Accomplishments of border area development project have strengthened national races’ confidence in the government and consolidated national solidarity spirit and Union spirit. Myanmar is home to over one hundred national races and so national solidarity is most fundamental strength for ensuring perpetual existence of the Union.

Prime Minister addresses meeting of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races

YANGON, 23 Sept—The Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races held its meeting No 5/2004 at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyittha here this afternoon, attended by Chairman of the Work Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the Work Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the deputy ministers, members of the Work Committee and subcommittees, officials of the SPDC Office, departmental heads and officials.

The Prime Minister in his address said that the committee has carried out tasks for progress of border areas for 15 years. The border areas development project is being implemented across the nation under the supervision of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races chaired by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, regional committees chaired by local authorities and subcommittees chaired by deputy ministers.

The Head of State’s leadership and supervision on border development tasks implies the importance of the project as well as the State’s concentration on the project. The border areas and national races development project with firm historical events is the first among the projects the government has launched after its assumption of the State’s duties.

As soon as the government took up the State’s responsibilities in 1988, it paid the top priority to enhancing national solidarity after laying down the national policy — national solidarity, perpetuation of sovereignty and non-disintegration of the Union — and tasks that are based on the national policy. At that time, national race armed groups, which could not achieve any success despite fighting against successive governments for many years, returned to the legal fold after they had realized the government’s national policy leading to strengthening national solidarity when border areas were standing on a position of lagging behind in development with concentration on the project.

Perspectives

Strive for further achievements in total elimination of narcotic drugs

(Article)

World Heart Day

(See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Sunday, 26 September, 2004

Strive for further achievements in total elimination of narcotic drugs
The drug menace is a common enemy not only for a certain nation but for the whole world. As the threat is concerned with the entire mankind, all the nations are to collectively drive it out of the world as a national concern.

Actually, the drug problem did not originate in Myanmar but it was imported from other countries by old colonialists. Nowadays, neo-colonialists, ignoring the trend of history, are pointing a finger at Myanmar as if there is a growing drug problem in Myanmar.

During the time when Myanmar was under subjugation, the colonialists had ruined the lives of the successive generations of the national races in border areas with drugs. The governments in successive eras steadfastly tried to wipe out the evil legacy of the past. At present, unprecedented progress has been made in Myanmar in the fight against drugs.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the Special Meeting 2/2004 of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control held at the Drug Elimination Museum in Kamayut Township on 24 September and delivered an address. In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said the Government is not carrying out the drug elimination task superficially just for show, but it is working hard with the firm resolve to exterminate the problem totally from the country within a specific span of time. Despite the slanderous accusation and disturbances from others, Myanmar has the firm belief that it can end the internal drug problem.

Nowadays, the neo-colonialists are making attempts to have greater opportunity to manipulate in the affairs of the developing nations like Myanmar. At such a time, some western powers, resorting to various ways and means, are attempting to dominate the developing nations. They are putting pressures on Myanmar with excuses of democracy, human rights, drugs and human trafficking.

No matter how hard they put pressures, Myanmar has been making all-out efforts for development of border areas and national races, further cementing the national solidarity and spiritual development of the people while striving for eradication of narcotic drugs. It is Myanmar’s firm belief that it will continue cooperating with any of the world nations and international organizations whose views, outlooks and concepts on drug elimination are the same as Myanmar’s. This being the case, it is sure that Myanmar, enlisting the strength of the entire national people and the international organizations, will make strenuous efforts for further achievements in total elimination of narcotic drugs out of Myanmar soil.

Commander inspects factories in Hlinethaya industrial zones

YANGON, 25 Sept — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by No 1 Military Region Commander Lt-Col Nay Win and officials, this evening inspected factories in Hlinethaya industrial zones.

On arrival at Shwetun farm machinery factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-4, the commander and party inspected manufacturing of parts of tractors and trucks and assembling of trucks. They next went to SMI steel plant and inspected production line. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party later inspected Khing Industries in Industrial Zone 5 and Shwethaya automobile factory and Myanmar region nail factory in Industrial Zone-2. At the factories, officials concerned reported to the commander on their production lines. The commander gave instructions to officials, saying that the State is providing necessary assistance to national industrialists for development of industrial sector. So, it is required for them to make use of this assistance to boost industrial production.

MNA

Headmistress Daw Khin Hla Myint speaking at the ceremony to honour outstanding students who passed matriculation exam at Bahan BEHS No 2.— MNA

Educational Project Competition

Students observe computer showroom of Myat Tha Pyay Family at MICT Park on 24-9-2004.— MNA

COMMAND

Warning of High tide

YANGON, 25 Sept — The public are informed that exceptionally high Spring of from 20.08 feet to 20.73 feet high above the datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period 27-9-2004 to 2-11-2004. — MNA

Use Natural Gas Vehicles and save fuel oil

* In automobiles, natural gas can be used in place of petrol and diesel.
* The use of natural gas can not only save fuel oil but also extend engine life.
* Natural gas exploited at home can be used effectively and safely.
* Natural gas burns cent per cent and is environment-friendly.
* Adequate supply of natural gas helps facilitate passenger and cargo transport.

MNA
Three sailors charged with abusing Iraq prisoners

WASHINGTON, 24 Sept — Three Navy SEAL commandos have been charged with aggravated assault and other offenses in connection with the alleged mistreatment of two prisoners who died in US military custody in Iraq, US defense officials said.

The Navy’s Special Warfare Command in San Diego, California announced the action, which raised to seven the number of Navy SEALs charged in connection with the deaths of detainees in Iraq.

“Three sailors attached to Naval Special Warfare Command face disciplinary actions based on evidence obtained during an ongoing investigation into alleged detainee abuse in Iraq from October 2003 to April 2004,” the command said in a statement.

The charges include maltreatment of detainees, assault, and conduct unbecoming a member of the US Navy.

The charges do not include homicide because investigators have not been able to determine that the SEALs’ actions led to the deaths of the prisoners, the defense official who asked not to be identified.

At least one of the three sailors was implicated in both cases, the official said.

The defense official said the most recent death involved a prisoner who was turned over by the SEALs to army troops near Mosul, and later died.—Internet

China urges more attention on civilian aspect in UN peace operation

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Sept — Civilian contributions to UN peace-keeping operations worldwide deserve more attention, China’s UN Ambassador Wang Guangya said here on Wednesday.

UN peacekeeping operations in recent years had demonstrated the increasing importance played by civilian forces in ensuring the smooth transition from conflict to peace-building, Wang told a high-level thematic debate by the UN Security Council.

The open Council meeting, Civilian Aspects of Conflict Management and Peace-building, was held on the sidelines of the annual debate of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Wang told the 15-member Council that in conflict management, the roles of military and civilian forces were closely related. “There could be no rule without peace and no peace without rule,” he said.

He stressed that civilian assistance should be provided in accordance with specific circumstances and needs.

“Just as conflicts var-ied greatly, so did the need for a civilian response,” Wang said, adding that “civilian elements in peacekeeping operations should take targeted measures and avoid doing other groups’ work.”

The ambassador went on to say that existing mechanisms of the UN system must be brought into full play. “The various bodies of the United Nations system had accumulated rich experience in peacekeeping, and the international community should draw upon past successes and lessons while providing full resources to allow the United Nations system to fulfill its responsibilities,” said Wang. —MNA/Xinhua

Kidnapers seize six Egyptians, four Iraqis

BAGHDAD, 24 Sept — Kidnappers seized six Egyptians and four Iraqis working for the country’s mobile phone company, authorities said on Friday, and Muslim leaders in Britain announced plans to send negotiators to Baghdad in hopes of winning the release of hostage Kenneth Bigley.

Gunmen abducted two of the Egyptians on Thursday in a bold raid on the firm’s Baghdad office — the latest in a string of kidnappings targeting engineers working on Iraq’s infrastructure, in a bid to undermine the US-allied interim government. Eight other company employees were seized outside Baghdad on Wednesday.

Insurgents fired a rocket on a busy Baghdad street Friday, killing four people and wounding 14, the military said.

The worsening security situation prompted one US official to warn that Saddam Hussein’s trial on war crimes charges would likely not take place any time soon. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, dismissed allegations by the tribunal’s ousted director that Prime Minister Ayad Allawi was pushing for “show trials” to boost his popularity ahead of January elections.

The new kidnappings followed the beheadings of two American civil engineers who were taken hostage last week with Bigley. The 62-year-old Briton was shown in a videotape Wednesday begging authorities to meet his kidnappers’ demands and save his life.

The militant group Tawhid and Jihad, led by Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who threatened to kill Bigley unless Iraqi women are freed from prison.

Uganda urges COMESA members to deepen cooperation

KAMPALA, 24 Sept — Uganda has urged members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) to deliberately align their priorities at a multilateral trading level and deepen their cooperation by reconstructing trade paradigm.

The call was made by Ugandan Minister of State for Trade Richard Nduhura when he was speaking at a one-day Uganda-Zambia business forum in Kampala on Wednesday, according to a report from Radio Uganda.

Nduhura said they need to cooperate in information technology, market trade and investment opportunities on regular basis. He urged Africans to deliberately focus on regional cooperation especially in trade, commerce and investment as one of the innovative strategies to market the region to the international community. —MNA/Xinhua

1,042 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 25 Sept — As of Friday, 24 Sept, 2004, 1,042 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 792 died as a result of hostile action and 250 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

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

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 904 US military members have died — 683 as a result of hostile action and 221 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.—Internet

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The ambassador went on to say that existing mechanisms of the UN system must be brought into full play. “The various bodies of the United Nations system had accumulated rich experience in peacekeeping, and the international community should draw upon past successes and lessons while providing full resources to allow the United Nations system to fulfill its responsibilities,” said Wang. —MNA/Xinhua
Marshall islanders still suffering from US N-tests

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Sept— Fifty years after a string of US nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands, the western Pacific republic’s people are still suffering lingering health problems, President Kessai Note said on Wednesday.

“We urge the United States Government to fully address the issue of adequate compensation for populations affected by the nuclear testing programme, and to fulfill its responsibilities for the safe resettlement of displaced populations,” Note told the UN General Assembly.

The islands, a group of 31 atolls, were occupied by Allied forces in 1944, included in the UN Trust Territory of the Pacific in 1947 and placed under US Administration that same year. They became an independent republic in 1986.

Deteriorating situation in Iraq worries Philippines

MANILA, 24 Sept— The deteriorating situation in Iraq worried the Philippines as guerrillas step up attacks against the US-led coalition and Iraqi security forces, a senior Philippine Government official said on Thursday.

Due to a sharp rise in bombings and kidnappings over the past week, the Philippine Government is adjusting contingency plans for about 4,400 Filipino civilian workers in the war-torn country, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s Middle East special envoy Roy Cimatu told reporters.

“The situation is not encouraging. It’s deteriorating a little bit. Kidnappings are becoming frequent. There are also kidnappings inside residential areas in Bagh-

Chinese DM meets with Bruneian, Philippines guests

BEIJING, 25 Sept— Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan met here Thursday with Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji MD Yussof, commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Narciso L. Abaya Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines.

During his meeting with Halbi, Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and State Councilor, said China and Brunei have strengthened cooperation in economics and closely coordinated in the past years. China is satisfied with bilateral exchanges and cooperation and is ready to further promote the development between the two armies.

Halbi said two nations have a long history of exchanges. Brunei values China’s role in maintaining regional safety and stability. He reiterated that Brunei would continue to adhere to “One China” policy.

Turkey vows to assure security of drivers in Iraq

ANKARA, 24 Sept— Turkish Transportation Minister Binali Yildirim said Wednesday the government is taking measures to assure the security of Turkish drivers shuttling between Turkey and Iraq, Anatolia news agency reported.

“We are working on alternative roads” after Turkish truck drivers were kidnapped or killed in Iraq, Yildirim, who just attended a conference on International Highway Transportation in Istanbul, was quoted as saying.

He recommended the transportation companies take roads in Syria when their trucks are trying to reach the south of Iraq. Most Turkish truck drivers enter Iraq from the north, by way of Turkey’s Habur border gate.

On Tuesday, the Ankara-based VINSAN construction company became the latest Turkish firm to announce suspension of operations in Iraq in a bid to save the lives of its 10 employees kidnapped by militants.

The militants threatened to kill the hostages unless the company quits Iraq.

Chinese NPC Vice-Chairwoman meets Bangladeshi guests

BEIJING, 25 Sept— Gu Xiulian, vice-chairwoman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress (NPC), met with Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, adviser to the Bangladesh Prime Minister on parliamentary affairs, here Friday. Gu expressed her appreciation for the important role Chowdhury has played in developing the friendship between China and Bangladesh.

China has always treated Bangladesh as a good neighbour, good friend and trusted partner, she said, acknowledging that both sides should exert efforts to push bilateral relations to new depths and widths.

China, South Korea, France painting exhibition opens

BEIJING, 25 Sept— A painting exhibit by artists from China, South Korea and France opened here Friday, at the Beijing Crown Plaza, with paintings of 14 artists.

The show, advocated by Gallery ROK, was co-sponsored by the China International Exhibition Agency and Beijing Crown Plaza Arts Foundation. Seok Tong-youn, minister with South Korean Embassy to China, said at the opening ceremony that South Korea, attaching a great deal of importance to friendly relationship with China and Europe, said the exhibition would help to strengthen mutual understanding and friendship among peoples of the three countries. Michel Henry, a well-known French oil painter, said that the increased cultural exchange between Europe and Asia brought about by the “France-China Culture Year” have drawn the eyes of more and more French and European people to China and the rest of Asia.

South Korean art critic Shin Hang-Seop pointed out that the Chinese painters, drawing on the 5,000-year history and diversified ethnic cultures of their motherland, have developed a unique Chinese artistic style in their exploration of Western oil paintings. The French painters, inspired by impressionism, brighten their paintings with fantasy and romanticism.

Prisoners, released from Abu Ghraib, walk out of an Iraqi military facility after they were brought there for release, in Baghdad, on 22 Sept, 2004—INTERNET

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US soldier killed, four wounded in Baghdad car bomb

Baghdad, 24 Sept — One US soldier was killed and four others were wounded in a car bombing in Baghdad’s Mansour District on Wednesday, the US military said in a statement on Thursday.

“One Task Force Baghdad soldier died and four others were wounded when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated at about 4:30 pm (1230 GMT) on September 22 near a traffic control point in Baghdad,” the statement said.

On Wednesday, a huge blast caused by a car bomb took place near Said (Hunting) Club in Mansour district west of Baghdad.

The attack targeted a US military convoy, destroying two Humvees and a vehicle from the Iraqi national guard force, a police officer at the scene told Xinhua.

The blast followed an earlier Baghdad car bombing that claimed the lives of at least five people and wounded dozens of other outside a recruiting center for the Iraqi national guard.

Two US soldiers charged with murder of three Iraqi civilians

Baghdad, 24 Sept — Two US soldiers serving in Iraq have been charged with premeditated murder in the deaths of three Iraqi civilians, the US military said in a statement on Wednesday.

The soldiers charged are Sergeant Michael Williams and Specialist Brent May, both members of the 1st Cavalry Division, which is operating in and around Baghdad but is normally based at Fort Riley in Kansas.

As well as premeditated murder, Williams has been charged with obstruction of justice and making a false official statement, the 1st Cavalry Division said.

The statement said no specifics relating to the charges could be revealed because the Army’s Criminal Investigation Division is investigating.

The military first announced that two soldiers were under investigation for the deaths on Tuesday.

Army investigators have launched several probes into the wrongful deaths of Iraqis since the invasion to overthrow President Saddam Hussein last year.

In one case earlier this year, an investigation was opened after an Iraqi mother said her son had drowned after being forced by US soldiers to jump into the Tigris River from a bridge after missing curfew.

Charges were brought against three soldiers but have since been dropped against two of them. Involuntary manslaughter charges are still pending against the third.

CTBT’s entry into force will strengthen security everywhere

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Sept — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Thursday urged all countries that have yet to sign or ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to do so without delay, particularly those countries whose participation is required for the treaty to enter into force.

The UN chief reminded these countries that the treaty contains far-reaching verification provisions to ensure full compliance with its provisions on short notice, and confidence-building measures.

“Its entry into force would strengthen the security of states and peoples everywhere,” Annan said.

Annan made the statement on the occasion of the launching of the second joint ministerial statement for the nuclear test ban treaty, delivered in New York on Thursday by Nobuyasu Abe, UN Under Secretary-General for disarmament affairs.

Annan said the UN General Assembly, with the support of 158-member states, adopted the treaty in September 1996. However, eight years later, the promise of that moment has yet to be realized, he said. The longer its entry into force is delayed, the more likely that nuclear testing will resume. Were this to happen, it would be a major setback in non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament efforts,” Annan said. — MNA/Xinhua

France says it will not send troops to Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Sept — France reiterated on Thursday its criticism of the US-led war in Iraq, pledging it would not send troops to the country but reaffirming its willingness to assist the Iraqi people in rebuilding their country and restoring their institutions.

“France, as everyone knows, did not approve the conditions in which the conflict was unleashed. Neither today, nor tomorrow will it commit itself militarily to Iraq,” French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier told the 59th session of the UN General Assembly.

Barnier said violence was now exploding in Iraq. “Only when the Iraqis themselves take control of their future and when the political process provided for by the Security Council continues will the country be able to escape the chaos which destabilizes the entire region.”

Barnier said “building peace in the Middle East is a historic responsibility for our generation.” The roadmap, which the parties have accepted and the Security Council has endorsed, must be implemented in full in good faith, and “France hopes that the withdrawal from Gaza is a first step,” he said.

“It will make every effort to get the peace process under way again. It will continue to act vis-a-vis the elected and legitimate leaders, all the leaders of this region,” Barnier said.

Turning to challenges facing the world, Barnier said that while the international community waged a merciless fight against terrorism, it should at the same time address its roots. “This means: put an end to situations that terrorists exploit; give the world’s excluded hope again; restore dignity to peoples deprived of it; of seeing dialogue and cooperation among civilizations, cultures and religions prevail rather than conflict and intolerance.”

Barnier called for support for the implementation of the New Partnership for African Development, a resolute commitment of the African Union on the political front and in the field. “Africa is also where we will win or lose the battle for justice,” he said.

On UN reform, Barnier said France favoured enlargement in both categories of Security Council members. “We have expressed support for the aspirations of Germany, Japan, Brazil and India, which should be accompanied by a country from Africa.”

Japan, Germany, India and Brazil issued a joint statement on Tuesday, pledging support for each other’s bid for permanent seat on the Security Council.

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In one case earlier this year, an investigation was opened after an Iraqi mother said her son had drowned after being forced by US soldiers to jump into the Tigris River from a bridge after missing curfew.

Charges were brought against three soldiers but have since been dropped against two of them. Involuntary manslaughter charges are still pending against the third.

Canada to provide more aid to Caribbean countries

OTTAWA, 24 Sept — The Canadian Government announces that it will provide an additional aid of 1 million US dollars to the Caribbean countries affected by recent tropical storms.

An official Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of International Co-operation said the aid will be used to help the people of Grenada, Jamaica, Cuba, and other affected countries.

Canada’s contribution will be delivered through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Pan American Health Organization, and CARE Canada. All organizations are working on the ground in the Caribbean and have established distribution systems, the Press release said.

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Iraqi workers stand near the oil well in an area called Bob Al-Sham, some 25 km east of Baghdad, on 23 Sept, 2004.
Gorbachev says Iraq war against international law

London, 25 Sept— Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said here on Thursday that the US-led war against Iraq has undermined international law.

“I regard the invasion of Iraq as undermining international law and undermining democracy because millions of people spoke out against it,” Gorbachev said in Central London during the launch of a campaign organized by the WMD Awareness Programme to make people more aware of the dangers of weapons of mass destruction.

“It was done without the mandate of the United Nations Security Council,” Gorbachev said, stressing that the war was a “big mistake”.

On fighting terrorism, Gorbachev said financial backers for terrorists should be stopped and world poverty should be alleviated.

In face of international terrorism, it was necessary to destroy nuclear weapons, not just control them, Gorbachev believed.

Gorbachev, who led the former Soviet Union from 1985 to 1991, has been in London for a visit aimed at supporting the WMD Awareness Programme.

The WMD Awareness Programme is a network of non-governmental organizations which aims to fight the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

— MNA/Xinhua

Two female Italian hostages killed in Iraq

Dubai, 24 Sept— An Islamist group in Iraq said it had killed two female Italian hostages in a statement posted on an Internet site, but the women’s employers in Italy said on Thursday they had not given up hope.

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— MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Premier on official visit in Moscow

Moscow, 24 Sept— China is satisfied with the fruitful growth of bilateral relations with Russia, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said upon his arrival in Moscow on Thursday afternoon for an official visit to Russia.

In a written speech delivered at the airport, the Chinese Premier said that over the recent years, China-Russia relations have maintained a sound momentum of vigorous growth. The two countries have maintained frequent exchanges among high-ranking officials, continuously deepened cooperation in all areas and conducted close consultations and cooperation on international affairs.

During his three-day trip to Moscow, Wen and his Russian counterpart Mikhail Fradkov will hold the ninth regular meeting between heads of governments of the two countries.

This is the first visit that Wen has made to Russia since assuming office. He is also to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Russian Federal Council Chairman Sergei Mironov, and Boris Gryzlov, chairman of Russia’s State Duma. The Chinese premier is expected to exchange views with those senior Russian officials on bilateral relations and international issues of common concern. They will put forward plans and measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation in all areas in the future.

China and Russia are now seeking growing development of bilateral relations. Wen is to finalize the talks on a series of important agreements between the two countries during his visit to Moscow, which will focus on expanding trade and enhancing coordination in anti-terrorism campaign.— MNA/Xinhua

Private-owned business mushrooming in Jiangsu Province

Nanjing, 24 Sept— Privately-owned businesses in east China’s Jiangsu province are thriving with 60,000 new firms registered in the first seven months of this year.

By the end of last July, the number of privately-owned enterprises soared to 398,000, up 15.6 per cent over the figure at the end of last year. Their combined registered capital came to 475.5 billion yuan (57.4 billion US dollars).

In Jiangsu province, where private businesses developed rapidly, the added value gained by privately-owned or individual enterprises was 209.5 billion yuan (25.3 billion dollars), making up 31 per cent of Jiangsu’s gross domestic product (GDP).

Nowadays, the private sector in China has expanded from traditional industries to the fields of culture, education, health, sports and some new industries such as e-commerce and software. The newly-issued government decision on reforming the country’s investment system also encouraged private investment and allowed it to enter infrastructure areas.

With government support, the booming private business scene in China has increased its contribution to the national economy. In Jiangsu province, the local private companies turned over 18.2 billion yuan (about 2.2 billion US dollars) in tax to the state in the first seven months of this year, a 56.3 per cent rise.

— MNA/Xinhua

Paris welcomes NATO’s agreement over Iraq

PARIS, 25 Sept— France welcomes the agreement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) concluded on Wednesday on training Iraqi security forces and will not send any troops, the French Defence Ministry said on Thursday.

“We consider that the outcome is satisfying, because the NATO’s role in Iraq has been delimited,” French Defence Ministry’s Spokesman Jean-Francois Bureau said at a news conference.

Ambassadors of the 26 NATO member states agreed on Wednesday on establishing a military training centre in Iraq for Iraqi security forces. The military alliance will send about 300 officers into Iraq to set up and run the centre outside Baghdad, broadening NATO’s training mission that began last month with the deployment of 40 instructors.

France had refused to join this mission with Germany, Belgium and Spain. It proposed its formation service for Iraqi security forces outside Iraq.

French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie reiterated Thursday on French radio Europe 1 that it is out of the question for France to send troops in Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

Iran's look at a destroyed house following an overnight US airstrike on the city of Samarra, north of Baghdad which killed three people, including one old woman recently. — INTERNET

Jabbar Lazim expresses his feeling of helplessness after his workshop was destroyed in a US offensive in Sadr City, Baghdad, on 23 Sept, 2004. — INTERNET
Endeavours to raise socio-economic life of national brethren living in border areas

Kengtung Degree College in Shan State (East). — MNA

TV retransmission station built in Konggyan region of Shan State (North). — KYEMON

A suspension bridge lies at the entrance to Pannadin, the northernmost part of Myanmar in Kachin State. — PRASIDA

As peace prevails throughout the country, people living in border areas are now able to run their business with peace of mind. The photo shows magnificent Mongla market built in Mongla. — PRASIDA
Myanmar is home to over one hundred national races and so national solidarity is the most fundamental strength for ensuring perpetuity of the Union.

With progress in implementing the project, the living standard of the national races has been raised to a certain degree and success has been achieved in drugs elimination tasks.

The Union of national races is harmoniously with the intention of removing such instigations and disunity among the national races while implementing border area development tasks with greater momentum.

The Prime Minister said achievements of border area development tasks cause good noble traditions such as strengthening national solidarity, safeguarding the Union. With this concept, officials are to continue to implement the border area and national races development project with added momentum, he said.

The project is now in the fourth year of the second five year mid-term plan. With the development of border areas and economic progress, national race organizations are participating in regional development tasks.

The Union of national races and its members have strengthened their mutual trust.

He said armored opposition of the national races occurred due to the evil legacy of the divide-and-rule policy of the colonists. Therefore, he said, border areas lagged behind in development because of the lack of peace and stability in the region.

He said based on regional development gap, neo-colonialists and their lackeys are still instigating the national races and driving a wedge among them.

That is why, he said, the government is making endeavours for development of the entire Union harmoniously with the intention of removing such poor education, health and social standards due to lack of peace and stability.

Therefore, K 58,399.34 million in total amount had been spent on development of the border regions from 1989 to 31-8-2004. It can be seen that the government is placing emphasis on border areas development spending greater amount of money year after year.

Up to now, a total of 26 youth development training schools for border areas have been opened so as to develop human resources of national races. At the schools, 453 primary and 1,271 middle school students and 45 youth development training schools for border areas have been opened so as to develop human resources of national races.
Accomplishments of...

532 high school students totalling 2,238 are being nurtured with regard to the border area education, 72 high schools, 61 middle schools and 657 primary schools could be extended during 15-year period. At present 108,621 students are learning education at these schools.

With respect to learning university education, two Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges were opened in Yangon and Mandalay. Up to now, degrees were conferred to 256 national race youths, and they have been appointed at respective ministries. Furthermore, outstanding students got opportunities to attend MSc/MA eligible qualification courses and B Tech course.

In various border areas, domestic science training courses were conducted to 13,415 girls of border areas at 18 women’s domestic science training schools. In Chin State, women’s weaving courses are being conducted at the training schools in Mindat, Haka and Falam. In addition, the knitting course was designated as a major subject at the training courses. And then, development tasks of border areas are being carried out in cooperation with international organizations.

Next, the ministers, the deputy ministers, members of the work committee and sub-committees reported on their respective sectors.

Next, those present at the meeting reported on matters related to the development of border areas. After hearing the reports, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gave instructions and concluding remarks. In his remarks, the Prime Minister said armed groups of national races’ returning to the legal fold gave rise to the project of border areas and national races development. At the outset, development projects were implemented mainly in their regions.

It was only when the development measures taken there gained momentum to a considerable degree that the tasks for the development of other border areas was undertaken. Now, the border areas development tasks have covered all areas from the easternmost corner to the westernmost corner as well as from the southernmost corner to the northernmost corner.

Since these special development zones link with border areas, efforts are under way to upgrade universities, colleges and hospitals in these areas.

According to the guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe in respect of the undertaking of development tasks at remote border areas, the five rural development tasks project, which will bring essential prosperity to rural areas, are being implemented.

The continued efforts to implement these three projects produce reciprocal benefits and harmonious development across the Union, whereupon national unity and Union Spirit will survive among the national brethren.

When it comes to the success of the National Convention, which is the first step of the seven-point future policy programme, national unity and Union Spirit are fundamental and instrumental in bringing about a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, which is also a national goal.

Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt concluded his remarks, calling for constant and concerted efforts for success of the border area development tasks, which will strengthen national unity and Union Spirit among the national races.

According to the guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe in respect of the undertaking of development tasks at remote border areas, the five rural development tasks project, which will bring essential prosperity to rural areas, are being implemented.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views booths displayed at the First Thai Education Seminar and Exhibition 2004. — MNA

Accomplishments of... (from page 8)

Tea plantation of local national race farmers in Sini region, Shan State (East). — MNA

Paunglaung Hydroelectric Power Project inspected

YANGON, 25 Sept — Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htu, accompanied by Director-General U Win Kyaw of the Hydroelectric Power Department and officials, arrived at the site of Paunglaung Hydroelectric Power Project on 24 September evening.

Together with the No 1 Construction Director and officials of the project, the minister inspected installation of No 2 generator and power production of No 1 and No 3 generators. Next, the minister presented gifts to Chinese experts working for the project.

The minister and party saw over installation of transformers, the sub-power station, the spillway, the power intake, storage of water in the dam and maintenance of the dam. Afterwards, the minister gave instructions on systematic use of generators, sanitation at the station, worksite safety, minimizing loss and wastage, greening of environs of the project site and tasks to be coordinated among departments. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 26 September, 2004 9

Prime Minister attends...

(from page 16)

At 10.30 am, the Prime Minister arrived at the exhibition where Minister for Education U Than Aung and officials, Thai Minister of Education Dr Adisai Bodharamik and officials, teachers and students welcomed him.

In the ball room, violinist students of Insein Basic Education High School No 1 played the song ‘Golden land Myanmar’ and students of Sanyoung BEHS No 2 and Dagon BEHS No 1 sang the songs to the accompaniment of harpists and musicians.

Next, Secretary-General of Commission on Higher Education Associate Professor Dr Pavich Tongroach extended greetings.

Afterwards, Thai Minister of Education Dr Adisai Bodharamik and Minister for Education U Than Aung expressed gratitude.

The Thai Minister of Education presented souvenirs to the Prime Minister. Later, the Prime Minister and party, the Thai Minister of Education and guests posed for documentary photos.

Minister for Education U Than Aung and Thai Minister of Education Dr Adisai Bodharamik launched the seminar and exhibition. The Prime Minister and party viewed booths of higher education schools, education organizations and agencies of Thailand.

A total of 31 booths of higher education schools, education organizations and agencies of Thailand included in the Thai Education Exhibition 2004 which continues tomorrow from 10 am to 5 pm.

During the period of the exhibition, training, learning and educative methods concerning the higher education sector will be discussed. — MNA

According to the guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe in respect of the undertaking of development tasks at remote border areas, the five rural development tasks project, which will bring essential prosperity to rural areas, are being implemented.
The World Heart Day is a special day in the calendar year designated by the World Heart Federation since 1999. The objective is to propagate information to the world about how to maintain a healthy heart throughout one’s whole life. The World Heart Day solgan is therefore “a heart for life”. The World Heart Day is celebrated on the last Sunday in September every year.

For the past four years, World Heart Day has been held in more than 90 countries around the world in order to increase awareness of cardiovascular disease risk factors and to encourage people to take charge of those they can control by adopting a healthy lifestyle. All of this will help to reinforce the World Heart Day slogan. The fifth annual World Heart Day is to be held on 26th September, 2004, and this year’s focus is on “Children, Adolescents and Heart Disease”. This particular focus is the product of a memorandum of understanding signed by UNESCO, WHO and WHF in 1996, whereby these three non-governmental organizations agreed to improve, in developing countries, the protection of health of school-age children and environmental health conditions in and around educational establishments.

Throughout the 20th century, non-communicable diseases are emerging as important health problems not only in the developed countries but also in the developing countries where urbanization and globalization have brought about changes in lifestyle, which are unfortunately unhealthy. These unhealthy lifestyles, especially poor eating habits, physical inactivity and smoking, are the leading causes of heart disease and are increasingly being adopted at early ages, viz, among children and teenagers. The core messages of this year’s World Heart Day will be curbing of obesity and smoking and promotion of physical activity with the aim of preventing of future heart disease in today’s children.

For the first time, Myanmar will celebrate the World Heart Day on the 26th of September. The objective is to increase awareness of the prevalence of cardiovascular disease and its risk factors in our Myanmar population, which includes adults as well as children and adolescents and subsequently to encourage our people to lessen these problems by adopting a healthy lifestyle.

The two types of heart disease that can occur in children and adolescents are “congenital” and “acquired”. The most important and prevalent acquired heart disease that occurs in Myanmar is rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease.

Rheumatic fever / rheumatic heart disease (RF/RHD) is the most common cardiovascular disease in children and young adults and remain a major health problem in developing countries. The disease affects 2.4 million children between 5 and 14 years old in low and middle-income countries. In Myanmar, a study (Aung et al, 1992) has shown that it affects 6/1000 school children in the urban area and 19/1000 schoolchildren in a rural area. Rheumatic fever follows a neglected sore throat (streptococcal infection) and can be effectively treated with a simple penicillin injection. Repeated infections cause damage to the heart and by their late teens or early 20’s, the patients become ill and their quality of life becomes extremely poor. Recurrent attacks of rheumatic fever can be prevented by long-acting benzathine penicillin injections. However, few patients can afford them and fewer still have access to expensive medication for heart disease and corrective surgery or interventional procedures. They are unable to work and many die early. Rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease, therefore, need to be diligently treated and prevented in childhood and adolescence. Cardiovascular diseases like hypertension, stroke, ischaemic heart disease and corpulmonale are prevalent in our adult Myanmar population. However, their risk factors begin in childhood because unhealthy lifestyles like unhealthy diets, smoking and physical inactivity are more and more adopted at an early age. It thus becomes extremely important to implement adoption of healthy lifestyles in our children and youth, so as to prevent cardiovascular problems in the future.

Children and tobacco
The younger a person begins to smoke, the greater the risk of eventually contracting smoking caused diseases. Half of the young people who continue to smoke will die from smoking.

Worldwide studies have revealed that the majority of smokers begin tobacco use before they reach the age of ten. Even in low and middle-income countries, there is a high percentage (over 30%) of children who start to smoke before the age of ten. Among 13-15 year olds, 30% and over of boys are smokers. The figures are even more alarming for the Myanmar adolescents. Several studies conducted in many parts of the country reveal that over 50% of adolescents smoke.

Environmental tobacco smoke
Children exposed to tobacco smoke suffer from many of the diseases of active smoking. Almost half of the children worldwide live in a home of a smoker. In Myanmar, various studies have revealed that the prevalence of smoking is over 60% in the adult males and 30% in the adult females. Moreover, the offspring of these adult smokers are more likely to adopt the habit than those of non-smoking parents.

Non-smoking - can be promoted by encouraging parents and children to stop smoking and reinforcing the commitment of ex-smokers. School children, beginning from the elementary age, should be taught that smoking is a harmful and addictive behaviour. Adolescents who have started smoking need to be counseled on how to quit the habit.

Children and obesity
Obese children are 3 times more likely to develop hypertension than non-obese children. Cohort studies show that obesity can be tracked from childhood to adulthood and is directly associated with increased morbidity and mortality in adult life independent of adult body weight. The risk of developing type 2 diabetes is linked to the increasing prevalence of obesity. A new trend has been noted in the increasing cases of type 2 diabetes in children worldwide, with some as young as 8 years of age being affected.

Childhood obesity is epidemic and on the rise in many parts of the world. Approximately 22 million children under 5 years are obese and many more are overweight across the world.

In Myanmar, it is a general observation that obesity is increasing in prevalence among our children, at least in the urban communities. An obesogenic environment currently exists, whereby food and soft drink advertisements on television encourage our children to ingest more and spend less calories and thus gain weight. Pediatric obesity should be diligently monitored and managed with the help of parents who should promote healthful dietary and activity habits for their children.

Children and inactivity
The television and computer support sedentary lifestyles with a snacking culture. Two thirds of the children worldwide are inactive for their health. Urbanization discourages physical activity. There are few walking or cycling lanes or parks for children in our towns and cities.

The World Heart Day slogan of “a heart for life” and this year’s focus on “children, adolescents and heart disease” intend to promote adoption of healthy lifestyles in the young in order to provide a healthy heart for the rest of their lives.

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.

General Manager
Mr Takashi M Kondo
extends greetings at a ceremony to mark
Journalist Day 2004
held at Hotel Nikko
Royal Lake Yangon

“A Heart for Life”

Emergence of technocrats...

(from page 16)

The Ministry of Health had made preparations since 2002 with the assistance of the government and as a result that there has been complete success in liver transplant, the Prime Minister added.

In order to perform liver transplant in Myanmar, the government made arrangements to send medical experts abroad for further studies and to conduct study tours of foreign countries for Myanmar surgeons and specialists. The State also provided necessary model medical equipment. Besides, preparations and training had been carried out many times for the success of liver transplant, he noted.

The emergence of technocrats who are human resources in all aspects is of vital importance for the establishment of a modern and developed nation. In like manner, they are to work hard in the interests of the country and the people.

Significant achievements have been seen in the medical world of Myanmar since Myanmar medical experts tried to the best of their ability, standing in solidarity and making the most of the assistance offered by the State.

In such a time like this, Government has been implementing the projects in a systematic way since four years ago. Moreover, the Government also gives encouragement to the drive for the emergence of a modern medical world through the adequate supply of essential medical equipment.

The success achieved has been due to the assistance provided by the Government as well as to the diligence, goodwill and united strength of medical experts.

Therefore, the Government today honoured those who conducted the liver development of Myanmar medical science.

On behalf of the honoured specialists, Professor Dr Saw Naing, Head of Medical Science Department of New Yangon General Hospital expressed his thanks towards the Government for all the assistance it provided.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hosted a dinner in honour of the surgical team that was able to succeed in the liver transplant, the first and foremost surgical operation in Myanmar.

Before and during the dinner, vocalists entertained the guests with songs to the accompaniment of Myanmar Modern Music Band.

On behalf of the specialists, Head of Medical Science Department Prof Dr Saw Naing expresses gratitude.— MNA

NHC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets surgical specialists at the dinner in their honour.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially chats with surgeons on 3-9-2004.— MNA

NHC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets surgical specialist Prof Dr Norman Hla at the dinner.— MNA

NHC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt comforts Ko Khin Zaw Htet who has undergone liver transplant at New General Hospital (Yangon) on 3-9-2004.— MNA

NHC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets surgical specialists at the dinner in their honour.

NHC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets surgical specialists at the dinner in their honour.
**MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION**

**ROAD TRANSPORT INVITATION FOR TENDER**

No. 002/RT/2004-2005

Sealed Tenders from eligible suppliers are invited for the supply of the following Tyre Sizes, prices to be quoted in Myanmar Kyats-Yangon.

**Tyres with Tubes And Flaps**

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(a) Tenders Documents are available at the office of Procurement & Stores Department, Head Office, Road Transport, No. 375, Bogoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar, Com- missioned on 29th September, 2004.

(b) Tenders will be closed on 6th, October, 2004 at (16:00) hours.

(c) The Road Transport reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders.

(d) Detailed information will be available at the office of the procurement & Stores Department, or contact Phone Nos. (01) 252574 or (01) 376549

Managing Director, Road Transport

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**Thai scientists conduct first test on underwater robot**

BANGKOK, 24 Sept.— A Thai research team has conducted the first official trial on a remote-controlled robot, the first underwater robot in the world designed for South Pole Exploration.

Led by Dr Woranop Wiyakarn, a marine biologist at Chulalongkorn University, the trial of the robot was conducted in a diving pool at Mahidol University under the supervision of Scientist and Technology Minister Korn Dabbaramski.

Named ThaIXPole, the 50-kilo robot is a metal cubic frame surrounding an array of equipment and measures 120-centimetre wide x45-centimetre long.

“The autonomous underwater vehicle is capable of swimming as deep as 50 metres and is equipped with highly advance sensors, can take precise measurements and readings of temperature, salt residue and PH and oxygen levels,” said Itichote Chuckkawong of Mahidol University’s faculty of engineering was quoted by the Bangkok Post newspaper as saying on Thursday.

Different from other homemade robots, ThaIXPole is capable of withstanding temperatures of up to -40 degrees Celsius, something that has never achieved before, he added.

It took almost five months for Thai scientists to design and make the robot. The project was initiated by the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), which later coordinated with the National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre (Nectec) and Thai Robotics Association in designing the robot.

Woranop has been chosen by Japan’s National Institute of Polar Research to accompany its research team to Antarctica this December.

Data collected from the Antarctica exploration will be analysed for any changes that might cause environmental meltdown in the long run.—MNA/Xinhua
New IBSA group holds first meeting with action programme

NEW YORK, 24 Sept — A new grouping consisting of India, Brazil and South Africa, took shape on Thursday with a concrete programme and future course of action at a meeting hosted by India’s External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh.

The three foreign ministers of the group acronymed IBSA, noted that compared to most other developing nations, the three countries have certain special strength which they should use to help others less advantageously placed.

The first project they are launching is in Guinea-Bissau, a poverty alleviation project to which the three countries will contribute and implement through the UN Development Programme.

The group has planned to enter into a dialogue with the European Union and discuss issues of common concern. The ministers agreed that to ensure regular communication among them, the three Permanent Representatives of the group should meet regularly once a month.

The ministers agreed that to ensure regular communication partners are stepping up their response to the crisis which now affects as many as 175,000 Haitians. The UN Children’s Fund will send a team of many as 175,000 Haitians.

Meanwhile, the first part of a seven-member UN Disaster Assessment team in their response to the populations affected by the flooding.

The statement said the UN was supporting Haitian authorities in the crisis and were increasing efforts to deliver food, shelter, health care and clean water to those most affected by the flooding.

The UN ministers felt the need for more air services and better sector delegations will participate.

The three ministers have planned to enter into a dialogue with the World Health Organization in Brazil, South Africa for a meeting in New Delhi for collaborative projects in science and technology in areas of interest.

The statement said the ministers noted that compared to most other developing countries will contribute and implement through the UN for the heavy loss of life and destruction suffered by the people of Haiti after the recent devastating floods, “Our drive towards the future is called hydrogen,” but in a way that gives a green twist to existing engine technology, said BMW management board member Burkhard Goeschel.

Renault’s rival PSA Peugeot Citroen has already launched the system on its Citroen C2 and C3 models. Fritz Henderson, the head of General Motors’ European arm, said the key was to keep working on all kinds of engines.

“Our bet is that the way to take the automobile out of the environmental equation is the hydrogen economy and hydrogen-based fuel cells,” he said, but he added that fuel-cell cars would not become huge sellers quickly.

Experts say developing countries must promote healthy lifestyles

GENEVA, 24 Sept — Developing countries, especially in Asia, must promote healthy lifestyles from childhood to halt rising obesity and heart disease rates, medical experts said on Thursday.

The appeal came ahead of annual World Heart Day, being celebrated on Sunday under the theme of "Children, Adolescents and Heart Disease.”

Heart disease and strokes, the main cardiovascular diseases, killed 17 million people last year or one-third of deaths worldwide, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Heart Federation.

Risk factors such as smoking and diabetes are on the rise and 18 million children aged under five are already overweight, the WHO said in its “Atlas of Heart Disease and Stroke,” issued on Thursday. “It is critical to the health of future generations that each country find resources and political will to tackle the cardiovascular disease epidemic now,” Janet Voute, head of the World Heart Federation, told a news briefing.

Judith Mackay, co-author of the Atlas, said that 75 percent of the victims of heart disease live in developing countries.

Annan urges int’l support for flood-stricken Haiti

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Sept — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Wednesday urged the international community to quickly provide Haiti with the support it needs to recover from a devastating natural disaster.

“The Secretary-General is deeply saddened by the heavy loss of life and destruction suffered by the people of Haiti after the recent devastating floods,” a UN spokesman said in a statement.

The statement said the UN was supporting Haitian authorities in the crisis and were increasing efforts to deliver food, shelter, health care and clean water to those most affected by the flooding.

Meanwhile, the first part of a seven-member UN Disaster Assessment team arrived in Haiti on Wednesday. The team will support the Haitian Government in their response to the emergency and will

New age automobiles exhibited at Paris car show

PARIS, 24 Sept — Carmakers presented new-age automobiles at the Paris car show on Thursday that could give much-hyped fuel cells a run for their money in the coming market for vehicles that do less damage to the environment.

German luxury brand BMW unveiled the world’s fastest hydrogen-powered car, dubbed the H2R, which can hit a top speed above 300 kilometres per hour (185 mph) by burning hydrogen in a modified internal combustion engine.

“Our drive towards the future is called hydrogen,” but in a way that gives a green twist to existing engine technology, said BMW management board member Burkhard Goeschel.

Renault Executive Vice President Pierre-Alain De Smedt told Reuters that the French brand planned to offer the fuel-saving Stop & Start system made by France’s Valeo on its Chio, Modus and Megane range.

The system, designed for urban driving, switches the engine to stand-by when a car stops at a red light or in a traffic jam and kicks starts it when motorists step on the gas.

Renault’s rival PSA Peugeot Citroen has already launched the system on its Citroen C2 and C3 models. Fritz Henderson, the head of General Motors’ European arm, said the key was to keep working on all kinds of engines.

“Our bet is that the way to take the automobile out of the environmental equation is the hydrogen economy and hydrogen-based fuel cells,” he said, but he added that fuel-cell cars would not become huge sellers quickly.

MNA/Reuters
Keane denies assaulting teenage boy

LONDON, 24 Sept— Manchester United captain Roy Keane denied assaulting a 16-year-old boy near his home in the wealthy Manchester neighbourhood of Hale.

The case was adjourned until October 21.

Keane was released on bail. — MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Sedate
4 Backward
9 Advice
10 Indian social class
11 Bobbin
12 Nominal
13 Enemy
14 Extent
16 Standard
18 Mat
20 Reduce
21 Wood-wind
24 Wear away
25 Intensify
26 Soprano
27 Mouldy

DOWN
1 Safe
2 Revile
3 Verve
5 Thrilling
6 Narrow-minded
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8 Roofing material
13 Goodbye
15 Censure
17 Coming
18 Make merry
19 Cure
22 Extra payment
23 Pal

Romario ready to play at weekend

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Sept— Former World Cup winner Romario has been declared match fit and ready to play at the weekend, providing coach Alexandre Gama with a tricky dilemma.

Gama, who became Fluminense's fourth coach this year when he replaced former Brazil defender Ricardo Gomes, admitted he is one of Romario's fans but also loath to change his system.

"Fluminense have a system and we'll have to see if it works with Romario," he told reporters.

"If it doesn't, we'll have to have a talk to work out the best time for him to come back." Flu have won their last four games and, after starting the championship as potential relegation candidates, have moved up to ninth.

They are away to struggling Guarani on Saturday with an excellent chance of continuing their run. — MNA/Reuters

Pachuca defeat Monterrey 2-1 in Libertadores Cup

MEXICO CITY, 24 Sept— Uruguayan Rodrigo Lopez scored in the sixth minute of injury time as Pachuca won 2-1 at Monterrey in a qualifying match for next year's South American Libertadores Cup.

Pachuca defender Francisco de Anda put the visitors ahead in the second half of Wednesday night's match while Argentine striker Guillermo Franco hit Monterrey's reply but also missed two penalties.

The two sides meet in Pachuca again next week and the aggregate winners will go into the 2005 Libertadores Cup, in which Mexican teams take part by invitation.

Two championships — the Clausura and Apertura — are played in the Mexican season and Monterrey and Pachuca were the winners of the 2003 tournaments.

They could not play in this year's Libertadores because Mexico is affiliated to CONCACAF, the North and Central America and Caribbean Confederation, and the pair were instead obliged to play in the less glamorous CONCACAF Champions Cup.

Mexico's other two representatives in next year's Libertadores will be decided in an eight-team tournament in January featuring the best eight teams from the 2004 season — but not the two champions who will instead have to play for a single place in the 2006 tournament. — MNA/Reuters

Giggs to return to Wales for World Cup

LONDON, 24 Sept— Manchester United midfielder Ryan Giggs has returned to the Wales squad for the World Cup qualifying matches against England and Poland next month. Giggs was suspended for the disappointing draw against Azerbaijan (1-1) and Northern Ireland (2-2) but his return for the England match at Old Trafford, his home pitch, on October 9 will be a huge boost for outgoing manager Mark Hughes.

Giggs, who has 48 caps for his country, was unavailable for the first two Group Six qualifiers after UEFA handed him a two-match ban following an elbowing incident in last season's Euro 2004 playoff defeat by Russia.

Birmingham City's combative midfielder Robbie Savage is also in the squad, although he will be suspended for the match against England after he was sent off in the match against Northern Ireland.

Wales, who have not qualified for a major finals since the 1958 World Cup, last played England 20 years ago when they won 1-0 at Wrexham. — MNA/Reuters

Paul Sturrock appointed manager of Sheffield Wednesday

LONDON, 24 Sept— Former Southampton boss Paul Sturrock was appointed manager of Sheffield Wednesday on Thursday in a swift return to the Third Division of English football.

Sturrock, who left Premier League Southampton last month by mutual consent after a disappointing run of results, has signed a three-year contract at Hillsborough, the club's home.

The 47-year-old made his coaching name with Plymouth Argyle, securing the Fourth Division title in 2002 and steering them to the verge of promotion from the Third Division before moving in March to St. Mary's, where he lasted less than 10 months.

Sturrock told Wednesday's web site: "This is a huge club. It may not be a Premiership team at this moment in time, but the crowd and the stadium are in place. You play football to win and the aim for this season is promotion."

Sturrock replaces Chris Turner, who was sacked as manager last week after a home defeat by Brentford at the Sheffield club mid-table. — MNA/Reuters

Allen Johnson (C) of US clears a hurdle beside Park Tae-Kyuong (L) and Jung Sang-hun of South Korea during the men's 110 meter hurdle final at the 2004 International Athletics Competition in Pusan, about 420 km (262 miles) southeast of Seoul, on 24 Sept, 2004. Johnson won the race with a time of 13.79 seconds. — Internet

Boca Juniors rout 6-0 to Velez Sarsfield

BUENOS AIRES, 24 Sept— Argentina's Olympic top scorer Carlos Tevez helped Boca Juniors to a 6-0 rout of Velez Sarsfield and River Plate stayed top after recovering to win 2-1 at Arsenal in the Argentine Apertura championship.

Tevez, whose eight goals at the Athens Games last month helped Argentina to win the Olympic soccer gold medal, scored one of the goals in Boca's victory at their Bombonera ground on Wednesday night. Former AC Milan and Inter winger Andrea Guglielmipietro and ex-Villarreal and Real Betis striker Martin Palermo were also among the scorers for Boca, who bounced back from a 2-1 defeat atIndependente at the weekend.

Substitute Maxi Lopez scored twice in the second half for unbeaten champions River, who have 17 points from seven games, a one-point lead over second-placed Boca. Velez are third on 13 points. — MNA/Reuters

Spectators watch French tennis player Fabrice Santoro and Spanish Juan Carlos Ferrero during the Davis Cup semi-final at Alicante's bullring on 24 Sept, 2004. — MNA/Reuters

Fluminense have hit their best spell of the Brazilian championship and Gama, who at 36 is two years' Romario's junior, has to decide whether to risk upsetting their rhythm or to make one football's most famous names sit on the bench.

Romario has always been a controversial figure, but until now his temperament and well-documented dislike of training have always been outweighed by his goalscoring record.

This year, however, age finally appears to have caught up with the player who scored five goals to help Brazil win their fourth World Cup in 1994.

Romario has been hampered by nagging muscular injuries and has rarely trained with his teammates on the justifi-
cation that he needs a special programme.

He has never been famous for his work-rate but on the rare occasions he has played this year, he has looked a virtual pas
tenger who does little more than stand in the opposition's penalty area waiting for someone to feed him the ball.

Fluminense have a system and we'll have to see if it works with Romario," he told reporters.

"If it doesn't, we'll have to have a talk to work out the best time for him to come back." Flu have won their last four games and, after starting the championship as potential relegation candidates, have moved up to ninth.

They are away to struggling Guarani on Saturday with an excellent chance of continuing their run. — MNA/Reuters

Romario has been declared match fit and ready to play at the weekend, providing coach Alexandre Gama with a tricky dilemma.

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Romario has been declared match fit and ready to play at weekend

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Sept— Former World Cup winner Romario has been declared match fit and ready to play at the weekend, providing coach Alexandre Gama with a tricky dilemma.

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First Thai Education Seminar commences

MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

YANGON, 25 Sept — The First Thai Education Seminar & Exhibition was held at Sedona Hotel — the exhibition on the ground floor and the seminar on the first floor, this morning.

Present on the occasions were Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Education, professors, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakosal, Secretary-General of Mission on Higher Education, Associate Professor Dr Pavich Tongroach, journalists and students.

Director-General U Saw Lwin of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) and Dr Pavich Tongroach signed an agreement on higher education cooperation. — EDUCATION

Director-General U Saw Lwin of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) and Dr Pavich Tongroach sign agreement on higher education cooperation. — EDUCATION

Stipends awarded to children of staff of SPDC Office, Pyithu Hlutaw Office, Government Office, President Office

MINISTRY OF FORESTRY

YANGON, 25 Sept — On behalf of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, directors-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Pyithu Hlutaw Office, the Government Office and the President Office presented stipends to students of the offices who passed the matriculation examination for 2004 at the meeting hall of the Pyithu Hlutaw Office on Pyay Road at 7.45 am today.

Present were directors-general, deputy directors-general and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Pyithu Hlutaw Office, the Government Office and the President Office, students and parents.

On behalf of Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Pyithu Hlutaw Office, the Government Office and the President Office presented stipends to students of the offices who passed the matriculation examination for 2004 at the meeting hall of the Pyithu Hlutaw Office on Pyay Road at 7.45 am today.

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NHC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at the dinner hosted in honour of specialists who performed first liver transplant in Myanmar. — MNA

YANGON, 25 Sept — National Health Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hosted a dinner in honour of specialists and their team, who successfully carried out first liver transplant in Myanmar, at Tatmadaw Guest House on Inya Road here this evening.

Also present at the dinner were NHC Vice-Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, ministers, the vice-chief of Military Intelligence, NHC members, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, department heads of the Ministry of Health, the presidents and vice-presidents of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the vice-presidents and officials of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, chairmen of Myanmar Medical Association and Myanmar Red Cross Society, Specialist Surgeon Prof Dr Naw Man Hla and specialists, matron and nurses and guests.

First, the Prime Minister delivered a speech, saying that today’s ceremony is held on behalf of the State to honour specialists, physicians, anaesthetists and nurses who successfully performed first liver transplant that is a milestone of Myanmar medical history. And it is also a great significant achievement due to the diligence and strenuous efforts of those medical experts.

(See page 11)