Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Indian goodwill delegation

YANGON, 21 Sept — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Indian goodwill delegation led by Lt-Gen JS Varma PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Commander of the Eastern Command of the Indian Armed Forces at Zeyathiri Beikman, Komnyinthla here this morning.

Present at the call together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and Military Attaché Col Jasvinder Singh Chopra were also present together with the Indian goodwill delegation.

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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets Lt-Gen JS Varma PVSM, AVSM, ADC. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Lt-Gen JS Varma PVSM, AVSM, ADC and party. — MNA

YANGON, 21 Sept — The visiting Indian goodwill delegation led by Lt-Gen JS Varma PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Commander of the Eastern Command of the Indian Armed Forces and wife together with Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and Military Attaché Col Jasvinder Singh Chopra visited downtown Yangon this morning.

First, the Indian goodwill delegation arrived at Shwedagon Pagoda at 7.15 am, where they were welcomed by members of pagoda board of trustees, who explained background history of the pagoda.

Next, the delegation offered flowers and light at the prayer hall near southern archway. The Indian commander and wife signed in the visitors’ book and made cash donation. They visited the King Zafar Shah’s Tomb on Ziawaka Road, Dagon and paid tribute to it. Afterwards, the Indian goodwill delegation proceeded to Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road at 11 am, where they were welcomed by Major Kyaw Kyaw Myint and officials of Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute. The officials conducted the Indian delegation round the museum. — MNA

Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium in October

YANGON, 21 Sept — The Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2004 will be held from 27 October to 4 November at Myanmar Gems Mart. Local entrepreneurs who are undertaking exploration and trading of gems under the Myanmar Gems Law will be permitted to attend the emporium in accordance with the prescribed rules and regulations.

Arrangements are under way for local entrepreneurs to open jewellery and gem sale counters on ground floor of the Mart during the emporium. Those wishing to attend the emporium or to open sale counters may contact the management sub-committee office and gem market supervisory committee beginning 30 September.

MNA

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

Wednesday, 22 September, 2004

Strive for ensuring community peace and tranquillity

Security, stability, community peace and tranquillity are essential to a nation. The Government has given first priority to ensuring community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order in rebuilding the nation.

In the past, border areas lagged behind in development in the absence of security, peace and tranquillity. To fulfil this requirement, the Tatmadaw Government, based on mutual trust and understanding, has laid down and is implementing projects for development of border areas and national races. Nowadays, significant progress has been made in border areas owing to prevalence of law and order there.

Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the work coordination meeting of General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2004 held at the ministry on 20 September and addressed the meeting. In his address, Lt-Gen Thein Sein said the Government gave first priority to security, stability, prevalence of law and order and community peace and tranquillity. Now there is stability and community peace and tranquillity in the country but there are internal and external destructive elements who want to undermine the better conditions. We are to be aware of such elements and to prevent the danger, he added.

The government has been making all-out efforts day in, day out for national development. As a result, marked progress has been made in the nation, while peace and tranquillity prevails in border areas. With development in all parts of the Union, administrative system is being implemented fully to carry out regional administrative, economic and social matters effectively along 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 and comfortably in the country. In addition, emphasis is to be placed on further cementing national solidarity based on Union Spirit for perpetuation of the Union.

Only when internal and external destructive elements who want to undermine the better conditions can be wiped out will the national development tasks be fully carried out. Therefore, we would like to urge the entire national people to strive together with the authorities concerned for successful realization of national-building endeavours while making efforts for ensuring community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order all the more in the interest of the nation.

Upgrading and sanitation tasks of Yangon City inspected

YANGON, 21 Sept — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Major Gen Myint Soe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected upgrading and sanitation tasks of roads and sanitation tasks in the capital.

On arrival at the junction of Pyay Road and Parami Road in Hlaine Township, they were welcomed by officials. Next they inspected repaving of pedestrian lanes. In front of Myakynuthna Park on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township, the commander and the mayor looked into paving of pedestrian lane, 188 feet long and 8 feet wide and 23882 square feet parking space which can hold 60 cars. Officials conducted them round there. The commander, the mayor and party inspected the park and officials reported on upgrading tasks being carried out in the park, preparations for rest and recreation of the public and future tasks. The commander then gave necessary instructions to officials and fulfilled the requirements.

The commander and the mayor inspected the task of repaving of pedestrian lanes at the corner of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Dhammazedi Road and in front of Myepadatha Park on Natmauk Road in Bahan Township and growing of trees on traffic islands on Natmauk Road.

The commander and the mayor told officials that sanitation works and upgrading tasks are being carried out with added momentum to make the Yangon City possess its characteristics.

So, the public, for their part, are urged to abide by the rules and regulations laid down by the YCDC.

MNA

Seminar and Exhibition on Thai Education to be organized in Myanmar

YANGON, 21 Sept — To promote academic cooperation between higher education institutions in Myanmar and Thailand, the Commission on Higher Education of Thai Government and Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon cooperate with Myanmar Ministry of Education to organize the first Seminar and Exhibition on Thai Education and that was briefed at a press conference held at the Sedona Hotel, here, this morning.

Thai Commission on Higher Education Secretary General Associate Professor Dr Pavich Thongroch explained that the overall objective of the Seminar and Exhibition, which will be held at Sedona Hotel on 25 and 26 September, is to encourage more Myanmar-Thailand academic cooperation particularly on higher education and said that the three main activities of the event are academic seminars, exhibition on Thai education and study visit to Myanmar universities.

The Seminar will touch on academic cooperation on joint curriculum development, quality issue on higher education, delivery of teaching and learning, training in industries. Altogether 31 Thai higher institutions, agencies and associations will participate in the high light of the event, exhibition. Moreover, international organizations such as ASEAN University Network will also join the fair.

Rajabhat Universities and Rajamangala Institute of Technology will introduce technical and vocational education. The Myanmar Ministry of Education will also exhibit the education in Myanmar. Academics are encouraged to visit the Seminar and Exhibition to discuss opportunity for establishment of linkage and networking with Thai institutions for further cooperation.

The press conference was attended by Director (News) U Win Tin of NPE, Editors-in-Chief, Rector Dr Soe Yin of Yangon University, Rector Dr Kan Zaw of Yangon Institute of Economics, Dr Soe Win of University of Foreign Languages, Chargé d’Affaires Mr Opas Chantarasap of Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon, Secretary General of Commission on Higher Education Associate Prof Dr Pavich Thongroch, Commercial Counsellor of Royal Thai Embassy Mr Matyawongse Amatayakul, President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Soe Kae Bpa and reporters from foreign presses.

Contact address for enrollment and inquiries for the event is TTF (Yangon) Co Ltd, No-96, Bogalay Zay Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Tel-294006, 245137, 245138.

MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Myint Soe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect upgrading of Natmauk Street in Bahan Township. — YANGON COMMAND

Mr Pavich Thongroch speaks at the press conference. — MNA

Executive U Win Naing of Myanmar Industrialists’ Association seen at the airport before his departure for Japan to attend the Young Leader’s Programme at Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, Japan. — OMFCI
Kerry accuses Bush of incompetence on Iraq

NEW YORK, 20 Sept—Staking out new ground on Iraq, Senator John Kerry said Monday he would not have overthrown Saddam Hussein had he been in the White House, and he accused President Bush of “stubborn incompetence,” dishonesty and colossal failures of judgment. Bush said Kerry was flip-flopping.

Less than two years after voting to give Bush authority to invade Iraq, the Democratic candidate said the president had misused that power by rushing to war without the backing of allies, a post-war plan or proper equipment for US troops. “None of which I would have done,” Kerry said.

“Saddam Hussein was a brutal dictator who deserves his own special place in hell,” he added.

But that was not, in itself, a reason to go to war. The satisfaction we take in his downfall does not hide this fact: We have traded a dictator for a chaos that has left America less secure.”

Bush hit back from a campaign rally in New Hampshire, interpreting Kerry’s comment to mean the Democrat believes US security would be better with Saddam still in power. “He’s saying he prefers the stability of a dictatorship to the hope and security of democracy,” the Republican incumbent said.

“Today, my opponent continued his pattern of twisting in the wind,” Bush said. “He apparently woke up this morning and has now decided, No, we should not have invaded Iraq, after just last month saying he would have voted for force even knowing everything we know today.”

Both candidates addressed partisan crowds, drawing cheers and boos as they stretched each other’s records and rhetoric — mixing facts with political creativity toward the same goal: raising doubts about the other man’s credibility.

Kerry called on Bush to do a much better job rallying allies, training Iraqi security forces, hastening reconstruction plans and ensuring that elections are conducted on time. But his speech was thin on details, with Kerry saying Bush’s miscalculations had made solutions harder to come by.

Pentagon admits shortfalls in training Iraqi forces

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept—The Pentagon acknowledged on Monday broad shortfalls in the US training and equipping of Iraqi security forces, but said a majority of Iraq will be under the control of these forces by the end of December.

Compared to the total deemed necessary for these forces by the Pentagon and the interim government of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, only 41 percent of weapons were on hand, as well as 25 percent of vehicles, 18 percent of communications equipment and 28 percent of body armour, according to the figures. At a hastily called briefing for reporters, Sharp did not directly answer questions when asked how many Iraqi security personnel were trained.

“Define what you mean by fully trained. And I don’t mean to be smug about this,” Sharp told reporters. “We are now on the path of getting manned, trained and equipped Iraqi security forces into the field as quickly as possible,” Sharp added.

Sharp also said Allawi and US military leaders have increased the number of US-trained police personnel to be created from 90,000 to 135,000 and the number of border control personnel from 16,000 to 32,000, as well as increasing the total for the Iraqi national guard.

India to participate in South Africa defence expo

NEW DELHI, 20 Sept — India will participate in the Defence Expo and African Air Show at Pretoria in South Africa next week with high-level team led by Minister of State for Defence BK Handique, the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reported on Saturday.

The Ordnance Factory Board and the Defence Research and Development Organization will participate in the expo. IANS quoted a Defence Ministry spokesperson as saying, India will display the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, developed jointly with Russia, at the exhibition.

A local resident looks at the site of a US airstrike in Fallujah, Iraq, on 20 Sept 2004. — Internet

Beheaded American’s body found in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept—Iraqi police discovered the decapitated body of Eugene “Jack” Armstrong near a mosque in Baghdad, US officials said, after a video posted on a radical Islamic website claimed to show his captors beheading him in Iraq.

“This decapitated body was found,” said an official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. “It is confirmed it is him.”

A senior US defence official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said Iraqi police discovered the body at around 1500 GMT near a mosque in Baghdad. “The body is in US custody,” the defence official said.

The video showed five masked gunmen beheading Armstrong before placing his severed head on his back. The website said the gunmen were from the Tawhid wal Jihad (Unity and Holy War) group of Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi, an Islamic militant. Armstrong, along with British engineer Kenneth Bigley and American Jack Hensley, were abducted Thursday from their Baghdad home and threatened with execution unless Iraqi prisoners were released from prison.

The executioner read out a long statement immediately before the killing, threatening to take the life of another hostage in 24 hours if London and Washington continued to ignore demands for the release of Iraqi prisoners in coalition custody.

China’s foreign trade to reach $1t in 2004

BEIJING, 20 Sept — China’s imports and exports will reach 1.000billion US dollars in 2004, said Bo Xilai, China’s Minister of Commerce here on Sunday.

He made the remarks at the WICO (World Industrial and Commercial Organizations)-Summit that opened on Sunday. The summit focuses on protecting cooperation in international industrial and commercial circles.

In 2003, the total import and export volume of China reached $850 billion US dollars, the 4th largest worldwide. From January to July this year, the total amount of imports and exports of China reached 623.1 billion dollars, a growth of 38 percent over last year.

“With the current development trend, it is estimated that the imports and exports of this year will be over 1,000 billion dollars,” Bo said. China needs to import large amounts of goods to satisfy a growing domestic demand, he said.

In the past 25 years, the growth rate of goods imported to China was 15 percent, 10 percent higher than the average worldwide. With 410 billion dollars of imports worldwide, China is the third largest importing country after the United States and Germany.

Imports will amount to 500 billion dollars this year, and in 2010, to 1,000 billion dollars, Bo said.

Many foreign enterprises have benefited from China’s growing demand of imports, Bo said.

“China, in line with the principle of generally balancing imports and exports, will continuously expand imports,” he said.

According to Bo, China will provide high quality and inexpensive goods to the international market. Meanwhile, China will continue to import large amounts of equipment and advanced technology, products of high and new technology, raw materials, and competitive consumables.
Islamic militants behead US hostage in Iraq

Baghdad, 20 Sept — Islamic militants beheaded a US citizen in Iraq, while the lives of his two British and American colleagues were in grave danger after a 48-hour deadline to save them expired.

Hopes were dashed for Eugene “Jack” Armstrong, one of three foreign contractors grabbed at gunpoint from his home in an upscale Baghdad neighborhood last Thursday.

Footage of Armstrong’s execution posted on an Islamic website in the name of Tawhid wal Jihad (Unity and Holy War) — the group run by suspected al-Qaeda operative Abu Mussul al-Zarqawi — was a grim reminder of the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Iraq.

A US official in Washington said that Armstrong’s decapitated body has been found and positively identified. The graphic videotape showed five masked gunmen decapitate Armstrong before placing his severed head on his back in the latest demonstration of rage by Zarqawi’s movement, which has claimed multiple car bombings and assassinations in the last four months.

The executioner threatened to kill another hostage — either British engineer Kenneth Bigley or fellow American Jack Hensley — in 24 hours if London and Washington persisted in ignoring the demands for the release of Iraqi women prisoners in coalition custody.

In a long statement the executioner read out he denounced “the American occupier ... who is carrying out butchery in Iraq, without discriminating between the infant and the old man, between men and women,” and demanded all women prisoners in Iraq be freed.

Armstrong was the second American beheaded in Iraq after 26-year-old Jewish businessman Nicholas Berg was beheaded in May by Zarqawi’s faction. He counted among at least 27 foreign hostages murdered in Iraq since April. He was the second official of the faction’s former military wing to be killed in a week.

Critics of Bush’s policy focus on fighting poverty at UN meeting

United Nations, 21 Sept — On the eve of US President George W Bush’s address to the United Nations, foreign critics of his Iraq war policy focused on a radically different international agenda on Monday.

Dozens of leaders from countries that mostly opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq, including President Jacques Chirac of France, attended a conference at UN headquarters on how to combat the dark side of globalization by fighting poverty.

Rebuilding Iraq, fighting terrorism and halting the spread of weapons of mass destruction — Bush’s agenda for the international community — barely rated a mention at that conference, whose theme was combating global injustice.

“How many more times will it be necessary to repeat that the most destructive weapon of mass destruction in the world today is poverty?” Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva asked the assembled leaders.

The leaders of France, Brazil, Chile and Spain clashed with US Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman over proposals to tax arms sales or international financial transactions to raise new resources to fund development.

“However strong the Americans may be, you cannot durably oppose an idea that is backed by 100 countries and probably by 150. You can’t victoriously and durably oppose such a movement,” Chirac told a final news conference.

Chirac, who planned to leave New York before Bush speaks to the UN General Assembly, avoiding any contact with the US President, used the platform to denounce what he depicted as the evils of unbridled capitalism.

“There is no future in globalization that tolerates predatory behaviour and the hoarding of its profits by a minority,” he declared.

Asked whether he might be more willing to help a victorious Kerry in the US than he had been to help Bush, Chirac said: “France’s policy towards Iraq has not changed and won’t be changing.”

Chirac and Lula embraced a range of proposals for new funding mechanisms for development assistance but avoided too many specifics, saying their aim was to start a debate and create an unstoppable momentum.

Ten US-Turkish company workers kidnapped in Iraq

Ankara, 20 Sept — An Iraqi militant group has abducted 10 people working for a US-Turkish firm and threatened to kill them within three days if the firm does not pull out from Iraq. Turkish private NTV reported on Saturday.

The report said Al-Jazeera television had shown a videotape issued by the Abu Bakr al-Seddig Battalions showing 10 men sitting on the ground and holding up their identification papers in front of masked armed captors.

On Friday, Iraqi militants kidnapped three Turkish truck drivers in Dujail District in the north of Baghdad.

The armed Iraqi men abducted the three Turkish drivers on the way to the city of Tikrit and the names of the kidnapped Turkish drivers have not been identified.

1,032 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

Baghdad, 21 Sept — As of Monday, 20 Sept, 2004, 1,032 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 782 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, 15; 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 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 894 US military members have died — 673 as a result of hostile action and 221 of non-hostile causes, according to the military’s numbers Monday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

— Guerrillas attacked a US patrol with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades Monday near Shargat, killing an American soldier, the military said.

— The latest identifying reported by the military:

— Marine Lance Cpl Gregory C Howman, 28, Charlotte, NC; died Wednesday in Anbar Province, Iraq; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

CRI awards prize to Nepali contest winners

Kathmandu, 20 Sept — A delegation of China Radio International (CRI) distributed prize here Saturday to the Nepali winners of “the Western Nepal Radio Station.”

Radio station.

Addressing the prize distribution ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Sun Heping said, “Since the CRI began its Nepali language broadcasting in 1975, the programme has won more and more Nepali friends’ favours, made great contributions for enhancing the understanding and friendship between the two peoples, and constructed a broad and friendly bridge across the two countries.” — MNA/Reuters

Internet

Local children check out a crater caused by a roadside bomb in Haifa Street, Baghdad, Iraq, on 20 Sept, 2004. No one was reported injured in the explosion. — MNA/Reuters

Internet
Stagnant eco, lack of jobs feeding instability in Iraq

LONDON, 21 Sept — Iraq’s stagnant economy and lack of employment opportunities are feeding instability in the violence-torn country, hindering prospects for prosperity, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said on Monday.

Writing in Britain’s Independent newspaper he said international donors must honour their aid pledges and Iraq’s foreign debt should be forgiven as a means to kick-start growth.

“The economic and security situations are intertwined: without peace and security there can be no sustainable reconstruction ... yet what is feeding the instability and chaos is the lack of jobs and economic opportunity,” Allawi said.

Foreign help was also needed to improve security in Iraq where hundreds of people have been killed in violence in the last two weeks.

In Britain for talks with Prime Minister Tony Blair, Allawi wrote in the newspaper that the vast majority of Iraq’s foreign debt had been built-up by military spending sprees and would have to be waived if the country is to succeed.

“Iraq’s inherited national debt level is the highest in the world as a percentage of GDP and of exports, and to service it would be unsustainable for its fragile, fledgling market economy,” he wrote.

International negotiations on debt relief are currently in deadlock because lenders cannot agree how much of the estimated 120 billion US dollars should be waived.

On the security front, Allawi said the interim government intended to re-establish control over the whole country. He said that while steps were being taken to strengthen the security forces, help from NATO and the EU was still needed in terms of “expertise, training and equipment”.

“Allawi said the economic priorities were to “tackle joblessness, rebuild the national infrastructure and restore basic services and rapidly boost oil production”.

Key to achieving these goals would be the “swift and efficient disbursement of pledged reconstruction funds”.

Allawi said that less than 5 per cent of the 18 billion US dollars pledged by the US and the 13 billion US dollars promised by other countries had been received and disbursed.

He said a secure and economically viable Iraq was needed in order to ensure “forces of global terrorism” do not use the country to destabilize the region.

17,193 Iraqis killed or wounded in six months

BAGHDAD, 21 Sept — An Iraqi Health Ministry source said altogether 17,193 Iraqis were killed or wounded in the past six months across the country, Al Nahdha newspaper reported on Sunday. A total of 3,511 Iraqis were killed and 13,682 others wounded, the source said.

The victims included 175 women and 146 children, and the wounded included 617 women and 429 children, the source added.

France preparing for a long wait for its journalists’ release

PARIS, 21 Sept — France is preparing for a long wait for the release of two French journalists held hostage in Iraq for the past month, Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin said in comments published on Monday.

His remarks highlighted growing concern over the hostages’ fate following the relative optimism of initial government statements issued after a militant group seized Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot on August 20.

“There was a first phase in which we wanted to believe that our action could rapidly bring results,” Villepin told the Republicain Lorraine newspaper in an interview.

“Today we are in a new phase where we have to know how to act with the long-term in mind to give them the greatest chance of being freed.”

French officials say the government has had no direct contact with the kidnappers.

“All the indications seem to confirm that the hostages are alive. But we are in an extremely difficult situation because of the internal situation in Iraq, where chaos is increasing,” Villepin said.

The kidnappings have shocked France, which opposed the US-led war in Iraq and has no troops there.

A trip to the region by Foreign Minister Michel Barnier won support from Arab and Muslim leaders and initially fuelled hopes — later dashed — that the hostages would be freed quickly.

The kidnappers, calling themselves the Islamic Army in Iraq, demanded France revoke a law banning the Muslim veil in state schools, France refused, and the law went into force this month.

The group has released footage of the two journalists only once — shortly after their abduction.

The French Government has been trying to verify the authenticity of several statements posted on Islamist websites, purportedly from the same group. One site said on Saturday it had received a message saying the group had conditionally agreed to free two men.

Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said on Sunday the message may be serious. “So we are slightly optimistic but we must of course remain cautious,” he said.

Militants have seized scores of foreign hostages in Iraq since April, including two Italian women aid workers, two Americans and one Briton. At least 26 hostages have been killed.

Safe water coverage increases in Uganda

KAMPALA, 21 Sept — Ugandan Minister of Water, Lands and Environment Kahinda Otafiire has said that safe water coverage has improved from 26 per cent in 1986 to 57 per cent now, reported local Press on Monday.

Otafiire made the remarks when launching a 4.8-million-US-dollar rural water and sanitation project phase II at Kagasa in Masaka District, southern Uganda. At least 120 bore holes fitted with hand pumps will be dug in three districts, according to the project phase II.

Otafiire said for a long time people, especially in rural areas, had shared water with animals and frogs and had to carry it from long distances to their homes.

He said the government has put in place long term strategies to ensure that people stop sharing water with frogs and cattle, by extending safe water to rural areas.— MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait Finance House applies for industrial project in Bahrain

ABU DHABI, 21 Sept — Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is planning a 1.3-billion-US-dollar industrial project in Bahrain to create a combined petrochemical and power and water generation complex, the UAE daily Gulf News reported on Monday.

If licensed, the project will be the first of its kind to be undertaken in the region, according to KFH’s general manager Abdul Hakim al-Khayyat.

KFH will retain 10 per cent of the equity in the project and the rest will be offered to local and regional investors. The offering process should start in early 2005. The construction of the plant is to begin in 2005 and should be completed in 2008. Some government bodies in the region have expressed interest in the project, revealed KFH’s general manager.

A woman and her son pass a crater caused by a roadside bomb in Haifa Street, Baghdad, on 20 Sept. 2004. — Internet

MNA/Xinhua

A US soldier takes a fighting position between two palm trees as he secures the area near Baghdad’s International Airport after a US convoy was hit by a roadside bomb on the main highway to the airport in southern Baghdad. — Internet

MNA/Xinhua

Senior Sunni cleric killed in Baghdad’s Sadr City

BAGHDAD, 21 Sept — A senior cleric of an influential Iraqi Sunni religious association was kidnapped and killed in Baghdad’s Shiite neighbourhood of Sadr City, a member of the association said Monday.

Hazem al-Zaidi, a cleric belonging to the Association of Muslim Scholars, was killed Monday morning, Hasen Jamal, information officer of the association told Xinhua.

The religious association which has a strong say among the Sunni population in Iraq was thought to have a subtle tie with the Slithes, who used to fight the US forces to show solidarity with the Sunnis when Fallujah was besieged in April.

MNA/Xinhua

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Vietnam denounces US accusation of repression

HANOI, 21 Sept — Leaders of state-recognized Catholic, Protestant and Buddhist groups in Vietnam denounced Washington’s accusation of religious repression in the Southeast Asian country, saying their members are free to worship.

In a widely-published article by the government controlled Vietnam News Agency, four religious leaders said the US State Department’s designation of Vietnam as a “country of particular concern” that violates religious freedoms was inaccurate.

“Religious believers are free to practise their own religion in accordance with the law,” Thich Gia Quang, deputy head of the International Buddhist Board, was quoted as saying in the report on Monday.

Vietnam permits six religions to operate, but requires that all organizations register with the state. It exercises control over their activities including appointment of leaders, clergy training and the printing of religious literature.

On 13 September, the State Department’s annual report tracking religious freedoms worldwide included the Communist country for the first time on a blacklist of countries, joining newcomers Saudi Arabia and Eritrea.

The report said Vietnam has imprisoned about 45 people of various faiths for religious reasons, shut down “house” or unofficial churches and repressed Protestant ethnic minority hillpeople.

Vu Quang Huyen, head of the Vietnam Protestant Church in northern Nam Dinh Province, was quoted in the report as saying that activities of his group “have always been ensured in Nam Dinh Province.”

One of the Catholic priests cited in the article, Father Tran Ngoc Van from northern Ninh Binh Province, asserted that Catholics comprise about 40 per cent of his district’s population and worship freely each weekend, “listening to priests’ teachings in a festive atmosphere.”

Hanoi has formally rejected the US designation, and the influential newspaper mouthpiece of the Communist Party Nhuon Dan (People) chimed in on Saturday in a mocking reappraisal.

Growing tourism damages coral in Thailand’s resort island

BANGKOK, 21 Sept — Almost half of the coral around Thailand’s largest resort island Phuket has been damaged as a result of growing tourism and fishery activities, local Press reported on Monday.

Only 25 per cent of the 14.4-square-kilometre coral reef around the island, lying some 863 kilometres south of Bangkok, remains relatively intact while half has been destroyed, according to a recent research by the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry.

Most of the damaged coral was located in popular diving sites for tourists, coral specialist Nipon Pongsuwan of the Phuket Marine Biological Centre was quoted by The Nation newspaper as saying.

Coral reefs around some remote islands including those in the national marine parks with limited tourist numbers also suffered moderate damage.

Booming tourism industry around the region, which was once chosen as settings for one James Bond movie and the Hollywood-produced movie “The Beach” for its natural scenery, was believed to be the main reason for the coral damage. There were some 4.2 million visitors to the 578-square-kilometre large Phuket last year, while the authorities are working on tax-reduction and other measures to attract more tourists to the region.

The government’s “open sky” policy would likely attract more, creating an urgent need to better safeguard Phuket’s natural resources, the Natural Resources and Environment Minister Suwit Khunkitti was quoted as saying.

The research also showed that fisheries were the other culprit in damming the coral reef.

Thailand seeks investment assurance from China

BANGKOK, 20 Sept — The Thai Energy Minister Premmon Lertsuridej said he hopes to get concrete assurances from China that it is prepared to invest in Thailand’s planned “Land Bridge” project during his forthcoming visit to China in November.

The “Land Bridge” project, to be constructed in southern Thailand, is aimed at providing sufficient energy supplies for Asian countries, the Thai News Agency reported Sunday.

The minister is scheduled to visit China at the invitation of the Chinese Government to discuss joint investment in the Thai project. So far, three Chinese state-run firms have shown an interest in the scheme.

The Thai Government is also keen to know which Chinese firms are likely to participate in the project. Several Chinese and South Korean firms have already asked the Thai Government to complete the draft of the project as soon as possible, a senior government official was quoted as saying.

Construction of the “Land Bridge” project is due to start in 2006 and be completed by 2010. The project involves building an oil pipeline between Nakhon Si Thammarat and Phang-nga provinces.

It is expected to need an investment of some up to one billion US dollars. The project also involves the construction of an oil warehouse and a refinery with a capacity of producing more than 300,000 barrels per day.

Thaksin calls for more foreign investment in Thailand

BANGKOK, 21 Sept — Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Monday called for more overseas investment in the kingdom while assuring investors of its continued economic growth.

At the opening ceremony of “Thailand Focus 2004” in Bangkok, Thaksin said a series of policies and implementation have been made to ensure the sustainable prosperity of the country, which create many investment alternatives for foreign investors and companies. Last year, the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) index soared by 117 per cent while the value of shares traded rose 148 per cent, both are the highest in the world.

Since the economy is expected to remain robust, most listed firms on the Thai stock market will grow at a healthy and profitable rate in 2004, said the Prime Minister.

In the first half of 2004, companies listed on the SET and the MAI (Market for Alternative Investment) recorded profits of 4.1 billion US dollars, a 22-per-cent year-on-year increase.

To boost credibility and sustainability of the Thai market, the National Corporate Governance Committee has been set up recently to enhance regulatory enforcement, institutional discipline and promote self-regulation. The committee will also play its part in improving investor’s confidence.

Under favourable domestic and external environment, Thailand’s GDP growth achieved 6.7 per cent in 2003, the second fastest growing economy in Asia.

With a thoughtful and well-planned policy coupled with robust economic fundamentals, this year’s economic growth is expected to stay between 6.5 to 7 per cent, said Thaksin.

A 49-day-old female baby meerkat who was born on 3 August, sticks close by her mom on 20 September, 2004 as she acclimates to her new surrounding at the San Diego Zoo. The baby meerkat is estimated to weight about a 1/2 pound and according to the Zoo’s animal care is growing and developing at a good rate.

The auto industry is among the 11 sectors ASEAN want integrated before 2010. Southeast Asian economic ministers meeting in Jakarta began talks on ways to speed up regional economic integration and free trade recently. —INTERNET

Thaksin Shinawatra on Monday called for more overseas investment in the kingdom while assuring investors of its continued economic growth.
Integrated efforts of the State and people to supply clean drinking water to rural areas

The government’s rural water supply project ensures potable water for Pa-O nationals of the Pinya Model Village in Kyauktaladon region.

Provision of clean water supply for rural people helps improve the social standard of the rural people and reduce poverty.

Drilling machines at work to get potable water for local people in Kantha village, Budalin Township, Sagaing Division.

A tubewell was opened in Yone village, Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division, to supply potable water to rural people.

A tubewell is sunk in Pyithin village, Chauk Township in Magway Division to supply potable water to rural people.

The government is spending a large sum of money on water supply projects in rural areas. The photo shows machinery used to sink artesian wells as deep as over 1000 feet in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division.
Nation has enjoyed fruitful...

(from page 16)
Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister U Than Aung and Chairman of the school board of trustees U Aung Hnin Myint formally opened the classrooms.

The MEC Vice-Chairman pressed the button to unveil the educational facility. The Secretary-1, the chairman of the board of trustees, U Aung Hsan, delivered a speech, mentioning the efforts for extending rice cultivation yearly. He further said that the people should be educated to ensure sufficiency of rice.

Minister expressed his thanks to the wellwishers, saying that the education standard of the students will be promoted to a certain degree owing to the effective use of electronic technology in the academic matters. The nation has enjoyed fruitful results in the educational sector thanks to the education promotion plan, which covers all parts of the nation, being implemented by the Government in harness with the people.

And success has been achieved in the three educational spheres, he noted. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted those present.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party together with the principal, teachers, members of the school board of trustees, wellwishers and students posed for a documentary photo.

Systematic methods to be...

(from page 16)
Cultivation near the approach road of the bridge by Thida Fishery Co Ltd.

Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to 120-acre agricultural farm of Thida Fishery Co Ltd. At the briefing hall, an official of the Co reported on location and area of the farm, electronic media (video system), domestic science room and drawing room. Schoolgirls Ma May Me Lin and Ma Aye Thin Mon emceed the ceremony. The students presented entertainment programme of dances and songs. Headmaster U Tin Saw reported on extended installation of pedagogical learning aids.

The cash donations presenting ceremony followed at the same venue. The Secretary-1 presented cash donations to the school through the commander. The 2003-2004 academic year school board of trustees presented K 4.5 million; 2004-2005 academic year school board of trustees, K 1.7 million; Insein Township Service, K 100,000; and BEHS No 3 in Insein Township, K 50,000 to the deputy minister, then presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said he thanked the national entrepreneurs for enthusiastically participating in the efforts for cultivation of paddy to ensure sufficiency of rice. It is necessary to apply a systematic method in reclaiming lands and cultivating rice, he said. Paddy strains that are economically beneficial

to farmers should be chosen and double cropping as well as summer paddy cultivation are to be carried out. Only then will the region enjoy self-sufficiency of rice. Next, he stressed the importance of rendering departmental assistance and participat-ing by departmental personnel in the efforts for cultivation of rice.

Thida Fisheries Co Ltd has cultivated 100 areas of Kyayweza paddy strains and Lonthwe-mawy paddy strains. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected pesticides and fertilizers displayed at the briefing hall. Afterwards, they attended the ceremony to scatter fertilizers for summer paddy cultivation in Kawthoung Township.

Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, together with Command-er Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspected the battalion and regiment of Kawthoung Station.
Indian goodwill delegation visits MMCWA, University of Culture

YANGON, 21 Sept — Wife of visiting Lt-Gen JS Varma PVSM, AVSM, ADC visits Defence Services Museum. (News on page 1) — MNA

Next, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and Mrs Meera Varma exchanged their souvenirs and the latter signed in the visitors’ book and viewed documentary photos on activities of the association.

Afterwards, wife of the Indian Commander of Eastern Command Mrs Meera Varma and party proceeded to University of Culture (Yangon), South Dagon where Rector U Tin Soe presented paintings to Mrs Meera Varma and party. Later, Mrs Meera Varma and party enjoyed entertainment presented by Music Department of the university.

Rector U Tin Soe presented painting to Mrs Meera Varma and party. And Mrs Meera Varma expressed appreciation to the university and left there at 11.55 am.

MNA

New QSS digital machine product launched

YANGON, 21 Sept — New QSS digital machine product, Noritsu brand, imported by Noritsu Singapore Pte Ltd, Accel International Co Ltd and Kodak (Singapore) Pte Ltd, was launched with the demonstration at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, here, this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were officials of the three companies, photo experts, journalists and guests. Managing Director Mr Alvin Law of Accel International Co Ltd and Mr KB Leong of Noritsu Singapore Pte Ltd extended greetings. Country Manager U Thaha Zaw of Kodak (Singapore) Pte Ltd demonstrated the new product.

The new digital machine product can be accessed for various kinds of photo services and the company has provided photo services for the convenience of customers. It can be contacted at No.(422-426), 6th floor, FJVCC building, Botah-taung Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph (202092-202096).

MNA

Workshop on strategic planning 2005/2009 of MMCWA concludes

YANGON, 21 Sept — A second day session of workshop on strategic planning 2005/2009 of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here, this afternoon. President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Khin Win Shwe presided over the meeting.

At the meeting, the CEC members of MCWA and members of Supervisory Committee for States and Divisions made a general round of discussions.

After the hearing the reports, the President of MMCWA gave concluding remarks. — MNA

MNA
Rice is Life
Myint Swe (Agriculture and Irrigation)

Rice, a major crop of Myanmar, is the staple food for Myanmar people. So, efforts are being made in all spheres with the assistance of the State for sufficiency of rice.

Rice has been produced in Myanmar since time immemorial. From the times of ancient kings to the present era in Myanmar, the successive governments have offered assistance for rice production. Rice is life for Myanmar.

Therefore, people have a national duty to make collective efforts for production of rice.

Before 1968, only monsoon paddy was grown in Myanmar and per-acre yield of it is about 40 baskets. The cultivation of high-yield paddy started in Myanmar in 1968. It was a modern paddy strain known as Yarkyaw produced by International Paddy Research Institute in 1968. Experts from all over the world have joined hands to produce hybrid paddy strains. From 1967 to 1992, world’s rice production doubled. Of the paddy growing countries in the world, over 90 nations joined hands with IRRI. Similarly, Myanmar had contacts with IRRI in 1965. Since then, joining hands with IRRI, Myanmar has carried out new hybrid production and technology cooperation. Special high yield production project was implemented in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Division, from 1970 to 1974. Later, the project was also implemented nationwide.

In 1992, summer paddy cultivation started. Thanks to the monsoon and summer paddy cultivation, rice is in surplus in Myanmar. There are changes in cultivation methods in Myanmar. Measures are being taken by the Myanmar agricultural researchers in the Agricultural Research Department in Yein to produce high yield hybrid paddy strains.

The year 2004 was designated as ‘International Year of Rice 2004’ at the 57th UN General Assembly held in December 2002. Activities of International Year of Rice 2004 at the 57th UN General Assembly held in December 2002. Activities of International Year of Rice 2004 are being carried out across the world in accord with the motto “Rice is Life”. Paddy seeding ceremony will be conducted at Myanma Rice Research Centre in Hmawby in the first week of October this year. Moreover, ‘International Year of Rice 2004’ exhibition is to be held in October at Myanma Rice Research Centre in Hmawby along with essay, painting, poster, article and photo competitions, televised discussions with rice growers and technicians, entrepreneurs, televised talks.

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Translation: AMS
(Kyemon Daily 13-9-2004)

CASH DONATED: U Aung Win-Daw Khin Pyone Win of Insein Township on 19-9-2004 donated K 234,000 for offering “soon”, lights, water, joss sticks, candies and traditional snacks to the Shwezigon Pagoda in Nyaung U and “soon” to members of Sangha. Photo shows well wishes presenting the donations to members of Buddha Pujaniya 9900 Lights Offering Association (Insein). — MNA

Maram TV retransmission station starts airing TV programmes
YANGON, 21 Sept—Construction of Maram TV retransmission station in Taninthayi Division was completed on 14 September 2004 as part of extension of TV programmes.

Starting from 15 September 2004, better TV programmes are being aired through the new facility.—MNA

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

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.

World Heart Day
World Heart Day

“A Heart for Life”
Minister Col Tin Hlaing addresses the meeting (2004) of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers a speech at the meeting of Information Subcommittee for Holding 4th World Buddhist Summit. — MNA

Yangon, 21 Sept — The Information Subcommittee for Holding 4th World Buddhist Summit held a meeting at the Ministry of Information here this afternoon.

It was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Chairman of the Subcommittee Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein and members, work groups and guests.

On the occasion, the minister delivered a speech saying that Myanmar is going to host the Summit and taking steps to ensure a world level meeting. So, the Information Subcommittee has therefore to take each and every preparatory measure to the best of its ability.

Chairman of the CCDAC for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing said that it is now the start of the second five-year project of the 15-year narcotic elimination plan, and collective efforts should be made to implement the second five-year project with added momentum, based on experiences of the first five years.

Concerning the alternative crops project of the New Destiny project, he said that a target has been set to plant 31,400 acres of land under monsoon and winter crops in five states covered by the project. Two methods — seed distribution and seed to seed — will be used in cultivating the crops. Livestocks have been distributed in Mongpyin (Thuwunna-shan) region and Mongshak (Youngkha) region in eastern Shan State, Mongmaw region in northern Shan State, and Pinlaung region in southern Shan State. From April to July in 2004, the first year of the second five-year project, three courses were conducted for teachers concerning the dangers of drug abuse; HIV/AIDS, stimulant tables and smoking in Kengtung, Lokkaw, Kalay and Tamu districts. The CCDAC provided half the amount of cost of opening the courses.

Drug education campaigns have been launched through the TV, radio and dailies. Health staff of the rehabilitation hospitals are providing social rehabilitation and counseling services for the drug addicts. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement are also rendering assistance for the rehabilitation project.

With funds of the Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races, food has been provided to farmers who are cultivating alternative crops under the New Destiny Project. The project provided 2,000 bags of rice and 50 bags of salt for farmers of Wa Special Region 2, Namtip and Pangsang in northern Shan State; and 3,000 bags of rice and 100 bags of salt for farmers of Pinlaung, Pekhon, Mongmaw, Hopong and Panglong regions in southern Shan State for the second time.

Under the food production programme, jointly implemented by WFP and DPRANR, 2,400 bags of rice have been provided to farmers in northern Shan State including Wa and Kokang regions, as they quit their practice of cultivating poppy. The Government enacted the Mutual Legal Assistance Law on 28 April 2004. Thanks to the law, Myanmar is able to cooperate with international and regional organisations, countries of the UN Convention and neighbouring countries in exchanging information, conducting investigation, in legal affairs.

On 16 September, the US announced a list of nations, which according to the US report, failed to curb the drug problem effectively. The countries that produced large hauls of drugs and serving as transit centres were included in the list. The report said that the 22 countries including Myanmar failed to eliminate the drugs effectively though required by the international agreements and the stipulations contained in the US anti-drug law, within a period of 12 months. It also said that they failed to cooperate with others in drug production reduction, elimination and control activities, enacting laws, taking actions against corrupt staff, and enforcement of laws related to drugs.

It is a common knowledge that without taking assistance from any nation, the Myanmar Government has been achieving success in curtailing drugs, relying on harmonious efforts and mutual trust and understanding of the ministries concerned, local authorities and national races.

The satellite photos and land survey records of the UNODC and the US have stood witness to the success achieved by Myanmar in rooting out the drug problem.

Minister Col Tin Hlaing said that it is now the start of the second five-year project of the 15-year narcotic elimination plan, and collective efforts should be made to implement the second five-year project with added momentum, based on experiences of the first five years. Concerning the alternative crops project of the New Destiny project, he said that a target has been set to plant 31,400 acres of land under monsoon and winter crops in five states covered by the project. Two methods — seed distribution and seed to seed — will be used in cultivating the crops. Livestocks have been distributed in Mongpyin (Thuwunna-shan) region and Mongshak (Youngkha) region in eastern Shan State, Mongmaw region in northern Shan State, and Pinlaung region in southern Shan State. From April to July in 2004, the first year of the second five-year project, three courses were conducted for teachers concerning the dangers of drug abuse; HIV/AIDS, stimulant tables and smoking in Kengtung, Lokkaw, Kalay and Tamu districts. The CCDAC provided half the amount of cost of opening the courses. Drug education campaigns have been launched through the TV, radio and dailies. Health staff of the rehabilitation hospitals are providing social rehabilitation and counseling services for the drug addicts. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement are also rendering assistance for the rehabilitation project.

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The satellite photos and land survey records of the UNODC and the US have stood witness to the success achieved by Myanmar in rooting out the drug problem. Blind accusations from the political point of view can be assumed shameless acts.

Although the UN has acknowledged Myanmar’s anti-drug drive and efforts to root out poppy cultivation, the US failed to do so, instead, pointing a finger at the nation; this is an irresponsible act. As the US, the largest narcotic drug market in the world, wants to hide its image as the country with a large drug addict population, it is hurling slanders against others.

The CNC of the US has acknowledged that Myanmar was able to reduce up to 81 per cent of its illegal poppy cultivation within a nine-year period, and 88 per cent of the opium production.

Myanmar enacted the Anti-Money Laundering Law and Mutual Legal Assistance Law. It has also destroyed billions of dollars worth of seized narcotic drugs, and it is the result of years of efforts relying on own resources. But the success was ignored. Myanmar faces economic hardships and obstacles in her anti-drug drive due to economic sanctions and the acts of banning Myanmar officials from attending drug elimination courses abroad. The minister said that he would like to urge the US to concentrate on demand reduction and make sincere cooperation with Myanmar in her anti-drug drive in accord with the wish of the global people.

The minister elaborated on the nation’s endeavours to reinforce the 15-year narcotic elimination plan and New Destiny Project, enact bylaws and cooperate with neighbouring countries to control and make sincere cooperation with Myanmar in her anti-drug drive in accord with the wish of the global people.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan reported on the progress in materialisation of the 15 minutes of meeting 1/2004. Col Tin Hlaing delivered the concluding address. Also present were deputy ministers, who are chairmen of the working bodies and guests. — MNA
Tanzania observes road safety week
Dar-es-Salaam, 21 Sept — Tanzania on Monday started to observe a road safety week as the casualties of the country’s traffic accidents arise to an appalling average of five deaths and 36 injuries a single day.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs John Chilagati described traffic accidents as causing losses not only to people’s lives but to national economy as well.

Yearly loss of properties caused by traffic accidents amounts to an average of 180 billion shillings (180 million US dollars) or 2 per cent of the country’s gross domestic product.

The official appealed to Tanzanian road users to abide by traffic regulations and cooperate to fight against careless driving that in turn results in traffic accidents.— MNA/Xinhua

Fourth plenum of 16th CPC Central Committee concludes
Beijing, 20 Sept — The 16th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) concluded its Fourth Plenum here on Sunday after approving Hu Jintao to succeed Jiang Zemin as the Party’s military chief and adopting a decision on enhancing the Party’s “ruling capabilities”.

Hu, 61, took over the chairmanship of the CPC Central Military Commission (CMC) after the four-day plenum accepted the resignation of 78-year-old Jiang.

Hu also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee of China, was vice-chairman of the CMC previously.

At the plenum, the CPC Central Committee deliberated and passed a decision on accepting Jiang’s resignation from the post of CPC chairman, and highly evaluated Jiang’s “outstanding contributions to the Party, the state and the people”.

The CPC Central Committee also approved Xu Cazhau, previously a CMC member, to be vice-chairman of the CMC, and added Chen Binglei, Qiao Tongfei, Zhang Dingfa and Jing Zhiyuan to the CMC as new members.

The plenum, which started on Thursday, was presided over by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Hu Jintao delivered an important speech at the plenum.— MNA/Xinhua

Five people die daily in road accidents in New Delhi
New Delhi, 21 Sept — The killer road accidents of New Delhi, capital of India, claim five lives every 24 hours, the Indian Asian News Service quoted a new study carried out by Delhi Police as saying.

The report said 1,198 fatal accidents were recorded across the capital in which 1,233 people were killed till August 31 this year — higher than last year’s figures. Pedestrians (602) and cyclists (122) died in the largest numbers in these fatal accidents.— MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe seeks foreign investment in coal mine expansion
Harare, 20 Sept — The Zimbabwe’s sole coal mining company, Hwange Colliery Company, is currently negotiating with foreign investors to spend 218 million US dollars to expand the mine, according to the Sunday Mail on Sunday.

The mine’s chairman, Engenier Munacho Mutero, was quoted as saying that negotiations with some investors had reached an advanced stage and expects the mine to have signed investment agreements before the end of the year.

“As part of our turnaround strategy we will be embarking on projects to increase our output, which include a 25-million US-dollar investment for three main underground mines, eight million US dollars for the open-cut mine, one million US dollars for coal fines recovery and 85 million US dollars for coke oven batteries and 100 million US dollars for Chaba open-cut mine,” said Mutero.

“The money involved looks frightening but the new company board has come up with a turnaround project that is already beginning to bear fruit,” he said. The turnaround programme has resulted in the total coal sales increasing by nearly 60 per cent from 199,000 tons in August last year to 310,000 tons this year.— MNA/Reuters
Embroidery featuring Chairman Mao completed in Hunan

CHANGSHA, 20 Sept — A seven-metre-long and three-metre-tall embroidery of late Chairman Mao Zedong standing with 56 people, each from a different ethnic group in China, has been completed in the Hunan Provincial Embroidery Research Institute. More than 80 embroidery artists have worked for 216 days to complete the work.

Adapted from an oil painting of the same title by Chinese painter Hou Yimin, the embroidery depicts the energetic Chairman Mao, with generation symbols surrounding him dressed in the style of his era. The work will be sent to the Hunan Hall of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Hunan Embroidery, originated from folk embroidery, dates back about 2,500 years to the Spring and Autumn Period (770 BC-476 BC) and reached a high level in Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-25 AD). More than 40 pieces embroidery clothes have been unearthed from a Western Han tomb in Changsha, capital of Hunan Province.

Hunan Embroidery, together with Guangdong Embroidery, Suzhou Embroidery and Sichuan Embroidery, are known as the Top Four Chinese Embroideries.

Thailand develops Antarctic robot diver

BANGKOK, 21 Sept — Scientists at the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) have invented an underwater robot explorer for the Antarctic region, capable of diving to the depth of up to 50 metres, the Thai News Agency reported Monday.

The announcement, made by NSTDA Director Dr Itthi Ruthaporn on Sunday, comes as Chulalongkorn University marine scientist Dr Woranop Wiyakan prepares to become the first Thai ever to take part in a southern polar expedition.

Dr Itthi said the robot, the world’s first underwater robot explorer for the Antarctic region, was designed to help Dr Woranop collect data from the Antarctic waters in November.

Dr. Woranop, who has been undergoing intensive training in Japan, will work in Antarctica with Japan’s National Institute of Polar Research.

The robot explorer, which weighs less than 50 kilograms, has been designed to withstand the Antarctic weather conditions.

Capable of diving to depths of up to 50 metres, it is fitted with instruments to record salinity, speed, and temperature.

Using remote control, Dr Woranop will also be able to use the robot’s cameras to record marine life.

The robot runs on batteries which can be charged by using solar cells, also invented by Thai researchers.

Dr Itthi said the robot cost around two million baht (50,000 US dollars) to produce. — MNA/Xinhua

Short film competition starts in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 21 Sept — Singapore is now holding a short film competition with the aim of bringing digital video movie making to the masses.

According to local Press reports on Monday, there will be film screenings, road shows and workshops in the competition, part of a three-month video festival.

To encourage more people to participate in the contest, organizers will also lend digital video equipment for free to contestants.

The winners will get prizes up to 15,000 Singapore dollars (about 8,880 US dollars) in cash. — MNA/Xinhua

American Express Bank to pack up from Bangladesh

DHIKA, 21 Sept — The American Express Bank (AmEx Bank) has decided to pack up from Bangladesh and stop its operations in the country except for keeping its correspondent banking and travel related services.

Robert D Welch, executive director of the New York-based bank, has informed Bangladesh Bank Governor Fakhruddin Ahmed of the decision on Sunday, a central bank official told Xinhua Monday on condition of anonymity.

AmEx Bank is negotiating with other foreign banks to sell off its stakes, he added, without giving the reasons for the packing up of the bank.

He said the AmEx Bank authorities only told its staff that it would stop the bank’s operations in Bangladesh in line with several other countries and assured them that preference would be given on upholding their interest.

The AmEx Bank has stopped its operations in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Egypt and Italy.

The bank has been shrinking its operations for the last two years as part of its wind-up plan in Bangladesh and has put corporate lending on hold.

The total deposit with the bank has reached 96.5 million US dollars in Bangladesh in March, down from 161.33 million US dollars in 2000. — MNA/Xinhua

India launches satellite for educational service

NEW DELHI, 21 Sept — India launched EDUSAT, an exclusive satellite for educational services, from the space centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh State in southeast India on Monday.

The 1950-kilos EDUSAT was carried by a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F01), which was placed into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) within a few minutes after the lift-off, and from GTO, the satellite would reach the 36,000-kilometre high Geostationary Orbit (GSO), by firing, in stages, its on-board Liquid Apogee Motor.

In GSO, the satellite will be co-located with Kalpana-1 and INSAT-3C satellites.

Built for a mission life of seven years, the EDUSAT is mainly intended to meet the demand for an interactive satellite-based distance education system for the country.

Designed as GSLV (F-01), this is the first operational (F-01) flight of the launch vehicle. In the first two ‘development test flights’, conducted in April 2001 and May last year, the GSLV had successfully placed GSAT-1 and GSAT-2 experimental satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.

The launch vehicle consists of a core motor with 138 tons of solid propellant and four strap-on motors in the first stage, 39 tons of hypergolic liquid propellants in the second and middle stage and 12.5 tons of liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen in the third cryogenic stage, supplied by Russia.

It is expected that the satellite will assist the development of education in remote areas of India.

About 35 per cent of Indians still cannot read or write, and more than half of Indian women are illiterate. — MNA/Xinhua
**SPORTS**

**VfB Stuttgart fails to hold on to top spot**

**BERLIN, 20 Sept—** VfB Stuttgart failed to hold on to top spot in the Bundesliga after being held to a 0-0 draw at 10-man Hertha Berlin on Sunday.

Stuttgart remain undefeated after five games and are now in second place, just one point behind VfL Wolfsburg, who moved into first place with a 2-1 win at Hanns Rostock on Saturday.

Draw specialists Hertha, who have shared the points from all their five matches so far, held off despite striking Nando Rafael sent off for a second booking two minutes from the break.

SC Freiburg and VfL Bochum settled on a 1-1 draw in the other game played on Sunday.

Visitors Bochum opened the scoring through substitute Tommy Bechmann after 55 minutes but Freiburg defender Daniel Schumann levelled three minutes later.

Two late goals earned Bayern Munich a 2-2 draw at arch-rivals Borussia Dortmund in the highlight of the weekend action on Saturday. —MNA/Reuters

**Chelsea held to 0-0 draw by Spurs**

**LONDON, 20 Sept—** Chelsea were held to a 0-0 home draw by Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday and remain two points behind champions Arsenal in second place after the weekend’s Premier League action.

A thrilling match at Stamford Bridge ended with both sides retaining their unbeaten starts to the season but with Spurs unable to end a 1-4-year, 29-match wait for a league victory over Chelsea.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho, upset with what he saw as ultra-defensive tactics by Spurs, said: “As they are in my country, they brought the bus and they left the bus in front of the goal because everybody was there. They didn’t play football, they just defend, defend, defend.”

The Portuguese coach told Sky Sports TV. Tottenham climbed to fifth place on 10 points, six behind Arsenal and two short of Chelsea, who have been held goalless in their last two league games.

Everton beat Middlesbrough 1-0 at home on Saturday to climb to third on 13.

Bolton Wanderers, who held Arsenal 2-2 at Highbury on Saturday, are fourth on 11 points and Middlesbrough sixth on 10. Arsenal dropped their first points but extended their record unbeaten league run to 46 matches. Manchester United, languishing in 13th place after only one win, are at home on Monday to 10th-placed Liverpool.

At Stamford Bridge, Spurs held out as England keeper Paul Robinson, two good saves from Didier Drogba in the first half, both times going down to beat out shots from the striker.

Robbie Keane might have put Spurs ahead in the 55th minute with a header at point-blank range from Simon Davies’ cross but goalkeeper Petr Cech made a fine reflex save to turn the ball over the bar.

Chelsea’s Eidur Gudjohnsen hit the post five minutes from time but Drogba was ruled offside anyway and England defender Ledley King thwacked the Ivory Coast striker minutes later.

“Right from the start they got corner after corner but I thought we held on really well, defended well and maybe looked at times as though we might sneak something but overall we are delighted,” Spurs captain Jamie Redknapp said.

—MNA/Reuters

**Feyenoord slip to third place**

**AMSTERDAM, 20 Sept—** Feyenoord slipped to third place in the Dutch First Division on Sunday after a shock 3-0 defeat against fourth-placed Utrecht in Rotterdam.

Champions Ajax Amsterdam moved up a spot into second as they remained two points behind leaders PSV Eindhoven with the 5-0 thrashing of Den Bosch thanks to a Rafael van der Vaart double. PSV have taken over at the top on 13 points from pre-weekend leaders Feyenoord after a 3-0 win at NEC Nijmegen on Saturday.

Utrecht, who have moved level with Feyenoord on 10 points, continued the outstanding form they showed in Thursday’s 4-0 UEFA Cup first round, first leg win over Swedish club Djurgarden as they surprised Feyenoord with their aggression.

Utrecht central defender Alje Schut opened the scoring when he headed home from a corner after half an hour.

Feyenoord put pressure on the cup holders as they battled for an equalizer in the second half but were never convinc- ing and Utrecht’s Hans Somers sealed the points two minutes from the end before Joost Broere made it 3-0 in added time. —MNA/Reuters

**Monaco move top of Ligue 1**

**PARIS, 20 Sept—** Monaco moved top of Ligue 1 after a late winner by striker Emmanuel Adebayor on Sunday sealed troubled Paris St Germain’s second consecutive home defeat.

Adebayor headed the winner seven minutes from time to seal the principali- ty side’s fourth victory of the season.

The win moved Monaco up into fifth place in the 20-club standings before the weekend matches to stand one point ahead of AJ Auxerre who crushed 10-man Metz 4-0 earlier on Sunday.

Monaco’s win was a relief to Didier Deschamps’s team after their 2-0 midweek defeat by Liverpool in the Champions League.

Ambitious PSG, among the favour- ites to win the title before the season, are without a win in their first six league matches and stand 17th with just three points alongside promoted Istrs.

The Parisian fans expressed their anger at the end of the match as they called for the resignation of coach Vahid Halilhodzic and club chairman Francis Graille.

Adebayor confirmed their demolition by the as they described them —MNA/Reuters

**Torres grabs equalizer, Atletico claim valiant draw**

**MADRID, 20 Sept—** Atletico Madrid held Barcelona to a 1-1 draw on Sunday as the last two remaining 100-per-cent records fell in Spain.

Giovanni van Bronckhorst put Bar- celona ahead in the 23rd minute but Fernando Torres grabbed the equalizer early in the second half and Atletico held on to claim a valiant draw.

The result left Atletico and Barca among six sides level at the top on seven points from three games. Espanyol, 1-0 winners over Real Madrid on Saturday, were left as leaders on goals scored, followed by Atletico and Barcelona.

Osasuna, who beat Real Betis 3-2, Real Zaragoza, 4-3 winners against Albacete on Sunday, and Valencia, who beat Real Sociedad 3-1, are the others in the leading group.

The game started at breakneck speed against Atletico and might have had the game wrapped up in the first half. Van Bronckhorst lashed the ball into the net early on only for the referee to harshly blow for handball.

However, the Dutch defender soon put the Catalans ahead after Ronaldo’s run along the byline was stopped by a desperate challenge. —MNA/Reuters

**Man United beat Liverpool 2-1**

**LONDON, 21 Sept—** All eyes were on Rio Ferdinand as he returned after an eight-match ban on Monday but it was his central defensive partner Mikael Silvestre who stole the show with both goals in Manchester United’s 2-1 win over Liverpool.

Ferdinand was given a great welcome by the home fans at Old Trafford as he appeared for the first time since being banned last January for missing a drugs test and the England de- fender put in a solid performance on comeback.

But it was Silvestre, heavily criticized during United’s stuttering start to the season, who secured the much-needed Premier League win with headed goals in each half either side of a John O’Shea own goal.

Coming after four suc- cessive draws it was only United’s second win in six Premier League games and takes them eighth place on nine points, seven behind leaders Arsenal.

Liverpool, who looked second best for almost the entire match, slipped to 12th on seven points.

“It was brilliant, the fans were fantastic,” Ferdinand told Sky Sports TV. “We’ve always said, ‘Get the players back then you can see the strength of Manchester United.’

Always one of the high- lights of the League sea- son, Monday’s clash be- tween the north-west pow- erhouses was given extra spice by their desperate need for points after poor starts.

United took charge from the first whistle and went ahead after 20 min- utes when Ryan Giggs swung in a free kick from the right wing and French defender Silvestre was left totally unmarked to head home from six metres.

Cristiano Ronaldo had earlier hit a post, Gabriel Heinze had a headed header over by Jerzy Dudek after 35 minutes and Raul Van Nistelrooy headed nar- rowly over three minutes later as United piled on the pressure.

In the previous four years Liverpool had won the fixture three times, all 1-0 via a Danny Murphy goal, but with the midfielder now at Charlton Athletic and striker Michael Owen at Real Madrid it was hard to see where a goal might come from.

—MNA/Reuters
Sports Minister attends USDA Annual General Meetings in Swaing, Sagaing

YANGON, 21 Sept — The minister also attended the annual general meeting of Shwebo District USDA and prize giving ceremony held at the Yangyiagang hall of Shwebo on 19 September and delivered an address.

On the occasion, U Bo-Gyi-Daw Tin Nu (Yoke Pyo Traditional Medicine) family donated K 4.3 million worth hearse for Shwebo District USDA, K 600,000 worth computer set for township association and K 1 million for outstanding students awards and other 19 well-wishers donated K 1450,000.

Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave away the prizes to outstanding students and inspected the hearse. Next, the minister inspected the Yoke Pyo pharmaceutical factory and posed for a documentary photo together with outstanding students.

— MNA

Cash, medicines donated to mark International Day of Older Persons

YANGON, 21 Sept —

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa presents K 200,000 to Vice-Chairman of Hninzigone Home for the Aged Management Board Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd). — SOCIAL WELFARE

Minister U Tin Winn leaves for New York

YANGON, 21 Sept —

Minister U Tin Winn leaves for New York on 19 September and delivered an address.

The minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport. Afterwards, the minister donated cash and medicines to two aged persons of the centre. They blessed the minister.

— MNA

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— MNA

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, the southwest monsoon has withdrawn from the Deltaic areas. Rain or thunder-showers have been widespread in Kayah and Kayin States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Shan State, Mandalay and Bago Districts and isolated in the remaining states and divisions with locally heavy falls in Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (2.76) inches, Loikaw (2.24) inches, Hakha (1.57) inches, Melkhitla (1.54) inches and PynoDo,win (1.50) inches.

Maximum temperature on 20-9-2004 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 21-9-2004 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-9-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 20-9-2004 was (4.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 21-9-2004 was (0.04) inch at Yangon Airport, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.28) inch central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 109.41 inches at Yangon Airport, 104.17 inches at Kaba-Aye and 106.22 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Southwest at 12:40 hours MST on 20-9-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the North and central Bay and monsoon is feeble elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 22-9-2004: Rain or thunder-showers will be scattered in Rakhine and Mon States, Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of thundery conditions in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-9-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-9-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Nation has enjoyed fruitful results in education sector thanks to education promotion plan

Secretary-1 attends opening of multimedia classrooms

**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

**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.

**Systematic methods to be applied in reclaiming lands and cultivating paddy**

Lt-Gen Maung Bo tours Kawthoung District in Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 21 Sept—Basic Education High School No 3 in Insein Township, Yangon North District, inaugurated its multimedia classrooms this morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win. Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, service personnel, the principal, teachers, members of the school board of trustees and social organizations, wellwishers and students. Swchoolgirls Ma Aye Min Than and Ma May Myat Nwe read the agenda of the ceremony.

(See page 8)