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

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

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

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

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
Order No 8/2004
5th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1366 ME
(18th September 2004)

Reassignment of duty of Minister
The State Peace and Development Council has reassigned Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Huay Oo as Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation with effect from today.

By Order,
Sd/ Soe Win
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
Order No 9/2004
5th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1366 ME
(18th September 2004)

Reassignment of duty of Minister
The State Peace and Development Council has reassigned Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe as Minister for Transport with effect from today.

By Order,
Sd/ Soe Win
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
Order No 10/2004
5th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1366 ME
(18th September 2004)

Reassignment of duty of Minister
The State Peace and Development Council has reassigned Minister for Labour U Tin Winn as Minister at the Prime Minister's Office concurrently as Minister for Labour with effect from today.

By Order,
Sd/ Soe Win
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
Order No 11/2004
5th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1366 ME
(18th September 2004)

Reassignment of duty of Minister
The State Peace and Development Council has reassigned Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone as Minister at the Prime Minister's Office with effect from today.

By Order,
Sd/ Soe Win
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
Order No 12/2004
5th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1366 ME
(18th September 2004)

Appointment of Ministers
The State Peace and Development Council has appointed and assigned duties to the following persons as the ministers of ministries shown against each with effect from today.

(1) Maj-Gen Nyan Win
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(2) Col Zaw Min
Ministry of Cooperatives

(3) Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein
Ministry of Commerce

By Order,
Sd/ Soe Win
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Towards promoting Myanmar-Singapore economic cooperation

Practising independent and active foreign policy in the international relations, Myanmar has been dealing with the world nations especially with her neighbours and ASEAN members amicably.

State leaders of Myanmar and regional countries and ASEAN members have been exchanging goodwill visits occasionally to enhance friendly ties and economic and technological cooperation.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, at the invitation of Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, paid a goodwill visit to the Republic of Singapore on 12 September.

The two prime ministers held frank talks at Istana, Singapore, on 13 September. On the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that bilateral relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries were excellent. The purpose of the visit was to further strengthen cordial relations between the two nations. He expressed his heartfelt thanks to the host country for its cooperation in many sectors with Myanmar and support for Myanmar in regional and internal affairs.

The Singaporean Prime Minister said that Singapore wished to promote trade with and make investments in Myanmar. He also expressed his thanks to General Khin Nyunt for briefing him on the progressive situations of Myanmar. He pledged that Singapore appreciated and had sympathy for Myanmar, and so it would continue to support Myanmar in regional and international affairs.

During the visit, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt paid a courtesy call on Singaporean President Mr SR Nathan at Istana. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt dealt with Myanmar’s efforts in various sectors including political, economic and social fields and unity of all national races. The Singaporean President expressed his loving kindness and sympathy for the Myanmar people and appreciation of Myanmar’s democracy transition endeavours and developments. Cooperation between the two sides was in progress and in excellent shape, he added.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt also met Singaporean Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. The meeting turned to broad exchange of views on common interests. The two leaders viewed that the developing bilateral relations served the interests of the peoples of both sides. So, the visit of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe to Singapore has helped further fortify bilateral friendly relations and boost economic cooperation.

Computer security measures under way in Myanmar

YANGON, 18 Sept — The Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs founded Myanmar Computer Emergency Response Team (nu CERT) on 23 July 2004 for computer security.

Getting in touch with CERTs of international community, the committee is taking steps to disseminate spontaneous information to Internet users about computer security, the occurrence of virus and hacking incidents, aids for problem-solving, and ways to protect possible security attacks.

The website of the committee can be accessed at www.mmcert.org.mm. Available on the website is the information of latest viruses and common viruses and their names. Moreover, the website has also a link that will direct the visitors to ‘virus removal tools’, which can be downloaded easily. Therefore, computer users are now able to prevent the viruses from entering their computers and tackle them, according to the nu CERT. — MNA

Cash, medicines donated to home for the aged

YANGON, 18 Sept — In commemoration of the International Day for Older Persons, which falls on 1 October 2004, the committee decided to donate cash and medicines was held at the Shwethanlwin Home for the Aged in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township yesterday morning.

Vice-Chairman of the Work Committee for Human Settlement and Housing Development Deputy-General Manager of Development Director-General of Department for Human Settlement and Housing Development Col Aung Win, next member of the Work Committee Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department U Win Htun and others presented donated by well-wishers to Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee Col Tin Tun.

F&R Minister meets personnel under the ministry

YANGON, 18 Sept — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses opening ceremony of Myanmar Economic Bank (Chauk Branch). (News on page 8) — MNA

Those wishing to make donations for all-round renovation of the pagoda may contact Office of the Sule Pagoda Board of Trustees, Tel: 371007, 371009 or 371561. — MNA
France backs Annan’s description of US war on Iraq as “illegal”

PARIS, 17 Sept — France backed UN Secretary General Kofi Annan’s description of the US-led war on Iraq as “illegal”, with Foreign Minister Micheln Barnier saying that long-held stance was why his country had opposed joining the conflict.

“You well know that what explains our country’s disagreement with the way the war was carried out was that it clearly did not at that time abide by international law and there was not a clear request from the United States to start that action,” he said Friday at a joint news conference with visiting New Zealand Foreign Minister Phil Goff.

That was “traditionally” France’s view from the start, he added.

“We have always considered that it’s an international law that constitutes the framework for any action, notably against terrorism or for stability in the world,” he said.

Barnier’s comments added fuel to a debate over the legitimacy of the US-British invasion of Iraq that promises to loom large at the United Nations headquarters in New York next week when world leaders and ministers gather for the world body’s 59th general session.

Annan threw the spotlight back on the issue and tore the skin off old trans-Atlantic wounds when he told BBC radio Wednesday that the United States had failed to seek a needed second resolution before launching the war in March 2003.

“I’ve indicated that it was not in conformity with the UN charter from our point of view, and from the charter point of view it was illegal,” Annan said. — Internet

British Govt confirms Briton killed in Saudi capital

LONDON, 17 Sept — The British Foreign Office confirmed on Thursday that a British man had been shot dead in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

His relatives had not yet been informed as further information was being sought, the Foreign Office said.

Earlier reports said the man had been identified as Edward Stuart Muirhead-Smith, an employee of the communications company Marconi.

Witnesses said two gunmen in a Toyota car fired four bullets at Muirhead-Smith as he walked toward his car at a shopping centre car park in eastern Riyadh on Wednesday.

Security sources quoted as saying the shooting was linked to a wave of anti-Western attacks in Saudi Arabia by supporters of al-Qaeda.

Several Britons are among the victims of recent attacks by militants in Saudi Arabia.

In May, two Britons were among six people shot dead by militants in an oil contractor’s office in Yanbu, north of the Red Sea port of Jeddah. Another died in an attack on a housing complex in the eastern city of Khoobar later in the month.

BBC correspondent Frank Gardner was shot and seriously wounded in a shooting in Riyadh in June. His Irish colleague, cameraman Simon Cumbers, was killed in the same attack. — MNA/Xinhua

CIS leaders agree to intensify fight against terrorism

MOSCOW, 17 Sept — The summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) decided to boost the role of the Anti-Terrorist Centre and draft a concept of cooperation in the fight against international terrorism and extremism, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said on Tuesday.

Leaders of the CIS member states had adopted a statement to condemn terrorist acts. Kuchma, an outgoing head of the CIS, told a Press conference following the CIS summit in the Kazakh capital of Astana.

They expressed their full solidarity with Russia in its struggle against terrorism and believed the spread of international terrorism can be prevented only by consolidating efforts of the whole civilized world, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

The CIS, set up in 1991, is made up of 12 former Soviet republics. Russian President Vladimir Putin was elected new chairman of the council of the heads of state of the CIS at the summit. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq airstrike, car bombings, clashes kill 53

BAGHDAD, 17 Sept (Bloomberg) — At least 53 people died in violence in Iraq that included a US airstrike near Fallujah, two car bombings in Baghdad, and clashes in the capital and in Abu Ghraib, the Iraqi Health Ministry and the US military said.

Forty-four people were killed today in the strike near Fallujah, west of the capital, and at least 27 were hurt, Health Ministry spokesman Saad al-Amily said in a telephone interview from Baghdad. He said 17 children and 2 women were among the wounded, adding that it isn’t known who was included in the dead.

The bombings in Baghdad killed seven people and injured at least 21, according to the ministry spokesman and e-mailed military statements. Two died and 21 were hurt in the clashes between the US-led military and insurgents in Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad, and in Baghdad’s Haifa Street, al-Adamy said.

Today’s air strike was carried out in south-central Fallujah at about 2:45 am local time, the military said in an e-mailed statement. Those killed were policemen, Agence France-Presse reported, citing First Lieutenant Jafaar Hussein.

An earlier car bomb exploded at 6:17 am in the capital when soldiers fired on the vehicle as it tried to break through a checkpoint, the US military said. The two rebels in the car were killed and one Iraqi National guard soldier was injured, the military said.

An US Abrams tank seals off an entrance to Hafij Street in Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 Sept. 2004. — Internet

1,027 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 17 Sept — As of Friday, on 17 Sept, 2004, 1,027 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 777 died as a result of hostile action and 250 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 65 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 889 US military members have died — 668 as a result of hostile action and 221 of non-hostile causes, according to the military’s numbers Thurs-day. — Internet

Supporters of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr rush to a position in Basra, Iraq, on 17 Sept. 2004. Fighting erupted between British troops and fighters loyal to al-Sadr’s office in al-Tuwaisa neighbourhood in the city centre. — Internet

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Bush acknowledges tough going in Iraq

CHARLOTTE, 17 Sept—President Bush acknowledged on Friday the United States faced “tough” going in Iraq but he insisted elections would be held in January and that US troops will come home when the country is on a path to democracy.

Bush, at a campaign event, spoke at length about the occupation in an apparent response to a withering attack from Democrat John Kerry who accused Bush of “living in a fantasy world of spin” and failing to tell the truth about chaos and violence in Iraq.

Bush, who has always avoided talking about when US troops might come home, was a bit more expansive on Friday amid mounting US casualties and efforts by the US military to train Iraqis for their own army and police.

He again defended his decision to go to war despite the failure to find weapons of mass destruction. He spoke of the search for these weapons in the past tense, after holding out hope for months they might be found some day.

Officials said on Thursday that a draft report by the top US weapons inspector in Iraq, Charles Duelfer, concluded that no stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction would be found but that there was evidence Saddam Hussein had intended to resurrect weapons programmes.

India to double phone connections by 2007

NEW DELHI, 18 Sept—The Indian Government has planned to more than double the country’s fixed-line and mobile phone connections to 200 million in the next three years, the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reported on Thursday.

“We hope to release 200 million telephone and mobile phone connections in India by 2007,” IANS quoted Minister of State for Communication and IT Shakesel Ahmad as saying in Patna in East India.

Ahmad said right now there are only 85 million fixed-line and mobile phone connections in India.

“We have to provide more telephone and mobile connections to people, particularly in rural areas,” he said. — MA/Xinhua

Defence Minister claims French hostages still alive

PARIS, 17 Sept—France’s Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said Thursday that some information showed that the two French journalists held in Iraq, Charles Duelfer and Georges Malbrunot of Paris daily Le Figaro, were reportedly kidnapped on their way from Baghdad to Najaf, a Shiite holy city of Iraq, on 20 August by a group calling itself the Islamic Army of Iraq.

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“We have to provide more telephone and mobile connections to people, particularly in rural areas,” he said. — MA/Xinhua

Secret papers show Blair was warned of Iraq chaos

Baghdad, 17 Sept—Tony Blair was warned a year before invading Iraq that a stable post-war government would be impossible without keeping large numbers of troops there for “many years”, secret government papers reveal.

The documents, seen by The Telegraph, show more clearly than ever the grave reservations expressed by Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary, over the consequences of a second Gulf war and how pre-scient his Foreign Office officials were in predicting the ensuing chaos.

They told the Prime Minister that there was a risk of the Iraqi system “reverting to type” after a war, with a future government acquiring the very weapons of mass destruction that an attack would be designed to remove.

The documents further show that the Prime Minister was advised that he would have to “wrong foot” Saddam Hussein into giving the allies an excuse for war, and that British officials believed that President George W Bush merely wanted to complete his father’s “unfinished business” in a “grudge match” against Saddam.

But it is the warning of the likely aftermath - more than a year in advance, as Mr Blair was deciding to commit Britain to joining a US-led invasion - that is likely to cause most controversy and embarrassment in both London and Washington.

Vietnam protests US religious freedom decision

HANOI, 17 Sept—Vietnam strongly protests a recent decision by the United States to enlist it as one of “the countries of particular concern” on religious freedom. The Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Thursday.

“The decision of the State Department of the United States (about the enlistment in its annual report on religious freedom) by no means benefits the common efforts of the governments and peoples of Vietnam and the US to build a relationship of stability and lasting cooperation in the interests of the two peoples,” the ministry spokesman said in the statement.

There is no such thing as “religious prisoners” or “forced renunciations of faith” in Vietnam in which all religious organizations are given favourable conditions to function normally in accordance with the laws. Vietnam’s laws do not allow any violation of the rights to freedom of beliefs and religions and rights to freedom of non-beliefs and non-religions, said the statement.

“Vietnam requests the United States to take right decisions in conformity with the principles of the bilateral relations on the basis of mutual understanding and respect so as not to undermine the broad interests of the two countries,” it added.

The US State Department released Wednesday its sixth Annual Report on International Religious Freedom, which examines the “status of religious freedom around the world”. The report cites Eritrea, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam as new “countries of particular concern”.

Iraq forms supreme body to lay down reconstruction strategy

Baghdad, 17 Sept—The Iraq Ministry of Planning has formed a supreme body to lay down reconstruction strategy for the war-torn country, said Al Mashriq newspaper on Thursday.

Mehdi Al Hafidh, the Iraqi Minister of Planning, would head the body, added the report.

The body would be responsible for laying down an international mechanism to finance the reconstruction projects and to help coordinate the efforts of the Iraqi side and the donor countries in the fields of loans and financing, the newspaper quoted a source in the ministry as saying.

He also pointed out that the ministry counts a lot on this body, especially as the donor countries will hold a conference in Tokyo next month.

Friends try to console a woman whose brother died after a suicide bomber detonated an explosives filled car targeting an Iraqi police convoy near Rashheed street in central Baghdad. Iraq. on 17 Sept, 2004. At least 5 died and 20 were injured in the attack.
Over 100 people protest US treatment of immigrants

NEW YORK, 17 Sept — More than 100 people began a fast on Wednesday to protest US treatment of immigrants seeking permanent residency or citizenship, which they say has worsened since the September 11, 2001, attacks.

The protest, which will last up to five days, is a "call to the heart and conscience" of politicians who are not addressing the needs of immigrants, said Guillermo Chacon of the New York Immigration Coalition, which organized the fast.

It is part of a national effort by immigrant groups this week to press federal lawmakers to strengthen immigrants’ rights.

"We have 8 to 10 million people in this country who are working, who are being exploited and abused in workplaces around the country, and yet we have not created any way for them to become legal," said Margaret McGough, the coalition’s executive director.

Immigrants are being detained, denied civil rights and separated from their families because of backlogs in processing green card and naturalization applications and other paperwork since September 11, she said.

Despite promises by the Bush Administration to speed up the process, the time for green cards more than tripled after the September 11 attacks, said Norman Eng, policy associate at the coalition.

In New York City, waiting times for green cards rose from about 12 months to 42 months as immigration staff were diverted to interrogate Arab Muslim immigrants, he said.

The group wants Congress to ensure due process for detainees, legalize seasonal farmworkers and provide higher education benefits for undocumented immigrants.

British troops exposed to greater danger in Iraq than necessary

LONDON, 17 Sept — British troops fighting in Iraq were exposed to greater danger than necessary by being ill-equipped for the task, an influential parliamentary committee said on Thursday.

The cross-party Public Accounts Committee said Britain deployed a large force to the region in around half the time it took in the first Gulf War in 1991 but that the speed of movement created serious logistical problems.

Inadequate stocks of equipment were held by the Ministry of Defence and it failed successfully to track the passage of kit to the front line.

"Equipment shortages at the front line exposed troops to increased risk," the committee concluded, noting that troops did not have enough enhanced body armour or nuclear, biological, chemical detection and protection kit.

"Troops should not be exposed to anticipated attack without the detection and protective equipment required for their defence," the politicians said.

Reports that British soldiers were ill-equipped crystallized around the case of Sergeant Steven Roberts, who was shot in the chest near the Iraqi town of Basra last year, after being asked to hand in his body armour because it was in short supply.

Opposition Conservative defence spokesman Nicholas Soames said when the case came to light that Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon should resign, a call echoed by Roberts’ widow.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has acknowledged difficulties in ensuring front line forces received supplies in time, and a report from the National Audit Office (NAO) watchdog in December last year found troops were sent to Iraq badly-equipped.

The NAO said while the logistics effort had light that Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon should resign, a call echoed by Roberts’ widow.

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Sanctions cannot solve crisis in Sudan

BEIJING, 17 Sept — The threatened sanctions championed by the United States and the European Union (EU) on Sudan could not help solve the crisis in the African country, said a leading Chinese newspaper on Thursday.

The crisis in Darfur, western Sudan, is a problem caused by a slew of factors ranging from historical issues, tribal and religious differences, refugees as well as poverty, which could not be solved within a short period of time, said the People’s Daily in a signed article.

“The Sudanese Government, which has stated its commitment to solving the crisis, needs assistance from the international community instead of sanctions,” it added.

On Tuesday, the United States put forward a new draft UN resolution, threatening sanctions on Sudan’s oil industry if the Sudanese Government fails to end the bloodshed in its western region of Darfur. Also, the EU foreign ministers warned Monday the European bloc would slap sanctions against the Sudanese government and relevant parties if “no tangible progress” is made in meeting the EU’s demands.

The EU said it would continue to impress the Sudanese Government with the urgency to meet the demands set by the ministers last July as well as in UN Security Council Resolution 1556.

“With reservation, the Sudanese Government accepted the resolution and accelerated its efforts to disarm the rebels, which had paved the way for humanitarian access to the troubled region and eased tension there,” said the article.

In addition, the African Union (AU) also sent observers to the area. With the joint efforts by Sudan, the AU and United Nations, the situation in Darfur has been improving.

The article urged both the United States and the EU to provide aid to the Sudanese Government and not threaten it with sanctions, which cannot help solve the problem.

The Darfur crisis started in February 2003 when militia and Black African farmers clashed with each other over scarce resources. Thousands of people have been killed or displaced as a result of the clashes.

MNA/Xinhua
Bush, Kerry clash over outlook for Iraq

WASHINGTON, 17 Sept — President George W. Bush and Democratic rival John Kerry clashed on Thursday over the outlook for Iraq, with Kerry accusing Bush of living in “a fantasy world of spin” and the Bush campaign condemning Kerry’s pessimism.

The intensified skirmishing came as two new polls showed the White House race deadlocked and the post-Republican convention bounce for Bush beginning to fade. Other polls show Bush still holds an advantage.

Kerry, appearing before National Guard vet- erans in Las Vegas, said Bush “failed to tell you the truth” about growing chaos in Iraq during an appearance at their convention two days ago. “He did not tell you that with each passing day, we’re seeing more chaos, more violence, more indiscriminate killings. He did not tell you that with each passing week, our enemies are getting bolder,” said the Massa- chusetts senator, a deco- rated Vietnam War vet- eran.

“You deserve a presi- dent who will not play politics with national se- curity, who will not ig- nore his own intelligence, while living in a fantasy world of spin,” he said. The chairman of Bush’s campaign, Marc Racicot, decried Kerry’s “continu- ally shifting positions on Iraq” and accused him of “sinking rhetoric of a de- feated America.”

Citing US Government officials, the report said that the estimate outlined three possibilities for Iraq through the end of 2005, with the worst case being developments that could lead to a civil war in the country. “There is a significant amount of pessimism,” a government official who has read the document, about 50 pages, was quoted as saying. The intelligence estimate, the first on Iraq since October 2002, was prepared by the National Intelligence Council and was approved by the Na- tional Intelligence Board under John E. McLaughlin, the acting director of the Central In- telligence Agency (CIA), the report said.

The report noted that the estimate, initiated by the intelligence council under George J. Tenet who stepped down as CIA di- rector on 9 July , was in contrast to recent state- ments by Bush Adminis- tration officials claiming progress was being made in Iraq.

More than one year af- ter Bush declared the Iraqi war ended, the insurgency in the country is increas- ing as more than 1,000 US soldiers have been killed since the Bush Ad- ministration launched the Iraq war in March last year.

French President Jacques Chirac, a strong opponent of the Iraq war, said in Spain on Monday that the Iraq war had opened a Pandora’s box and the situation in Iraq was not getting any bet- ter. — MNA/Xinhua

US intelligence report shows pessimism on Iraq’s future


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Former British Colonel accuses US, Britain over Iraq

LONDON, 17 Sept — A former British Army officer who became well-known for a rousing speech to troops in Iraq has accused the United States and Britain of failing to plan for the postwar period.

The United States and Britain should have given more thought to what would happen after former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein was deposed, Colonel Tim Collins, who has now left the Army, said in an inter- view with BBC on Thursday.

In hindsight, Collins told BBC Radio 4’s 4 Today programme, he had questioned the coalition’s motiv- ation for attacking Iraq when preparations for the after- math were not made.

“There was very little preparation or thought for what would follow on after the invasion itself,” Collins said. Collins’ comments came as UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the BBC that the US-led invasion of Iraq was an illegal act that had contravened the Charter of the United Nations. — MNA/Xinhua

Bush and Kerry renewed their battle over Iraq after a classified CIA report surfaced predicting a bleak outlook for the country, where gunmen snatched two Americans and a Briton from a Bagh- dad house on Thursday.

Kerry, appearing before National Guard veteran s in Las Vegas, said Bush ”failed to tell you the truth” about growing chaos in Iraq during an appearance at their convention two days ago. “He did not tell you that with each passing day, we’re seeing more chaos, more violence, more indiscriminate killings. He did not tell you that with each passing week, our enemies are getting bolder,” said the Massachusetts senator, a decorated Vietnam War veteran.

“You deserve a presi- dent who will not play politics with national security, who will not ignore his own intelligence, while living in a fantasy world of spin,” he said. The chairman of Bush’s campaign, Marc Racicot, decried Kerry’s “continually shifting positions on Iraq” and accused him of “sinking rhetoric of a defeated America.”

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US soldier sentenced 30 months in jail by S Korean court

SEOUL, 17 Sept — A Seoul court sentenced a US soldier to 30 months in prison Friday for stabbing a South Korean man during a street brawl, reported South Korean Yonhap news agency.

Private First Class John C. Humphrey from Aus- tin, Texas was convicted of stabbing a 27-year-old South Korean man who tried to stop him from causing disturbances on a downtown Seoul street in this May.

“The accused stabbed the victim in the neck with his military knife during a brawl. The victim would have died if the knife slipped a bit deeper,” the Seoul District Court said in a ruling.

Humphrey had been in a South Korean prison since early August. He became the second US sol- dier to be held in pre-trial confinement by South Ko- rean authorities under a revised 2001 legal pact — Status of Forces Agree- ment (SOFA) — govern- ing the US troops here.

The revised SOFA al- lows South Korea to take pre-trial custody of any US service member sus-pected of committing one of 12 major crimes, in- cluding rape, aggravated assault and murder.

In December 2003, South Korean authorities put Sergeant Jerry Onken from Minnesota in a de- tention centre before in- dicting him on charges that he fled a traffic accident in which a South Ko- rean woman was killed. Earlier this year, a South Ko- rean lower court sentenced Onken to three years in jail.

Crimes committed by US soldiers have been a source of anti-American sentiment among South Koreans. Anti-US protests peaked in 2002 following the acquittals of two US soldiers on negligent homicide charges in the accidental death of two South Korean school- girls. — MNA/Xinhua

US forces attack Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 17 Sept — US forces attacked a target in the Iraqi city of Fallujah on Thursday believed to be a building used by fighters loyal to Jordanian al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the US military said.

“Multi-National Force-Iraq conducted a suc- cessful precision strike today on a confirmed Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi terrorist site in Fallujah,” the US military said in a statement.

“Sources reported the presence of guerrillas, for- eign fighters, and weapons systems that were in- tended for use against Iraqi and Multi-National forces.”

Washington says Zarqawi is its top foe in Iraq and has offered 25 million US dollars for information leading to his death or capture. Zarqawi’s group has claimed responsibility for a wave of suicide bomb- ings and the killings of hostages in Iraq.

Over the past few months, US forces have mounted several air strikes in Fallujah, west of Baghdad, on targets they said were buildings used by Zarqawi’s network. The US military has con- ceded it does not have control of Fallujah, and that the city is in the guerrillas’ hands. — MNA/Reuters

Iraqi firefighters extinguish fire from destroyed cars as Iraqi police inspect the site of a suicide car bomb explosion in central Baghdad on 17 Sept, 2004. — INTERNET

US soldiers stand near a crater left after a suicide car bomb explosion in central Baghdad on 17 Sept, 2004. — INTERNET

Musab Al-Zarqawi terrorist site in Fallujah,” the US military said. “Multi-National Force-Iraq conducted a successful precision strike today on a confirmed Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi terrorist site in Fallujah,” the US military said in a statement.

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Iraqi firefighters extinguish fire from destroyed cars as Iraqi police inspect the site of a suicide car bomb explosion in central Baghdad on 17 Sept, 2004. — INTERNET
Harmonious efforts of the State and people to supply clean drinking water to rural areas

Photo shows sinking of a tube well in Kyekin Village in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division.

PBANDRA

Heavy machinery at work to drill tube wells at Natyegan village, Magway Township, Magway Division.

PBANDRA

Myingyan Township development Affairs Committee sinks a four-inch tube well in Pinle Village in Myingyan Township, Magway Division to supply water for townspeople.

TDAC

A drilling machine at work to supply potable water to rural people in Myitkyin model village in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Division.

PBANDRA
Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends ceremony to inaugurate Myanmar Economic Bank in Chauk — MNA

YANGON, 18 Sept — A ceremony to inaugurate new building of Myanmar Economic Bank of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue in Chauk was held in front of the bank building, Chauk Township, Magway Division, yesterday morning, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present were Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tint of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, Managing Director Col Hsan Tun of Myanmar Economic Bank and officials, local authorities, social organizations, students and local people totalling over 1,500.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun said that the Myanmar Economic Bank is set up with seven sections of the head office, 13 State/Division offices, district and township branches, totaling 354.

The government is contributing towards development of its banking service in the long term.

Nowadays, the new two-storey bank building, 70 feet long and 30 feet wide, has been built in Chauk at a cost of K 68.52 million.

Banking services will improve through contact with the bank by local people.

That is why, employ-ees of the bank are striving for achieving success in the banking service.

Next, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min spoke on the occasion.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the signboard of the bank.

Then, officials formally opened the new bank building.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party viewed the bank. The bank is located in Ward 15 of Chauk.

At present, local people can join the bank conveniently.

The Korean guests made donations and signed in the visitors’ book. They viewed round Jade Buddha Image and zedis on the platform of the pagoda, the bell of King Thayawady, the Hidaw hoisted atop the pagoda by King Mindon in 1871 and religious edifices.

Director-General U Aung Bwa of ASEAN Affairs Department hosted a lunch to the Korean guests at Dusti Inya Lake Hotel. In the afternoon, they proceeded to Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Hanthawady and Kyundaw Roads in Kamayut Township. Deputy Director of the museum Police Lt-Col Aung Aung conducted them round booths of the museum.

— MNA

Korean information delegation visits Shwedagon Pagoda, Drug Elimination Museum

YANGON, 18 Sept — A 12-member information delegation led by Journalist Mr Kim Jin Ho of The Kyung Hyang Daily News of the Republic of Korea which arrived here under the arrangement for exchanging information delegations between ASEAN countries and ROK visited downtown Yangon this morning.

Accompanied by Counsellor Mr Park Joon-yong and officials of the Korean Embassy, the guests arrived at Shwedagon Pagoda this morning. Officials of the Pagoda Board of Trustees and explained the history of the pagoda and conducted them round the pagoda.

The Korean guests made donations numbered.

— MNA

Women’s Taekwondo team of Northern Command honoured

YANGON, 18 Sept — The women’s team of Northern Command that won championship trophy in the 13th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Taekwondo Tournament was honoured at the station hall of the command in Myitkyina on 15 September.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, Managing Director Col Hsan Tun of Myanmar Economic Bank and officials, local authorities, social organizations, students and local people totalling over 1,500.

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— MNA

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

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

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

YANGON, 18 Sept — The 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions were held at the National Theatre in downtown Yangon. The guests were presented with the arrangement for exchanging information delegations between ASEAN countries and ROK.

The competition formally opened the competitions and delivered a speech. The contestants and artists of Fine Arts Department entertained the guests. Altogether 719 contestants are taking part in the competitions which will continue up to 19 September.

— MNA

Mandalay Division Performing Arts Competitions begin

YANGON, 18 Sept — Mandalay Division 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions were held at the National Theatre in downtown Yangon. The guests were presented with the arrangement for exchanging information delegations between ASEAN countries and ROK.

The competition formally opened the competitions and delivered a speech. The contestants and artists of Fine Arts Department entertained the guests. Altogether 719 contestants are taking part in the competitions which will continue up to 19 September.

— MNA

Renovation of pagodas in Bagan Archaeological Region inspected

YANGON, 18 Sept — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung yesterday arrived at Dhamayangyi Pagoda in Bagan Archaeological Region where he inspected renovation tasks.

The minister went to Pawdaungu Pagoda and gave instructions on sani- tation tasks and mainte- nance to be carried out. He then inspected renovation of western wall of Natdaunt Pitakattaik near Kyansittha Cave. Next, the minister inspected Thihopon Pagoda and Meeneyoning Pagoda.

Later, the minister inspected excavation of King Anawrahta Palace and renovation of Zeyabon Palace of King Kyansittha and Arimadanapura Golden Palace of King Anawrahta.

— MNA

The New Light of Myanmar Sunday, 19 September, 2004

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**Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects maintenance of Padaung-Taungup Road**

**Yangon, 18 Sept —** Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence and party left Pyay for Okshiptpin by car on 15 September morning.

Accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo and officials, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected maintenance of the 59 miles road section out of 102 miles and two furlongs long Padaung-Taungup Road.

In the afternoon, they arrived at the briefing hall of the Office of Road Special Construction Group 8 of Public Works in Myaya, Taungup Township.

Deputy Superintending Engineer U Saw Ronald Win reported on maintenance on the 59 miles long road section on Padaung-Taungup Road, preparations for upgrading Bailey bridge No 3 and No 9 to the 30 feet long and 20 feet long concrete bridges, collection of construction materials for maintenance works.

Senior Engineer U Aung Htay on maintenance and repaving tasks on the road.

Chief Engineer U Tun Paw, Bago Division Superintending Engineer U Tin Htut and Rakhine State Superintending Engineer U Thein Kyaw gave supplementary reports. In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than instructed them to dredging drains for proper flow of water and carry out maintenance of Padaung-Taungup Road for better transportation all the year round.

Together with the commander, Col Myint Soe of Taungup Station and officials, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than saw over maintenance tasks along the road by car and went to Taungup in the evening.

At the local battalion in Taungup Station, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party met officers, other ranks and families.

And then, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on requirements to be fulfilled for Tatmadawmen and families in education, health, social and welfare and agriculture and livestock breeding tasks on a manageable scale to be performed.

**MNA**

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**Prizes given to outstanding students**

**Yangon, 18 Sept —** Member of the Secretariat of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung attended the sixth prize-presentation ceremony held at Pyithu Hall in Natmauk, Magway Division, yester-day morning.

At the ceremony, prizes were given to students of high school in Natmauk who won distinctions in the matriculation examination of the 2003-2004 academic year.

On the occasion, the minister presented prizes to students who got three to five distinctions in the matriculation examination. Managing Director of Myanmar Textile Industries U Oo Then Maung Division, Managing Director of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries U Myint Oo, Executive of Natmauk Township USDA U Han Maung and Assistant Education Officer of Magway Division Education Department U Soe Naing also gave away prizes to students who won one to two distinctions in the examination.

The minister also presented honourary awards to teachers for their success in making the students won distinctions. Next, he gave away a prize to Thahtmonkon affiliated high school for its highest pass rate in the 2003-2004 academic year.

**MNA**

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**NPE Managing Director receives Korean delegation**

**Yangon, 18 Sept —** Under the information delegations exchange programme between ASEAN nations and the Republic of Korea, a 12-member Korean information delegation led by Journalist Mr Kim Jin Ho of the Kyung Hyang Daily News of the ROK is on a visit in Yangon now.

The Korean delegation called on Managing Director Col Soe Win of the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information at The New Light of Myanmar Daily on Strand Road here this morning.

Also present at the call were Director (News) U Win Tin, Director (Admin) U Soe Win, Chief Editor of The New Light of Myanmar U Maung Maung Aye, Chief Editor of the Kyemon Daily U Zaw Min Thein, Chief Editor of Myanmar News Agency (Internal) U Tin Hlaing, Chief Editor of Myanmar News Agency (External) U Thein Htut, Deputy Director (News) U Swe Thant Ko, Deputy Director (Admin) U Mya Hlaing and Korean Attaché to Myanmar Mr Park Joon-yong.

The Korean delegation arrived at the Myanmar Alin Daily on 1st Naukmauk Lane in Bahan Township at 10 am. They were welcomed there by Chief Editor U Ye Myint Pe, Deputy Chief Editor U Hlaing Win, Manager U Zaw Win, editors and officials.

The Chief Editor briefed the Korean guests on background history of the daily, distribution of the newspaper, facts about the sub-printing houses in respective towns, collection of news and publishing process.

The Korean delegation observed the Internet room, editing section, computer room and press room. The Chief Editor and officials conducted the guests round the daily. The Chief Editor and officials and Korean delegation members posed for a documentary photo.

The NPE Managing Director hosted a dinner to the Korean delegation at the Karaweik Palace Hotel in the evening.

Also present on the occasion were departmental heads under the ministry, Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Aung Bwa and guests.

**MNA**

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**Han Golf Masters Junior Golf Series 28 Sept**

**Yangon, 18 Sept —** The Han Golf Masters Junior Golf Series 28 Sept 2004, to be organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, will be held at Myanmar Golf Club at 9th mile on Pyay Road on 28 September morning to be able to turn out new generation golfers. The players will be divided into five classes—the 8-10 age group, the 11-12 age group, the 13-14 age group, the 15-17 age group and U-18 women’s event.

Those wishing to participate in the tournament may enlist at HGM Pro-shop, YGC; Tel: 635563, YCDC Tel: 641341, MGC Tel: 661702 and Han Event Management Office No 15/A, Kanbawza Street, Bahan Township, Tel: 542989 and 723221 not later than 2 pm on 27 September.

**MNA**

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**All this needs to be known**

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Responsibility of all mankind

Myanmar has already made a firm resolve to wipe out the drugs totally, and is making progress in actively implementing the 15-year narcotic elimination plan. The nation has seen development and success even in the first five years of the plan. Thus, we all are confident that we will successfully reach the goal of the plan as targeted.

one metre wide. The secondary canal is 7,000 metres long, and can irrigate up to over 500 hectares of farms. Thus, the canal system is most beneficial to the local farmers.

The building and opening of the Mongka Dam and its canal system is an important step of the collective efforts of the UNODC and local people to eradicate opium poppy in the region.

The dam will surely help develop regional agriculture that is a part of the alternative crop programme. It is also a milestone of the international community’s cooperation in the nation’s anti-drug drive.

Myanmar has already made a firm resolve to wipe out the drugs totally, and is making progress in actively implementing the 15-year narcotic elimination plan. The nation has seen development and success even in the first five years of the plan. Thus, we all are confident that we will successfully reach the goal of the plan as targeted.

It is encouraging to know that both of the opium survey reports of the US and UN clearly indicate that there is a dramatic fall in Myanmar’s poppy cultivation. It is a success for the nation, and the success is achieved due to the ardent participation of the people, especially the local national races. In addition to its drive to root out the poppy cultivation, the country is also solving the problem of stimulant drugs with firm resolve. Thanks to the enforcement of laws, the nation has seized large hauls of stimulant drugs at present. But the nation believes that the problem must be solved from its root cause.

Thanks to the genuine goodwill and correct deeds of the Tatmadaw, Government, a number of armed groups have returned to the legal fold, a sign that leads to pave the way for all-round development of the entire nation and fulfils the basic needs and improves the living standard of the people of border areas. As peace and stability is prevailing in the whole nation, every region is developing at present.

Moreover, the Government is cooperating with the neighbouring countries for development of border areas and national races. It is launching a project in cooperation with the People’s Republic of China in Lancangka area for projects of KOKANG region, and a 16-bed hospital, built under the Yaungkha village. Project in Monghpat District, eastern Shan State, covered by Myanmar-Thailand Joint Drug Elimination and All-round Border Development Programme, has been put into commission on 2 December 2003. The State Peace and Security Minister contributed 20 million baht for the project.

In accord with the agreement reached at a meeting between officials of the two countries in fiscal 2001-2002, Yaungkha village-tract 30 miles west of Tachilek, has been chosen as the project area. The project is benefiting the whole village-tract comprising 13 villages and also the local villagers. The implementation of the project started in January 2003. Under the project, a primary school with a capacity of 500 students was built in May 2003. The Education Ministry began to run the school with 10 teachers and 222 students in June the same year.

In the health sector, beginning February 2003, the Health Ministry has been running a 16-bed hospital with a doctor and four female nurses, and providing medical treatment to local people.

An alternative crop project has been laid down in the agricultural sector, and rice has been cultivated on 1,300 acres of highland farms and 900 acres on seasonal crops fields. And plans are under way to build mini dams to conduct double and mixed cropping in the region. With the participation of the local villagers, six mini dams and 20 kilometres of canals have been built at present. Thanks to the facilities, local farmers can grow crops on 840 acres of land throughout the year and produce over 2,000 tons of surplus rice annually.

A model farm is distributing soybean, bamboo and meccadaemia seeds and fish fingerlings to villages. Arrangements are being made to export the agricultural produce of the region to Thailand.

Various species of fish and layers and broilers as well as pigs are being raised in the area. Plans are under way for assisting every household to run a farm.

An agreement to build the second Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge linking Tachilek in eastern Shan State, Myanmar, and Maesai in Thailand, was reached in Tachilek. Both countries have expressed their wish to further strengthen the existing bilateral friendly relations by building the bridge.

It is true that the prevalence of regional peace and stability gives acceleration to anti-drug drive, followed by the setup of alternative farms that will help increase the income and improve the living standard of the local people. In addition, progress of the region will help develop and change the economy, education, social standard and health of the whole Southeast Asia.

Southeast Asia. The facility stands as a proof of readiness of the two countries to face and overcome hardships together, to live through thick or thin and to cooperate for regional development. The farsightedness and endeavours of the leaders of both countries will remain a milestone in the history of the two nations, because the bridge will bear valuable fruits and bring economic progress and regional peace and stability.

It is true that the prevalence of regional peace and stability gives acceleration to anti-drug drive, followed by the setup of alternative farms that will help increase the income and improve the living standard of the local people. In addition, progress of the region will help develop and change the economy, education, social standard and health of the whole Southeast Asia.

All in all, the long arm of law will reach the remote border areas if smooth and secure transport can be ensured in the whole nation. In addition, the problem of narcotic drugs will automatically come to an end if the regional people enjoy a sufficient amount of food, clothing and shelter needs.

* Use daylight as the main source of light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
* Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-mega-watt power station can supply.
ASEAN to coordinate to fight illicit wildlife trade

BANGKOK, 18 Sept — Southeast Asia is to announce its first coordinated effort to fight the multi-billion dollar illicit trade in wildlife, environment group TRAFFIC said on Thursday.

The group which monitors international wildlife trade said the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations would announce the plan at a global environment conference in Thailand next month. There will be some kind of joint announcement by ASEAN countries in mid-October to tell everybody that they have plans to pursue specific actions and commitments on law enforcement training and scientific research,” the group’s Angel Woo said.

“The announcement will be very general and it will focus on the recognition that these are regional problems that need regional solutions,” Woo, TRAFFIC’s coordinator for Southeast Asia told a news conference.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) meeting of 166 countries in Bangkok aims to update trade rules governing some of the world’s most exploited wildlife species. Asia is an international hotspot for the illegal trade in endangered plants and animals, driven mostly by increasing demand from China which uses animal parts in traditional medicines, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The WWF says it believes Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand are the major routes used by smugglers to transport exotic species, particularly snakes, freshwater turtles and wood from the Ramin tree.

Robert Mather, WWF’s Thaiad representative, said the ASEAN initiative was a promising sign that governments were taking the plight of wildlife seriously.

“National politicians have a lot of other things to think about and it’s quite understandable that many of them see the wildlife trade as a minor issue,” Mather told Reuters.

But he said illegal trade in wildlife was equally rampant and profitable as the illegal arms or drugs trade and often involves the same crime networks.

“I think there has been a lack of political will in the past. There are signs now that it is starting to develop especially in Thailand, because clearly no country can solve this problem alone.”

Environmental lists have long expressed concern about the loss of natural habitats and the rapidly declining populations of some plants and animal species in Asia, a region which depends heavily on its natural resources.

$12b to be invested in Zhejiang’s railway construction

HANGZHOU, 18 Sept — Some 100 billion yuan (about 12.1 billion US dollars) is expected to go to railway construction in east China’s Zhejiang Province in six years, according to a document signed by Zhejiang provincial government and the Chinese Ministry of Railways.

This move will make Zhejiang become the first province in China enjoying the most advanced railway network by the year 2010.

According to the province’s railway development plan, with some new railways to be built, express trains may run directly through the province to the southern Chinese provinces, forming a major railway artery linking China’s top two economic rings, the Shanghai-centred Yangtze River Delta and the Guangzhou-centred Pearl River Delta.

The province also decided to connect all of its cities with railways. In addition, some major railway lines like the Shanghai-Hangzhou and other trans-province lines will be improved and several electric railways by 2010.

Sources from the provincial government said construction of some electric railways has kicked off. The Zhejiang-Jiangxi trans-province line, for instance, will be changed into the best electric railroad in China on completion.

Earlier this year, the Chinese State Council approved in the country’s medium- and long-term plan of railway construction, a record event for China’s railway industry. Under the state plan, railways in operation in China will be extended from the current 72,000 kilometres to 100,000 kilometres by 2020, the ratio of double-track railways and electric lines will both reach 50 per cent, and the major railway technology and equipment will reach or near the international advanced level. The plan also calls for a separate line for cargo and passenger transportation in busy trunk lines.

Singapore’s non-oil exports grow sharply in August

SINGAPORE, 18 Sept — Singapore’s non-oil domestic exports (NODX) rose sharply by 29 per cent to 11.8 billion Singapore dollars (about 6.98 billion US dollars) in August this year as compared with the same period of last year.

According to the figures released by the International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore) on Friday, the NODX growth in August, the strongest annual growth since last December’s 30.7 per cent, was boosted by sharp gains in the shipments of pharmaceutical and petrochemical products.

China-Japan relations facing opportunities, challenges

BEIJING, 18 Sept — China-Japan relations now face opportunities for historical development as well as challenges, said State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan here on Friday.

Tang made the remark in meeting with a delegation of lawyers’ consultant mission from the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan. Komura Masahiko, president of the Association of Dietmen League for Japan-China Friendship is the delegation’s adviser and Suzuki Toshihaku, director-general of the lawyers’ consultant mission is the delegation head.

“The two sides should pay great attention and carefully deal with the bilateral relations,” said Tang.

The promotion of friendly cooperation with Japan is an important part of China’s good-neighbourly diplomacy. The two countries should stick to the principles set by the China-Japan Joint Statement and other political documents, he said.

Polish Vice-FM concludes China tour

BEIJING, 18 Sept—Polish Vice-Foreign Minister Boguslaw Zaleski left here Friday, concluding his eight-day visit to China.

Zaleski met with Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo and held talks with Vice-Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui, during which both sides expressed satisfaction over the healthy relations since the two countries established diplomatic relations 55 years ago.

The two sides agreed that Chinese President Hu Jintao’s successful visit to Poland in June this year serve to push forward bilateral relations to a new stage.

Both sides also exchanged views on deepening mutually beneficial cooperation and on international issues of shared concern.

Zaleski, as guest of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, also visited Tibet besides Beijing. —MNA/Xinhua

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Wu Yi meets guests to attend 11th Global Conference

BEIJING, 18 Sept — Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi met with guests attending the 11th Global Conference of Women Entrepreneurs here Thursday.

Wu said women entrepreneurs from more than 20 countries and regions have gathered in Beijing to discuss issues of their common concern.

Wu said that China’s development is an indispensable part of the world’s prosperity and its achievements will contribute to world peace and development.

Svetlana Orlova, vice-chairwoman of the Russian Federation Council, who is also one of the participants to the conference, said women entrepreneurs are playing an increasingly more important role in the global economy.

The conference will arrange discussions on issues like partnership in globalization and developing women’s small and medium enterprises. The conference will also hold an exhibition of Chinese women entrepreneurs and trade talks. —MNA/Xinhua

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A marina is flooded from Hurricane Ivan in Weeks Bay. At least 14 people died as Hurricane Ivan slammed the southern United States.—INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 19 September, 2004
Thai PM vows to stand firm against corruption

BANGKOK, 17 Sept— Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has pledged to come up with a concrete plan in the war against corruption next month, local Press reported here on Thursday.

The plan will stipulate rules for the anti-graft campaign scheduled to kick off on October 3, Thaksin was quoted by the Bangkok Post newspaper as saying.

He added Deputy Prime Minister Visanu Kruengkrai and Justice Minister Pongthep Thepkanchana will be in charge of the campaign.

Sumeth Tantivejkul, chairman of Transparency Thailand Foundation has estimated that the country lost 1.2 trillion baht (about $12 billion) last year.

The Anti-Corruption Foundation, which is the new body established to take over the duties of the National Counter Corruption Commission (NCCC), Pongthep said his ministry would propose draft amendments to the Cabinet, which would empower police, or a special agency similar to the NCCC to look into corruption cases against lower—level state officials.

The amendments would also allow the NCCC to focus on Cabinet ministers, senators and other high—level state officials.

E China air crash kills two, injuries five

HANGZHOU, 17 Sept— Two people were killed and five others badly injured when a civil helicopter crashed in Ningbo City of eastern China’s Zhejiang Province on Thursday, said local police.

The helicopter, carrying seven people including crew members and journalists from the local TV station, went down into a hilltop at around 2 pm Thursday. The helicopter was rented by the Ningbo TV Station from the Zhejiang TV Station and used for a camera plane at a local scenic spot.

Residents in N-E Thailand on alert after 5 die of dengue fever

BANGKOK, 17 Sept— Residents in a northeastern Thai province have been warned to keep alert of dengue fever after five people recently died of the mosquito—borne disease.

The public in the northeastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima is being urged to protect themselves against the infection and to see a doctor if they are suffering from high fever, vomiting or bloody stools, a senior public health official warned.

Samrungsree, the Athens Observatory’s Geodynamic Institute and the Athens Geophysical Laboratory.

It was sent to Venezuela or vict of Cuban origin

Panama’s new leader to strengthen dip ties at UN summit

PANAMA CITY, 17 Sept— Panamanian President Martin Torrijos will take the chance of attending the 59th session of UN General Assembly to strengthen ties with other countries in his first appearance in the world forum.

The summit will be held in New York on 19-24 September and will be attended by 191 countries and nearly 12000 officials and observers.

The summit includes a number of important issues, such as the development of the UN and the international community.

President of Panama, Martin Torrijos, said that the summit will be an important event for Panama and the world, and that it will be an opportunity to present a new image of Panama to the world.

In August, Cuba broke diplomatic ties with Panama and Venezuela after Cuba withdrew its ambassador to Panama after the two countries broke off diplomatic relations in 2000.

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Indian Premier chairs meeting of NSC

NEW DELHI, India — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Tuesday chaired a meeting of National Security Council (NSC) where matters pertaining to Indo-Pakistani relations were discussed.

This was ahead of Singh’s crucial visit to New York where he will meet Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on the sideline of UN General Assembly session.

The details of the discussion were not officially known, but sources said the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues took stock of the status of relations between India and Pakistan.

The sources said New Delhi would stress on certain Confidence-Building Measures, including those pertaining to nuclear weapons, during the proposed talks between Singh and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf.

Over 6,000 illegal turtle eggs seized in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 17 Sept — Singapore’s immigration officers on Thursday seized 6,555 pieces of marine turtle eggs on board an Indonesian vessel at the island state’s southwestern fishing port of Jurong. The illegal eggs, which weigh more than 400 kilograms, come from green turtles and hawksbill turtles, and they have been handed over to the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) for further investigation, according to a statement issued by the AVA.

The 48-year-old Indonesian captain of the vessel is now being questioned.

In Singapore, anyone found guilty of smuggling turtle eggs without permission will be jailed for one year and fined 5,000 Singapore dollars (about 2,960 US dollars). — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam Airlines eyes more international destinations

HANOI, 17 Sept — Vietnam Airlines, the national flag carrier, will open more international routes to Europe and America, and will purchase and lease more planes in the next few years, local newspaper Vietnam Economic Times reported on Thursday.

In addition to developing existing routes to Asia, the carrier plans to conduct flights to Europe and the Far East of Russia. It will also open routes to the western region of North America with a weekly frequency of 3-4 flights per destination in late 2005 or early 2006.

By 2010, Vietnam Airlines will own and lease some 47 passenger planes and three cargo aircraft, hoping to serve 10 million passengers and 190,000 tons of cargoes in the year. From 2006 to 2010, it plans to record an annual growth of 11 per cent in passenger transport and of 12.5 per cent in cargo transport, and make the five-year revenue of 99 trillion Vietnamese dong (6.3 billion US dollars).

The national flag carrier, which operates 20 direct international routes and three indirect ones, targets to carry roughly five million passengers, including 2.4 million foreigners, and 85,000 tons of cargoes, and gain revenue of 11.2 trillion VND (713.4 million dollars) this year. It served four million passengers and 74,000 tons of cargoes last year.

Arroyo vows to promote agriculture, tourism in south

DAVAO (Philippines), 17 Sept — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Thursday vowed to promote the development of agriculture and tourism in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao.

“Mindanao is the ‘food basket of the Philippines’,” Arroyo said at the 13th Mindanao Business Conference which opened here on Wednesday. She unveiled her plans of developing Mindanao as the agri-business centre of the country, which produces many high-quality fruits and seafood, like bananas, pineapples and tuna among others.

Mindanao also has many natural and beautiful spots which may attract large amount of tourists in the future, Arroyo added, noting the need to improve infrastructure and transportation. Also, Arroyo said she would lead the fight against poverty in the island, considered as the poorest region in the country, focusing her efforts on health, housing and education.

Earlier, she launched here the first call centre in Mindanao, saying that she would further boost investments in the information and communications sector in Mindanao.

She also defended a new package of revenue and cost-saving measures to help the country start its journey to lasting economic stability, saying the people deserve no less than the truth.

Arroyo said it is her duty to inform the people of vital matters affecting their lives, referring to the package of tax measures which her economic managers recommended that includes raising 80 billion pesos (1.43 billion US dollars) in revenues and 100 billion pesos (1.79 billion dollars) in cost-saving and austerity measures.

The three-day conference is aimed to promote the competitiveness and business opportunity of the Mindanao amid economic globalization.

ASEAN lawmakers urge agricultural aid for new members

PUNO PENIS, 17 Sept — ASEAN lawmakers, attending the 25th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIP0), on Thursday urged relatively developed member countries to help new members of the organization to improve their productivity in the agricultural sector.

In a joint communique, the richer ASEAN member countries were urged to help the new members to improve farm productivity through scientific cooperation and human resources development, as well as to improve access and exchanging knowledge along with modern techniques of agricultural production.

The new ASEAN members were mainly agrarian with the majority of their population living in rural areas, and most of these people were small-holders “who are currently under-utilizing agricultural resources”.

The document said that promoting technology, reform and investment in agriculture would enhance intensification and diversification towards high-value crops and high-yielding production. “As long as low value-added growth remains, inequality and chronic poverty for the rural poor will persist,” it stressed.

The communique was also signed by heads of AIP0’s special observer delegations from Brunei and Myanmar.

Some lawmakers from outside ASEAN, including China, Japan and South Korea, also attended the four-day assembly as observers between Septem ber 13-16.

ASEAN includes Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Cambodia.

MNA/Xinhua
Roberto Carlos says Real need to work smarter

MADRID, 17 Sept—Real Madrid will need to work smarter, not harder if they are to play their way back into form, according to Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos.

Real were lambasted by the normally supportive Spanish media on Thursday after the 3-0 Champions League defeat in Germany.

Roberto Carlos accepted that Real had played badly against the German side but rejected any suggestion of an attitude problem within the team.

"Nothing went right against Leverkusen," the defender said, after training on Thursday. "People think the solution is to run harder but in fact we have to think harder.

"We need to let the ball do the running. The ball doesn't get tired."—MNA/Reuters

Newcastle defeat Bnei Sakhnin 2-0

NEWCASTLE (England), 17 Sept—Israel's Bnei Sakhnin's dreams of a huge upset remained alive as Newcastle United struggled to a 2-0 victory in their UEFA first-round, first-leg match at St James' Park on Thursday.

But an ill-tempered, the first foray into European competition by an Arab team, erupted into chaos as both sides had a player sent off, with Sakhnin skipper Abas Suan and England midfielder Nicky Butt dismissed after a second-half confrontation.

Dutch international Patrick Kluivert scored both Newcastle goals in what was manager Graeme Souness' first game in charge of the English Premier League side but the tie remains very much alive.

Kluivert put Newcastle ahead in the third minute when he knocked the ball past the Israeli-Arab team's goalkeeper Energy Murambadoro from close range, and the striker doubled his team's advantage in the 42nd minute when he headed in Laurent Robert's corner.

Newcastle's Kieron Dyer (L) holds off Mallorca's Tsomion Arbizu. Graeme Souness suffered his first serious setback as Newcastle boss when Dyer was ruled out of action for several weeks with a recurrence of the hamstring problems that have dogged his career.—INTERNET

Sand helps Schalke 04 to 5-1

GELSENKIRCHEN (Germany), 17 Sept—A hat-trick from Denmark striker Ebbe Sand helped coachless Schalke 04 to a 5-1 demolition of Latvia's Liepajas Metalurgs in a UEFA Cup first-round, first-leg match on Thursday.

Sander, playing his first match of the season after recovering from meningitis, tied the scoring on 35 minutes, gave the German side a 2-1 lead with a diving header in the 52nd minute and completed his treble with a deflected shot on the hour.

Georgia midfielder Levan Kochiaishvili and substitute striker Gerald Asamoah completed the rout.

Striker Alexander Katasov had put the Georgian side level with a goal from close range in the 34th minute. Schalke are looking for a successor to coach Jupp Heynckes, who missed a clearance and knocked the ball into his own net after 25 minutes.—MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

5 Seize forcibly
8 Speeches
9 Corner
10 Scattered
11 Vigorous
14 Ocean
16 Commend
17 Disc
18 Watery
20 Anew
24 Gift
25 Condition
26 Mishap
27 Trap

DOWN

1 Signalling code
2 Truncheon
3 Ultimate
4 Dissimilar
6 Disclaim
7 Royalist (anag.)
12 Scare
13 Clergyman
14 Stitch
15 Skill
19 Result
21 Danger
22 Skinflint
23 Semi-precious stone

GEORGIA'S LEANDRO TELLES (L) TACKLES SCHALKE 04'S EBBE SAND AHEAD OF THE UEFA CUP MATCH AT GELSENKIRCHEN, 17 SEPTEMBER 2004

Bayer Leverkusen fans celebrate their team's victory against Real Madrid. Nine-time European champions Real Madrid started the 2004/05 season as favourites to win the Champions League but a 3-0 drubbing by Bayer Leverkusen could see their odds lengthened.—INTERNET

Trabzonspor beat Athletic Bilbao 3-2

ISTANBUL, 17 Sept—Trabzonspor hung on to a 3-2 lead to beat Athletic Bilbao in the first leg of their UEFA Cup first round tie on Thursday after a brave fight-back by the Spanish team from a 3-0 deficit.

The Turkish side stunned the visitors with two goals in rapid succession in the first half. Gokdeniz Karadeniz sent in a cross which sailed past outstretched goalkeeper Gorka Iraizoz in the first 20 minutes, gave the German side a 2-1 lead with a diving header in the 52nd minute and completed his treble with a deflected shot on the hour.

Georgia midfielder Levan Kochiaishvili and substitute striker Gerald Asamoah completed the rout.

Striker Alexander Katasov had put the Georgian side level with a goal from close range in the 34th minute. Schalke are looking for a successor to coach Jupp Heynckes, who missed a clearance and knocked the ball into his own net after 25 minutes.—MNA/Reuters

AS Roma makes official apology to Anders Frisk

ROME, 17 Sept—Italian club AS Roma made an official apology to referee Anders Frisk on Thursday after he was struck on the head by an object thrown from the stands during a Champions league match against Dynamo Kiev.

The incident at Rome's Olympic Stadium on Wednesday, which happened as players and officials headed for the tunnel at halftime, left the Swede with blood pouring from a head wound and resulted in the match being abandoned.

"I want to apologize officially to the referee, to whom we gave all possible medical attention," the club's sporting director Franco Baldini said.

"Frisk was checked over by our doctors and accompanied back to his hotel at 1.30am."

Baldini denied that security at the Olympic Stadium had been lax.

"There were 400 police plus 400 of our own employees on hand to make sure the match took place in the most correct way possible.

"We will give our full assistance to the person responsible (for throwing the object)."

Meanwhile, Roma's administrative delegate Rosella Sensi defended the behaviour of the vast majority of fans who, she said, had acted "in an exemplary fashion."

"This was a gesture of madness that will ruin all the efforts of the team and the club," Sensi said.

Ferrero, Schuettler come up short, Safin cruises in China Open

BEIJING, 17 Sept—Juan Carlos Ferrero's hopes of a first ATP title were left in tatters at the China Open on Thursday when the second seed was beaten by Kevin Kim from the United States.

And China Open thus became the slayer of seeds with three of the top four early exit.

Top seed Carlos Moya of Spain lost his first round to Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, a fresh man in ATP tour. And Ferrero followed his fellowman's footnote to return home early in the second round after being ousted 6-4, 6-4 by American Kevin Kim, who has played just 22 ATP matches.

China Open was also an nightmare for fourth-seeded Rainer Schuettler. He was defeated by Russian Milha Yuzhny 7-5, 6-1. However, Russia's

Kevin Kim was the 2000 US Open winner. He was out ousted 6-4, 6-4 by Ameri- can Kevin Kim, who has played just 22 ATP matches.

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10.00 pm News/Slogan
Permission granted for retirement

The State Peace and Development Council has permitted the following ministers to retire from duties with effect from today.

1. Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
2. Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe Ministry of Transport
3. U Win Aung Ministry of Foreign Affairs

By Order,
Sd/ Soe Win
Lieutenant- General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Permission granted for retirement

The State Peace and Development Council has permitted Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win to retire from his duty with effect from today.

By Order,
Sd/ Soe Win
Lieutenant- General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

YANGON, 18 Sept — The National Convention Convening Commission held a meeting at the meeting hall of the NCCC in Kyaukka Pan Grounds, here, this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman of the Commission Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Vice-Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung and members of the NCCC.

Joint-Secretary of the Commission Director General U Myint Thein of Pyithu Hluttaw Office acted as master of ceremonies.

First, Chairman of the Commission Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address, saying that the National Convention Convening Work Committee is to make efforts for timely completion of the tasks of the National Convention which had been held. At the same time, it is necessary to make preparatory tasks for reconvening of the National Convention. The National Convention Convening Commission, on its part, is to go through the reports of the Work Committee in time. Similarly, the Management Committee is to perform present tasks on time and to start its functions.

Next, Vice-Chairman of the Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung presented reports on tasks being carried out by the Commission, progress of works and preparatory tasks.

Afterwards, members of the Commission discussed arrangements for the National Convention which will be continued successfully and laying down of detailed basic principles to be included in drawing the State Constitution.

Later, Chairman of the Commission Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave the concluding remarks.

MNA

Commander, Mayor inspect beautifying, sanitation measures in Yangon City

YANGON, 18 Sept — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected proper flow of water at drains and upgrading and sanitation tasks in Yangon City this morning.

In Kyauktada Township, the commander and the mayor inspected upgrading of platform along Bogyoke Aung San Street between Bo Aung Kyaw Road and 46th Street and dredging of drains for proper flow of water.

They saw over sanitation tasks, placing of concrete tiles on platforms in Botataung, South Okkalapa, Mayangon and Bahan townships and installation of steel beams at the overpass linking Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

On their inspection tour, the commander and the mayor gave instructions, saying that upgrading tasks are being carried out for having city characteristics, officials are to lay down plans for beautifying and keeping the city clean and pleasant. Next, they attended to the needs.

MNA