Senior General Than Shwe sends congratulatory message to Chinese President

YANGON, 20 Sept — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe has sent a congratulatory message to President Mr Hu Jintao, who has been assigned as Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People’s Republic of China. — MNA

GAD officials play important role in running Government administrative machinery

Secretary-2 urges them to give priority to further cementing national unity based on Union Spirit for perpetuation of Union

YANGON, 20 Sept — A work coordination meeting of General Administration Department (GAD) officials play important role in running Government administrative machinery. — MNA

Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, 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

With the development in all parts of the Union including border areas, administrative system is being materialized fully in order to carry out regional administrative, economic and social matters effectively in parallel with regional development.

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at work coordination meeting of General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strive for development of agriculture by making good use of opportunities created

The Union of Myanmar is an agrarian-based nation. Earnest efforts are being made for development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well.

Ways and means are being sought to ensure water supply for agriculture purposes for enhancement of socio-economic life of the people through the agricultural sector.

In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, altogether 163 dams and reservoirs have been built, and another 28 are under construction. Meanwhile, a total of 265 river water pumping stations have been established and another 30 are being implemented.

Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected Kayan Sluice Gate construction project being implemented by Construction-6 of the Irrigation Department near Old Chaungwa Village, Thanlyin Township and gave instructions to officials. He stressed the need for timely completion of the project, minimizing loss and wastage on machinery, construction materials, finance, labour and time. Only when the sluice gate is completed earlier than scheduled, can the people enjoy fruitful results sooner. He spoke of the need to build the facility meeting the set standards.

The sluice gate is being built with the aim of preventing river water from flowing into the lands and from flooding in Kayan, Thongwa and Thanlyin Townships, supplying water to the farmlands after storing fresh water during the late monsoon period, retaining moisture for cold season crops, preventing salt water and silt from flowing into the fields. Upon completion, it will benefit 30,000 acres of farmlands. The Government built scores of irrigated infrastructures. As a result, progress has been made in the agricultural sector. Moreover, farmers have been able to engage in double and triple cropping, thereby contributing to improvement of their socio-economic life.

Therefore, we would like to call on departmental officials and farmers to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for development of agricultural sector by making good use of the opportunities created by the Government.

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

Strategic Planning Workshop for MMCWA opened

YANGON, 20 Sept — The opening ceremony of Strategic Planning Workshop for Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (2005-2009) was held at the Internal Business Centre on Pyay Road here at 9 am today, with an opening address by MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Myo Oo, heads of department, MMCWA Vice-Presidents Dr Kyi Soe and Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, CEC members, officials of social organizations, patrons, chairpersons and secretaries of Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committees from states and divisions and the project manager of International Planned Parenthood Federation IPPE.

After the opening ceremony, the first day session of the workshop was held and those present held discussions. The workshop continues tomorrow. MNA

Minister inspects factories in Bago Division

YANGON, 20 Sept — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung together with officials yesterday morning inspected sale of goods of Industry-1 at Win Thu Za shop in Pyay, Bago Division and gave necessary instructions on storing goods and following directions and policy of the ministry.

The minister proceeded to Shwe Taung Textile and Finishing Mill of Myanma Textile Industries where he inspected textile of new design and gave instructions on production of more textile of fashionable design, distributing to the people at reasonable price.

The minister instructed ginning, assembly line and gave necessary instructions.

Later, the minister inspected colours of various designs produced from 1996-97 to 2003-2004 fiscal year.

The minister then met service personnel and urged them to discharge duties and to be loyal to the State. He also called on them to strive to meet the production target through their qualified skills.

In the afternoon, the minister saw over production process at Thayawady ceramics factory of the Myanma Ceramics Industry and gave instructions.

The minister then inspected progress in building of Shanding-type stove and various items and gave instructions.

Afterwards, the minister inspected samples of colourful ceramics.

In the evening, the minister met with officers and staff and gave instructions on striving for exceeding the target.

Stimulant pills seized

YANGON, 20 Sept — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Mandalay Special Anti-drug Squad on 10 August searched the house of Ma Pa Pa Tun (a) The Mon of Naungkwe Ward, Aung Myaythasan Township, Mandalay and arrested her together with 1,900 stimulant tablets packed in a plastic bag.

In connection with the case, action is being taken against Ma Pa Pa Tun (a) The Mon, daughter of U Ngwe Tun, by Mandalay Police Station No (4) under section 15/19(A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. MNA
Senators urge Bush to rethink Iraq policy

WASHINGTON, 19 Sept—Senators from both parties urged the Bush administration on Sunday to face the reality of the situation in Iraq and change its occupation policies.

“The fact is a crop, sharp analysis of our policies is required. We didn’t do that in Vietnam, and we saw 11 years of casualties mount to the point where we finally lost,” said Sen. Chuck Hagel, a Vietnam War veteran who is co-chairman of President Bush’s re-election committee in Nebraska.

“We can’t lose this. It is too important,” Hagel, R-Neb, said on CBS’ “Face the Nation.”

“People are surprised by the fact that it is a long and difficult conflict,” Kyl said. Senator Lindsey Graham, R-S.C, acknowledged that the situation may deteriorate further before it gets better.

“We made serious mistakes right after the initial successes by not having enough troops on the ground, by allowing the looting, by not securing the borders,” McCain said. “Airstrikes don’t do it. Artillery doesn’t do it. Boots on the ground do it.”

Three Lebanese kidnapped in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Sept—Three Lebanese men and their Iraqi driver have been kidnapped in Iraq, the Lebanese Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

The four—identified as Lebanese Fadi Munir Yassin, Cherbel Karam Haj and Aram Nlabandian and Iraqi Ahmed Mirza—were abducted by the gunmen on Baghdad-Fallujah highway on Friday night, a Foreign Ministry official said. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the three Lebanese worked for a travel agency that has a branch in Baghdad.

The motive for the kidnapping was not immediately clear. Lebanese Foreign Minister Jean Obeid has instructed the Lebanese charge d’affaires in Iraq, Hassan Hejazi, to contact Iraqi authorities to secure the release of the three Lebanese, the official said. About 120 foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq, and many have been killed by their captors.

Guerrillas have carried out most of the kidnappings in a bid to drive foreign companies out of Iraq and thwart the US-led reconstruction of the country.

French “Macif” to join Cambodia’s insurance industry

PHNOM PENH, 19 Sept—Cambodia’s small and young insurance industry will have a more competition with the joining of France’s largest insurance company, Macif.

Macif will join Cambodia’s insurance industry with an investment of six million US dollars in Cambodia’s financially troubled Indochine Insurance, local media reported on Saturday.

“I did not think that the joining of Macif will greatly affect Cambodia’s insurance market,” an industry source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Xinhua on Saturday.

Acknowledging that there will be a challenge, she said, “We have the confidence to maintain and develop our market share. But what is more important is to improve our professional knowledge, skills and service level,” she added.

Macif, has total assets of more than 15 billion dollars, will hold about 50 per cent of the Indochine Insurance company and to rename it as Macif (Cambodia) to be inaugurated in February, 2005.

The government has an insurance law in 2002 that requires a capital investment of the Indochine Insurance company and to rename it as Macif (Cambodia) to be inaugurated in February, 2005.

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Indonesia drafting amendments to anti-terror law

JAKARTA, 19 Sept—Indonesian Justice Minister Yusril Ibuza Mahendra said Friday that the country is drafting amendments to the anti-terror law.

He said the amendment is aimed at strengthening the current law, following the bloody car bombing in front of the Australian Embassy to Indonesia on 9 September.

Militants behead three Kurd hostages in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Sept—Militants beheaded three hostages said to be Iraqi Kurd militiamen, showing their deaths in a video posted on a Web site Sunday and denouncing Kurdish political parties for cooperating with Americans in Iraq.

In a separate incident, a group claimed to have kidnapped 25 members of the Iraqi National Guard, and a report on the Arabic station Al-Jazeera said the soldiers were threatened with death unless a detained Shiite leader is freed within 48 hours. The bodies of the three slain hostages were found by a road outside the northern city of Mosul, said Sarkawt Hassain, security chief in the mainly Kurdish town of Sulaimaniyah. He identified them as members of the peshmerga militia of the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

“They beheaded them,” Hassain said.

The 25 National Guard troops were taken by a group calling itself Brigades of Mohammed bin Abdullah, according to the Al-Jazeera report. A brief video clip aired by the station showed men in military dress sitting on the floor, with men standing behind them pointing guns to their heads. Most of the hostages had their heads bowed, but they were not blinded folded and appeared unjured.

No audio was aired, but Al-Jazeera’s announcer said the militants threatened to kill the 25 unless Hazem al-A’araji, a member of rebel Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr’s office in Baghdad, was released within 48 hours.

Chinese youth delegation leaves for Russia

BEIJING, 19 Sept—A 100-member delegation of Chinese youth left here Saturday night for Russia for a week-long visit.

Vice-Chairman Hu Wei of the All-China Youth Federation, the delegation leader, said that this is the largest exchange activity between Chinese and Russian youth over the past few years, with the aim of enhancing mutual understanding.

The event also commemorates the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia (then the Soviet Union) and the People’s Republic of China, and the Sino-Russian youth friendship year.

MNA/Xinhua
French PM optimistic over fate of hostage-journalists

PARIS, 20 Sept — A message purportedly from an Iraqi group holding two French hostages in Iraq on August 20, Raffarin urged caution. “Today we have information which has not been authenticated 100 per cent but which appears to us to be more serious than the previous ones,” he told TF1 television. “So we are slightly optimistic, but we must of course remain prudent.”

Asian Memo web site quoted the Islamic Army in Iraq as saying the kidnapped men had willingly agreed to work for it to inform the West about the realities of the war and the “truth” about the Iraqi resistance. Militants have seized scores of foreign hostages in Iraq since April. At least 26 have been killed.

Iraqi ambassador presents credentials to UN

UNITED NATIONS, 19 Sept — Iraq’s first post-Saddam ambassador to the United Nations formally presented his credentials on Friday, but he cannot vote until Baghdad pays 14.5 million US dollars in back dues.

“Welcome to the UN and we have a lot to do. You can count on our cooperation,” Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in greeting Iraqi envoy Samir Sma’udiy. “I am so delighted to be the first delegate to represent Iraq at the United Nations after its freeing,” Sma’udiy said. The credentials ceremony came as the 191-nation UN General Assembly this week opened its 59th session at its New York headquarters.

Iraq has had no UN ambassador since the fall of Saddam Hussein’s government last year. Mohammed Al-Douri, its top envoy in the period running up to the US-led invasion, fled New York just before the conflict began in March 2003. Sumainedi, a Sunni Muslim writer and businessman who was a prominent opposition figure while Saddam was in power, was named by the United States to the Iraqi Governing Council after the war and later served as Interior Minister.

Although a sovereign interim government took power in Baghdad in later June, Iraq cannot resume voting in the General Assembly until it pays the United Nations at least 14.5 million US dollars in dues, according to a report Annan issued earlier this week.

The General Assembly is the main UN deliberative body, with each country normally having one vote.

Chinese, Sudanese FMs talk on phone

BEIJING, 19 Sept — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing exchanged views Friday night with his Sudanese counterpart Mustafa Osman Ismail on the revised UN Security Council draft resolution on the Darfur humanitarian crisis in western Sudan.

During a telephone conversation, Li briefed Ismail on China’s exchanges with other members of the UN Security Council on the issue. Ismail said that Sudan has taken new, active measures today to improve the Darfur situation, adding that Sudan will continue to cement cooperation with the United Nations, the African Union and the League of Arab States.

The United Nations estimates that at least one million people are currently living in refugee camps in Darfur under barbaric conditions.

WTO concludes 4th trade policy review of S Korea

GENEVA, 19 Sept — The World Trade Organization (WTO) concluded the fourth trade policy review of South Korea on Friday, saying that further trade liberalization and structural reforms are the key to South Korea’s sustained growth.

South Korea’s economy has achieved an impressive recovery from the Asian crisis, with its GDP per capita having been restored to pre-crisis levels, according to a report released Friday by the WTO Secretariat.

This economic recovery has undoubtedly been fostered by wide-ranging structural reforms and the maintenance of outward-oriented trade and investment policies as far as manufacturing of outward-oriented trade and investment policies as far as manufacturing and services are concerned, says the report.

The recovery was also facilitated by a favourable external economic environment, it adds.

Italian aid group releases emotive images to Arab TV

ROME, 20 Sept — Picking together old video footage, an Italian aid group released emotive images to Arab television on Sunday of two female Italian charity workers and two Iraqi colleagues kidnapped in Baghdad.

The group, which calls itself “A Bridge to Baghdad”, hopes the four-minute video may help win the release of the hostages. It pans into schools and shows reconstruction that highlighted the hostages’ humanitarian work in the war-ravaged city.

The video was passed to two Arabic television channels but only one aired it on Sunday. “I love Iraq,” said Simona Torretta, one of the Italian captives. “There are so many children that have serious diseases and birth defects...I feel that distributing medicine and being close to these people is a duty.”

Iraq’s first ambassador to Iran since 1980 submits credential

TEHRAN, 19 Sept — Iraq’s first ambassador to Iran since 1980, Mohammad Majid al-Sheikh, on Saturday officially kicked off his mission by submitting his credentials to Iran’s Foreign Minister Kamal Kharraz, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Sheikh took over from Iraq’s Charge d’Affaires Khalil Salman al-Sabibi the post to represent his country in the Islamic Republic.

During the meeting with Kharraz, Sheikh touched on political, historical and cultural commonness of the two countries and stressed the need for exploiting them to put the two neighbours bitter past behind.

The relation between Iran and Iraq

has been complicated with conflicts and disputes on religion and territory.

The two neighbours plunged into a destructive war from 1980 to 1988, which caused prolonged enmity.

Iran strengthened its effort to build friendship with Iraq after the downfall of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein, especially after the transfer of power in Iraq.

Iraqi policemen gather around smouldering police cars after a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-filled car targeting an Iraqi police convoy near Rasheed Street in central Baghdad, on 17 Sept, 2004. Five died and 20 were injured in the attack. — Internet

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Kerry charges Bush over rewarding companies with defence contracts

ALBUQUERQUE (New Mexico), 19 Sept — Democrat John Kerry charged President George W Bush’s Administration on Friday with rewarding politically connected companies with huge defence contracts and then “turning a blind eye to the massive overcharging and waste”.

The presidential candidate proposed an overhaul of the way firms bid for lucrative government deals, saying the Bush Administration favours old cronies like Halliburton, big political contributors and special interests in secret backroom deals that cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

“It’s an abuse of the American taxpayer. It’s an abuse of trust,” he said in a scathing attack on Bush at a campaign stop in New Mexico, a battleground state where polls show him and the incumbent Republican locked in a tight contest.

The Massachusetts senator campaigned later on Friday in Colorado, another Western state where polls also indicate a close race.

Speaking in New Mexico, Kerry singled out Halliburton, the multinational company Vice-President Dick Cheney once headed, for landing huge no-bid government contracts to rebuild Iraq.

“It is clear that almost every aspect of this war, from how we went to how it was conducted, has been mismanaged, all the way to turning a blind eye to the massive overcharging and waste that their friends at Halliburton engage in,” he said.

The Bush Administration has been dogged with questions surrounding the awarding of big contracts, without a competitive bidding process, to Cheney’s old firm, which has been accused in several reports of overcharging.

“That’s their cronynym,” Kerry said. “They chose to give it to the expense of the average person in the country.”

Kerry also accused Bush of hiding plans to call up more members of the part-time National Guard and Reserve after the November election. “It is a way to compensate for thinning ranks in the fulltime US military due to the Iraq war.

Nearly 40 per cent of the US troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan are from the National Guard and Reserve.

“He won’t tell us what Congressional leaders are now saying, that this administration is planning yet another substantial call-up of reservists and Guard units immediately after the election,” Kerry said. “Hide it from the people through the election, then make the move.

In Washington, Democratic Representative John Mutha, a member of the House Subcommittee on Defence, backed Kerry’s claim. — MNA/Reuters

UNHCR resumes repatriation of Iraqi refugees from Iran

GENEVA, 19 Sept — The United Nations (UN) refugee agency said Friday that it has resumed its voluntary repatriation programme for Iraqi refugees in Iran.

A total of 251 Iraqi refugees left Ansar camp in Iran on Tuesday morning and arrived later that day in Basra in southern Iraq, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Ron Redmond told the reporters.

This was the first such convoy for over a month.

On 12 August, all return movements were halted at the request of Iraqi authorities because of security concerns.

Also this week, UNHCR was able to organize its convoy for non-camp Iraqi refugees in Iran, many of whom have been asking for assistance to repatriate for several months.

UNHCR reiterated that it does not encourage Iraqis abroad to repatriate now because Iraq is not yet ready to absorb large numbers of returnees, but it does provide assistance to refugees in neighbouring countries who insist on returning despite the difficult conditions in Iraq.

Around 14,000 Iraqis have repatriated with UNHCR help from Iran, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon since last year, and 9,000 of them from Iran.

After days of violence when several car bombs were used by guerrillas, a US soldier looks at a suspected car bomb through a pair of binoculars in Baghdad on 16 Sept, 2004. — INTERNET

Released Turkish translator returns home from Iraq

ANKARA, 19 Sept — Aytullah Gezmen, a Turkish translator who was held hostage by militants in Iraq and then released after 52 days, arrived back in the southern Turkish city of Adana on Friday, Anatolia news agency reported.

Anatolia quoted Gezmen as saying that he is very happy to be back, but he added “there are other Turkish hostages in Iraq. I hope they will be rescued as well”.

Gezmen went missing in July along with Murat Yuce, who was later killed by a bullet to the head by Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi’s Tawhid wal Jihad (Unity and Holy War) group.

Blair warned chaos could follow toppling Saddam

London, 19 Sept — Britain’s Foreign Secretary and senior officials warned Prime Minister Tony Blair a year before invading Iraq that chaos could follow the toppling of Saddam Hussein, a newspaper said on Saturday.

The Daily Telegraph said that Foreign Secretary Jack Straw sent a letter marked “secret and personal” to Blair in March 2002 warning that no one had prepared for what might happen afterwards.

The Foreign Office declined to comment directly on the report but said in a statement that Iraq was moving towards a democratic future for the first time.

If confirmed, the leak — which comes amid a sharp escalation in violence in Iraq — could prove to be damaging to Blair with an election looming in 2005. It also illustrates the depth of concern in his government to joining the US-led invasion in March 2003.

“There seems to be a larger hole in this (postwar planning) than anything,” the Telegraph quoted Straw as saying.

“No one has satisfactorily answered how there can be any certainty that the replacement regime will be any better.”

Blair defended his position on Saturday.

“The idea that we did not have a plan for afterwards is simply not correct,” he told a news conference on Saturday.

“We did and indeed we have unfolded that plan but there are people in Iraq, outsiders as well as former regime elements, who are determined to stop us. That’s why it is all the more important that we carry on until we win it and we will.”

The opposition Conservatives — which backed Blair over the war but later said their support was based on bogus intelligence information from his security services — said the leak revealed a lack of a comprehensive reconstruction plan.

“The assurances given to us by both the Prime Minister and Jack Straw that such a plan was in hand were clearly misleading,” the Conservatives’ foreign affairs spokesman Michael Ancram said on Saturday.

The Telegraph also said that senior ministerial advisers warned in a “Secret UK Eyes Only” paper that success would only be achieved if the United States and others committed to “nation building for many years”.

“The greater investment of Western forces, the greater our control over Iraq’s future, but the greater the cost and the longer we would need to stay,” it said.

Canada funds Tanzania’s anti-AIDS programme

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 19 Sept — Canada has donated 4.5 million Canadian dollars (about 3.47 million US dollars) to help Tanzania provide HIV/AIDS patients with free life-prolonging drugs.

Visiting Canadian Minister for International Cooperation Aileen Carroll handed over the money to the east African country, according to local media Saturday.

The Tanzanian Government has decided to distribute from next month anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) free-of-charge for some 30,000 nationals living with the virus. The programme is scheduled to reach out to 220,000 HIV/AIDS patients between 2005 and 2006.

MNA/Xinhua
Bulgarian President opposes redeploying troops in Iraq

SOFIA, 20 Sept — Bulgarian President Georgi Purvanov has expressed his opposition to redeployment of his country’s troops from Iraq’s Karbala to Najaf, local media reported on Saturday.

Purvanov said Friday that he had serious reservations about the transferring of Bulgarian troops to Najaf.

“Our troops have carried out their mission effectively and forged friendly relationship with residents in Karbala,” said Purvanov. “But Najaf is a totally new place to our soldiers.”

The Bulgarian President was responding to reports that the US military in Iraq is planning to transfer the Polish and Bulgarian troops to Najaf to replace the US troops.

In May 2003, Bulgarian Parliament approved sending about 500 troops to Karbala, south of Baghdad. The mission of the Bulgarian troops was to restore order and protect reconstruction projects in the region.

However, the barracks of the Bulgarian troops were attacked by a suicide car bomb in December 2003, which left five dead and 26 injured. Another soldier was killed while on patrol earlier this year.

Increasing number of tourists flock to Tibet

LHASA, 19 Sept — Unique highland landscapes folklore and the holy and mysterious lamaseries of Tibetan Buddhism all add to the appeal of the Tibet Autonomous Region, southwest China, which has caught the attention of an increasing number of tourists from home and abroad.

The region attracted a record of 870,000 domestic and overseas tourists in the first eight months of this year, up 98 per cent from the same period last year, according to the latest statistics released by the regional tourism administration.

The tourists included 60,000 overseas tourists who came from the United States, Japan, Germany, France and Britain and 81,000 domestic tourists from across the country.

Tourism income topped 800 million yuan (about 96.73 million US dollars) for the eight-month period, up 93 per cent over the corresponding period of last year. The income included 20.68 million US dollars in foreign exchange.

According to the regional administration, Tibet has made marked achievements in construction of highways leading to tourist resorts and hotels in scenic areas.

The region has also arranged a series of festivals and activities, which showcase local beautiful natural scenes and unique culture, to attract tourists.

The regional tourism administration predicted that the number of tourists to Tibet will reach 950,000 by the end of September.

Covering more than 1.2 million square kilometres, or one-eighth of China’s total landscape, Tibet is located in the southwestern part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

Turkish driver killed in armed attack in Mosul

ISTANBUL, 20 Sept — A Turkish truck driver was killed in an armed attack in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Saturday as he transported goods from Turkey, the NTV news channel reported.

The driver was named as Ali Bayindirli from Gaziantep in southeast Turkey, who set out from the western Turkish city of Izmir five days ago. NTV said. It did not specify a source for the report or give details of Saturday morning’s attack, but said officials from his company were expected to bring his body back to Turkey on Sunday.

The killing comes a day after the Iraqi National Guard said three Turkish truck drivers had been seized by gunmen on a road north of Baghdad. At least three other Turkish truck drivers have been killed by their abductors in Iraq in recent months. Several others have been released after their employers agreed to pull out of Iraq.

Overall more than 100 foreigners from dozens of countries have been snatched in the last six months, and at least 30 have been killed.

Bolivia earmarks $951m for coca eradication effort

LIMA, 19 Sept — The Bolivian Government announced Friday that it will invest 951 million US dollars by 2008 in reducing coca cultivation in the country, reports from La Paz said.

The Bolivian Government will use 557 million dollars in anti-drug operations, the reports said.

Bolivia is one of the largest drug producers in Latin America, with 28,000 hectares of farmlands growing coca, the raw material for cocaine.

The Bolivian authorities have seized more than 30 tons of drug so far this year. — MNA/Xinhua

Irish group agrees to free two French journalists

DUBLIN, 20 Sept — An Islamist website said Saturday it had received a message purportedly from an Irish group holding two French journalists hostage saying it had conditionally agreed to free them.

The website said it could not authenticate the message.

Islam Memo website quoted the message from the Islamic Army in Iraq as saying that kidnapped French journalists Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot had “willingly agreed” to work for it to inform the West about the realities of the US-led war and the “truth” about the Iraqi resistance.

“The Islamic Army in Iraq... has ended the imprisonment of two French journalists,” the site quoted the statement as saying.

“They are now conducting their work in agreement with the Islamic Army and it was agreed (that) they work for the army to cover battles and attacks... for a limited period which has not been announced,” the message was quoted as saying.

In Paris, a government spokesman said France was studying the message.

“It is premature to say whether or not this statement is authentic. We are analysing it,” the spokesman said. France’s objection to “Allawi’s agent army” was one of the reasons for the group to agree to free the hostages, the message said.

European diplomats said on Friday that France and Belgium, which have opposed the US-led war on Iraq, had stalled plans for NATO to launch a training academy for senior Iraqi military officers in Iraq.

The Islamic Army said mediation efforts to release the journalists had been halted “after it became known that these mediating parties were either enemy spies or the enemy was spying on their communications,” Islam Memo said.

The group said the Syrian driver also captured with the two on August 20 was now on trial at the “Army’s court for spying. Migrants have seized scores of foreign hostages in Iraq since April, including two Italian women aid workers, two Americans and one Briton. At least 26 have been killed.

Another group of suspected al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi threatened in an Internet video on Saturday to kill the Briton and two American hostages unless US forces released female prisoners from two Iraqi jails within 48 hours.

MNA/Reuters

A young boy picks up reusable pieces of materials after rockets allegedly fired from a US fighter plane damaged a house, according to eyewitnesses, in Sadar City, Baghdad, on 19 Sept, 2004. One person was injured in the attack. — INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

A British soldier secures an area in the Iraqi southern city of Basra on 18 Sept, 2004. British military sources said one British soldier was wounded during clashes against militants loyal to cleric Moqtada Sadr. — INTERNET
The opening ceremony of self-reliant library in Sint-in Village-tract in Shan State (North).— K

Knowledge banks or libraries opened in villages on self-reliant basis

Achievements show the genuine goodwill of the Government, the quick steps taken by the Ministry of Information, and well intention of the kind-hearted people.

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

The self-reliant library of Narkhe Village in Mahae Village-tract Hsipaw Township in Shan State (North) being opened. — KYEMON

The opening ceremony of self-reliant library in Sint-in Village-tract in Shan State (North).— K

Shwehteindaw self-reliant library being opened in Khawtaw Village in Wetlet Township, Sagaing Division. — KYEMON

People living in Shaukpinse Village in Singa Township, PyinOoLwin District, have now access to books in the self-reliant library opened in their village. — KYEMON
GAD officials play important role in development

(from page 1)

Continuing he said, they are to make endeavours for success of the objectives of GAD—prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquility, regional development and carrying out community welfare services.

The Secretary-2 pointed out that security, stability and community peace and tranquility are essential to a nation. The world events and 50-year history of the country after regaining independence in 1948 clearly showed that development tasks could not be implemented effectively if there was no security, stability and prevalence of law and order. That was why the government gave first priority to the security, stability, prevalence of law and order and community peace and tranquility, he added.

Now there is stability and community peace and tranquility in the country but there are internal and external elements who want to undermine better conditions. We are to be aware of such elements and to prevent the danger, he said.

As is known to all, the government has laid down border area development project, 24 major regions development project and rural development projects and is implementing them day and night for national development. Border areas once lagged behind in development as there was no security, peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order. Under the Tatmadaw government, there is mutual understanding and confidence and the government is able to undertake border area development project. Nowadays rapid developments have been made. With the development in all parts of the Union including border areas, administrative system is being implemented fully in order to carry out regional administrative, economic and social matters effectively in parallel with regional development.

Only when there is administrative system based on prevalence of law and order can all the national races earn their living safely under the rule of law.

GAD officers discharging duties in border areas are required to carry out their tasks efficiently in accord with the aims, while giving priority to further cementing national solidarity based on Union Spirit for perpetuation of the nation.

As human resources are essential for national development, 24 development zones have been set up in the nation for its all-round development. Institutions of higher learning and hospitals have been built in the zones to produce highly qualified and fit healthy human resources. Thus, the GAD officials are urged to strive collectively for successful realization of the State’s aims. As majority of the population are living in rural areas, the nation will develop only if the rural areas are developed. In this regard, the five rural development tasks — to develop rural health, to develop rural education, to improve rural transport, to ensure clean enough for cultivation and household needs and to develop rural economy — have been implemented. They will have to tour every village in the regions they are assigned to for the successful implementation of the tasks.

GAD officials play important role in development

GAD officials discharging duties in border areas are required to carry out their tasks efficiently in accord with the aims, while giving priority to further cementing national solidarity based on Union Spirit for perpetuation of the nation.

They will have to join hands with staff of other ministries, and strive through collective leadership, responsibility and efforts for the success of the State projects. Moreover, they should join forces with volunteer and social bodies including the Union Solidarity and Development Association, the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Red Cross Society and the Auxiliary Fire Brigades and the War Veterans Organization.

The National Convention, the first step of the seven-point future policy programme of the State, has been reconvened from 17 May to 9 July, with the participation of people of all walks of life. The National Convention has already discussed the basic principles concerning the legislation that must be included in drawing a constitution. The National Convention will continue to discuss the remaining chapters. The GAD officials should take play a role for the success of the National Convention. The meeting continued in the afternoon.

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Patron of MTF Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and President of MTF U Zaw Zaw brief on 1st Myanmar Junior World Ranking Tennis Tourney. — MNA

YANGON, 20 Sept — Press briefing on 1st Myanmar Junior World Ranking Tennis Tournament was held this evening at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here. The tournament will be hosted in Myanmar from 25 to 31 October. Patron of the Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen Kyaw Win briefed on efforts and arrangements made by MTF in a bid to host international tennis tournaments, to receive the green light from the International Tennis Federation and maintenance of tennis courts in Myanmar. Next, MTF President U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd) explained the arrangements being made by MTF for improvement of junior tennis. Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and U Zaw Zaw answered the queries raised by journalists. Athletes of the MTF have participated in international events in an effort to improve the standard of tennis in Myanmar. Moreover, Myanmar hosted Asia Zone-2 Tennis tournament (U-14 and under) from 9 to 20 January 2004.

Korean journalist delegation leaves

YANGON, 20 Sept — Korean journalist delegation led by Mr Kim Jin Ho of the Kyung Hyang Daily News of the Republic of Korea left here this morning visited National Races Village in Thaketa Township and officials conducted round the village. Director (News) of the News and Periodical Enterprise U Win Tin, Director of the ASEAN Affairs Department U Myint Soe and officials saw the delegation off at the airport.

Under the information delegations exchange programme between ASEAN nations and the ROK, the Korean delegation arrived here on 17 August. — MNA

Navy’s Volleyball Championship tourney opened

YANGON, 20 Sept — A unisex volleyball tournament for 2004 Championship Shield of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) was opened this morning at the ceremony held at Thathatun Tin Hall of Ayeawady Naval Regional Command Headquarters.

Ayeawady Naval Regional Commander Commodore Maw Then opened it with a speech on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and it was also attended by officers, other ranks, athletes and their families from Office of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) as well as from Headquarters, Central Depots and water crafts from Yangon and Thanlwin Military Regions. The tournament will continue up to 29 September with 12 teams in men events and 10 in women events. — MNA

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Korean journalist delegation seen at Yangon International Airport before their departure. — MNA

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Donate Blood
What is needed is willingness of people in every township of the region to turn Rakhine State into pepper region. In 2004-2005, a total of 1,589 acres of land in Thandwe and 4,374 acres in Thandwe have been put under pepper. At present, a total of 20,645.78 acres of land in Thandwe have been put under pepper, while multimedia classrooms are being opened nationwide. Rakhine State is blessed with a wealth of land and water resources favourable for economic boost. What is needed is willingness to work hard. Although it was first targeted to cultivate 1 million acres of paddy in the region, a total of 1.01 million acres could be put under paddy. Hope has also been set to extend the acreage to 1.1 million. To make Rakhine State a pepper region, it is necessary to cultivate pepper with an increase of sown acreage by 300 acres in every township.

In 2004-2005, a total of 1,589 acres of land in Thandwe and 4,374 acres in Thandwe have been put under pepper.

Plans are under way to turn Rakhine State into pepper region in three years by putting 30,000 acres of land under pepper. At present, a total of 20,645.78 acres of land have been put under pepper across Rakhine State.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented prizes to students who won distinctions in the matriculation examination of 2003-2004 academic year. Later, cash were donated to the education trust funds of Taungup. On the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than handed over K 1 million each donated by Rakhine State PDC and Taungup Township Education Development Committee, to Taungup Township EDC Patron Dr San Hlaing.

Teachers who offered their assistance to the education promotion programme were also presented cash awards. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially greeted those present on the occasion. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party stopped over at Taungup for the night.

To develop national education is now evident in every area of the nation. Thanks to these endeavours, development is now evident in all regions including border areas. As regards the health sector, the number of hospitals increased from 617 to 776. As for the education sector, the Government is opening universities and colleges with the aim of developing the human resources. The number of higher learning institutions now stands at 156, up from 32 in the past. As a result, higher education can now be pursued at one's own region. To have school-age children at school, as part of one of the five rural development tasks, the number of schools are being extended, while multimedia classrooms are being opened nationwide.

What is needed is willingness to work hard. Although it was first targeted to cultivate 1 million acres of paddy in the region, a total of 1.01 million acres could be put under paddy. Hope has also been set to extend the acreage to 1.1 million. To make Rakhine State a pepper region, it is necessary to cultivate pepper with an increase of sown acreage by 300 acres in every township.
From 1989 to this date, 54 hospitals, 81 dispensaries, 33 rural health care centres and 56 rural health care branches have been opened in rural areas to provide health care services.

The very first meeting of the Central Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races was held on 30 April 2002, the Head of State gave guidance calling for construction of station hospitals and rural health care centres based on regional requirements.

With the upturn in socio-economic life of people in border areas, some villages have developed significantly like inner cities. Small towns have become cities and possessed characteristics of a city. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Health had opened more hospitals in border regions. It also undertook the tasks for upgrading of existing station hospitals. Apart from the existing hospitals, the border towns in each state and division where hospital construction has been extended are: Langyi, Dokphoneyan, Hopin, Kamong, Pambamid and Hsembo in Kachin State, Ywehii in Kayah State, Thantamaung, Phayathoneu, Kamunaung and Paingkhone in Kayin State, Yezwia and Ji in Chin State, Panghsang, Khampat and Myothi in Sagaing Division, Pyigyimandaw, Khmauskyi, Palauk and Kakhmaw in Taninthayi Division, Lamong in Mon State, Taungyole in Rakhae State, Manhao and Tumoein in Shan State (North), Talay, Tonta and Mongkhote in Shan State (East) and Kayantgrading (Tonhone), Panglong, Mongnhaung, Naunglaya and Indaw in Shan State (South). National brethren living in rural areas can not go only to their regional hospitals and dispensaries but also to 200-bed specialist hospitals in special development regions for medical treatment. The National Health Committee, on its part, has adopted a national health policy on giving priority to both rural and border areas in extending health care services.

Regarding the provision of health care services, preventive measures against common diseases are also being taken besides performing effective treatment. Campaigns are being conducted in villages for malaria control, vaccinations for children, and pre-health care services. In addition, activities of health education, family planning, environmental sanitation and treatment of drug addicts are being provided. Qualified national race girls were given a three-year diploma course in nursing and an 18-month midwifery training course and they were appointed to serve in their regions.

In the early years of border region development works, hospitals and clinics were opened in temporary buildings that we could call merely huts and small houses. Nurses could not be sent to far-flung and inaccessible regions. There were only a doctor in charge, a nurse and a compounding pharmacist. In such a hospital, the doctor himself might be sometimes a nurse, sometimes a dustman, and he had to do all kinds of chores. He also had to encounter language barrier. Some patients were left behind at the hospital and the doctor was asked to prepare for their meals. Doctors and nurses surely had to face poor transportation, the trouble of eating and living in their work and language barrier. However, when they saw the honesty and friendliness of national races who lacked health care for many years, they felt that their difficulties encountered would relieve and alleviate. They provided health care services out of goodwill. In some cases, some doctors and nurses were inflicted with some disease and died while they were performing their assigned duties. Those included in such death cases are Dr Than Aung of Winnaung Hospital, Dr Tin Htut Win of Hsawtoe Hospital, Dr Aye Ko and Dr Win Hlaing of Pangsang Hospital, Dr Myo Min of Mongnmao Hospital, Dr Kyaw Kyaw Aung of Haason Hospital and Dr Nyi Nyi Tin of Nakham Hospital.

Lack of regional peace and poor transport were the root cause of the obstacle of health sector in border regions. At that time, national races living in the border areas mainly relied on their traditional medicine and opium for their health.

But, nowadays, border regions are enjoying peace and tranquility, the thing they never achieved in the past. The projects of border areas and national race development, 24 special development regions and rural development tasks are helping enhance the health sector across the nation including border areas.

**Peaceful and tranquil border regions**

Myint Soe (Natala)

**Efficient use of electricity**

* 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.
Members of MPF are to protect the people
YANGON Division Police Force holds coordination meeting

YANGON, 20 Sept — Yangon Division Police Force held a coordination meeting at its meeting hall on Bank Road, Kyauktada Township this morning, with an address delivered by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt- Col Myint Kyi and members, Police Col Aung Daing of Yangon Division Myanmar Police Force, heads of department at division level, local authorities and township police officers.

First, Maj-Gen Myint Swe made a speech on the occasion. In his speech he said the Head of State instructed police officers to transform the police force into a reserve force of the State’s defence, to become the police force on which the public rely and the systematic one as well because Myanmar Police Force is a main institute which takes up responsibility for community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order. The police officers are to build security, stability and prevalence of law and order for development of the State. The policemen are to protect the people enabling them to earn their livings with peace of mind, to combat the danger of narcotic drugs and trafficking in persons. The policemen in Yangon Division are to lay emphasis on crime prevention in Yangon City.

Next, Police Col Aung Daing of Yangon Division MPF explained clarification of Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council, Chairman of Myanmar Police Force Administrative Reform Committee, guidance given by the Minister and the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Commander of Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Police Force.

Donations invited for Buddhist Missionary Monastery in Paris

YANGON, 20 Sept — Under the organization of Sayadaw Kyunmata Ashin Nandasiri (Dip in French, Paris), residing in Paris, wellwishers in the nation are presenting donations to build a Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery in Paris. A committee to build the monastery has been formed with 15 members and two advisers. The committee has opened its office at 49/51 Abhidhamma Dhamma Beikman on Bahan Road in Bahan Township, Yangon. A number of bodies and individuals that were collecting cash from wellwishers under the request of the Sayadaw, before the advent of the committee, may contact the committee to substitute their papers with the new ones issued by the committee. They are requested to present the collected cash together with the financial accounts to the committee not later than 30 September 2004. Only then will the committee be able to do its functions well in accord with the rules and issue its reports. Wellwishers are urged to make donations for emergence of the first Buddhist monastery in France, a country in West Europe.

If the wellwishers are not able to come to the committee office, the committee members will conduct door-to-door services to collect donations for the monastery. Contact Ph Nos: 09-80-32692 (the Abhidhamma Beikman); 09-9921198, U Shein Win, chairman; 09-8022716, Daw Theingi Win, vice-chairperson, 525150, U Khin Maung Aye, vice-chairman; 09-502983, U Min Lwin, general secretary; 09-80- 12996, U Thein Hlaik Oo, secretary; 09-50-10427, U Htay Myint, treasurer. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Health arrives back from India

YANGON, 20 Sept — Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo attended the Regional Ministerial Consultation on Maternal and Child Nutrition in Asian Countries jointly sponsored by World Food Programme and the Indian government held in New Delhi from 15 to 17 September.

At the meeting maternal and child nutrition in Asia, relation between reduction of poverty and nutrition development, food sufficiency and development of maternal and child care and health services, intergenerational cycle of malnutrition and cooperation with countries in Asia for nutrition were discussed.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo said malnutrition is the cause of poverty and lack of health knowledge. Poverty is a consequence of the worst suffering and loss of life for the people of the world. He spoke on active participation of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association in nutrition development activities and cooperation with WHO, UNICEF and NGOs from home and abroad.

The closing ceremony of the meeting was held at Ashok Hotel. Union Minister of Human Resource Development of India Shri Arjun Singh spoke on the occasion. The Delhi Declaration on Maternal and Child Nutrition in Asia was released.

The delegation arrived back here on 18 September. — MNA

President of Insein Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Tin Kyi presents a prize to Secretary of Taungthu Warden MCWA Daw Mi Mi Yi at annual meeting and prize presentation ceremony of Essay competition for Breast Feeding held on 20 September at the building of Insein Township MCWA. — MNA
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (139)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (139) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.9.2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MES ADVANCE CONTAINER

Phone No: 256908/278316/276797

AIDS is a national concern.
Hurricane “Ivan” blamed for at least 42 deaths in US

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept — Hurricane Ivan were blamed for the deaths of at least 42 people in the United States since the hurricane began to hit southern states of the country early Thursday toppling trees, destroying homes and leaving hundreds of thousands without power, news reports said on Saturday.

In Florida, which was hard hit by Hurricanes Charley and Frances last month and last September, 16 people died in the hurricane. Ivan, the deadliest hurricane since 1999, when Floyd killed 56 people in United States, was also blamed for 70 deaths in the Caribbean. More than 1.8 million people were made without power in nine states, and basic necessities were in such short supply in the Panhandle of the southeastern state of Florida that National Guard soldiers were marshalled to hand out food and water.

By Saturday morning, more than one million people remained without power across eight states. In Florida, over 340,000 homes and businesses were without power, and officials said it would take weeks for power, sewer and water services to be restored in parts of the Panhandle.

In Alabama, about 660,000 homes and businesses remained without power Friday, down from the state record of 1.1 million power outages reported after the hurricane slammed the state Thursday.

Insurance experts estimated Ivan’s damage at anywhere from 3 billion to 10 billion US dollars, compared with combined estimated insured damages between about 11 billion and 13 billion dollars caused by Charley and Frances.

On Saturday, heavy rains were reported across eastern states of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York, where tens of thousands of customers were blacked out during the hurricane.

Ivan was downgraded to a tropical depression by the time it reached North Carolina late Thursday, before it swept through Virginia, West Virginia and the time it reached North Carolina late Thursday, were blacked out during the hurricane.

The “Ivan Country Report” by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said data collected by the government showed that the probable source of HIV infection in 86 per cent of new cases was through unprotected heterosexual sex, mainly among young people and adolescents. The report, seen by Reuters on Saturday, paints an alarming picture of the lack of knowledge about how to protect oneself from the virus.
Real beaten 1-0 by Espanyol

MADRID, 19 Sept—Espanyol beat a chaotic Real Madrid side 1-0 in Barcelona on Saturday to move top in Spain and inflict further misery on the nine-times European champions.

Three days after a humiliating 3-0 defeat by Bayer Leverkusen, Real lost to a 42nd minute goal from Maxi Rodriguez. They missed the chance to equalize early in the second half when Ronaldo won a penalty on a run into the box but then saw his spot-kick turned away by Carlos Kameni.

By half-time, Inter's Brazilian striker Ronaldo was already ruled offside and he now had three Inter defenders and produced some superb skill on the right when he fired high over the bar from a done much better in the 65th minute. Matteo Guardalben stopped him from a close again in the 58th minute when Ronaldo was sent off after 74 minutes for a second yellow card.

Real, also missing Zinedine Zidane and Luis Figo through injury and with Raúl and David Beckham dropped from the starting line-up, fought on bravely but finished with nine players when Michel Salgado was sent off in injury-time.

Arsenal drop first points of season

LONDON, 19 Sept—Champions Arsenal dropped their first points of the season when a late Henrik Pedersen equalizer earned Bolton Wanderers a 2-2 draw at Highbury on Saturday.

The Danish substitute poked the ball home after 85 minutes to deny Arsene Wenger's team their sixth win in six Premier League games.

Arsenal, who nonetheless extended their unbeaten record to 46 league matches, led through a first-half effort by Thierry Henry. Tunisian defender Radhi Jaidi levelled with a header on the hour but Robert Pires quickly put Arsen- nal back in front.

The draw meant Arsenal have 16 points, three clear of second-placed Chelsea who entertain Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday. Improved Bolton are third on 11.

Only two fine interceptions by Jaidi prevented the visitors falling behind before Henry ruthlessly dispatched his fifth league goal of the season in the 31st minute.

Displaying instant control, the Frenchman exchanged passes with Patrick Vieira and his angled, left-footed finish rendered Bolton keeper Jussi Jaaskelainen a spectator.

Bolton, who looked unlikely to equalize until Arsenal keeper Jens Lehmann flapped weakly at a 63rd-minute corner and Jaidi headed in his first goal in English football.

The Highbury home fans were silent for three minutes. Ljungberg deftly slipped his marker on the right and crossed for Pires who scuffed the ball fortuitously past Jaaskelainen.

Bolton refused to buckle and when Le Ferdinand flicked on a long clear- ing, fellow substitute Pedersen showed fine opportunism to beat Lehmann and earn a superb stoppage-time.

Inter held 1-1 to promoted Palermo

MILAN, 19 Sept—Inter Milan were held to a 1-1 draw at home to promoted Palermo on Saturday after Luca Toni cancelled out Adriano's opener for Inter at the San Siro Stadium.

The result was Inter's second successive draw in Serie A this season but proof that Palermo, back in the top flight after a 31-year absence, are a side to be taken seriously.

Italian international Toni had a goal harshly ruled out for offside in the 17th minute of a disappointing first half but the game came alive straight after the break.

From the kick-off Inter's Brazilian fullback Ze Maria burst down right flank and picked out his compatriot Adriano who firmly headed home at the back post.

The goal maintained Adriano's record of scoring in all five competitive games this season at home and away and was his seventh of the campaign so far after his double against Werder Bremen in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Adriano's strength and skill proved hard for Palermo to contain and he went wide again in the 58th minute when only a fine save from Palermo keeper Matteo Guardalben stopped him from a second.

Palermo never stopped working and created and Mario Santoro should have done much better in the 65th minute when he fired high over the bar from a promising position.

Two minutes later though Palermo drew level when winger Lamberto Zauli produced some superb skill on the right flank to lose three Inter defenders and slip the ball into the path of Toni who poked home from close range.

Last gasp goals earn Bayern Munich dramatic 2-2 draw

BERLIN, 19 Sept—Last gasp goals from Brazilian defender Lucio and Dutch striker Roy Makaay earned Bayern Munich a dramatic 2-2 draw at Borussia Dortmund on Saturday.

A headed goal from Lucio in the 88th minute was followed by another from Makaay two minutes into extra time to leave a shocked Dortmund ruing a lost opportunity to beat their rivals from the south.

A superb strike from Dortmund's Robert Huth in the 44th minute, past Oliver Kahn in the 44th minute, left Bayern down by two goals before running through the Bayern defence and slotting past Oliver Kahn in the 44th minute, underlined Dortmund's superiority over a weak Bayern for most of the match.

The Brazilian followed up with a second-half penalty after Bayern de- fender Thomas Linke brought down Czech Republic striker Jan Koller in the penalty area.

But in the 88th minute, Lucio grew stronger towards the closing moments and Lucio's clenched fist salute after his goal showed that Munich were not prepared to accept defeat. Makaay's strike rubbed in the kerchief.

“I thought we could have played more calmly after the 2-0 and waited for the break but Bayern kept getting stronger,” Dortmund coach Bert van Marwijk said after the match.

Inter Milan's Dutch midfielder Edgar Davids jumps with the ball over Palermo's Argentine midfielder Mario Alberto Santoro during their Serie A football match at San Siro Stadium. —INTERNET

Inter thereafter moved forward in a bid to regain their lead when substitutes Obafemi Martins was hauled down by Palermo defender Giuseppe Biava as he raced goalwards, the visitors were reduced to 10 men.

With five minutes left, Adriano unleashed a thundering drive from more than 20 metres out which crashed out off the cross-bar but Inter were almost caught out in the final moments when their keeper Francesco Toldo did well to foil Adriano from a close-range.

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Shwepyitha Industrial Zone In-Charge inspects production of industries in zone

YANGON, 20 Sept—In-charge of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsain went on an inspection tour of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone this afternoon and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at automobile manufacturing workshop at Sawbwaygyon crossings in Insein, which is Myanmar Sandha General Trading Cooperative Co Ltd, the minister gave reports on the purpose and functions of the cooperative society, modal scales of trucks and buses to be manufactured and procedures, machines and parts to be used in manufacturing of automobiles with the use of charts presented by U Thein Zaw of Myanmar Sandha General Trading Cooperatives Co Ltd. In response to the reports, the minister gave instructions to the leaders of the cooperative society to be widely carried out for production of trucks and buses-CNG driven and installation which is capable of driving not only with petrol but also with CNG in accord with the guidance given by the Head of State. Next, the minister viewed production of assembled parts and frames, installation with engines and suspension, manufacturing of 1.5-ton Lite Truck CNG 3V and CNG (Kits).

After that, the minister and party went to Super Lamp Factory of Myanmar Lighting Manufacturing Co Ltd and inspected samples of 2-foot and 4-foot fluorescent lamps of 20 watts and 40 watts with the brand Super Lamp, Sorong fluorescent lamps and Cyclone brand electric fans.

At the meeting hall of the factory, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsain met the managing director of the company and staff. He said with the industrial development of the nation, electric power and use of electricity are increasing. It is needed for Super Lamp Co to manufacture all local-made electric goods and distribute them in place of imported items. Innovative measures are to be taken for exporting of quality electric goods. Next, the minister called for formation of a research group at the factory to boost the quality of products.

Innovative measures are to be taken for exporting of quality electric goods. The minister called for formation of a research group at the factory to boost the quality of products.

YANGON, 20 Sept—With the sponsorship of the Spacecraft Building and Space Observation Agency of Japan, mobile training course on geographical data and observatory system for management of catchment area was jointly organized by Forest Department of the Ministry of Forestry, GIS Application Centre (GAC) of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) of Thailand and Suntac Technology Co Ltd, concluded at the Forest Department (Head Office) on Bayintnaung Road, West Gygong, Insein Township, this afternoon. It was attended by officials of the Ministry of Forestry and other ministries, experts, trainees and others.

Director of GAC Dr Lai Samarakoon made a speech on the occasion. Next, Director-General of FEI U Soe Win Hlaing presented completion certificates to the trainees and a trainee expressed thanks.

Next, the director-general presented gifts to experts of GAC. The ceremony ended with the concluding remarks by the director-general.—MNA

Mobile training course on geographical data and observatory system for management of catchment area concludes

WEATHER

Rainfall on 20-9-2004

— (0.35) inch at Yangon Airport, nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon.
— Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was
— 109.37 inches at Yangon Airport, 104.13 inches at Kaba-Aye and
— 105.94 inches at central Yangon.

Rainfall on 20-9-2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and Ayeyawady Division, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kachin, Mon and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Yangon Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Kachin State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Patao (3.62) inches, Machanbaw (3.39) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.28) inches and Kawthoung (1.65) inches.

Maximum temperature on 19-9-2004 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 20-9-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 20-9-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 19-9-2004 was 8.5 hrs. Rainfall on 20-9-2004 was (0.35) inch at Yangon Airport, nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 109.37 inches at Yangon Airport, 104.13 inches at Kaba-Aye and 105.94 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from South at 16:10 hours MST on 19-9-2004.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is weak elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 21-9-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, and rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Division, isolated in Chin, Shan and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Mandalay Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of thundery conditions in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-9-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-9-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Flood Bulletin

Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 20-9-2004

The water level of Ayeyawady River at Pyay is (16) cm (about half ft) above the danger level at (06:30) hrs MST today. Although the water level may continue to rise (30) cm (about 1 ft) it is forecast to fall below its danger level within the next (3) days.

The water level of Doktawady River at Myitngyi is (145) cm (about 5 ft) above the danger level at (06:30) hrs MST today. The water level may remain above the danger level within the next (5) days.
What is needed is willingness to work hard.
Regional development measures inspected in Rakhine State.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivers a speech at the meeting with departmental officials and town elders in Taungup Township. — MNA

The State, on its part, is taking measures for development of rural areas.

Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman and Chairmen of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tin, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Htin Aung Kyaw and their wives, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Maj-Gen Aung Than, Brig-Gen Than Aung, Brig-Gen Khin Aung and their wives, senior military officers, and Military Attaché Colonel Jasvinder Singh Chopra of the Embassy of India and wife. Before and during the dinner, entertainment programmes were presented by artists of the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture. — 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 per cent and is environment-friendly.
- Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.

Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Col Myint Soe of Taungup and officials, inspected the construction of Ma-ei police station in Ma-ei on 17 September morning. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than went to Ma-ei Basic Education High School, where he met with departmental staff, members of social organizations and town elders and spoke on the occasion. At the get-together, officials reported on measures being taken for activities of breeding. In his speech, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said the region with numerous rivers and creeks was difficult of access in the past, but now its transport network has been improved by the construction of four bridges including Ma-ei Bridge.

(See page 9)