Parliament faction leaders and the foreign affairs committee in Strasbourg, but had not been granted the privilege of addressing the full assembly as he is only an interim leader.

French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier, speaking to reporters at an European Union foreign ministers’ meeting, said Paris had “no reservation or objection whatsoever to the Iraqi President’s visit to the European Parliament”.

Earlier, other officials said Paris was upset at remarks by interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi in newspaper interviews that France’s stance against the US-led invasion of Iraq last year would not spare it from terrorist attack.

Borrell voiced disappointment over Yawar’s decision to stay away from Strasbourg.

“This is a pity, as it would not only have allowed us to engage in some serious debate with him, but it would have marked — following the transition to Iraqi rule in June — the start of political relations with Iraq, a country with which the EU has never had any relations,” he said in a statement.

Yawar began a European tour in Rome last week to rally support for post-war reconstruction of his country and debt relief.

He will be in Brussels on Tuesday, where he is scheduled to meet NATO ambassadors and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana. — MNA/Reuters

Canadian journalist released in Iraq

OTTAWA, 14 Sept — A Canadian freelance reporter said on Monday he was kidnapped briefly last week in northern Iraq and handed over to Arab militants who beat him and threatened repeatedly to behead him.

Scott Taylor, who specializes in covering conflicts, said he was released on Sunday after five days in captivity. He said his captors had accused him of being a spy for Israel’s Mossad secret service.

“At least three times in five days I was told that I was about to be beheaded,” he told CBC radio from Turkey.

“I was beaten one day and the next day I was told I’d be killed and it was all over. And then eventually I guess they just got tired of me and let me go,” he said.

Taylor said he had been originally detained by a Turkmen group last Wednesday after he went to check out reports of a planned US attack on the town of Tal Afar, 60 miles east of the Syrian border in northern Iraq.

He said the group first took him to a safe house, which was subsequently attacked and destroyed by American Apache helicopters. Taylor said he lost his briefcase, passport and video camera in the raid.

“So here I was, with an eagle tattooed on my arm and no identification in the midst of the Mujahedin in the middle of a battle,” he told CBC radio. Iraqi officials say 22 guerrillas were killed when US forces attacked Tal Afar on Thursday.

Taylor told the Ottawa Citizen newspaper that his initial captors handed him over to a non-Iraqi Arab group “who beat the living shit out of me”. He said they put him in handcuffs and chains and gave him 24 hours to admit he was a Mossad spy.

Then, without explanation, Taylor said he was put in a cab and driven to the main highway between Mosul and Turkey. “I can barely walk away from the beatings I got, but it was the mental torture of thinking six times you’re about to die that’s tough,” he told the Citizen. — MNA/Reuters

Powell admits Iraq’s WMD may not be found

WASHINGTON, 14 Sept — US Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Monday that it was unlikely any stockpiles of Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction (WMD) would be found.

“It turned out that we have not found any stockpiles. I think it is unlikely that we will find any stockpiles,” Powell said at a hearing of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

“We have to now go back through and find out why we had a different judgment. What I have found over the last year and several months is that some of the sourcing that was used to give me the basis upon which to bring forward that judgment to the United Nations were flawed, were wrong,” Powell said.

The Bush Administration has accused the Saddam Hussein regime of developing weapons of mass destruction, a major excuse for going to war with Iraq in March last year. However, no such weapons have been found more than one year after the Iraq war. — MNA/Reuters

Italian FM calls for release of hostages

KUWAIT CITY, 14 Sept— Visiting Italian Foreign Minister made a fresh call here Monday on kidnappers of the two Italian hostages and other nationals held in Iraq to let them go, the Kuwait News Agency reported.

During his visit in Kuwait, Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said, “I seize the opportunity to make a call for the release of the hostages in Iraq, including the Italian captives who had served in Iraq for the Iraqi people.”

Frattini, on a Gulf mission to press for the release of the two hostages, arrived in Kuwait earlier Monday.

The Italian Foreign Ministry declared on Sunday that Frattini would tour the region in an effort to set free the two female hostages.

Simona Pari and Simona Torretta, who worked on projects aimed at helping Iraqi children, were seized at gunpoint in Baghdad on 7 September along with two Iraqi colleagues. — MNA/Xinhua

Blast hits through crowded Baghdad market

BAGHDAD, 15 Sept — A huge blast tore through a crowded Baghdad market close to a police station on Tuesday and Reuters witnesses said at least 35 people were killed.

The US military and Iraqi Interior Ministry said the blast was a car bomb attack on a police station in Haifa Street. But some witnesses and police at the scene gave a different account, saying two mortar rounds had landed in the area.

Reuters correspondent Mariam Karouny counted 15 bodies lying near the blast site. Reuters television cameraman Alaa Saad said there were at least 20 bodies in the morgue of Kadhim Hospital.

Rescuers pulled bodies from mangled market stalls. The area was littered with shoes, clothes and body parts, as well as scattered fruit and vegetables from the market.

A huge crater had been punched into the road and at least nine cars were destroyed. Ambulances with sirens wailing ferried the dead and wounded to hospitals.

US helicopters buzzed overhead.

“Initial reports are that a car bomb detonated at the northend of Haifa Street. It seems there are some Iraqi civilian casualties, possibly some killed,” a spokesman for the US 1st Cavalry Division said.

He said a girl’s school was also near the site of the blast. — MNA/Reuters

A man walks inside his destroyed house, following heavy clashes in the town of Tal Afar, some 390 km north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 14 Sept, 2004. — Reuters

US soldiers stand guard next to a sign, reading in Arabic ‘Tal Afar is closed’, at the outskirts of the town of Tal Afar, some 390 km north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 14 Sept, 2004. —INTERNET

"This is a pity, as it would not only have allowed us to engage in some serious debate with him, but it would have marked — following the transition to Iraqi rule in June — the start of political relations with Iraq, a country with which the EU has never had any relations," he said in a statement.

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The Italian Foreign Ministry declared on Sunday that Frattini would tour the region in an effort to set free the two female hostages.

Simona Pari and Simona Torretta, who worked on projects aimed at helping Iraqi children, were seized at gunpoint in Baghdad on 7 September along with two Iraqi colleagues. — MNA/Xinhua

"This is a pity, as it would not only have allowed us to engage in some serious debate with him, but it would have marked — following the transition to Iraqi rule in June — the start of political relations with Iraq, a country with which the EU has never had any relations," he said in a statement.

"We have to now go back through and find out why we had a different judgment. What I have found over the last year and several months is that some of the sourcing that was used to give me the basis upon which to bring forward that judgment to the United Nations were flawed, were wrong," Powell said.

The Bush Administration has accused the Saddam Hussein regime of developing weapons of mass destruction, a major excuse for going to war with Iraq in March last year. However, no such weapons have been found more than one year after the Iraq war. — MNA/Reuters

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A man walks inside his destroyed house, following heavy clashes in the town of Tal Afar, some 390 km north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 14 Sept, 2004. — Reuters
Hun Sen highly values ASEAN strengths for Cambodia, region

Pnom Penh, 14 Sept — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Monday highly valued the important strengths of ASEAN for Cambodia and the region’s peace, stability and prosperity.

He said there are four important factors that have been fundamentally important in ensuring ASEAN’s achievements and successes as a regional organization.

“First, ASEAN created a regional environment of security, peace and stability, allowing this region to prosper,” he said.

“Second, ASEAN is a region of cooperation, thus it plays a crucial role in fostering the community spirit among members.”

“Third, ASEAN is a region known for its strong economic growth” which makes the region a main economic growth centre over the last three decades, Hun Sen added.

“Fourth, ASEAN is the arena for diplomacy and a major international gateway,” he said, adding that “with an entrenched mechanism for cooperation and consultation, ASEAN maintained and strengthened the friendships with its external partners”.

Hun Sen, meanwhile, called on the ASEAN member countries to mobilize their energy to enhance these strengths with a view to building a more developed and prosperous Southeast Asia.

More than 300 delegates from ASEAN member countries, as well as lawmakers of the AIPO’s dialogue partners outside Southeast Asia, including China, Japan and South Korea, took part in the four-day meeting.

China to promote comprehensive cooperation with ASEAN

Pnom Penh, 14 Sept — China will promote comprehensive cooperation with ASEAN in economy, politics, security, science and technology, culture and other fields, said a Chinese senior official here on Monday.

In a speech at the 25th General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO), Wang Yingfan, vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) of China, reaffirmed that “China will always be a good neighbour, a good friend and a good partner of ASEAN.”

“The NPC of China stands ready to make joint efforts with AIPO and its member parliaments to push ahead the friendly cooperation, and make contributions to peace, stability and prosperity in our region,” Wang added.

In recent years, the relationship between China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has become more mature, said Wang. Good-neighbourly ties and mutual trust have been enhanced, and the economic cooperation and trade between China and ASEAN countries have developed drastically, he added.

Fertilizer prices in Vietnam soar

Hanoi, 15 Sept — Prices of fertilizers in the Vietnamese market are now increasing 40 per cent compared to early this year, posting an all-time high over the past few years.

The higher prices are mainly due to rising prices of fertilizers in the world market, according to the Vietnam Fertilizer Association on Tuesday.

Import prices of urea stood at around 250 US dollars per ton in mid-September 2004, up from 150 US dollars earlier this year, which pushed up retail prices in the domestic market to 280-286 US dollars per ton.

To stabilize the domestic market, the Ministry of Trade has recently proposed the government slash the value-added tax on fertilizers to zero from current 5 per cent. In a broader move, Vietnam will build four major fertilizers plants with combined annual capacity of 1.79 million tons between 2005 and 2010 to lessen its reliance on import.

The local demand for fertilizers will be around 7.3 million tons this year, including some 2.2 million tons of urea. To meet the demand, Vietnam will have to import some 3.8 million tons of fertilizers, mainly from China, said the association. — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore sends 6 fighter aircraft to France for joint exercise

Singapore, 15 Sept — Singapore has sent six fighter aircraft to France for a joint military exercise as part of its efforts to strengthen the island state’s military relation with the European country.

According to local Press reports on Monday, two KC-135R tankers will provide air-to-air refuelling support for the Singapore Air Force’s F-16C/D fighter Falcons, which will transit through India, United Arab Emirates and Greece en route to France.

The exercise, codenamed Exercise Western Arc, will be conducted at the Dijon Air Base in eastern France from 20 September to 4 October. During the exercise, the first of the series with the French Air Force, the Air Forces of the two countries will engage in air combat and air-to-air flying manoeuvres. — MNA/Xinhua
Libraries built to disseminate knowledge

Opening ceremony of a library in Nyaungbintha Village in Myaungmya District, Ayeyawady Division.—MNA

A library was opened in Ngapeinn Village in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Division, to disseminate knowledge to local people. —IPRD

People living in Myinnu Village, Pindaya Township, Shan State (South) gain knowledge through a library opened in the village. —IPRD

The opening ceremony of a library in Phayeohnbinzu model village in Mawlamyinegyun Township, Ayeyawady Division. —IPRD

Self-reliance library in Magyihtoo Village in Myothit Township, Magway Division. —IPRD

Up to 14 September 2004, altogether 8,104 self-reliant libraries were opened nationwide.
Next, Vice-Chairman of MEC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win unveiled the signboard of the multimedia classrooms.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the computer aided instruction room, the computer skills room, the language lab, the learning centre, the altar room and the domestic science room.

They then enjoyed the entertainment programmes of students at the music room.

At Bo Ywe Hall, the Secretary-1 and party met departmental personnel, townsmen, teachers and officials. First, the Secretary-1 heard reports on education, health and regional development of Ngaphe Township presented by departmental officials and attended to their needs.

Next, the Secretary-1 delivered an address, saying that they arrived at Ngaphe to fulfill requirements of the township after inspecting its development. He said he had attended to the needs of the township hospital.

Likewise, he said, assistance has been provided for the health care in rural region and education sector as much as possible. As development of the entire nation reflects progress region-wise, the government is making arrangements for enabling all the regions of the Union to achieve progress.

MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents cash towards the funds of Ngaphe Township BEHS to Headmistress Daw Win Kyi.— MNA

MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects Ngaphe Township Hospital.— MNA

Development of all the regions of the rural areas will contribute towards the cent per cent development of the State.

That is why, development of all the regions of the rural areas will contribute towards the cent per cent development of the State. Therefore, he said they are attending to the needs in development of Ngaphe region.

He added that the local people from Ngaphe region should try to carry out tasks for regional and economic development and measures for peace, tranquility and security of the region under the leadership of the State. And then, the local people are to strive in their respective sectors for implementing the aims of the entire people— perpetual existence of the Union, national unity and emergence of a modern nation— with the nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit.

Coord meeting for organizing Myanmar Furniture Fair held

YANGON, 15 Sept — The first coordination meeting on Myanmar Furniture Fair-2004 to be organized by the Ministry of Forestry was held at the meeting hall of the ministry this afternoon with an address by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

Also present on the occasion were Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, deputy ministers, directors-general and managing directors of respective departments and officials.

Next, Secretary of Leading Committee for Organizing the Myanmar Furniture Fair-2004 Managing Director of Myanmar Timber Enterprise U Win Tun reported on preparatory tasks for the fair, followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with the remarks by the minister.

The First Myanmar Furniture Fair-2004 will be held from 22 to 26 October at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wizara Road on a grand scale. — MNA
Bago Division needs to…
(from page 16)
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected water storage capacity of South Nawin Dam with 16,674 feet in length and 141 feet in height. Bago Division has set a target of 2.6 million acres of monsoon paddy and 300,000 acres of summer paddy this cultivation season and the facility will supply water for growing 20,602 acres of summer paddy in 2004-2005 fiscal year.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than held a meeting with officials and other ranks and their families at local battalion in Paukkhaung Township. On the occasion, he instructed officials at different levels to fulfil the requirements for betterment of education and health sectors and welfare of their families, and extension of small-scale agriculture and livestock breeding tasks.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially greeted the officers and other ranks and families.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended the demonstration of cotton growing carried out by the Myanmar Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise in Paukkhaung Township. Manager of the Division MCSE U Mya Aung reported on steps being taken for meeting the targeted output of long staple cotton.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on broad dissemination of agricultural methods to enable the farmers to grow the crops systematically, cooperation of related departments to distribute high-yield strains, and mixed cropping of edible oil crops including groundnut and cotton.

Out of the targeted 34,350 acres of cotton, so far Bago Division (West) has grown 22,271 acres.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met division, district and township level departmental officials, members of social organisations and townswomen at the office of Township PDC.

The chairman of the Township PDC reported on facts about the region and its education, health, social and health sectors and agriculture and livestock breeding works.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that it being one of the six divisions which can make effective contributions towards the State’s economy, Bago Division needs to place more emphasis on agriculture and livestock breeding sectors. Measures are being taken for extended cultivation of paddy up to 2.6 million acres of monsoon paddy and 300,000 acres of summer paddy in the region. So, efforts are to be made with added momentum for boosting per-acre yield of the ten major crops adopted by the State and for exporting the surplus.

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grassroots level. Each household is to breed local species chicken and ducks on a small scale to increase their per capita income and it will lead to higher economy of the region.

The Government is making endeavours in all spheres to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation and at the same time it is putting the State’s seven-point future policy programme into action so as to transform the nation into a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Now, it is holding the National Convention as the first step. Community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order, economic development and human resources play an important role in upgrading the nation to a peaceful, modern and developed one.

Now, peace and stability has been restored across the nation and the State’s economy is gaining a good momentum of development. The government has been constructing universities and hospitals in the 24 development regions to produce more human resources and implementing the five rural development tasks including a rural education standard promotion plan.

So far, the number of universities and colleges stands at 156, up from 32 in the past. It has also opened more and more primary schools, post-primary schools, basic education middle schools and high schools for raising the basic education standard. At such time, officials at all levels are to take part in these tasks in cooperation with the people. He instructed officials concerned to cooperate with local senior citizens in carrying out tasks to make Paukkhaung Township possess all fine characteristics of a city, he said.

Paukkhaung Township has been able to cultivate 43,460 acres of monsoon paddy out of the targeted 35,916 acres in this cultivation season.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than had a cordial conversation with those present.

In the afternoon, they went to Ingaugga sugar mill No 11 in Paukkhaung Township. Deputy General Manager U Bo Yi of Myanna Sugarcane Enterprise (Pyay Zone) reported on production, targets and distribution of streams of sugarcane. Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and officials gave supplementary reports.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions and inspected the plantation of sugarcane.

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In the evening, he arrived at Thegon Township where he met local authorities and townswomen.

Out of 82,128 acres of monsoon paddy targeted for 2004-2005, 800,40 acres have been grown in the township.

This morning, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met officers, Tatmadaw members and families at the hall of regional battalion in Pyay Station and discussed matters on education, health, welfare and cultivation on manageable scale.

MNA

Rules relating to…
(from page 16)
Precursor Chemicals on 1 July, 2004. Moreover, State, Division, District and Township Committees for Drug Abuse Control have organized to conduct the training course for functions and duties of the supervisory committee at Drug Elimination Museum. He also stressed that after the course the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control is to implement the supervisory tasks in accord with the rules as soon as possible. Police Lt-Col Win Myint of Yangon Division Police Force clarified the rules with the use of power point.

Also present were Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi, Police Col Aung Daing and departmental officials.—MNA

COMMANDER INSPECTS TAX FREE MARKETS

YANGON, 15 Sept.—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe this morning inspected tax free market in Yangon Division and attended the needs.

This morning, the commander went to Pantaya tax free market in Dagon Township, Hinthada tax free market in Sanyang Township, Konmynytha tax free market in Mayangon Township, Nawady tax free market on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin tax free market in Yankin Township and Kyakka tax free market in Tamway Township. The commander inspected the shops of the ministries and regiments and units of the Yangon Command.

Tax free markets are opened so that local people can buy fresh vegetables, food and meat at reasonable price.

The commander also attended to the needs.—MNA

PYU PERIOD ANCIENT OBJECTS HANDED OVER

YANGON, 15 Sept.—A ceremony to hand over gold objects of Pyu period was held at Wundwin Township PDC Office, Mandalay Division, on 5 September morning, attended by Deputy Director-General U Aung Kyaw and Director U Moe Kyaw of the Archaeology Department and Upper Myanmar.

The gold bead and 25 small articles six gold rings, six stone beads, a small elephant figure, a moon-shaped gold hook and a gold elephant figure unearthed in Aungtha Village, Wundwin Township, were handed over to officials of the Archaeology Department (Upper Myanmar) through Wundwin Township Peace and Development Council.

The department will present handsome prize to the farmer.—MNA

HEALTH CARE SERVICES COURSE OPENED

YANGON, 15 Sept.—The Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Traditional Medicine Development Council under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Traditional Medicine Department jointly organized basic course No 2/2004 on health care services with traditional medicines for nuns and laity who are performing religious missionary tasks in hilly regions. The opening of the course took place at the Mandalay Division of the DPPS on Kaba Aye Hill here this afternoon.

It was attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Director-General of the Traditional Medicine Department Dr Thwin Swe, Director-General of the DPPS U Sann Lwin, Deputy Director-General U Tun Myo Aung, course instructors and trainees.

The Minister delivered an address on the occasion.

Altogether seven nuns and 89 lay persons are attending the four-week course.—MNA
The world at present is in the process of globalization, and even a time span of a minute is important for man at this age. Thus, man needs to always get in touch with the ever developing sciences to catch up with the advancing world.

Like a pearl that increases the value of the sea, knowledge enhances the value and importance of a man. We need work to get a pearl from the sea. So also, we need efforts to gain knowledge. And knowledge improves the vision and intellectual power of man. Human beings have tried to improve their vision and intellectual power throughout the different eras of history till the emergence of an advanced human civilization. As human beings have tried to gain knowledge throughout their history, they are the most intelligent beings of the world. The teachings of Lord Buddha have helped enhance the knowledge of Buddhists, till they are able to find the correct path to Nirvana. Life is full of hardships and struggles, and based on their experiences and knowledge, parents and teachers have imparted knowledge to youngsters. Moreover, whether they are good or bad, the experiences the nation had faced in history and is facing at present will help enrich the knowledge of their citizens. With their knowledge and intellectual power, they will be able to further improve the dignity of their nation and their own standard.

The present era is called the knowledge age, because sciences in various fields are advancing with high velocity. All the new advancing branches of knowledge including multimedia, electronic media and print media are challenging mankind. Thanks to the information and communication technology, the world at present is in the process of globalization, and even a time span of a minute is important for man at this age. Thus, man needs to always get in touch with the ever developing sciences to catch up with the advancing world. Only if we possess knowledge, will we be able to see the world from the correct point of view and get ahead of others who are advancing together with the rapidly changing and developing era.

Man will have the intellectual ability to distinguish between good and evil only if he can see the world through his own knowledge. He will realize the causes behind the success and failures of human life. Thus, knowledge is the true wealth of man. In this regard, the State laid down and is implementing an objective — Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation.

“Our ministry is striving with the aim of disseminating information to all parts of the nation including the remote border areas, enabling the Myanmar's information sector to distribute news to other nations and ensuring dynamism of the information machinery”, said Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan at a meeting to discuss opening of knowledge banks or libraries in villages on self-reliant basis. They can also be called the pearl of knowledge.

At the meeting, which was held at the ministry of information at 1 pm on 17 August, the minister also said, “In accordance with the aim, the ministry has been working hard for the emergence of more and more self-reliant libraries in rural areas. In the first phase, libraries have been opened in 4,962 village-tracts out of a total of 13,478 village-tracts all over the nation. Thus, the ministry will have to open libraries in the remaining 8,516 village-tracts.” In his address, the minister referred to the libraries as the pearl of knowledge or the dawn of a new day. He also pointed out that, “The task of opening rural libraries with the assistance of the State can be implemented more speedily if the wellwishers and rural people take part in it.”

It is true that the State is rendering assistance for the task that is being implemented by the ministry. And with the participation of all the people including writers, publishers, distributors, readers and the rural people themselves, village libraries will come into being one after another.

“Only then will the rural people be able to reach literature and sciences of various branches, and improve their knowledge in health, education and their main profession — agriculture. Thus, their living standard will further improve”, he noted.

“In addition, the libraries will help the works of litterati to serve the national interest in all parts of the nation in a way”, he said. He also urged all to make utmost efforts in providing assistance and suggestions for the emergence of libraries in villages all over the nation.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe inspects waterway of Nyaungdon

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Pe Than and Director-General of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems U Chit Khin, inspected progress of preventive measures against bank erosion at the 12th street in Nyaungdon yesterday morning.

The minister and party proceeded to Panhlaing River toll gate of the DWRIRS. Chief Engineer U Hla Myint Thein reported on conditions on salling of vessels along the waterway and collection of taxes. The director-general and the deputy minister gave supplementary reports.

Together with local authorities, the minister inspected Nyaungdon-Sakkawt waterway, changing of routes for ensuring safety of the vessels moving under Bo Myat Tun Bridge. — MNA

Progress of Saikkaung-Punchaung section of Saikkaung-Namhsan railroad inspected

YANGON, 15 Sept—Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min together with Deputy Minister U Pe Than arrived at Humsai camp on the Saikkaung-Punchaung section of Saikkaung-Namhsan railroad building project on 11 September. Col Thaung Aye of Mongnaung Station reported on progress of the railroad. The minister inspected quarries and gave necessary instructions.

On 12 September morning, the minister and party arrived at the briefing hall of Saikkaung-Namhsan railroad building project. First, Col Thaung Aye of Mongnaung Station reported on earth work, gathering gravel, laying sleepers and railroad, building bridges and using heavy machinery on Saikkaung-Punchaung railroad section and Panchaung-Namhsan railroad section.

Next, the Deputy Minister reported on fulfillment and future tasks. The Minister attended to their needs. The minister and party presented foodstuff to the Tatmadawmen and the workers who participated in the railroad construction project.

Out of Saikkaung-Namhsan railroad section, Saikkaung-Htri railroad section has been opened. Employees of Ymna Railway is making effort for opening 29.2 miles long Htri-Punchaung and 27.5 miles long Panchaung-Kaungsai sections before November for ensuring better transportation of the local people.

MNA

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
Entrepreneurs in Shwepyitha Industrial Town urged to try to achieve more successes in respective works

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects Myanmar Arman Automobile Factory in block-4 of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone. — MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects Myanmar Arman Automobile Factory in block-4 of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone. — MNA

Second cash donation ceremony for Performing Arts Competitions held

YANGON, 15 Sept — The Fund-raising and Prize Presentation Sub-committee of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions organized the second cash donation ceremony at the City Hall, here, this afternoon, attended by Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Performing Arts Competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pu, members of the leading committee, Chairman of the Fund-raising and Prize Presentation Sub-committee U Aung Soe and officials, officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Association and guests.

First, the commander accepted K 3 million donated by YCDC through Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin.

Next, he accepted on behalf of agriculture and the mayor a cheque of K 1 million donated by Col Tin Tun (Dagon Seikkan Township Development Co Ltd); K 220,000 by 11 Prize Presentation Sub-committee U Aung Soe and Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, members of the development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Thein Than Chit Co), U Kyaw Hsan Myint (Collection U Shein Win (Tetlan Construction), U Kyaw Win (Thein Than Chit Co), U Kyaw Hsan Myint (Collective Triangle Co Ltd), U Khin Maung Pyu (Pan Hay Win Restaurant & Play Station) and mines entrepreneurs.

Later, the commander thanked the donors.

The Fund-raising and Prize Presentation Sub-committee has received K 10.97 million in total including K 5.17 million of the second cash donation. — MNA

L & F Minister tours Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 15 Sept — Central Executive Committee Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein on 11 September discussed tasks to be implemented in the region based on agriculture with Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and officials at Myeik Airport Hall in Myeik.

Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, together with officials, went to Kyaukphyu Village-tract in Myeik Township and inspected prawn breeding camps of the Fisheries Department.

In the evening, Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein also met district/township USDA executives at Myeik District USDA Office and discussed tasks to be carried out by the USDA for regional development.

Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Deputy Commander Col Hong Ngai on 12 September also met with officials concerned at Kambawza Oil Palm Farm in Yephya and Taungngi Village in Pyi ygyi Mandaing. The minister gave instructions on reclamation of farm lands for oil palm cultivation for the regional development. Similarly, the minister and party also met Kawthoung District Peace and Development Council members and townsmen and discussed land reclamation in the region.

In the evening, they arrived at oil palm cultivation of Yuzana Oil Palm Company in Bokpyin Township and the minister urged officials concerned to extend oil palm cultivation aiming at creating job opportunities for the local people. — MNA

All this needs to be known
* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattened
* Do not be softened whenever appealed

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects Myanmar Arman Automobile Factory in block-4 of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone. — MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects Myanmar Arman Automobile Factory in block-4 of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone. — MNA

Singapore Airlines jobs to outsource “IT” jobs to lower costs

SINGAPORE, 15 Sept— Singapore Airlines (SIA), the island state’s national carrier, will outsource some of its information technology (IT) jobs to lower costs this year. The SIA said in a statement on Tuesday that it operates in a highly competitive industry where costs can be a major determinant between the airline and its competitors, and that as an airline, it must work to bring its costs down to be competitive. The carrier said that the staff of the IT Infrastructure Department have been kept apprised of its plans and the status of the project. — MNA/Xinhua
Venezuela accuses US of imperialist blackmail

Caracas (Venezuela), 14 Sept — Venezuela on Monday accused the United States of imperialist blackmail, in what President George W Bush ordered a cut in US assistance to the country when he visited South America last week.

In a presidential memorandum on Friday, Bush instructed his administration not to provide any funding for South America's troubles, including the trafficking of women and children.

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“This is an attempt at blackmail,” Venezuela’s Deputy Foreign Minister Arvelo Mendez said in a statement released in Caracas. He described Bush’s order as an example of “foul imperialist policies”.

The dispute threatened to derail apparent moves by Bush and Chavez’s governments to improve their ties following the left-wing Venezuelan leader’s victory in a referendum on his rule last month. Venezuela, the world’s No.5 oil exporter, is a leading petroleum supplier of the United States.

Chavez has called for high-level talks to discuss tensions caused by sharp US criticism of his populist “revolution” to address the poor and close ties with Cuba’s Communist leader Fidel Castro. He has accused Bush of backing off.

US officials said Bush’s instructions would mean the United States would not support Venezuela’s loan requests, which were expected to be made to international financial institutions in the next fiscal year.

Mendez condemned the US move as politically motivated and said Venezuela neither needed nor wanted US financial help.

He added the US attitude could affect the work of the new US Ambassador to Venezuela, William Brownfield, who has not yet presented his credentials to the Chavez government.

“His government is giving him public instructions that are contrary to the spirit of what should mean modern diplomacy,” Mendez said.

Japan’s police to introduce sky marshals on commercial flights

Tokyo, 14 Sept — Japanese police are preparing to introduce sky marshals on commercial flights as part of their anti-terrorism measures, but no date has been fixed for the system to be put in place, a police spokesman said on Monday.

The United States said last December that it could deny entry to air-

liners that refuse to comply with a request to position armed undercover police on flights “where necessary”.

“Preparations are moving ahead, but no decision has been made on timing,” said a spokesman for the National Police Agency.

The US position has sparked criticism from some countries concerned at the risk firearms could pose to passengers.

Armed sky marshals will be placed on some Japan Airlines Corp (JAL) and All Nippon Airways Co (ANA) planes bound for the United States, the daily Yomiuri Shimbun reported on Sunday.

“Otherwise, they will remain reservists of poverty and potential flashes of point of conflict, and ultimately, barriers to advancing the human condition,” the UN chief said in the message.

Annan said “a global tide of world movement and migration brings with it fears and tensions, which governments and local authorities can overcome only with sensitivity and skill.”

“Only by bringing all communities and all citizens, new and old, into the development process and into the frameworks of global governance as full partners, will we stand a chance of achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals,” Annan said.

The goals, set by the Millennium Summit in 2000, seek to halve extreme poverty and hunger, to improve maternal mortality and achieve other social goals, all by 2015.

Some 3,000 delegates are attending this second gathering of the UN Human Settlements Programme’s World Urban Forum, a ground-breaking global initiative held every two years to address the main challenge of the new millennium, the planet’s transition to an urban world.

UN General Assembly ends 2004 session

UNITED NATIONS, 14 Sept — The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) concluded Monday the work of its fifty-eighth session.

Julian Hunte, outgoing president of the UNGA’s main deliberative organ, praised the assembly’s genuine drive to overcome the crisis of confidence that had gripped the UN in the wake of the war in Iraq.

In his closing remarks, Hunte noted that the assembly had proceeded to make real headway on such issues as sustainable development, revitalization of the body’s work and reform of the Security Council, which had “lan-guished on its agenda with comprehensive resolution for ten years.”

He said that multipolarism had been the guiding principle of his presidency and the basis on which decisions were made on the issues on the assembly’s wide-ranging agenda.

The “negotiating ta-
ble” had been given a central role, and “this is how it ought to be” when addressing global challenges such as terrorism, HIV/AIDS, poverty and proliferation, he said.

“My presidency was one that ensured that the General Assembly broke free of convention in challenging times that demand new ideas, vision and in-

novation,” he said. “I am heartened to leave the As-

sembly with a more positive outlook — our accomplishments over the session prove what we can achieve when we work together, cooperatively, without a sense of purpose undermined by po-

titical will.”

Before closing the session, the assembly adopted a resolution by which it approved the draft Relationship Agreement between the International Criminal Court and the world’s first permanent war crimes tribunal, and the United Nations.

The opening of the as-

sembly’s next session will take place Tuesday afternoon.

Annan urges world’s cities to embrace inclusiveness, equity

UNITED NATIONS, 14 Sept — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Monday urged world’s cities to embrace inclusiveness and equity where cultures can enrich one another and educate all about the planet’s “wonderful diversity.”

Annan made the call in a message delivered by Margaret Tatchaw, executive director of UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, to the UN World Urban Forum now being held in Barcelona, Spain.

“Otherwise, they will remain reservists of poverty and potential fl
Experts say developing trend of SDS not optimistic

BELING, 14 Sept — Experts attending the International Symposium on Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) noted here Monday that the developing trend of the storms is not optimistic, and that they are likely to affect more places in the world.

Beijing has been tortured by horrid sand and dust storms since 1999. However, the spring was much cleaner and windless in 2003, and many optimistically thought that the terrible weather phenomenon would disappear from the capital.

The holders of this opinion may be discouraged by Dr. Tan Jiaying, Director of the Institute of Meteorological Information and Prediction of Disaster Events attached to Zhejiang University, who said analysis and computation on the sand and dust storms should integrate all factors—including sand content, area coverage and destruction—not simply count occurrences.

Tan added that sand and dust storms occur often every several strong years, and last year might have been an example of that.

The severe situation in the northern and northwestern parts of China this year shows the problem is still there, said the expert.

Actually, sand and dust storms are influencing an increasing number of places on the globe by year, said Tan after his research on the long-term observation results. China’s sand and dust belts are mainly located in the vast northern and northwestern areas, said Dr. Zhang Xiaoye from Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences. The dry climate and damaged vegetation produce a great deal of sand in the areas and the sharp altitude difference between the world roof Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and the surrounding terrain brings concentrated sinking air current to the places, said the director. China has the world’s leading SDS early-warning system. It established a special forecast mechanism in 2002, which has now evolved into a highly precise digital one sending four reports each day, he said.— MNA/Xinhua

Campaigner dressed as Batman evades Queen’s London residence

LONDON, 14 Sept— Britain has ordered an urgent security review at Buckingham Palace after a campaigner dressed as Batman evaded armed police and spent five hours on a ledge at Queen Elizabeth’s London residence.

Father’s rights campaigner Jason Hatch used a portable ladder in broad daylight on Monday to scale the perimeter fence at the palace, dash across the parade ground and climb some 10 metres (30 feet) up the front wall.

It was the latest in a series of high profile security scares in Britain involving both the royal family and Prime Minister Tony Blair who has been a staunch ally in US President George W. Bush’s war on terror declared after September 11, 2001.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir John Stevens, who has warned of an inevitable terror attack on Britain and told of several already thwarted, said he had ordered a report to be on his desk by Tuesday morning.

“There was a breach, and we have to look at how that took place,” he said after the incident on Monday.

Stevens said his officers had quickly established that it was a stunt, otherwise Hatch would have been shot dead.

The group, which has already staged several stunts, says courts discriminate against fathers in divorce cases.

A companion dressed as his trusty sidekick Robin turned back when police threatened to shoot him as he climbed the ladder.

“I am ... clear that the alarm and camera systems installed over the last three years worked and that police acted correctly in assessing the threat he posed,” Home Secretary David Blunkett told the House of Commons in a late night sitting.— MNA/Reuters

Study finds polar bears contaminated by PCBs, pesticides

OSLO, 14 Sept— New evidence shows that polar bears are suffering from industrial chemicals swept to the Arctic from nations thousands of miles to the south, the WWF global conservation organization said on Monday.

It called for a wider ban on the toxic chemicals, including some in a newer generation meant to be less harmful than a “dirty dozen” outlawed by a 2001 convention.

“The few scientific studies published recently provide strong indications that polar bears are contaminated by PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and pesticides, and are already being affected by these chemicals,” it said in a report. The WWF said that it was calling for “the immediate phase out of the most hazardous chemicals”, saying the studies added to evidence of contamination of the Arctic by chemicals swept north by winds and currents from nations to the south. — MNA/Reuters

Gartner says 40% of chip vendors to leave in 10 years

LOS ANGELES, 14 Sept — The semiconductor industry has become inflated with hundreds of vendors competing in a crowded marketplace, however, within 10 years, 40 per cent of today’s semiconductor vendors are likely to leave the industry, according to a study released Monday by Gartner.

Gartner, a high-tech market research firm, identified five mega-trends that will lead to significant changes in the industry over the next 10 years, at Gartner Datquest Semiconductor Industry Summit in San Francisco.

The five mega-trends include increasing device integration, the increasing scale and size of manufacturing, the shift from business-to-consumer markets, the increasing role of service providers and disruptive technologies.

Increasing device integration is the first and most fundamental of the Gartner says 40% of chip vendors to leave in 10 years — MNA/Reuters

The ‘Tweedies’ set for big-screen debut

LONDON, 14 Sept — Children’s characters The Tweedies are set for their big-screen debut after being bought by Britain’s Entertainment Rights, home of wise-cracking puppet fox Basil Brush.

Entertainment Rights (ER) said on Monday it had bought Tweedies creators Tell-Tale Productions for 3.1 million pounds (5.5 million US dollars) and planned a major motion picture in 2005-2006 for the pre-school favourites.

The media firm, which also holds film rights to Mattel’s Barbie doll and Casper the Friendly Ghost, said first-half profit before tax, goodwill and exceptional items was 13.6 million pounds, compared with a loss of 200,000 pounds in the year earlier period.

Sales were up 21 per cent to 9.1 million pounds.

The group said it was in “advanced stages of negotiation” over a planned Tweedies movie. Characters Bella, Milo, Jake and Fizz already have a foot in the door of 80 million homes in the United States through Viacom’s Nickelodeon and Noggin networks. Stage shows and a merchandising roll-out are also planned for The Tweedies, who have broadcast in over 60 countries and sold more than three million videos in Britain.— MNA/Reuters
Germany may not play World Cup opening game

BERLIN, 15 Sept— Hosts Germany could opt not to play the opening game of the 2006 World Cup finals, organizing committee chairman Franz Beckenbauer said on Monday. Beckenbauer confirmed reports that Germany coach Jurgen Klinsmann wanted the hosts to start the tournament three days later than the opening match to have more time to prepare.

Klinsmann said the original plan to have Germany playing the opening game in Munich could be changed and world champions Brazil could play instead, providing they qualified.

“We, at the organizing committee, don’t mind whether Germany or Brazil play the opening game,” Beckenbauer told German sports television channel DSF. “We would have liked Germany to start with the highlight but the Brazil solution would not be bad either,” he added.

Klinsmann, who was appointed in July, also said he was against the idea of having Germany’s training camp in Leverkusen, which he felt was not practical.

Arsenal edges PSV Eindhoven 1-0

LONDON, 15 Sept— English champions Arsenal needed an own goal to make a winning start to their Champions League campaign in a 1-0 Group E victory over PSV Eindhoven on Tuesday.

Arsenal had plenty of possession but could only find a way through PSV’s rearguard when Brazilian defender Alex turned a Thierry Henry cutback into his own net after 42 minutes.

Though they deserved the points, the difficulty in wresting them from Guus Hiddink’s well-organized side was a reminder that Arsenal have long under-performed in this competition.

Hiddink’s side denied Arsenal the time and space which they enjoy in the Premier League and could have snatched a draw in the closing stages.

Arsenal had Robert Pires playing in an unfamiliar role on the right in place of injured Fredrik Ljungberg, with Spanish international Jose Antonio Reyes playing on the left.

Against a disciplined opponent, Arsenal took nearly 15 minutes to warm up, before Henry put Reyes in for an angled effort and the France striker rifled a shot into the side netting.

Arsenal continued to press but lacked the killer final ball through a packed defence, though Pires should have done better than the scuffed volley from an Ashley Cole chip. Skipper Mark van Bommel fired PSV’s first real shot in anger, collected by Jens Lehmann.

Arsenal thought the breakthrough had come in the 37th minute when keeper Edwin Zoetebier punched out Henry’s rasping shot and Pires headed home — from an offside position.

Five minutes later Henry won back possession by the touchline, darted into the area and saw his cutback turned in by Alex, who was being pressured by the lurking Patrick Vieira.

There was little change after the restart, with Arsenal looking for the security of a goal but denied the opportunity in a game of few chances.

Henry had a free kick charged down, while PSV’s Park Ji-Sung and Van Bommel failed to keep attempts on target and Arsenal’s Brazilian midfielder Gilberto sent a header from a Dennis Bergkamp free kick wide of the post.

Porto booted off at end of 0-0 draw against CSKA Moscow

PORTO (Portugal), 15 Sept— European champions Porto were booted out of the competition after a frustrating 0-0 draw against CSKA Moscow when they began the defence of their trophy on Tuesday.

Porto dominated much of the game but were unable to find a way through the stubborn CSKA defence whose goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev had an outstanding game. Helder Postiga squandered the Portuguese side’s best chance just after the hour when the unmarked striker struck the post when left with a clear shooting chance from close range.

CSKA Moscow were content to defend throughout but created danger for Porto when they counter-attacked with striker Ivica Olic hitting the post and bar midway through the second half.

“We played much better than we have compared to other games — much faster, better team play, and we had a lot more shots on goal,” said Porto coach Victor Fernandez.

“We were really pushing in the second half. The worst thing was the score, a 0-0 draw leaves a bad taste. The team had the will to win but we let the Russians off the hook. “We picked the right tactics, we created more chances but unfortunately we couldn’t produce anything solid,” he said.

“This is going to be a big morale boost for our players, who are very young. Did I expect more from FC Porto? A team gets what the other side gives it.”

Milan win Shakhtar 1-0

KIV, 15 Sept— A late goal by midfielder Clarence Seedorf gave AC Milan a 1-0 win over Shakhtar Donetsk in their opening Champions League Group F match on Tuesday. The 2003 winners struggled to break down their Ukrainian opponents, despite enjoying a man advantage for most of the second half, until Seedorf fired home a loose ball from the edge of the area in the 84th minute.

It was the Dutch international’s third goal in two matches after a brace in Milan’s 2-2 draw with Serie A rivals Livorno at the weekend.

Shakhtar had won five of their last six home fixtures against continental opposition, but had been expected to struggle, especially as Milan welcomed back Italy internationals Alessandro Nesta and Andrea Pirlo, both of whom had been rested against Livorno.

Instead it was Shakhtar who dominated the first half and Milan might have been two goals down within the first 10 minutes, as striker Zvonimir Vukic and Brazilian midfielder Matuzalem, forced Dida to palm shots wide of the goal.

It was almost 30 minutes into the match before a Pirlo chip over the defence created Milan’s first scoring chance, but Jon Dahl Tomasson headed straight at the keeper.

Valencia win 2-0 victory over Anderlecht

VALENCIA (Spain), 15 Sept— Vicente scored the opening goal and created the second to give Valencia a comfortable 2-0 victory over Anderlecht in their opening Champions League Group H football match at Paris.

Valencia, last season’s UEFA Cup winners, took the lead in the 17th minute when Vicente took advantage of a bad mistake by Anderlecht goalkeeper Daniel Zitka to score from the edge of the area.

Vicente set up the second in the first minute of first-half injury time when he found Ruben Baraja just outside the box to thread a shot past Zitka.

The Spanish champions continued to dominate in the second half and clinched their first victory over Belgian opposition with little difficulty.

Valencia, twice beaten finalists in the Champions League and returning to the competition after their Spanish league and UEFA Cup double last season, were quickly into their stride at a packed Mestalla.

Curro Torres whistled a shot over the bar after five minutes and a couple of minutes later Pablo Aimar picked out Miguel Angel Angulo to test Zitka after a powerful run.

FA cancels Drogba receiving yellow card

LONDON, 15 Sept— The yellow card Didier Drogba received for diving during Chelsea’s Premier League match at Aston Villa has been rescinded by referee Rob Styles, the Football Association said on Monday.

Styles sparked controversy on Saturday when he booked the Ivory Coast international Matuzalem, forced Dida to palm shots wide of the goal.

Instead it was Shakhtar who dominated the first half and Milan might have been two goals down within the first 10 minutes, as striker Zvonimir Vukic and Brazilian midfielder Matuzalem, forced Dida to palm shots wide of the goal.

It was almost 30 minutes into the match before a Pirlo chip over the defence created Milan’s first scoring chance, but Jon Dahl Tomasson headed straight at the keeper.

Chelsea’s forward Tiago Mendes Cardosoto (R) is challenged by PSG Cameroonian defender Modeste M'Bami during their Champions League group H football match in Paris.

Barcelona’s Ronaldinho (R) is challenged by Celtic’s Neil Lennon in the Champions League Group F soccer match at Celtic Park in Glasgow, on 14 Sept, 2004. Barcelona won the match 3-1. —INTERNET
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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 16 September, 2004 15

WEATHER

Wednesday, 15 September 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST. During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Kachin State, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Kachin State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, isolated heavyfalls in Shan State and Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyangkaw (15.75) inches, Sitwary (5.39) inches, Maungdaw (5.04) inches, Pilaung (3.57) inches, the danger level and Magway (0.63) (2.68) inches each, Pakokku (2.40) inches, Kalay (1.85) inches, Minbu and Magway (1.81) inches each.

Maximum temperature on 14-9-2004 was 78°F. Minimum temperature on 15-9-2004 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-9-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 14-9-2004 was nil. Rainfall on 15-9-2004 was (1.38) inches at Yangon Airport, (1.93) inches at Kaba-Aye and (2.01) inches at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 108.11 inches at Yangon Airport, 101.63 inches at Kabaw and 103.78 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from Southwest at 11:30 hours MST on 11-9-2004. Bay inference: Monauss is moderate in the Andaman Sea and strong in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 16-9-2004: Rain or thunderstorms will be scattered in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Tanintharyi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls are likely to be heavyfalls in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Warning

(issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 15-9-2004)

The water levels of Ayeyawady River at Minbu and Magway may rise 80 cm (about 2.5 ft) and reach their danger levels (1700 cm) during the next (3) days commencing noon today.

The water level of Sittgoung River at Toungoo may rise 4 cm (about half inch) and exceed the danger level (600 cm) during the next (24) hours commencing noon today.

Flood Bulletin

(issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 15-9-2004)

The water level of Chindwin River at Kalewa is 30 cm (about 1 ft) above the danger level at 06:30 hrs MST and therefore, the danger level (1700 cm) may fall below the danger level during the next (4) days.

The water level of Doktawaddy River at Myitnge is (1855 cm) 6 feet above (about 6 ft) above the danger level and 600 cm during the next (4) hours MST today. The water level may remain above the danger level during the next (5) days.

New Rainfall Record

(issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 15-9-2004)

The amount of rainfall 400 mm (15.75 inches) observed at 09:30 hrs MST on 15-9-2004 at Kaytawk is the new maximum rainfall record for the station for the month of September during last 18 years. The former record was 183 mm (7.20 inches) on 8-9-1998.
Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

- In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.
- The use of natural gas cannot only save fuel oil but also extend engine life.
- 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.

Out of the targeted 34,350 acres of cotton, so far Bago Division (West) has grown 22,271 acres.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Papua New Guinea

YANGON, 16 Sept — On the occasion of the Independence Day of Papua New Guinea, which falls on 16 September 2004, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt has sent a message of felicitations to the Right Honourable Sir Michael Somare, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. — MNA

Bago Division needs to place more emphasis on agriculture and livestock breeding sectors

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on inspection tour of Bago Division

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects Inngagwa Sugarcane Farm of No 11 Sugar Mill in Inngagwa, Paukkhaung Township. — MNA

Rules relating to the Supervision of Controlled Precursor Chemicals clarified

YANGON, 15 Sept — Clarification of the rules relating to the Supervision of Controlled Precursor Chemicals organized by the Yangon Division Committee for Drug Abuse Control was held this morning at Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Office on Bank Road here.

Chairman of Yangon Division CDAC Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered an address. In his address, he said the government organized the Supervisory Committee for Controlled Precursor Chemicals in 1998 and issued the rules relating to the Supervision of Controlled Precursor Chemicals.

(See page 9)