**Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Thai Minister**

**YANGON, 22 Sept —** Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Minister of Public Health of Thailand Mrs Sudarat Keyuraphan and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konnyinttha here at 5 pm today.

Present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Director-General at the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal.

The Thai Minister discussed promotion of cooperation in the health sector between the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand with added momentum. — MNA

**Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Thai Minister of Public Health Mrs Sudarat Keyuraphan and party at Zeyathiri Beikman. — MNA**

**Myanmar-Thailand Collaborative Health Meeting held**

**YANGON, 22 Sept —** The Myanmar-Thailand Collaborative Health Meeting was held at the meeting hall of National Health Committee of the Ministry of Health on Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road in Dagon Township this morning, attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were Thai Public Health Minister Mrs Sudarat Keyuraphan and party, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, Director-General Dr Thein Swe of Traditional Medicine Department, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra, Resident Representative of Thailand Dr Rai Nyoman Kumara and officials. Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Thai Public Health Minister Mrs Sudarat Keyuraphan delivered addresses.

Next, Thai Public Health Minister Mrs Sudarat Keyuraphan presented medicines and antiretroviral drugs and condoms worth US$ 60,000 to Ministry of Health. Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint accepted the donations and gave a certificate of honour to the Thai Minister.

Afterwards, the ministers and party had documentary photo taken.

Later, the Myanmar and Thai Ministers held a press conference concerning health cooperation between the two countries and WHO. — MNA

**Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Thai Minister of Public Health Mrs Sudarat Keyuraphan at Zeyathiri Beikman. — MNA**

**Cash and kind donated to MMCWA**

**YANGON, 22 Sept —** Local Wellwishers and those from abroad donated cash and kind to Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association at the meeting hall of the association at the corner of Thanthuma and Parami roads in South Okkalapa Township this afternoon, attended by President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepted three suction machines worth K 180,000 donated by Myanmar Consul-General to Kunming of the PRC U Thein Zaw-Daw Khin Lay Mar; drums of milk powder worth K 12,243,600 by Pahtama Group Co Ltd; K 10 million by Pyay Phyo Aung Construction Co; US$ 1,000 for Kalay Township MCWA in Sagaing Division by Dr Lucy Seet from Singapore; 300 child-used tooth brushes by Myanmar Dental Association; and medicines worth K 1,010,400 by Htoo Kyaw Co Ltd. She then presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

Later, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe thanked the donors. — MNA

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

**To increase revenues of the State through gems trading**

The Union of Myanmar is rich in terrestrial and aquatic resources and Myanmar jade and pearl are popular in the world market. Gem blocks have been designated region-wise and the Government and national entrepreneurs are working together in these blocks for mutual interests. Gem stones of highest quality belong to the State through gems trading and the national entrepreneurs who are engaged in gems exploration and trade can cooperate with the State and work in the gem blocks in accordance with the Myanmar Gems Law.

Myanmar Gems Emporiums are held every year in the interests of the State and the citizens. The mid-year Myanmar gems emporium will be held from 27 October to 4 November. The national entrepreneurs who are engaged in gems exploration and trade can attend the emporium and purchase the gems according to the stipulations.

We would like to urge all the national entrepreneurs to run their business in accordance with the Gems Law in the interests of the State as well as in their own.

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**Facts about MWAF explained at Supreme Court**

**Yangon, 22 Sept**—A talk on facts about Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was held in the meeting hall on the ground floor of the Supreme Court on Pansodan Street this afternoon, attended by Secretary-General Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win.

Also present were Secretary Dr Daw San Shwe and Secretariat members of the federation, leaders of the working groups, Daw Aye Kyi, wife of Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Daw Khin Mar, wife of Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, wives of Supreme Court Judges, Director-General Col Thein Nyunt of the Supreme Court and wife, officials and women staff totalling about 200.

Secretary-General Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win explained emergence of the federation, background history, organizational set up, seven objectives, duty and functions of 16 working groups and the work plan. She added that the entire Myanmar women on their own accord are to participate in achieving success of lofty objectives of the federation.

Next, Daw Khin Win Ni, wife of Supreme Court Judge U Khin Maung Aye, thanked for explanation about the federation.

Later, Daw Khin Mar, wife of Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, presented K 100,000 for the federation to Secretary-General Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win.

**Anti-money laundering course opened**

**Minister of Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses opening of training course on anti-money laundering and combating acts to finance terrorists.**—Vikr

**Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt hears reports on development of Tatkon Township by an official.**

**PBLANEDA Minister tours Nyaunghlin, Pyu, Toungoo, Tatkon townships**

**Yangon, 22 Sept**—Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt urged the officials to carry out the tasks with added momentum for the completion of work in the open season meeting the set standards.

In the afternoon, the minister and party arrived at Toungoo. The Executive officer of Toungoo DAC reported on beautifying tasks and upgrading plans for the town, extension of the road to Toungoo University and building of macadam road linking the university and Nyaungkai Village with the assistance of the State.

Next, the minister urged the officials concerned to stepup the efforts for completion of work as soon as possible.

During his tour, the minister also inspected the upgrading tasks of Tatkon Township on 20 September. —MNA

**Myanmar hockey team leaves for Bangladesh**

**Yangon, 22 Sept**—The selected Myanmar youth hockey team left here by air today to participate in the U-21 Six Nations Challenge Cup to be held in Dhaka, the Republic of Bangladesh, from 27 September to 5 October. The athletes were seen off at Yangon International Airport by President of Myanmar Hockey Federation Commandant of Defence Services Records Office Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials.

The Myanmar hockey team is made up of 30 members. The Myanmar team will compete with the host Bangladeshi youth hockey team on 28 September. —MNA
1,037 members of US military killed since beginning of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 21 Sept — As of Tuesday, 21 Sept, 2004, 1,037 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 787 died as a result of hostile action and 250 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

Bush, Annan trade barbs over Iraq at UN

UNited Nations, 21 Sept — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and US President George W Bush traded fresh barbs over Iraq at a sombre meeting of world leaders held in the shadow of Iraq's ongoing bloodshed.

With the UN's annual debate, Annan said Iraqi prisoners had been "disgracefully abused" and made veiled references to the United States in a wide-ranging speech calling on all nations to obey the rule of law.

Bush fired back that the United States had enforced "the just demands of the world" by ousting Saddam Hussein in a war that has left world opinion still bitterly divided more than one year after the US-led invasion.

Annan has repeatedly been at odds with Bush's contention that the UN Security Council, which had passed a resolution threatening "serious consequences" for Saddam, had provided the legal basis for the war.

US soldiers walk past a wrecked civilian car at the site of a car bomb explosion that destroyed two Humvees in Baghdad, on 21 Sept, 2004. — Internet

Almost three-quarter of Britons want date for troops to leave Iraq

LONDON, 21 Sept — Almost three-quarter of voters want Prime Minister Tony Blair to set a date for the country's troops to return from Iraq.

The survey for Tuesday's edition of the Guardian newspaper showed that 71 percent of people wanted a date for the withdrawal of British soldiers, in Iraq since the start of the US-led war to remove Saddam Hussein in March 2003.

The findings mark a change in opinion from a similar poll in May, when 45 percent of those asked said that British soldiers should remain in Iraq "as long as necessary.

Since then violence against both troops and foreign civilians in Iraq has escalated further, such as the kidnaping of two US colleagues in Baghdad last week. Fears were growing for Bigley's life.

Vietnam to build big steel plant

HANOI, 21 Sept — Vietnam will invest some 250 million US dollars in building a steel plant in the southern province of Ba Ria Vung Tau in the next few months, so as to meet its growing demand for steel products.

The Southern Steel Company will build the Phu My II Steel Plant, its second factory in the province, with an annual capacity of 530,000 tons of steel billet and 500,000 tons of laminated steel in the 2006-2010 period, said the company on Monday.

The company will construct another facility with a yearly capacity of 500,000 tons of steel from 2010 to 2013.

The company, a major steel producer in Vietnam, has planned to put into operation its Phu My I Steel Plant with an annual capacity of 500,000 tons of steel billet and 500,000 tons of steel products in November 2004. The total investment for the plant stands at 135 million dollars.

Vietnam has imported 3.1 million tons of steel products and billets worth more than 1.4 billion dollars, mostly from China, Russia, Ukraine and Malaysia in the last eight months of this year, down 3.4 percent in volume, but up 25 percent in value over the same period last year, according to the General Statistics Office.

Specifically, it has imported 4.6 million tons of billets and steel products valued at nearly 1.7 billion dollars in 2003, down 7.4 percent in volume, but up 24.1 percent in value against 2002.

The country is expected to have a total finished steel demand of some six million tons this year, half of the volume to be met by imports.

“Kalashnikov” Vodka launched in Britain

LONDON, 22 Sept — The creator of one of the world’s most famous guns, the AK-47 assault rifle, launched another weapon in Britain on Monday — Kalashnikov vodka.

Lieutenant-General Mikhail Kalashnikov who invented the AK-47 after being shot by German soldiers during World War II, said he wanted to continue “the good name” of his gun.

“I’ve always wanted to improve and expand on the good name of my weapon by doing good things,” he told Reuters Television.

“So we decided to create a vodka under my name. And we wanted that vodka to be better than anything made, up until now, in both Russia and England.”

The Kalashnikov rifle has become the weapon of choice for guerillas and gangsters across the world. But Kalashnikov said his original intentions for the gun were purely patriotic. “I did not create the gun for international conflicts, I created it to protect the borders of my country,” he said. “It is not my fault that it has been spread all over the world. It is its reliability and its simplicity that have taken it all over the world.”

Terrorists were against the war and 38 percent were war sentiment in July, when 56 percent declared that major combat was over.

Bush fired back that the United States had enforced “the just demands of the world” by ousting Saddam Hussein in a war that has left world opinion still bitterly divided more than one year after the US-led invasion.

Annan has repeatedly been at odds with Bush’s contention that the UN Security Council, which had passed a resolution threatening “serious consequences” for Saddam, had provided the legal basis for the war.

The UN chief last week called it “illegal,” and on Tuesday said Security Council resolutions were the “best foundation” for bringing law to a lawless world marked by bloodshed, genocide and attacks on the innocent. — Internet

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MNA/Xinhua
Kerry accuses Bush of lacking credibility on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 22 Sept — US Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry on Tuesday accused President George W. Bush of lacking credibility and failing to level with world leaders on Iraq when Bush spoke at the United Nations earlier in the day.

Hours after Bush delivered a speech at the United Nations General Assembly to defend his decision to invade Iraq and ask foreign leaders for assistance in supporting the new Iraqi interim government, Kerry said Bush “failed to level with the world’s leaders about Iraq.”

The President “barely talked about the realities at all of Iraq” and “missed an opportunity of enormous importance for our nation and for the world,” Kerry told reporters in Jacksonville, Florida.

Accusing Bush of lacking “the credibility to lead the world” and having “no credibility with foreign leaders, who hear him come before them and talk as if everything’s going well, and they see that we can’t even protect the people on the ground for the election,” Kerry said the United States needed to “deal with the truth and with reality.”

He added that he had a plan to make the United States safer, and “a plan to be successful in Iraq” which he said it required “urgency.” The United States needed to change its policies in Iraq to be successful, starting with bringing in more help from other nations, he said.

For his part Bush lashed at Kerry over the latter’s credibility on Iraq. “My opponent has taken so many different positions on Iraq that his statements are hardly credible at all,” Bush said after addressing the United Nations.

Jiang urges Chinese mily to follow Party’s orders

BEIJING, 21 Sept— Jiang Zemin, former chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Communist Party of China, expressed his hope here Monday that the Chinese military would try hard to develop a high level of internal solidarity and unity.

Jiang Zemin handed over his post as the military chief of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to Hu Jintao Sunday. “I’m very glad to come here to meet you today,” said Jiang, 78, while he and Hu attended an enlarged meeting of the CPC Central Military Commission (CMC) held in Beijing on Monday morning. “As a veteran Communist, I would like to express some hope on all of you here.”

“Firstly, I hope the military will always resolutely follow the Party’s instructions and guidance, obey the orders from the Party and accept the Party’s absolute leadership,” said Jiang.

“Secondly, I hope the military will always preserve the political nature of the Red Army, ... to carry on our army’s glorious tradition and fine style of work one generation after another,” Jiang added.

“Thirdly, I hope the Chinese military would try hard to stand in the front of the global tide of military development”, and that the military would constantly “consolidate and develop a high level of (internal) solidarity and unity”.

“Fourthly, I hope that military will earnestly fulfil its sacred mission of safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity,” said Jiang. “The realization of the reunification of the Motherland is a major issue to which (the late) Chairman Mao (Zedong) and Comrade (Deng) Xiaoping had always paid great attention.”

Jiang added that he had a plan to make the United States safer, and “a plan to be successful in Iraq” which he said it required “urgency.” The United States needed to change its policies in Iraq to be successful, starting with bringing in more help from other nations. — MNA/Xinhua

McDonald’s Corp loses legal battle in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 21 Sept— US fast-food giant McDonald’s Corp lost a legal battle in Singapore on Monday to stop a food company from distributing products named “MacNoodles”, “MacTea” and “MacChocolate”. The world’s largest fast-food company said Singapore-based Future Enterprises Pie Ltd had copied McDonald’s trademarks when registering its products in 1995. The High Court dismissed the case in April but McDonald’s appealed. “McDonald’s has spent millions to create goodwill and instant public recognition for its ‘Mc’ series of marks,” said Davinder Singh, a high-profile Singapore Lawyer who represented McDonald’s, before the judge ruled against the fast-food chain. — MNA/Reuters

Turk firm says quitting Iraq to save 10 hostages

ANKARA, 21 Sept— A Turkish company said on Tuesday it was suspending its operations in Iraq to save 10 employees abducted at the weekend by an Iraqi militant group which has threatened to kill them.

“We are halting our activities in Iraq,” said Ali Haydar Veziroglu of the Vinsans construction company in a statement faxed to Reuters.

“The 10 kidnapped Turks are 29-year-old and came from Turkey with the aim of providing for their families and also to serve the Iraqi people.”

In a videotape aired by Arabic television station Al Jazeera on Saturday, the Abu Bakr al-Seddig Battalions threatened to kill the workers within three days if the company did not quit Iraq.

Veziroglu denied a claim made by the kidnappers that his company was “American-Turkish.”

“In general, we have no American or Iraqi partner,” he said.

Militants have seized scores of foreign hostages in Iraq since April, of which at least 26 have been killed, including at least three Turkish truck drivers. — Internet

ADB to focus on social programmes in Tonga

MANILA, 21 Sept— Improving urban social infrastructure will be the focus of the programme that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will conduct in Tonga in 2005 and 2006.

ADB said in a statement on Monday that Tonga had made progress toward achieving many of the targets set in the Millennium Development Goals, with a high literacy rate, good school enrollment ratios and widespread access to safe water.

However, a number of social indicators, such as unemployment youth, rising petty crime, substance abuse, and teenage pregnancies still remain concerns, the Bank said.

ADB to focus on social programmes in Tonga

Foreigners taken hostage in Iraq top 135

BAGHDAD, 21 Sept— Guerrillas in Iraq have kidnapped more than 135 foreigners in their campaign to drive out coalition forces.

Ten Turkish employees of the construction company vision. The Ankara-based company said 21 September that it was freezing operations in hopes of saving the workers.

Three Lebanese travel agency workers, and their driver, an Iraqi, were Kidnapped 17 Sept on the road between Baghdad and Fallujah.

—Internet

ADB to focus on social programmes in Tonga

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A British soldier keeps watch while patrolling the southern Iraqi city of Basra on 21 September 2004. — Internet
Blair urged to apologize for mistakes over Iraq

LONDON, 21 Sept — Britain’s second largest opposition party on Monday urged Prime Minister Tony Blair to apologize for his mistakes over Iraq.

Liberal Democratic Party leader Charles Kennedy made the plea as he opened his party’s annual conference in southern England.

It was “too late to turn back the clock” on much of the damage, but the Prime Minister could at least apologize for his mistakes, Kennedy told his delegates.

“Prime Minister, why not just, even now, admit that you got it wrong? Apologize? Say sorry for the damage you have done, the anguish you have caused, the wrongs that you can never now right?”

“We are no longer sure we can trust our intelligence services.”

“We recall from the loss of trust in government lawyers, former judges, senior civil servants, who have been sullied by entanglement with this mis-taken war,” he added.

Blair, the staunchest US ally on Iraq, has been under new pressure over Iraq after United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the BBC last week that the US-led war against Iraq was illegal.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese top legislator calls for promoting Sino-Japanese ties

BEIJING, 21 Sept — Only if correctly treating historical facts could historical tragedy be avoided from happening again, Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo said here Monday.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) spoke during the talks with Speaker Kono Yohei of Japan’s House of Representatives.

The two sides exchanged in-depth views on promoting bilateral friendly cooperation and other issues of common concern.

Wu said China and Japan, as two important neighboring countries, share traditional exchanges and cultural origins. Since the two countries realized normalization of diplomatic relations over 30 years ago, China and Japan had worked together for the great progress on exchanges and cooperation in various fields, such as economy, trade and personnel exchanges, which brought concrete benefits to the two countries, Wu noted.

The Sino-Japanese friendship had been rooted with the signing of the Sino-Japanese Treaty of Peace and Friendship 26 years ago, and the treaty also legalizes the principle on handling historical and Taiwan issues, which had been enshrined in the Sino-Japanese Joint Statement, Wu said. — MNA/Xinhua

Jordan, Iraq to improve health cooperation

AMMAN, 21 Sept — The Jordanian Government on Monday ratified a health cooperation agreement with Iraq to regulate bilateral cooperation in food and pharmaceutical products, the state-run Petra news agency reported.

Under the agreement, Iraq’s food and medical supplies to Iraq will be based on the same standards and rules applied to food and medicinal imports to Jordan, the country’s Food and Medicine Department said.

The bilateral cooperation, aimed at rebuilding the war-torn country’s food security system, also includes health experts exchange between the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Inter-Arab eco integration conference kicks off in Amman

AMMAN, 22 Sept — An inter-Arab trade and economic integration conference opened here Monday in a bid to promote economic cooperation among regional countries.

Addressing the opening session, Jordan University’s President Abdullah Al Mosa urged Arab economic experts to enhance cooperation and openness to the outside world in order to benefit from the new international order.

He also called to analyse and assess experiment of Arab economic integration and the effect of international changes on Arab trade.

Mosa said despite the existence of regional economic organizations and free trade zones, Arab economic integration has not been materialized. Economic experts and scholars from the academia of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Oman, Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt, and Yemen took part in the three-day conference. — MNA/Xinhua

Ancient stone pillars discovered in western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 21 Sept — Ancient stone pillars of about 800 years ago have been discovered in western Nepal by a British researcher, and were displayed in Nepal recently.

The 65 photographs of the pillars, taken by Tim Harward, co-director at Cambridge University in Britain, are being exhibited on September 16-24 in the Siddhartha Art Gallery in Kathmandu.

This is the first time such historic pillars were discovered in Nepal and neighbouring India’s Kumaon and Garwhal, a guide at the gallery told Xinhua Monday.

“It took Tim Harward seven years to complete his search of these 185 pillars,” said Anil Sharma, adding that Harward has been working in Nepal and India since 1998 on the origins and history of the Maika lingas of western Nepal.

In mid-western Nepal, the majority of pillar stones are to be found along the ancient trade route linking Nepal’s western city of Nepalgunj and China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, she noted. — MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait to strengthen oil supervision

KUWAIT CITY, 21 Sept — Kuwait would enact new oil strategy next year to supervise and monitor the oil sector, the Kuwait News Agency reported Monday.

The Ministry of Energy was ready to begin field inspection and supervision on national oil companies and coordinate with them to enhance performance and realize defined strategic goals, the ministry’s under-secretary Essa Al-Oun was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, the ministry’s assistant undersecretary for technical affairs Ali Bin Sabt said the ministry would train staff to prepare for monitoring duties in the oil sector. — MNA/Xinhua

At least two workers killed in US airstrikes on Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 21 Sept — At least two were killed and three others wounded in the latest US airstrikes on the restive city of Fallujah, medical sources said Monday.

The casualties were municipal workers who were working on a construction project near the railway station in the northern part of the city, a source from Fallujah General Hospital said.

US warplanes frequently attack construction sites on the edge of the city, some 50 kilometres west of Baghdad. — MNA/Xinhua

A US soldier stands guard near the site of a car bomb explosion that damaged two US Humvees in Baghdad, Iraq on Tuesday, 21 Sept. 2004. Four US soldiers were wounded along with nine civilians. — INTERNET

A medical attendant bandages policeman Ahmed Abbas after he was injured in a roadside bomb in Baqouba, Iraq, on 21 Sept. 2004. A police vehicle hit a roadside bomb, triggering an explosion that killed one person and injured six in this city north of Baghdad, police and hospital officials said. — INTERNET

UAE eye-scanning system thwarts thousands of illegal entry

ABU DHABI, 21 Sept — The UAE immigration authorities have arrested some 10,000 foreigners attempting to enter the country illegally since the start of using the eye-scanning system two years ago, the official WAM news agency reported Monday.

A UAE senior official said the arrests were made between October 2002 and August 2004 at various ports of the country. — MNA/Xinhua
Kidnappers release 18 Iraqi soldiers

BAGHDAD, 21 Sept—Eighteen Iraqi National Guards taken for hostages have been freed by an Islamist group, Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV channel reported on Monday.

The kidnappers, known as the Mohammed bin Abdullah Brigades, released late Monday the 18 soldiers they had threatened to kill unless a Shiite cleric was immediately released.

The group did so at the request of Moqtada al-Sadr, a young Shiite cleric who had led an uprising against the US-led coalition forces throughout the central southern Iraq this year, according to the channel.

With a short video aired, the channel reported on Sunday the armed men would kill the 18 hostages if Hazem al-Araji, one of Sadr’s senior aides in Baghdad, was not released within 48 hours.

Araji and his brother were arrested during a US-Iraqi joint raid on their house in the capital city the day before, when the militant Shiites refused in a new round of negotiation with US forces to lay down their arms.

Sadr group had denied any involvement in the kidnapping. It was not known if Araji had been released.

Chinese President stresses role of top advisory body

BEIJING, 22 Sept—Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Tuesday that China would give full play to the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China’s top advisory body, for injecting impetus to the causes of the people and the Party.

Hu made the remarks when addressing a rally marking the 55th founding anniversary of CPPCC, the country’s most influential and broad-based advisory institution.

Hu, also general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), pledged to give full play to CPPCC as a patriotic united front organization for the united front.

Four Turkish citizens wounded in armed attack in Iraq

ANKARA, 22 Sept—Four Turkish citizens were wounded on Monday in an armed attack in Iraq, semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Concerned sources were quoted as saying that the attackers opened fire on a vehicle carrying Turkish journalists and Turkish Red Crescent workers in Iraq’s northern city of Mosul.

Two journalists and two Red Crescent workers were wounded in the attack, added the sources.

The sources gave no more details about the incident.

US hostage’s wife appeals for husband’s life

WASHINGTON, 22 Sept — The wife of the US hostage threatened with execution in Iraq made an impassioned appeal on Tuesday for her husband’s life and urged his captors to open up the lines of communication.

“In his daughter, Sarah, I would just like to say, ‘Daddy, I miss you and I love you, please come home’, and me too,” said Patty Hensley, speaking from Atlanta, Georgia.

Militants in Iraq have threatened to kill US contractor Jack Hensley and Briton Kenneth Bigley on Tuesday, just one day after releasing footage showing them beheading another US hostage, Eugene Armstrong.

Mrs Hensley said she hoped the hostage-takers would recognize that her husband was in Baghdad only to help the Iraqi people. Wednesday is his 49th birthday.

“We are putting a lot of strength in our belief that Jack was honestly there to help the people and because of that they should not harm him and hopefully will not,” Mrs Hensley told ABC’s “Good Morning America” show.

China to further military cooperation with Egypt

BEIJING, 22 Sept—The Chinese Armed Forces attach great importance to its military ties with the Egyptian Army, and is willing to enhance exchanges and cooperation between the two sides in various fields, said Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan here on Monday.

Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and state councillor, made the remarks in his talks with Mohammed Hussein Tantawi, commander-in-chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces and Minister of National Defence and Military Production.

Cao said the Chinese and Egyptian people enjoy profound traditional friendship. The two countries have conducted sound cooperation in various fields since the establishment of diplomatic relations 48 years ago.

The two Armed Forces have kept frequent high-level visits, he said, adding that the cooperation fields have been continuously expanded.

Cao also briefed the guests on China’s stance on the Middle East and international issues, China’s domestic construction, Army construction and the Fourth Plenum of 16th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Tantawi said the two armies have many similarities and the Egyptian side is willing to enhance exchanges and cooperation with the Chinese Army.

He spoke highly of China’s stance on resolving the Taiwan issue, noting that Egypt will unswervingly adhere to the one-China policy.

Before the talks, Cao held a welcome ceremony for Tantawi’s China visit.

Tantawi arrived in Beijing Sunday for a six-day official good-will visit to China as Cao’s guest.
Up to 21 September 2004, altogether 8,317 self-reliant libraries were opened nationwide.

Libraries built to disseminate knowledge

A self-reliant library of Mabamyang Ward-2 being opened in Mahaungmyay Township, Mandalay Division. — IPRD

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

The opening ceremony of a self-reliant library of Ngapyapay Village in Singu Township, PwemOoLwin District, Mandalay Division. — IPRD

People in Yapaiktha Village in YeU Township, Sagaing Division, gain knowledge through a library opened in the village. — IPRD

Under the arrangements of South Okkalapa Township Information and Public Relations Department, a self-reliant library of the township being opened. — IPRD
Pabedan Township USDA holds annual meeting 2004

YANGON, 22 Sept— Pabedan Township Union Solidarity and Development Association held its annual meeting 2004 at No 1 Basic Education High School in the township here starting at 5pm today, with an address by USDA Secretariat Member Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Naing.

It was also attended by local authorities, Yangon Division USDA Executive U Min Thein, Yangon West District USDA Secretary U Tin Win, Township USDA Secretary U Aung Naing and executives, social organizations and townswelders.

On the occasion, the USDA Secretariat Member elaborated on conducting regular courses and refresher courses to enhance knowledge and organizing skills of the members, effective implementation of future tasks, and active cooperation with local administrative bodies in community welfare works.

At the second session, respective Township USDA executives presented on annual reports, followed by a general round of discussions.

The Township USDA passed seven objectives and nine future tasks. The meeting passed resolutions, made approvals and put matters on record. The Township USDA Secretary delivered closing remarks. — MNA

Textbooks are to be sent to remote areas in Upper Myanmar

YANGON, 22 Sept— The School Textbook Printing and Distribution Committee for 2005-2006 academic year held the coordination meeting at the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Street yesterday evening, with an address by Chairman of the Committee for the Supervisory Committee for the School Textbook Printing and Distribution Project in Mingaladon Township, Project Engineer U Cho Aung.

Also present at the meeting were member of the School Textbook Printing and Distribution Committee, Chairman of the School Textbook Printing Sub-committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and sub-committee members, Chairman of the School Textbook Distribution Sub-committee Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min and sub-committee members and officials of departments concerned.

In his address, Committee Chairman Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that school textbooks for 2004-2005 academic year have been distributed to the students in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. He said the meeting was to coordinate printing and distribution matters for 2005-2006 academic year. In so doing, it is necessary to distribute school textbooks to the students at a reasonable price by the 2005-2006 academic year in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. He said that school textbooks for students in Upper Myanmar will be printed at the Upper Myanmar Government Press to be opened soon, to practise thrift in the printing matter and organize the students in order to use the textbooks through the relay system.

Those present took part in the discussions.

The commander and party inspected vegetable cultivation farm of Yangon Command at the junction of Yangon East, South and North Districts.

On arrival at the site of No 2 Balar Bridge Construction Project in Mingaladon Township. Project Engineer U Cho Aung reported on facts about the project, progress of tasks, collection of construction materials, preparations for building Balar Bridge No 1 and No 2 and arrangements for repaving the bypass in open season.

In response to the reports, the commander instructed them to build the bridge and the bypass in December for better transportation among townships in Yangon East, South and North Districts.

Next, the commander inspected construction of No 2 Balar Bridge and laying of gravel on the bypass and gave instructions on timely of the construction tasks meeting the set standard.

Balar Bridge No 2 will be 65 feet long. The bridge will have 28 feet wide motorway and four feet wide pedestrian ways on both sides. Its clearance will be nine feet high. The reinforced concrete bridge can withstand 60-ton loads. The bridge is being built on the circular road of Yangon City. On completion, local people from townships of Yangon East, South and North Districts can enjoy fruitful results of better transportation among their regions.

MNA
Myanmar has concentrated on…

(Myanmar formed Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs in 1996 and laid emphasis on anti-human trafficking as a serious issue. Under the Committee, Women’s Affairs Work Committee and Work Committee for prevention against human trafficking were formed and they carried out the tasks with added momentum. The two committees laid down systematic plans for preventive measures, taking actions in accord with the law, receiving the victims and resetting them. The working group on Trafficking in Women and Children had exposed and taken action against foreign offenders in 412 cases up to 17 July 2002. Of the 166 criminal cases, 335 offenders were sentenced to prison terms — two to life imprisonment; 78 to less than five years’ imprisonment. The Central Supervisory Committee, formed in 2001, has given educational talks to 701,897 persons back to their parents. Myanmar has been drafting a law concerning trafficking in persons. A workshop on the issue was held on 6 and 7 September 2004, with the cooperation of UNIAP. Under the MoU, the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe expressed belief that the meeting would be a successful one because of preparations and cooperation of the UNIAP. The MWA will take part in the respective sector to the best of its ability. At the meeting, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr Tun Shinn and officials from related ministries were held on 25 June. The meeting formed the leading committee, the work committee and eight subcommittees and passed the resolutions to hold COMMIT at Sedona Hotel and to draft a law in meeting. In order to hold the COMMIT successfully, a preliminary meeting which was attended by Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Labour, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shinn and officials from related ministries was held on 25 June. The meeting formed the leading committee, the work committee and eight subcommittees and passed the resolutions to hold COMMIT at Sedona Hotel and to draft a law in meeting. In order to hold the COMMIT successfully, a preliminary meeting which was attended by Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Labour, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shinn and officials from related ministries was held on 25 June. The meeting formed the leading committee, the work committee and eight subcommittees and passed the resolutions to hold COMMIT at Sedona Hotel and to draft a law in meeting.

Relying on her own internal strength and resources, Myanmar has been making utmost efforts, with goodwill and sincerity to curb human trafficking. He said Myanmar will host the COMMIT on 29 October. Three ministers eachfrom related ministries of China, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, the six nations of Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) will attend the meeting. A preliminary meeting of senior officials will be held in Yangon on 27-28 October. Arrangements are being made for signing an important MoU on anti-human trafficking. He said Dr Su Su Tha Tun of UNIAP (Bangkok) made arrangements for holding the COMMIT after coordination with officials from six GMS nations. As the Secretariat, the UNIAP (Bangkok) takes charge of the meeting. Donor nations, UN Agencies and NGOs will bear the expenses of the accord with international norms after holding a workshop on anti-human trafficking participated by international experts, he said. He called on those present to begin to perform the duties before the meeting. Joint Secretary of the Leading committee for organizing the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) Police Chief of Staff Police Brig.-Gen Win Myaung reported on functions of the work committee, subcommittees, agenda of the meeting to be held from 27 to 29 October. He also explained the Yangon excursion of the participants and draft of the MoU to be signed at the meeting. The Deputy Programme Manager of UNIAP elaborated on the holding of the ministerial meeting and its importance. President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe expressed belief that the meeting will be a successful one because of preparations and cooperation of the UNIAP. The MWA will take part in the respective sector to the best of its ability. At the meeting, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shinn and officials from related ministries were held on 25 June. The meeting formed the leading committee, the work committee and eight subcommittees and passed the resolutions to hold COMMIT at Sedona Hotel and to draft a law in meeting.

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While reading a copy of Beijing Review issued on 10 June 2004 one day, I found an interesting editorial under the title ‘Live and let live’, from which, I have extracted some paras and points to write this article.

In its leading para, the editorial said, “For a given nation, to live means to pursue its own interests and to realize its rights of survival and development. To let live refers to respecting the interests and rights of other nations.”

“This simple and clear truth was summed up by our ancestors based on the same simple and clear fact that we have inhabited, and will continue to inhabit, a planet that is diverse in all aspects,” it also stated. In my view, the fact can also guarantee global peace.

As the editorial said, “Superficially, few people find it hard to fathom the truth, or even deny it. In reality, however, there are countless cases that disquiet us. International wars, border skirmishes and racial conflicts, which unfortunately become the fabric of our daily discourse, have provided the evidence that this principle has not yet been fully accepted and really understood. So, it’s still necessary to elaborate on the idea,” I have come to realize the fact that the agreeable basic principles of the policy — Live and let live — have become inappropriate to the practical social lives on the global stage to some extent, and there occur incidents that go against the UN Charter and Oath. In addition, the whole human civilization, that was built by the successive generations for years, and that also serves as a correlation between spiritual and physical lives of human beings, fell into ruin.

In order to perform the humanist duty well, we will have to analyze and view ourselves correctly as no country can enjoy safety and prosperity without paying attention to others’ living rights and conditions, meaning that all nations must have sympathy for others. In this world of human relations, sympathy is an attitude to be adopted in relations between individual humans beings or between nations and regions in the process of globalization itself. Thus, as a matter of fact, the relationship between nations constitutes an important part of the history of human civilization as a branch of the delicate subject of social science.

The editorial continued to say, “How to handle international relations is an art, which is what diplomacy is all about. The highest purpose of diplomacy is to create and maintain a harmonious, at least a harmless, international circumstance in which a nation exists. Here, flexibility is indispensable. As a Malay proverb says, ‘A diplomat should be willing and supple as a banana that can be bent but not broken.’ This fact implies that a nation must be decisive in observing its policy and must be flexible in materializing its strategy, while trying to find the middle way between the two extremes — the extreme of dancing to the tune of the prevailing situation on one end and the extreme of standing firmly on one’s own policy on the other. During a revolution, an eminent politician of the world once asked his comrades a question "What is politics?", saying that if the word would be defined, its meaning would go beyond explanation. His followers were able to give answers to the best of their ability, based on the actual life of the people. He told them that their answers were not wrong, and then gave a complete answer of the question in a single sentence — Politics is to reduce the number of persons who hate you, and increase the number of people who love and have sympathy for you to the most possible degree.

Peace, stability and development are the only alternative for the world at present. It is easy to hate others, but to love others requires much efforts. In this regard, the author of the classical novel ‘War and Peace’ once said that peace required more knowledge, wisdom, consideration, tolerance, sympathy, forgiveness and understanding and greater degree of moral ethics and philosophy than war. Only the person who can create a peaceful social environment can be called a man with the doctrine to serve the mankind’s interest actually. But what is the essence of the foreign policy? The answer is Foreign policy of a nation is nothing but symbolization of its domestic policy in international relations reflection. In other words, whether it is called the political framework of domestic economy, politics and social situation or the constitution, the most important thing is that it must be the real embodiment of humanism. In the present international relations field, a lot of new words such as — protectionism, peaceful co-existence, domino theory, the rich-poor gap, preemption, arms reduction, nuclear free zone and ceasefire agreement to old and neo colonialism and hegemonism — have continuously come into being.

(To be continued)
Translation: TMT
Kyemon + Myanmar Alyn: 22-9-2004

Workshop on health development of youth held

YANGON, 22 Sept — Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint addressed opening of workshop on health development of youth, organized by Sports and Physical Education Department and WHO, at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna yesterday. Present on the occasion were officials of the Ministry of Health, officials of Department of Health and Medical Research Department, instructors and trainees.

After Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint made a speech on the occasion, Resident Representative of WHO Mr PP Singh (Programme and Administrative Officer) extended greetings. Altogether 45 trainees are attending the workshop which will last up to 24 September. — MNA

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

* To vitalize patriotism and nationalism in all citizens
* To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage
* To perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts
* To preserve Myanmar national character
* To nurture spiritual development of the youths
* To prevent influence of alien culture

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-megawatt power station can supply.

World Heart Day

“壁纸” ကြောင့် ကြွက်ကြာနေသော လေ့လာချက်များ ပြောင်းလဲမည်။

“A Heart for Life”
Paper-reading session to mark International Day of Older Persons held

YANGON, 22 Sept — The paper-reading session to mark the International Day of Older Persons, co-organized by Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, was held at Hninzigon Home for the Aged on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Patron of the Organizing Committee for International Day of Older Persons Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Chairman of the Work Committee for Organizing the IDOP Director-General U Sit Myaing of SWD, Vice-Chairman Director U Bo Than and members, Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and vice-chairmen, Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay) and CEC members, members of the Home for the Aged Administrative Board and guests.

Vice-Chairmen of MWJA U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), U Than Maung (Than Maung) and U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung) presided over the paper-reading session.

Writer U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), writer Dr Tin Tun Oo (Dr Tin Tun Oo) and writer U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) submitted papers to the session and answered the queries.

Later, the paper-reading session concluded with the remarks by Vice-Chairman U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) in the evening. — MNA

Tikkatho Htin Gyi’s Reference Section to be set up

YANGON, 22 Sept — Acting on information, a combined team consisting of members of local intelligence unit and anti-drug squad stopped a passenger bus with the number plate KaKa/5731 and searched the passengers on 13 August this year.

The authorities found 130 bars of heroin weighing 2.07 kilos seized in Pansai on 13-8-2004. — MNA

Heroin seized in Pansai

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The authorities found 130 bars of heroin weighing 2.07 kilos, and seized them. — MNA

Mekong region sports meets on 23-25 September

YANGON, 22 Sept — The Myanmar youth tennis team leaves for Pakistan.

YANGON, 22 Sept — The Myanmar youth tennis team left by air this evening to take part in the World Class-5 Under-18 Tennis Tournament to be held in Karachi, Pakistan, from 25 September to 4 October.

The team was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Tennis Federation. Coach/Manager is U Aung Myint. Players of the team are Kyaw Zaw Naing, Nyi Nyi Tun and Chit Su Yi of Mongla Taungnyunt BEHS No 1. Myanmar Airways International sponsored the tennis team air fares. — MNA

MYANMAR YOUTH TENNIS TEAM LEAVES FOR PAKISTAN

Writer Ledwintha Saw Chit presents his paper to paper-reading session to mark International Day of Older Persons held

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Vice-Chairman U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) gave a speech. Next, CEC member Daw Khan Than Win (Kyu Kyu Thin) introduced the resource persons to the audience.

Writer U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), writer Dr Tin Tun Oo (Dr Tin Tun Oo) and writer U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) submitted papers to the session and answered the queries.

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Arrangements to establish the Tekkatho Htin Gyi’s Reference Section. Reference for the history of literature, photos, works of writers, journalists, poets and cartoonists, diaries and computer database comprising Myanmar and international knowledge will be kept at the section. On 19 September, the coordination meeting to set up the Tekkatho Htin Gyi’s Reference Section was held.

Writer Maung Hay Mar (U Maung Maung Aye-Alinka Wutyi) pledged that he will donate computer and its accessories for the section. Those wishing to make donations for the Tekkatho Htin Gyi’s Reference Section may contact MWJA, No 527, Merchant Street, Tel: 252417 and 244173. — MNA

Exhibition and competitions on traffic rules in December first week

YANGON, 22 Sept — The Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee is going to organize the second exhibition and competitions on traffic rules in the first week of December 2004 in Yangon.

It comprises short story, article, cartoon, poster and digital poster competitions (open). Candidates are to send original and a copy for each entry. Word count for short story is limited between 3,000 and 5,000. A candidate may take part in short story and article competitions.

As for poster competition, an entry is to be a 30" x 20" size one with the signature of the candidate on its back, not in the front side.

Entries for digital poster competition are to be created with an appropriate computer and put in a floppy disk or a compact disk (CD-ROM).

Each candidate is to send their entry attached with two passport-size photos, a biography and a written undertaking that the entry is own creation and has not been printed before.

Entries for short story, article and cartoon competitions are to be sent to Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Second Floor, Sarpay Beikman, Yangon; (Tel: 252417, 254173); for poster competition, to Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artists Assayon, Eastern Wing of Bogyoke Aung San Market (Tel: 240966 Ext: 706707); and for digital poster competition, to U Mya Thein of the University of the Creative Studies (Hline Campus) (Tel: 664254) not later than 3 pm 1 November 2004. — MNA

Myanmar youth tennis team

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The team was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Tennis Federation. Coach/Manager is U Aung Myint. Players of the team are Kyaw Zaw Naing, Nyi Nyi Tun and Chit Su Yi of Mongla Taungnyunt BEHS No 1. Myanmar Airways International sponsored the tennis team air fares. — MNA

230 bars of heroin weighing 2.07 kilos seized in Pansai on 13-8-2004. — MNA

Myanmar youth tennis team seen at the airport before its departure for Pakistan. — SPED
Chinese Premier leaves Beijing for Kyrgyzstan, Russia

BEIJING, 22 Sept — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao left here on Tuesday morning to pay a visit to Kyrgyzstan and Russia and attend the third meeting of prime ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states and the ninth regular meeting between prime ministers of China and Russia.

Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Li Hui said earlier that during Wen’s visit to Kyrgyzstan, the first by a Chinese Premier in 10 years, the leaders from the two countries will sign an agreement to outline cooperative programmes within the next decade.

During his stay in Russia, Wen is scheduled to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin, hold talks with Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov, and confers with State Duma Chairman Boris Gryzlov and Federation Council Chairman Sergei Mironov.

Wen’s entourage included Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and several other ministers. Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi has already been in Russia to make preparatory work for Sino-Russian prime ministers meeting.

Annan urges quick action against hunger, poverty

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Sept — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan Monday urged world leaders to move quickly in the global fight against hunger and poverty and make the following decade one of real achievement.

Opening the world leaders’ meeting on action against hunger and poverty, Annan said the meeting is an important step along the way, the international community needs to ensure the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals are on track.

The meeting, which was convened at the sidelines of the 59th session of the UN General Assembly, aimed to help set the stage for next year’s summit that the General Assembly is holding to assess progress toward meeting the goals that world leaders agreed on at the 2000 Millennium Summit.

But the UN chief noted that the international community has been falling short to meet the Millennium Development Goal, with progress in eliminating extreme poverty uneven, and the number of chronically hungry people worldwide on the rise.

“With creativity and political will, we could do much better. That is precisely what is on display here today,” the UN chief said.

He said recent years have seen important gains in mobilizing financing for development, and a turnaround in the volume of official development assistance. There is also growing awareness of the need to discon-tact aid from the business or geopolitical interests of donors.

He also called attention to the fact that there are still serious problems. Policies are still too often in contradic-tion with each other, and current trade negotiations does not necessarily con-clude in a way that brings real gains for developing countries. “It is easy to say that something must be done to generate more resources to defeat poverty and hunger. The challenge is what to do,” Annan said.

He urged the international community to move quickly and make the most of next year’s review. “Between now and then, if we come up with clear propo-sals that command broad political support, we can make the progress we seek,” he said.

China puts forth three propositions on poverty elimination

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Sept — A top Chinese official in charge of poverty alleviation on Monday said poverty reduction presses for a solution from both individual countries and the international community.

“Poverty is born out of political, economic, social and historical factors. The problem gets even worse in an irrational international political and economic order amidst unbalanced development,” Liu Jian, Minister in charge of poverty alleviation in the Chinese State Council, told a world leaders’ meeting on action against hunger and poverty, held here Monday afternoon.

Liu said hunger and poverty had become a global problem menacing world peace and human development. Liu put forth three propositions of the Chinese Government on the elimination of hunger and poverty. They include:

— First, joining hands to foster a favourable international environment for poverty reduction.

— In the political field, the purposes and princi-ples of the Charter of the United Nations that was requested last December by the World Summit on the Information Society. The consultations aim to develop a common understanding of structure and function of the working group, the UN said in a statement.

Discussions will focus on the scope and working methods of the working group, as well as the profile, qualities and characteristics of its members, it said.

Participants of the meeting officials from 20 UN member states, representatives from the private sector and civil society, as well as delegates from international and regional organizations dealing with Internet governance issues.— MNA/Xinhua

Mystery disease kills 24 in north India

NEW DELHI, 21 Sept — A mystery disease has killed at least 24 people and affected about 50 others in a village in Uttar Pradesh in north Indi, the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reported Monday. At least 50 people from the village in Sitapur District have been hospitalized with high fever and shivering, fol-lowed by dysentery and vomiting.—MNA/Xinhua

UN consults on setting up Internet governance group

GENEVA, 21 Sept — The United Nations is holding consultations here on Monday and Tuesday on the establishment of a working group on Internet govern-ance issues.— MNA/Xinhua
Blood test for diabetics can predict cardiovascular risk

WASHINGTON, 22 Sept—A relatively new blood test for people with diabetes can predict their risk of developing heart disease, US researchers reported on Monday.

Two separate studies suggest that people with both type 1 and type 2 diabetes should regularly take the haemoglobin A1c test, on top of their regular checks of blood sugar. The HA1c test looks for glycated haemoglobin, also called glycosylated haemoglobin, and is a measure of how well blood sugar is controlled.

In one study, Dr. Sherita Golden and colleagues at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore reanalysed the data from 13 studies involving nearly 10,000 people from North America and Europe and found those with higher levels had much higher risks of heart and artery disease.

Writing in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, they said a 1 percentage point increase in HAIc predicted an 18-per-cent increase in risk for total cardiovascular disease and a 28-per-cent risk for peripheral vascular disease — clogged arteries in the legs, for instance. Although diabetes is known to double the risk of heart disease death, Golden said the specific relationship was unclear. “As a result, many people living with diabetes monitor their health for well-known risk factors for heart disease, such as obesity, cholesterol levels and blood pressure — but, the big unknown has been the role of blood sugar levels in managing their risk of developing cardiovascular disease,” she said in a statement.

A second study found similar results. Dr. Kay-Tee Khaw of Cambridge University and colleagues at Britain’s Medical Research Council studied 10,030 people aged 45 to 79 for six years. They found a 21-per-cent increase in cardiovascular “events” such as heart attack, for every 1 percentage point increase in haemoglobin A1c above 5 per cent. “Persons with HAIc concentrations less than 5 per cent had the lowest rates of cardiovascular disease and mortality,” they wrote.

This was true even when patients were older and fatter and regardless of blood pressure or cholesterol levels. The two studies “clearly prove that the glycated haemoglobin level is an independent progressive risk factor for incident cardiovascular events, regardless of diabetes status” Dr. Hertzel Gerstein of McMaster University in Ontario, Canada wrote in a commentary.

Rumsfeld issues memo against support for human trafficking

NEW YORK, 22 Sept—Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has issued a strong memo to military commanders and Pentagon contractors warning against support for prostitution and human trafficking, amid concerns that a previous directive has not solved the problem.

Rumsfeld put his personal stamp on the anti-trafficking campaign after allegations of problems in Iraq, Bosnia and Kosovo and the prisoner abuse scandal at Baghdad’s Abu Ghraib prison.

The memo came to light on Monday, one day before the US Congress’ Helsinki Commission holds a hearing to examine the Bush Administration’s record in implementing a “zero tolerance” policy on trafficking involving the military.

“No leader in this department should turn a blind eye to this issue,” Rumsfeld said in the memo, obtained by Reuters. “Trafficking includes involuntary servitude and debt bondage. These trafficking practices will not be tolerated in DOD (Department of Defence) contractor organizations or their subcontractors in supporting DOD operations.”

Rumsfeld said he was especially concerned with exploitation and labour trafficking practices in areas near US bases overseas.

WHO’s efforts to control drug-resistant TB not working well

WASHINGTON, 21 Sept—Super drug-resistant forms of tuberculosis are at the tipping point of a global epidemic, and only small changes are needed to help them spread quickly, US researchers predicted on Sunday.

Two separate studies show that multiple-drug-resistant TB, which can only be cured with a carefully monitored cocktail of drugs taken for months on end, could easily start spreading more commonly.

The reports, published in Monday’s issue of the journal *Nature Medicine*, coincide with another report published last week saying the World Health Organization’s efforts to control multi-drug-resistant TB were not working as well as hoped.

If all the reports are true, it means that TB could make a dangerous new resurgence, and with new strains that are even harder to fight than the old ones. TB infects an estimated 8.7 million people a year and kills two million a year despite widespread control efforts.

The disease is spread by airborne bacteria that settle into the lungs and cause long-term infection. Many people who are infected do not become ill themselves but can spread it.

Some foreign workers have complained they were tricked into going to work in Iraq for Kellogg Brown & Root Inc., a subsidiary of Halliburton Co., and were mistreated, according to the *Washington Post*.

Congressional researchers said that in South Korea, US military patrols were assigned to ensure servicemen who frequented bars and brothels returned to base safely, which risked creating an “overly friendly” relationship between the US military and traffickers.

110 nations wait additional $50b to combat global hunger

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Sept—More than 100 countries on Monday endorsed a campaign to raise an additional 50 billion US dollars a year in development aid to combat global hunger, but the United States poured cold water on the project.

“The greatest scandal is not that hunger exists but that it persists even when we have the means to eliminate it. It is time to take action,” said a declaration signed by 110 nations and adopted at the close of a World Leaders Summit on Hunger held at UN headquarters.

The declaration also urged governments to seriously consider a report prepared for the conference, setting out a series of options for raising the extra money.

These included a global tax on financial transactions, a tax on the sale of heavy arms, an international borrowing facility and a scheme for marketing credit cards whose users would donate a small percentage of their charges to the hungry.

French President Jacques Chirac praised the report for setting out “technically realistic and economically rational solutions”.

But the leader of the US delegation, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, coolly dismissed it. “Economic growth is the long-term solution to hunger and poverty,” she told the meeting.

MNA/Reuters

A view of the Interstate 10 bridges leading into Pensacola, Florida, after being broken to pieces by Hurricane Ivan. -- Internet
West Bromwich suffer embarrassing 2-1 defeat at Colchester United

LONDON, 22 Sept—English Premier League struggling West Bromwich Albion suffered an embarrassing 2-1 League Cup defeat at Third Division Colchester United in the only shock of Tuesday's second round action.

A goal two minutes from the end of extra time by Ben May handed Colchester a well-deserved victory at Layer Road and left Albion, 19th in the top flight, still searching for their first win of the season.

A fine strike from Craig Fagan gave Colchester a first-half lead but Geoff Horsfield levelled the score five minutes after the break.

Premier League basement side Crystal Palace appeared to be heading out of the competition until Dougie Freedman scored 10 minutes from time to cancel out a goal from Hartlepool's Eifton Williams. Just 4,233 fans turned up at Selhurst Park to witness Palace snatch a 2-1 victory over the Third Division side in extra time through Tom Soares.—MNA/Reuters

Brazil's Juninho of Lyon, foreground, evades Nabil Taider of Toulouse during their French Ligue 1 soccer match played at the Toulouse Stadium, southwestern France, on Tuesday, 21 Sept, 2004. —INTERNET

Beckham's free kick gives Real 1-0 victory over Osasuna

MADRID, 22 Sept—David Beckham struck with a 25-metre free kick to win back some support from a fervent Bernabeu crowd and give Real Madrid a 1-0 victory over Osasuna in their first match in the post-Camacho era.

The first act of coach Mariano Garcia Remon, drafted in following the shock resignation of Jose Antonio Camacho on Monday, was to restore Beckham and Raul to the starting line-up.

There was little improvement but the night's one moment of brilliance, an exquisite Beckham free kick in the 1st minute, sent the side into provisional top spot in the Primera Liga.

"The team was under tremendous pressure," Beckham told reporters. "It was a brilliant piece of immitance but it was important to get the result.

"We can take heart from the togetherness of the team."

A third 1-0 victory of the season gave Real nine points from four games and took them two points clear of a group of six teams who held the lead going into the midweek fixtures.

Among them are Espanyol, who are away at bottom club Getafe on Wednesday.

Aimar ruled out of Valencia for three weeks for thigh injury

MADRID, 22 Sept—Valencia midfielder Pablo Aimar will be ruled out for up to three weeks after sustaining a thigh injury during his side's 3-1 victory over Real Sociedad at the weekend. The Spanish champions said that the Argentine international had suffered a small tear in the thigh muscle in his left leg and would be sidelined for between 15 and 20 days.

The 24-year-old midfielder missed much of last season because of similar injuries. The thigh muscle in his right leg was also torn. He was a late withdrawal for the trip to Bilbao and missed the last three league games of the season.

Chile coach drops Pizarro from squad for next matches

SANTIAGO, 22 Sept—Chile coach Juvenal Olmos has dropped playmaker David Pizarro from the squad for next month's World Cup qualifying matches against Ecuador and Argentina for indiscipline.

Pizarro kicked an advertising board and stormed into the tunnel after being substituted in last month's qualifier against Colombia.

"When a player puts his personal interests above the collective interest, I believe that the problems and difficulties begin," Olmos told reporters on Tuesday. "I feel that David went over the limit on this occasion and, as long as I'm coach of the national team, I'm going to make sure that no player feels he's more important than the team."

Pizarro, who plays for Serie A club Udinese, also launched a bitter attack on Olmos in the media following the goalless draw in Quito.

Chile, fourth in the 10-nation South American qualifying group with 12 points from eight games, continue their attempt to qualify for the World Cup in South Africa on October 10 and then host Argentina at the National Stadium three days later.

Swiss-based striker Jean Beausejour and Luis Ignacio Quinteros of Mexican side Puebla were included in the squad.

Goalkeeper Nelson Tapia was also picked, even though he has been relegated to the substitute's bench at Brazilian championship leaders Santos.

Midfielders Rodrigo Mcelendez and Mark Gonzalez return after missing the Colombia game through suspension and injury respectively. —MNA/Reuters

Maradona goes to Cuba for drug treatment

BUENOS AIRES, 22 Sept—The former Argentine football star, Diego Armando Maradona, travelled on Monday to Cuba to continue his treatment against his addiction to drugs. The plane with Maradona on board, of the Copa company, left at 12.56 local time from the Ezeiza Airport in Buenos Aires, and will arrive at midnight to Havana, after making a stop in Panama.

Maradona is accompanied by his older sisters, Ana and Rita, his personal doctor, Alfredo Cahe, and some assistants whose identities are not known.

There was a family encounter, besides his parents and siblings, there were his ex-wife, Claudia Villafale and his two Argentine daughters, Dalma and Gianinna.—MNA/Xinhua

Chile's Ivan Pinilla, second right, celebrates scoring the opening goal during their Copa America football match against Ecuador in Santiago. The former Argentina star, of the Copa company, left at 12:56 local time from the Ezeiza Airport in Buenos Aires, and will arrive at midnight to Havana, after making a stop in Panama. —MNA/Xinhua

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Wednesday, 22 September 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Yangon Division and scattered in Rahiine, Kayah and Kayin States and Tanintharyi Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfallers in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thayawady (3.35) inches, Monywa (3.02) inches, Pyinmama (2.48) inches, Meiktila (1.65) inches.

Maximum temperature on 21-9-2004 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 22-9-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-9-2004 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 21-9-2004 was (4.6) hours approx. Rainfall on 22-9-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and 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 6 mph from Southeast at 13:10 hours MST on 21-9-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in North Bay, Central Bay and monsoon is weak elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 23-9-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah and Kayin States, Magway and Tanintharyi Divisions and scattered in Rahiine and Mon States, Mandalay, lower Sagaing, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread 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: Thundery conditions in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighouring area for 23-9-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighouring area for 23-9-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood bulletin

(issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 22-9-2004)

The water level of Sioutong River at Toungoo is (15) cm (about half ft) above the dager level at (06:30) hours MST today. Although the water level may rise another (15) cm (half ft), it is forecast to fall below the danger level during the next (5) days.
YANGON, 22 Sept — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by division level departmental officials, inspected regional development, agriculture and livestock breeding tasks in Mingaladon, Hlegu and Hmawby Townships this afternoon.

At 2.30 pm, the commander and party arrived at Yangon Division Vegetable Cultivation and Poultry and Fish Breeding Special Zone near Nyaunggnapin Village in Hmawby Township.

In the briefing hall of the special zone-2, officials reported on cultivation of vegetables, breeding of poultry and fish and land preparation.

Director of Yangon Division Irrigation Department U Kyaw Thein submitted reports on production of vegetables, breeding of poultry and fish and irrigation facilities for cultivation purpose and Division Manager of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications U Saw Mu Da Lu on installation of auto-telephones in the special zone and supervision of communication tasks.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects construction of Barlar Bridge No 2 in Mingaladon Township.

YANGON COMMAND

Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing addresses the meeting on Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking—COMMIT.— HOME AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

In the last week of October, 2004 here.

Present were Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, the deputy ministers of Home Affairs, Hotels and Tourism, Information, Foreign Affairs and Health, President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President of MWAFF Professor Dr Daw May May Yi, General Secretary Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, the directors-general and officials of Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office of the Chief of Military Intelligence and Yangon Command.

Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing said at the meeting that human trafficking not only ruins the dignity and mental health of victims, but also their souls as the traffickers are trading them like commodities, torturing exploiting or killing them or forcing them into prostitution. According to the reports, 80 percent of the victims are women and children. The Myanmar society values human dignity more than life, and loss of human dignity is unacceptable in the thousand-year-old, culture and religious teachings of Myanmar.

(See page 9)

YANGON, 22 Sept — The leading committee held its first meeting on organizing the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) at the Ministry of Home Affairs this afternoon.

The ministers and senior officials from China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam will participate at the meeting which will be held in the last week of October, 2004 here.

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.