Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Monday, 27 September, 2004

Strive for development of border areas and national races through national solidarity

The Union of Myanmar is home to over one hundred national races. The national solidarity is imperative for the perpetual existence of the Union.

Therefore, the Tatmadaw Government, since its assumption of the State responsibility, has been giving priority to further strengthening the national solidarity after laying down the national policy—national solidarity, perpetuation of sovereignty and non-disintegration of the Union and the work programmes based on the national policy. The project for development of border areas and national races is the first among the projects the government launched for national development. For successful realization of the project, the Government has to forge the national reconciliation first and has been striving for development of border areas and national races. As a result, marked progress has now been made across the Union.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the meeting No.5/2004 of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races held at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha on 25 September and delivered an address. In his address, the Prime Minister said achievements of border area development tasks contribute to fine traditions such as cementing national solidarity and safeguarding the Union. With this concept, officials are to continue to implement the project for development of border areas and national races with added momentum, he added.

The Government has spent over K 5,830 million plus over US$550 million on development of border areas and national races to date. Thus, altogether 26 training schools for development of national race youths, 18 domestic science and vocational education training schools were opened in different areas as well as two Nationalities Youths Development Degree Colleges in Yangon and Mandalay.

As for border area development 15-year project, altogether 72 high schools, 61 middle schools and 657 primary schools were opened. Likewise, tasks for better health care services and better transport were carried out with the emergence of new hospitals, dispensaries, roads and bridges while measures for ensuring power supply, communications and agriculture and livestock breeding were taken. With achievements in developing border areas and national races, the Government has won more trust of the national races, the stock breeding were taken. With achievements in ply, communications and agriculture and live-bridges while measures for ensuring power supply, better transport were carried out with the emergence of new hospitals, dispensaries, roads and bridges while measures for ensuring power supply, communications and agriculture and livestock breeding were taken.
**Civilians die in US ground and air attack on bases in Fallujah**

**Baghdad, 26 Sept —** US aircraft, tanks and artillery pounded the resistance stronghold of Fallujah yesterday, killing at least eight people and wounding 15, while rebels struck back in Baghdad by killing six police recruits.

The US said that it is hitting the strongholds of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Islamic militant, with pinpoint accuracy, but doctors at the local hospital in Fallujah said at least seven civilians were killed and 13 wounded, including women and children.

The US-appointed Iraqi interim government, which supports the air strikes, last week banned the Ministry of Health in Baghdad from announcing figures for civilian casualties. Television pictures showed a boy and later a woman being rescued from the rubble.

"There were no innocent civilians reported in the immediate area at the time of strike," said a statement from the US military.

"Multinational forces took multiple measures to minimize collateral damage and civilian casualties." During the night-time assault, with explosions lighting the sky, prayers were chanted defiantly through loudspeakers from the mosques in Fallujah.

Since the US lost control of much of the Sunni heartlands in April, it has developed a policy of keeping up pressure on rebels by sustained air attack. US military commanders are saying that they will retake Fallujah, but the White House probably does not want to launch an all-out assault until after the election in November because it might refocus voters’ attention on Iraq.

**Musharraf says foreign troops not the answer in Iraq**

**Pakistan, 26 Sept —** The war in Iraq has made the world a more dangerous place and sending in more foreign troops is not the answer to the tenacious and escalating violence there, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said.

"I think the visibility of any foreign troops is not the answer to the tenacious and escalating violence there," Musharraf told Newsweek magazine.

"The answer lies not in bringing in more foreign troops but in raising the army in Iraq itself so it can take over security. Everything should lead to an exit strategy."

"Earlier he told CNN the war in Iraq had "certainly not" made the world a safer place.

"No, it's more dangerous," he said.

"It has aroused actions of the Muslims more. It's aroused certain sentiments of the Muslim world, and then the responses, the latest phenomena of explosives, more frequent for bombs and suicide bombings."

He said Pakistan, which has offered to train Iraqi troops, would not send its own troops to Iraq.

He also said the US-led invasion "has complicated the situation in the Islamic world. It has increased the opposition to the US in the Islamic world." — Internet

**Iraq Oil Ministry hit by rocket, mortar fire**

**Baghdad, 25 Sept —** At least one rocket and three mortar rounds struck Iraq's heavily fortified oil ministry building in Baghdad, causing some damage but no casualties, a spokesman said.

"At least one rocket and three mortar rounds were fired at the ministry between 12:30 pm (0830 GMT) and 1:00 pm (0900 GMT) destroying the building in several places, shattering glass and damaging some of its offices. Assem Jihad told AFP by telephone from inside the building.

"There is only material loss and no casualties, and we have left it to the discretion of employees to decide if they want to evacuate the building."

The building, northeast of the city centre, is protected by massive concrete slabs and is the only ministry that was secured by US troops after they entered Baghdad in April last year, sparing it the looting that devastated other government premises.

Iraq's oil infrastructure is the target of frequent attack by guerrillas, preventing the country from restoring exports and bringing in much-needed hard currency. Pipelines supplying two refineries in southern and northern Iraq were attacked on Friday. — Internet

**Jordan, Iraq resume talks on eco cooperation**

**Amman, 25 Sept —** Jordan and Iraq have resumed talks on establishing a Jordanian-Iraqi joint committee to further economic cooperation after a two-year hiatus due to the difficult situations in the war-torn country, local newspaper Jordan Times reported on Friday.

Jordanian Industry and Trade Minister Mohammad Halaqa told the newspaper the Jordanian government will make all efforts to develop economic relations with Iraq and remove all obstacles to the economic cooperation between the two countries. Halaqa made the remarks during the opening of the 24th session of the Jordanian-Iraqi joint committee on Thursday.

He also said Jordan is concerned about the suffering of the Iraqi people, adding that Jordanians believe in the Iraqi people and their ability to overcome current crisis and build a bright future.

On his part, Iraqi Minister of Trade Muhammad al-Jabouri, who is heading the Iraqi side in the four-day talks, noted the decline of the Iraqi economy due to the wars in Iraq, adding Iraq hopes to rebalance the economy as soon as possible. — MNA/Xinhua

**Indian, Pakistani leaders talk on peace process**

**New York, 25 Sept —** Pakistani Prime Minister Mammohan Singh met Friday in New York for talks aimed at starting the peace process between the two neighbours.

Meeting on the sidelines of the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the two leaders shook hands during a photo opportunity before closed-door talks.

The meeting, the first between the two since Singh took office in May, is hoped to bring momentum to talks between the two South Asian neighbours.

"How can any confidence or any normalization take place without (confronting) any issues on which we have fought three wars and a number of skirmishes?" Musharraf asked.

He also said this was the last chance for a bilateral solution, hinting that the help of other countries might be needed for negotiations.

"I think the best option is bilateralism. But if bilateralism does not produce results, then we fail."

"And we failed over 50 years. So what (good) is bilateralism if it fails to produce results?" Singh and Musharraf had agreed to long-strained bilateral relations through continued dialogue.

"A joint statement issued after their meeting said the two leaders also discussed the possibility of building a gas pipeline via Pakistan to India."

"The balance of trade relations has been favour- able to Nigeria while the volume of activities com- pares favourably with that existing between Nigeria and Germany, Britain and the United States," said Abdulahi Ibrahim, spokesman for the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC).

The official added that Canadian exports comprised mainly of wheat, electrical and elec- tronic machinery, plastic products and motor vehi- cles while the imports from Nigeria consisted of mineral fuels, oil and gas products and cocoa beans.

Nigeria and Canada have been collaborating for enhanced business rela- tions. — MNA/Xinhua
Philippines ready to evacuate OFWs in Iraq

MANILA, 25 Sept — The Philippine Government said Friday that it is ready to evacuate overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Iraq when necessary in light of the deteriorated situation there.

Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye said that the government has already put contingency plans in place in reaction to questions about how to ensure the well-being of Iraq-based OFWs.

Bunye did not elaborate on the contingency plans but the government earlier said that relocating Filipinos to other safer locations within the Middle East is among the options being considered to prevent their economic dislocation.

Cuba accuses US of “Handcuffing” UN

UNITED NATIONS, 26 Sept — Cuba accused President George W. Bush on Friday of “handcuffing” the United Nations and accused rich countries of forcing developing nations to pay more than three times the original debt they incurred.

In his address to the UN General Assembly, Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque said the United Nations was living through the worst moment in its 59 years, in part because of the US invasion of Iraq without the world body’s approval.

“It pales, it pants, it cannot allow them to go more than three times the original debt they incurred,” Perez said here on Friday.

In his address to the UN General Assembly, President Bush, he said.

Perez said 1,000 young Americans were sacrificed in Iraq to serve the “spurious interest of a clique of cronies and buffoons, following the death of more than 12,000 Iraqis,” one reason the troops should be withdrawn.

He spoke shortly after Iraq’s Interim Prime Minister, Iyad Allawi, who called on nations to put differences behind them and help his country rebuild its institutions and enhance security.

Perez called on developing countries to build a common front in and outside of the United Nations because major powers would not relinquish their privileges, such as veto power in the 15-member UN Security Council.

The secretary also said that Iraq-bound OFWs are given priority for jobs in Korea, Japan, and other countries hiring foreign workers.

UAE oil production to reach 2.5 billion BPD in two years

ABU DHABI, 25 Sept — The oil production of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) sets to climb to a record 2.5 million barrels per day (BPD) within two years, the local daily Gulf News reported on Friday.

A forecast report released by the London-based Centre for Global Energy Studies (CGES) and Business Monitor International (BMI) said that UAE’s oil production in 2005 could rise slightly to around 2.35 million BPD and swell to a record 2.5 million BPD in 2006.

Controlling nearly 10 percent of the world’s total recoverable oil deposits, the country is moving ahead with major projects to expand output capacity to face growing world demand and prevent a fresh supply crisis, said the report. According to the UAE Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, the country’s oil capacity is set to surge to three billion BPD in the next five years and four million BPD in the long term as a result of massive investment in the oil sector, mainly in Abu Dhabi, which accounts for more than 90 percent of the country’s crude and gas wealth.

Over the past four years, the UAE has pumped more than eight billion US dollars into its oil sector within long-term plans to maintain its current output and expand capacity.

Putin says media should play responsible role in war on terror

MOSCOW, 25 Sept — The world media should play a responsible role and could not be observers in the war on terror, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.

Addressing a congress of the world’s news agencies, Putin said media outlets could be used as a more effective instrument against terrorism “which would exclude any, even unintended, form of assistance for the goals of terrorists.

“Russia is ready to face the challenges of the information age,” said the Russian leader. “In our hands is a powerful information instrument which can divide or unite people.”

He also lashed out at some foreign journalists who made no distinction between the “Evil Empire” of the Soviet Union and modern Russia.

“The world has changed and many people have not yet understand,” Putin added.

He vowed that the war on terrorism must not be used as an excuse to limit freedom of the media.

“The fight against terrorism is no grounds for restricting freedom and independence of the Press. We shall not allow this in Russia,” he said.

Putin has criticized foreign media for describing the Chechen militants responsible for the Beslan hostage tragedy in Southern Russia as “rebels” instead of terrorists.

MNA/Xinhua
Iran accuses US of “lawless militarism”

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Sept — Iran accused the United States on Friday of “lawless militarism” in Iraq and called Israel the biggest threat to peace in the Middle East.

“The attack against Iraq was illegal,” Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi told the UN General Assembly thanking Kofi Annan for publicly stating the same in a television interview last week.

The invasion was an example of “increasing lawless militarism”, involving “the use of brute and unsanctioned military force to achieve some political goals, albeit despicable goals,” said Kharrazi, explaining that his country, which fought an eight-year war with its neighbour, had “benefited greatly by the removal of Saddam Hussein”.

Kharrazi said Israel, which is widely believed to have nuclear weapons but declines to acknowledge them, had systematically thwarted UN efforts to make the Middle East a nuclear-free zone.

“All countries of the region and beyond are unanimous in considering these facts behind smoke screens. It is time for the international community to show its resolve to maintain the credibility of multilateral disarmament instruments by taking action to compel them,” he said.

“Islamic civilization cannot hide barbarically murder those working for a mobile phone company in Iraq, as a haven for terrorists,” he said.

As President, I will finish the job in Iraq and refocus our energies on the real war on terror,” Bush said on Thursday.

Bush has resisted Kerry’s attempts to distinguish the Iraq war from the war on terror, and argued that Iraq is a key battleground in it. Bush’s campaign said the Democrat’s criticisms lacked regard for their effect “on our troops in the field and our allies fighting alongside them”.

The President’s misjudgment, miscalculation and mismanagement of the war in Iraq all make the war on terror harder to win,” he said. “Iraq is now what it was not before the war — a haven for terrorists.”

Kerry, who is trailing in most national opinion polls less than six weeks before the November 2 election, has pounded Bush on Iraq and terrorism all week in an effort to refocus the way foreign policy is being discussed ahead of the first presidential debate on Thursday.

Even when focusing on domestic issues, Kerry now uses the Iraq model. Bush, he asserts, is sticking as stubbornly to his “failed” domestic agenda as he is to an Iraq policy that he said he had gone wrong.

British soldiers to be charged for killing in Iraq

LONDON, 25 Sept — British civilian prosecutors are considering bringing charges against a group of soldiers for a killing in Iraq, in what would be the second such case involving British troops, the Attorney General’s office said on Friday.

A spokeswoman for the attorney general gave no further details about the alleged killing, but said charges were being considered against “a number of British soldiers”.

Crimes committed by British soldiers are usually prosecuted in military courts, but Williams was investigated by British civilian prosecutors at the attorney general’s request. — MNA/Reuters

Ten Iraqis wounded in clashes north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 Sept — Ten Iraqis, including three national guards, were wounded in overnight clashes between guerrillas and US-backed Iraqi forces in the flashpoint town of Dhuluiyah, north of Baghdad, witnesses and medical sources said on Friday.

“We have received 10 wounded, including a woman and a child,” a doctor from the General Hospital in Dhuluiyah said.

Fighting broke out on Thursday afternoon when guerrillas attacked a US military patrol with rocket-propelled grenades in the town, witnesses said.

Dhuluiyah, some 90 kilometres north of Baghdad, is inhabited with Sunni Muslim Iraqis who have fought US occupation since April 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

Egypt follows up hostage issue in Iraq

CAIRO, 25 Sept — Egypt is making intensive contacts with its mission in Baghdad and the Iraqi authorities to secure the release of six nationals taken hostages in Iraq.

The six Egyptians working for Orascom Company in Baghdad had been confirmed kidnapped after contacts made with the Egyptian diplomatic mission in Baghdad, the diplomat said in a statement, quoted by the official MENA news agency. He expressed hope that the hostages would be released as soon as possible.

Earlier in the day, Dubai-based al-Arabiya TV channel reported that kidnappers seized six Egyptians and four Iraqis working for a mobile phone company in separate incidents in the war-torn country. — MNA/Xinhua

Bush accused of neglecting fight against terrorism

PHILADELPHIA, 25 Sept — Democratic candidate John Kerry accused US President George W Bush on Friday of neglecting the fight against terrorism by going to war in Iraq and said his Republican rival had left America less safe.

Kerry trained his sights on Bush’s perceived weakness — his leadership after the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States — and accused the President of taking his “eye off the ball” in a struggle “as monumental as the Cold War”.

“Instead of finishing the job in Afghanistan, the President rushed to a new war in Iraq,” the Massachusetts senator said in a speech at Temple University.

“The invasion of Iraq was a profound diversion from the battle against our greatest enemy — al-Qaeda.”

“As President, I will finish the job in Iraq and refocus our energies on the real war on terror.”

Britain will do all it can to free hostage in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Sept — Britain is doing all it can to free one of its nationals held hostage in Iraq and all nations must unite to defeat the insurgency there, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said on Thursday.

Straw addressed the UN General Assembly in New York after British hostage Kenneth Bigley made a desperate plea for his life by giving in to the kidnappers’ demands to free women prisoners.

Blair’s office said he phoned Bigley’s family on Friday to tell them he would review the case.

“Mr Bigley’s release will be a priority for the British Government,” Blair’s office said in a statement.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, and we continue to do all that we can to secure Mr Bigley’s release.”

In a video released by his captors, the 62-year-old Bigley made a direct appeal to British Prime Minister Tony Blair to save his life by giving in to the kidnappers’ demands to free women prisoners.

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An unidentified woman cries after her husband died in a rocket attack on Palestine Street, in Baghdad, Iraq, on 24 Sept, 2004. — INTERNET

Men stand near a pool of blood left after a rocket landed nearby, in Baghdad, Iraq on 24 Sept, 2004. — INTERNET

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Men stand near a pool of blood left after a rocket landed nearby, in Baghdad, Iraq on 24 Sept, 2004. — INTERNET
Study shows modern slavery thrives in US

LOS ANGELES, 25 Sept — Modern slavery not only exists but also thrives in the United States, according to a study released Thursday by the University of California (UC) in Berkeley.

The report, named “Hidden Slaves: Forced Labour in the United States”, found forced labour occurs in at least 90 cities across the United States.

And at any given time, 10,000 or more people are forced to toil in sweat shops, clean homes, labour on farms, or work as prostitutes or strippers, said the report.

The study, which covers the period of 1998 to 2003, was conducted by researchers from Berkeley’s Human Rights Centre and the Washington DC-based anti-slavery group Free the Slaves.

The report also found that forced labour cases are concentrated in states with large immigrant communities, including California, Florida, New York, and Texas.

Most victims of forced labour are trafficked into the United States from at least 38 different countries, with China, Mexico and Vietnam topping the list. Some are born in the United States and later held captive.

Forced labour occurs in such poorly regulated industries with a high demand for cheap labour as sweatshops, restaurants and hotels, in addition to agriculture and domestic work. A lack of official monitoring in these areas means unscrupulous employers and criminal networks can gain complete control over workers, according to the report.

The study found that perpetrators use a range of crimes, including fraud, coercion, physical and psychological violence, to hold their victims captive.

Although new federal laws have been passed to combat these crimes, the researchers called for much more needs to be done. Police officers are most likely to encounter forced labour but often mistake it for illegal immigration cases, the report says.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia, China to further cooperation in politics, eco, trade

MOSCOW, 25 Sept — Russia and China will boost cooperation in the fields of politics, economy and trade, and science and technology, according to a joint communiqué issued here Friday.

According to the communiqué, which was signed at the ninth regular meeting of Chinese and Russian prime ministers, the two countries are satisfied with their economic and trade cooperation since the eighth regular meeting.

The document was signed by Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov and visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

In the first eight months of this year, the communiqué noted, bilateral trade reached 12.87 billion US dollars, a 35.4-per-cent increase as compared with that of the same period last year. Two-way trade this year is expected to hit 20 billion US dollars.

In the communiqué, China reiterated its strong support for Russia’s bid to join the World Trade Organization (WTO). Both Russia and China recognize each other’s full market economy status.

In order to maintain a sustainable development of bilateral trade, the two countries agree to draw a plan to promote and strengthen their comprehensive cooperation, so that two-way trade volume can reach and surpass 60 billion dollars in 2010.

Both Russia and China express their willingness to promote investment cooperation. China will invest more in Russia’s resources and energy development, infrastructure, and manufacturing. Russia will facilitate Chinese investment in these fields, said the communiqué.

The two countries will take measures to implement the cooperative projects in oil and natural gas, including the construction of pipelines between China and Russia.

The communiqué also pointed out that the two sides will strengthen cooperation in building nuclear plants, space, new materials, information and telecommunications.

MNA/Xinhua

Mortars explode near Italian Embassy in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 Sept— Guerrillas fired five mortar shells targeting the Italian Embassy in Baghdad Friday, wounding two Iraqi women and damaging several houses, witnesses said.

The attack took place at about 8.20 am (0420 GMT), damaging four houses in the residential area around the embassy and wounding two women, said witnesses at the scene.

On 3 July, a similar mortar strike targeted the embassy and wounded six Iraqi civilians.

The attack came as the fate of two Italian female hostages in Iraq was still unclear after two claims about killing them were posted on the Internet in the past few days.

MNA/Xinhua

California voters strongly in favour of Kerry over Bush

LOS ANGELES, 25 Sept — Voters in the most populous US state of California remain strongly in favour of Democratic challenger John Kerry over President George W Bush in the November election, according to a poll released Thursday by the Los Angeles Times.

California voters likely to cast ballots in the Novem- ber 2 election support the Democratic nominee and his running mate John Edwards over Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney by 55 to 40 per cent, the poll found. Just 5 per cent are undecided.

This was in sharp contrast to the results of most recent national polls, which show Bush’s lead by varying margins.

With independent candidate Ralph Nader in the race, Kerry’s margin of victory narrows slightly, but he still beats Bush by 53 per cent to 40 per cent, with 2 per cent of likely voters favouring Nader.

On the Iraq war, terrorism and the economy, Bush’s ratings in California have edged downward since spring, the survey found.

Overall, Bush’s popularity among California voters hovers near the lowest level of his presidency; 43 per cent approve of his job performance, and 55 per cent disapprove. By comparison, 67 per cent approve of Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s job performance, according to the poll.

With the election less than six weeks away, the findings suggest that California is all but locked down as one of the most solidly Democratic states in the race for the White House — confirming why both major parties have virtually ignored the state as voting nears.

For California voters, the war in Iraq ranks as the top issue in the campaign.

The poll shows that disapproval of Bush’s conduct of the war is a key factor driving voter dissatisfaction with his presidency.

MNA/Xinhua

US leading economic indicators down for third month

WASHINGTON, 25 Sept— Composite Index of Leading Economic Indicators, a closely watched measure of future economic activity in the United States, declined in August, the third consecutive month of drop, the Conference Board reported on Thursday.

Analysts said that the declines reflected an uncertain climate for both businesses and consumers in the country. The Conference Board said that the Composite Index of Leading Economic Indicators fell by 0.3 per cent in August to 115.7 following a decline of 0.3 per cent in July.

The August reading was the third month of decline in the index, after more than a year in which it gained steady ground. The drop in August was larger than the 0.2 per cent decrease forecast by analysts. The index is closely followed because it is designed to forecast the US economic health over the coming three to six months.

MNA/Xinhua

A US soldier stands guard in front of the main gate of Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad on 24 Sept, 2004. — INTERNET


The report, named “Hidden Slaves: Forced Labour in the United States”, found forced labour occurs in at least 90 cities across the United States.
No action is more inhumane than the act of cutting off all humanitarian aid to and imposing economic sanctions on a country to cause hardship. In other words, it is in the worst violation of human rights that can also be put down as economic terrorism. Moreover, it is an evil act bred by greed and injustice.

In this regard, all the decent eminent scholars of the world are against the acts of the US and its allies of the West imposing affordable sanctions on Myanmar.

Concerning the matter, I will now recall an article titled ‘US needs to re-think planned sanctions against Myanmar’ by Dr Taylor, an economics professor of the Global Environment Bureau of New York’s Columbia University published in The Nation, Bangkok, on 1 August 2003.

The following is a rough recount of the article: The act of pushing the nations that are practising isolationism to close their door tighter will only harry the people and will be like warming the governments of those nations to fasten their control over their people. The US Senate and Congress decided to impose economic sanctions on Myanmar. The most distinctive economic sanctions in the world was the one imposed on South Africa during the time the country was governed by apartheid. The world nations stopped doing business with South Africa. Superficially, the sanctions seemed to work and accelerate the downfall of the White administration in the country. However, much of the loss that occurred due to the sanctions could not camouflage the big success they had achieved, because it is seen that there are alternative means to topple the White government.

The failed economic policy of the authorities contributed to the economic difficulties of Cuba, but the US trade sanctions on the country since 1960 are also the cause of the suffering in the economy. Haiti fell drastically when the US imposed economic sanctions on it during the 1990s, with the aim of setting up democracy in the nation. Iraq and North Korea also suffered from economic sanctions. The wounds inflicted by the sanctions on a country are obvious. But could they realize their aims? Economic sanctions alone cannot bring down a single-party system government. Instead, that makes the government further tighten its grip over the country. Some of the hardship are the results of the government, but the sanctions offer it the opportunity to put all the blame on foreign countries for its own failures. Although sanctions hurt the economy and public health of the respective countries, they are not able to bring down a government. The sanctions cause internal instability and weaken the government and reduce its revenue. On the other hand, public provision of financial assistance to the opposition parties drops, the opposition parties are cut off from internal support, and the international watchdog’s activities in the country also diminish.

‘It is easy to boycott Myanmar, but hard to make political changes there. Gradual shrinking of Myanmar’s economy and cornering her cannot bring political changes, instead they will intensify the suffering of the people. Although the powers that impose the sanctions say they do not mean to hurt the people, they also will not be exempt from responsibility for creating the public suffering, a consequence of their actions.’

Similarly, Bridget Wells, an associate professor of Advanced International Relations Studies Department of Johns Hopkins University, wrote an article ‘sanctions worsen Burmese poverty’ in the International Herald Tribune of 9 October 2003. A brief account of the article is as follows:

“The US President’s act of signing legislation to impose sanctions on Myanmar is to protest the detention of the leader of the National League for Democracy. However, the sanctions will only prolong the public suffering. The US policymakers are thinking that pressures on Myanmar military leaders will lead to the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and later towards flourishing of democracy in the nation. But it is a false assumption. Because leaders do not make democracy or crush it as they do. Sadly, the people suffering hardship and facing insufficiency cannot lend support to the US on its own interests instead of imposing sanctions on the nation.”

Although imposing sanctions on the Government of Myanmar may sound easy, attempts at bringing about political changes are not. Creating conditions like keeping “fish with little water” will not bring about political changes but only result in hurting the public, difficulties burgeoning over.

San Suu Kyi and later towards flourishing of democracy in the nation. But it is a false assumption. Because leaders do not make democracy or crush it as they do. Sadly, the people suffering hardship and facing insufficiency cannot lend support to the US on its own interests instead of imposing sanctions on the nation.”

Dr John Bashle, a long-time researcher of the US, David J Steinberg, a professor of Georgetown University, Dr Robert Taylor, a former British ambassador, U Kyaw Yin Haing, Associated Professor of Political Science, University of Singapore, and Morton Peterson, a senior critic of International Crisis Group took part in the talks on reviewing US-Myanmar relations held in Washington on 25 March 2004.

Dr Bashle said that he assumed that the Myanmar military junta is changing its attitude, that the US should act to serve its own interests instead of imposing sanctions on Myanmar.

The US government, that the US has never officially acknowledged Myanmar’s effort to reduce the cultivation of opium poppy, reaching of cease-fire agreements and building of infrastructures that he disagreed with the argument of Senator Mitch McConnell, adding that sanctions will not change the junta, that the US is isolating the junta instead of helping it to enhance its international relations and contacts, that as the successive US administrations are trying to promote relations with North Korea, they should also do so with Myanmar and that sanctions only hurt US interests.

Dr Taylor said that the military junta has changed a lot and is much different from its situation in 1988, that its political outlook has widened and its efficiency has increased, that it can now handle the situation and solve the problems, that it had made marked changes in administering the country despite difficulties, that it has the ability to solve the internal and international problems and to reach cease-fire agreements.

Peterson said that the military junta has become stronger than it was in the past, that it cannot be brought down with sanctions and that political parties are so weak to set up democracy. In conclusion, Dr Bashle said that all the speakers agreed that Myanmar would reconvene the National Convention and hold elections. Even when the global experts are opposing the sanctions, with sincere outlook, some internal elements are still trying to betray the national cause. They are like maggots in your own flesh.

Thus, its high time they realized the nation’s objective conditions and the Government’s national consolidation endeavours, and join hands with the people to build a democratic nation collectively, that is a historic duty, in accord with the Seven-point Road Map or future policy of the State. The nation will continue to strive for the flourishing of policy of uprightness along with the global experts who oppose the sanctions.


**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.

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**Global scholars do not accept economic sanctions on Myanmar**

Aung Moe San

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

1st OCTOBER 2004

“TOWARDS A SOCIETY FOR ALL AGES”
Prime Minister addresses...

(From page 1)

Prime Minister addresses... fulfilling of requirements for successfully holding the summit.

He stressed the need to pay attention to holding the World Buddhist Summit hosted in Myanmar on a grand scale in line with Myanmar traditional culture. Sector-wise coordination tasks are to be carried out for holding the summit to enable the guests of the summit to have good impression of the magnificent summit in long-term.

Chairmen and members of the sub-committees reported on their respective sectors. Similarly, those present took part in the discussions. After hearing reports, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions.

After the meeting, Prime Minister General Kyi Nyunt inspected the office of the Secretariat of the Leading Committee at ITMBU and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to the relaxation zone in Kandawgyi Gardens, where Green President General Khin Nyunt and party looked into construction of booths in Fresh Water Fish Garden, progress in building the hotel and restaurant, Chairman of YCDC Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin on progress in constructing Relaxation Zone, Timothy Parkway and Rock Garden; Deputy Prime Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung reported on tasks for quality inspection and control; Managing Director of Pyi Sone Win Naing Co Ltd U Win Naing on management for construction of Mono Rail and Managing Director of Wood Land Co Ltd U Win Aung on building of Conference Hall. After hearing reports, General Khin Nyunt gave instructions on measures to be taken for upgrading Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens harmoniously, durability of Kandawgyi embankment for storage of more water and preservation of natural resources at Kandawgyi in long term.

After the meeting, General Khin Nyunt inspected preparatory works for the Agricultural Museum. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gave instructions at relaxation zone in Kandawgyi Gardens.

General Khin Nyunt and party looked into construction of booths in Fresh Water Fish Garden, progress in building Relaxation Zone and Rock Garden, construction of jetty, relaxation center and waterfalls in Recreation Zone, building of overpass which Kandawgyi Gardens links Zoo (Yangon) and gave necessary instructions to officials and left there in the evening. — MNA

Potent medicines can ...

(from page 1)

In connection with the production of anti-malaria drugs, research on vaccines from artemisia and cykona was conducted successfully. Arrangements are being made for commercial production, he said.

He said potent traditional medicines can also be produced for other common diseases. He urged officials concerned to carry on producing with greater momentum.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, potent medicines can be produced for six major common diseases. Arrangements are under way for production of some diseases.

Next, Manager of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries U Myint Oo reported on implementation of the resolutions passed at the 2/2002 meeting of the committee. The Prime Minister and those present took part in the discussions.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaw reported on production of anti-malaria drugs by special medicine production factory No 1, machines that produce artemisinin, installation of machines that produce tablets and machines for production of injection and capsules.

Director of medical technology development department Dr Myo Myint reported on production of anti-malaria drugs from artemisia, Deputy Factory Manager U Win Aung of MPI on production of tablets and injection from cinchona plant, Deputy Factory Manager Dr Myint Sein on production of quinine from cinchona and research work on new medicines.

Next, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint reported on arrangements in conformity with the National Drug Policy.

Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung reported on tests of some herbal plants for production.

Director-General of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) Dr Paing Soe reported on test of potency of some medicines. Deputy Prime Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win reported on research on medicinal plants. A general round of discussions then followed. In conclusion, the Prime Minister spoke on correct processes and use of medicine in accord with the national drug policy. The meeting then came to a close. — MNA
Efforts are being made...
(from page 16)
as soon as machinery from abroad arrives, to get supply of raw materials when the factories start to run and to get ready for manufacturing of iron products when orders receive.

The Secretary-1 added that upon completion of the factories, any kinds of iron products will be manufactured.

So, coordinated measures are to be taken for seeking firm local and foreign markets. Only when its industrial sector develops, will there emerge a modern developed nation. That is why encouragement is being given to help enhance the industrial sector of the nation alongside the development of its agricultural sector. Industrial zones, in particular, are being collectively established to boost private industry. Of the materials and others; Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin on efforts for earlier completion of the projects, meeting the set standard of machinery, training of factory staff and assembling of machine parts by the factories of Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi (Ayethaya) for those of the Ministry of Industry-2; and Minister Brig-Gen Lun Tha on construction progress of foundry plants and press shops in Taunggyi (Ayethaya), supply of power and water, measures to be taken against lost and wastage and cooperative efforts with the Ministry of Industry-2. Then, the chairmen of Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi (Ayethaya) Industrial Zones Supervisory Committees reported on their respective arrangements. Later, Managing Director Dr Pe Khin of Fair Sun Industry Co from Shwepyitha Industrial Zone-3 reported on 7 million acres that can be used year round. Meanwhile, sown acreage for paddy has increased from about 1.2 million acres to about 1.7 million acres. Thus, the region enjoyed surplus of about 40 million baskets of paddy. Therefore, the State has laid down the project for turning Sagoing Division into the granary of Upper Myanmar with a surplus of 80 million baskets of paddy.

That is why it is incumbent upon the division to engage in extended cultivation of cotton, pulses and beans, sunflowers, sesame and groundnut in addition to paddy. At the same time, efforts are to be made to boost the per acre yield.

Only then, will the division be able to stand as a division with strong economy on which the State can rely.

With prevalence of law and order and peace and stability across the Union including Sagoing Division, a good foundation to engage in the tasks for economic development has emerged. With good foundations for administration, economy, education and transport, the Government has been able to further cement the national solidarity by contributing to emergence of entre-preneurs and educated persons in the respective regions. Only when such opportunities can be created will a peaceful modern developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation emerge. Therefore, the Government has laid down and is implementing the seven-point future policy programme of the State, the prerequisite for emergence of a new nation.

In the process, the National Convention, the first step of the future policy programme is being successfully held. The entire national people are to continue striving for successful realization of the future policy programme.

In conclusion, the Secretary-2 stressed the need for maintaining the irrigation facilities as well as for conserving forest and regional greening, and urged local people and officials to make concerted efforts for greening Sagoing Division by making good use of the irrigation facilities.

(See page 10)
Health Minister addresses World Heart Day ceremony

Yangon, 26 Sept — Organized by the Ministry of Health and arranged by the World Heart Federation, a ceremony to mark World Heart Day took place at the hall of the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning, with an address delivered by Minster for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Present on the occasion were Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, directors-general of departments under the ministry, rectors, directors, professors, medical superintendents, officials of the Yangon Division Health Department, chairmen of social organizations, nurses and guests.

In his speech, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint said the World Heart Federation has designated Sunday of the last week of September as World Heart Day since 1999. This year, the day falls on today, 26 September. The purpose of observing the day is to disseminate the knowledge of how to live a healthy life free from cardiac disease in a span of life time. With this end in view, the chosen slogan for the day runs "A heart for life, children, adolescents, and heart disease". The day is observed in more than 90 countries without missing a single year. However, this is the first time that the day is observed in Myanmar.

Non-communicable diseases like heart disease, hypertension, diabetes and cancer have become major health problems not only in developed countries but also in developing countries for the last decade.

Medical experts have come to aware that the rate of cardiac disease is on the increase like other countries of the world. Malnutrition is an important health problem. Later, the minister called upon the entire people to make concerted cooperation in the drive for the creation of a world of healthy hearts free from cardiac disease.

Next, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint, MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and guests viewed cardiac medicines displayed at the hall.

After the ceremony, talks on World Heart Day were given. Officials of departments concerned gave talks on 'children, adolescents and the habit of smoking', 'children and nutrition' and 'the possible risks of heart disease in children and adolescents'.

The Salingyi Dam inaugurated...

(from page 9)

At the same time, he called on those concerned to make relentless efforts for development of agricultural undertakings through the irrigation facilities.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye made a speech. He said that the emergence of dams and reservoirs in the region will contribute much to not only development of agriculture but also ensuring regional greenness.

The Salingyi Dam opened today is of earthen type. The emergence of the facility will lead to turning out more farmlands and ensuring full water supply in the region.

Altogether 17 dams and reservoirs large and small emerged in Sagaing Division in 1988 to date. The State has spent K 121,19,18 million on the facilities that can now benefit over 367,444 acres of farmlands.

The Government has been building dams and reservoirs one after another across the nation for development of agricultural sector. The Salingyi Dam is the 164th of its kind. The facility will now be able to benefit about 600 acres of farmlands in Salingyi Township and to supply potable water for local people.

Paddy, cotton, sugarcane, pulses and beans, edible oil crops, grow well in Sagaing Division. Thus, local farmers will be able to earn more money through the facility.

In conclusion, the commander called on local people and authorities to maintain the facility for its durability since it will contribute to regional greening and benefit agricultural undertakings.

Afterwards, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo made a speech. He said that with the emergence of 164 dams and reservoirs in a short period, those facilities benefit much agricultural work. According to geographical condition, the region has been in the arid zone where water is scarce. Therefore, Salingyi Dam was built with the aim of developing the agricultural sector and ensuring supply of potable water.

With the emergence of the facility, local people will be able to engage in growing a wide array of crops all year round. Hence, local farmers are to try their utmost to be able to march to mechanised farming with the effective use of irrigation facilities created by the Government.

Next, a local people spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thein Sein unveiled the stone inscription of the bridge at the auspicious time. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo formally opened the dam.

Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the ministers and deputy ministers posed for a documentary photo together with local people.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party inspected the reservoir.

Use Natural Gas

- 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.
Taninthayi Division must be oil pot of the country
Assistance provided to strengthening of economic infrastructure

YANGON, 26 Sept — The government in cooperation with national entrepreneurs is realizing market-oriented economic system. Encouragement has been given to economic development of the national entrepreneurs in agriculture, industry, trade and service sectors in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

As Myanmar is an agro-based country, emphasis is placed on exceeding agricultural products in order to increase surplus export products for strengthening economic infrastructure of the country.

At present, edible oil has been imported due to insufficiency of the item in the country. Under the management of the government, the plan has been implemented to grow 500,000 acres of oil palm in Taninthayi Division since 1999 with a view to meeting local edible oil demand and exporting the surplus. Land plots were allotted free of charge to the entrepreneurs who are able to operate cultivation of oil palm.

Growing oil palm can benefit the grower as well as the country. Now, companies, local people and regiments and units have put 100,000 acres of land under oil palm.

As more entrepreneurs wishing to invest at oil palm cultivation try to take plots of land, Taninthayi Division will become the oil pot of the country in coming a few years. In Kawthoung District, a total of 16,328 acres of oil palm have so far been grown against the target of 16,360 acres. Of them, seven companies have cultivated 87,564 acres of oil palm and the government, 7,938 acres. And then, the companies are nurturing 2,768,000 oil palm saplings to put them on 36,500 acres of land.

With regard to the transport sector, YES Group Co has tared over 47 miles long section out of 142 miles long Kawthoung-Bokpyin Road and built 33 concrete bridges out of 120 along the road.

In accord with the motto ‘Taninthayi Division must be oil pot of the country’, nowadays, greening and thriving oil palm plantations together with rubber plantations can be seen along both sides of Kawthoung-Bokpyin Union Highway. — MNA

Taninthayi Division plans to grow 500,000 acres of oil palm, 200,000 acres of rubber, 26,000 acres of pepper
Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects agriculture, construction tasks in Myek

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends fertilizer broadcasting ceremony at the paddy plantation of Sandawadi Village-tract, Myek Township. — MNA

YANGON, 26 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony to collectively broadcast fertilizers in the paddy plantation in Sandawadi Village-tract, Myek Township, on 24 September morning.

Also present were Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, senior military officers, departmental officials, local authorities and people. Officials reported on extension of sown acreage, local rice varieties, cropping for meeting the target production with the use of four methods, growing of Kyawwaza paddy strain and benefits, use of quality paddy strain and chemical, natural and bio-fertilizers.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions, saying that the government is implementing the border areas and national race development project and the 24 development regions project and the five rural development tasks. The government joining hands with the people plans public welfare tasks for not only 53 million of the people but also next generations with farsightedness. As the country is an agro-based nation, the target was set for production of 10 main crops in the respective regions for improvement of the agriculture sector.

Taninthayi Division is rich in water and land resources. However, concerted efforts are to be made for ensuring local food sufficiency. In this regard it is necessary to apply quality strains that are suitable for the region, in addition to systematic use of natural fertilizers. To-day’s fertilizer broadcasting ceremony will contribute to exceeding of agricultural target as well as ensuring sufficient food for the region.

Next, they viewed broadcast of fertilizers and bio-super folio fertilizer on nine acres of paddy plantations. Afterwards, they went to local paddy fields to check the better plots of suitable paddy seeds for the region, sample saplings, fertilizers and pesticides, pamphlets and making Bokashi.

They proceeded to Maha Theikdizaya Pagoda being built on Sandawadi Hill mounting 90 feet high near Myek-Dawei road and Sandawati Village of Myek Township. Lt-Gen Maung Bo offered lights, joss sticks and flowers to the Buddha image in the cave of the pagoda. Superintendent Engineer U Ba Wan reported on progress of building Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected progress of construction, the sites for growing Bo tree, Sasana Beikman, the lake, the ordination hall and the monastery.

In afternoon, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met local authorities, departmental officials, townSelelders and entrepreneurs at the meeting hall of Coastal Region Command Headquarters.

Officials reported on paddy cultivation, local food sufficiency and land reclamation. The commander gave supplementary reports that the agricultural target of Taninthayi Division is to ensure local food sufficiency and to put lands under 500,000 acres of oil palm, 200,000 acres of rubber and 26,000 acres of pepper. In the mining sector, 223,254 metric tons of mineral, 359,273.67 metric tons of coal, 13,685.91 momme of pearl, 19,944 metric tons of oyster shell could be produced up to 15 September. Local and foreign entrepreneurs are being invited to extend mineral production. In the meat and fish sector, 28,185.01 tons of fish and prawn could be produced up to the end of September 2004. And, efforts are being made for breeding of prawn in 15,000 acres of ponds. He also reported on progress of building Taninthayi-Bokpyin Road and Bokpyin-Kawthoung Road. Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions to them. — MNA
Kazakhstan willing to promote cooperation with China

YINING (Xinjiang), 25 Sept—Kazakhstan is willing to promote cooperation with China in various fields, said visiting Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev here Friday.

Nazarbayev, who was here for a two-day working visit to northwest China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, made the remarks during his meeting with Wang Lequan, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and secretary of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Regional Committee of the CPC.

He said the cooperation between Kazakhstan and China, two neighbouring countries, is conducive for enhancing understanding and trust between the two peoples and will bring concrete benefits for both sides. Wang Lequan said China and Kazakhstan have witnessed rapid development of good-neighbourly and friendly cooperation in recent years, and enjoyed cooperation in such fields as economy, trade, energy and transport. Kazakhstan has been Xinjiang’s largest trade partner in the past 10 years and cross-border trade between China and Kazakhstan has been very active, Wang said. China and Kazakhstan will start the oil pipeline programme soon, which has strategic significance for the two sides, Wang said. He said he hoped that such energy cooperation will drive cooperation between the two countries in other fields.

Chinese official says world’s “Highest” railway environment-friendly

BEIJING, 25 Sept—The construction of the Qinghai-Tibet rail line does not threaten the fragile ecosystem of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the source of most of China’s major waterways, said China’s environment watchdog organization here Friday at a Press conference.

Pan Yue, deputy director of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), said measures have been taken to effectively protect water sources, frozen earth, wetlands, vegetation and migration routes for wild animals. The 1,956-kilometre-long Qinghai-Tibet Railway, which links Xining, Qinghai’s capital in northwest China, with Lhasa, capital city of the Tibet Autonomous Region, records the highest elevation of any rail line in the world, reaching 5,072 meters above sea level at Tanggula Range.

Because the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is a vulnerable, high-altitude eco-system with thin air and cold temperatures, once vegetation is damaged, it cannot be easily restored. Therefore, despite its two billion yuan (241 million US dollars) environmental investment, the railway project has drawn concern over possible environmental losses from homes and abroad. Pan elaborated on the five measures which have been taken to minimize losses:

— Removing vegetation from construction sites and restoring it after finishing the work.
— Building the line away from natural zones and confined construction work to a smallest possible scope along the line. At some sections, passages for wild life to migrate have been set up.
— Detouring around wetlands and lakes, and when impossible, building bridges rather than roads to minimize the damage to land surface.
— Using heat preservation material to fill in the base to keep a stable frozen earth layer along the line.
— Minimize the number of stations along the line to reduce human waste and installing water treatment facilities in every station. Recycled water is forbidden from going into local waterways directly.

ADB to help Afghanistan attract investment

MANILA, 25 Sept—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Friday said that it would help Afghanistan to stimulate private sector activity and attract foreign direct investment by co-financing an investment guarantee facility.

The ADB said in a statement that it had approved a loan of five million US dollars and a guarantee of 10 million US dollars to provide political risk guarantees to eligible investors and financiers.

“We are very pleased with this cooperative effort among different countries to provide an innovative solution to the needs of Afghanistan, leveraging each other’s strength and making use of ADB’s political risk guarantee instruments in a catalytic and innovative way,” said Werner Lepach, ADB’s Director of Co-financing.

Cuting an analysis by the World Bank, the ADB said that there is an encouraging potential level of foreign direct investment in Afghanistan, with demand coming from sectors such as energy, telecommunications, Internet services, banking, housing, food and agriculture, textile, steel, oil and gas, and mining.

World Bank helps India develop rural roads

NEW DELHI, 25 Sept—The World Bank has granted 400 million US dollars in loans to India to help develop its rural roads, the India’s Asian News Service reported on Friday.

The project is expected to support India’s national programme and provide all-weather roads in villages and remote hamlets. The project’s scope would be expanded to Bihar State in eastern India and other poorly connected states, World Bank said in a statement Friday.

Piers Vickers, World Bank’s senior transport specialist said, “An estimated 200 million people are without all-weather road access in India.”

He said the lack of good roads “prevents” the rural population “from being fully integrated into the economy and accessing essential services, such as basic healthcare and education.” The project is consistent with the World Bank’s country strategy for India, which will accelerate rural growth in the country.

Trade mark caution

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Chinese ballet dancers rehearse, for their performance during the National Day holiday, in Guiyang, southern China on 24 Sept, 2004, China celebrates its 55th National Day on 1 Oct. —INTERNET

French President to visit Vietnam before ASEM 5
HANOI, 25 Sept — French President Jacques Chirac will pay his second official visit to Vietnam on 6 October before attending the fifth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 5) on 7-8 October according to diplomatic sources on Friday.

The French President will discuss with his Vietnamese counterpart Tran Duc Luong about a number of issues, some of which will be relevant to those touched by them during Luong’s official visit to France in 2002, including measures to beef up bilateral and multilateral ties, and French’s support for Vietnam’s entry to the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Security Council as a non-standing member in the 2008-2009.

During Chirac’s visit, Vietnam and China will sign some 16 documents, mostly involving projects on education and infrastructure, an official from the French Embassy in Hanoi said on condition of anonymity, noting that the French President will be accompanied by around 20 businesses. — MNA/Xinhua

Belgian cancer patient gives birth to baby
BRUSSELS, 25 Sept — A Belgian cancer patient made infertile by chemotherapy has made world history by giving birth to a baby on Thursday after undergoing a revolutionary treatment in a Brussels hospital.

The baby was delivered in a Brussels hospital by a Belgian Obstetrician in primary care at Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, a Hodgkin’s lymphoma patient on Thursday night gave birth to a baby girl weighing three kilos 720 grammes.

The 32-year-old patient, named Quarda Tourrat, was diagnosed seven years ago with the cancer. Before undertaking chemotherapy surgeries removed healthy ovarian tissue. After the successful treatment of the cancer in April 2003, the tissue was re-implanted.

The radio quoted a spokesperson for the hospital as saying that this was the first such birth in the world, and the implications for other women in similar situations are great.

Professor Jaques Donnez, who led the research into the treatment at the Catholic University of Leuven, told the Press that the findings open new perspectives for young cancer patients facing premature ovarian failure. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam, Thailand allow tourist cars to enter territories
HANOI, 25 Sept — Vietnam and Thailand have reached a consensus on allowing tourist cars to go to seven localities of each country, local newspaper Youth reported Friday. Under an agreement reached on Thursday, left-handed or right-hand driven wheel cars will be allowed to transport Thai tourists to tour seven Vietnamese central provinces, including Ha Tinh, Hue and Quang Nam, and transport Vietnamese visitors to seven Thai northeastern provinces.

Thai cars will enter Vietnam via the Lao Bao border gate in Quang Tri Province or the Cau Treo border gate in Ha Tinh Province, while Vietnamese cars are to go through the three Thai border gates of Mukdahan, Nong Khi and Nakhom Phanom.

In the coming time, the governments of Vietnam and Thailand are expected to separately approve the agreement which will become effective within 60 days after being signed, the paper said.

Relevant agencies of Vietnam and China are currently exploring possibilities of letting their automobiles to travel in some localities of each country. The move aims at facilitating transport, trade and tourism in the two economic corridors involving the two Chinese provinces of Yunnan and Guangxi and five Vietnamese localities of Hanoi, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Lao Cai and Lang Son. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese FM says Premier’s Kyrgyzstan, Russia tour fruitful
MOSCOW, 26 Sept — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Saturday hailed Premier Wen Jiabao’s two-nation tour to Kyrgyzstan and Russia as a complete success, saying the visit is fruitful in promoting mutual political understanding, bilateral trade and good-neighbourly relationship.

Li, who accompanied the Premier during his visit to the two countries and attended at the third meeting of prime minister of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization’s (SCO) member states, said Premier Wen held extensive talks with government leaders of the SCO members, signing a total of 13 bilateral documents and nine multilateral ones.

During his visit to Russia, Li said, Premier Wen reached a consensus with his Russian counterpart, Mikhail Fradkov, that the two countries should make joint efforts in expanding and deepening their strategic partnership of cooperation.

Li said the two countries recognized each other’s full market economy status, pledged to maintain a sustainable development of bilateral trade.

During Wen’s visit to Moscow, the two sides also vowed to strengthen cooperation in fighting terrorism, and in such humanistic spheres as culture, education, health, sports and the media, and in oil and natural gas projects. Including the construction of pipelines between China and Russia, the foreign minister said.

While visiting Kyrgyzstan, Wen and his Kyrgyz counterpart, Nikolai Tanayev, agreed to expand cooperation in transport, energy, agriculture, food processing, electric machinery, aviation, textiles and finance, Li said.

The two sides promised to strengthen coordination and cooperation in combating terrorism, separatism and extremism, vowing to continue to carry out strong measures in jointly fighting the so-called “Eastern Turkistan” terrorist group.

MNA/Xinhua

Consumers recommend wider use of statin to lower cholesterol
WASHINGTON, 25 Sept — Consumer advocates backed by some prominent doctors and researchers on Thursday questioned a new US policy recommending wider use of statin drugs to lower cholesterol.

The new guidelines, published in July, suggest that people who once thought their cholesterol levels were fine should take statin drugs to get them even lower.

The National Institutes of Health and the National Cholesterol Education Programme panel that issued the guidelines cited several studies showing that people who used statins greatly lowered their risk of heart disease.

But the Centre for Science in the Public Interests disputed the interpretation of the studies and accused the panel members of having been influenced by their connections to drug companies.

“There is strong evidence to suggest that an objective, independent re-evaluation of the scientific evidence from the five new studies of statin therapy would lead to different conclusions than those presented by the current NCEP,” reads the CSPI letter, signed by 35 cardiology, nutritionists and other health professionals.

“The studies cited do not demonstrate that statins benefit women of any age or men over 70 who do not already have heart disease,” said John Abramson, a clinical instructor in primary care at Harvard Medical School, who signed the letter.

“Furthermore, we are concerned about the findings from one of the five cited studies showing that statin therapy significantly increases the risk of cancer in the elderly.” — MNA/Reuters

This picture released in 1999 by Oregon State University shows a fossil of a theropod found in Italy. Paleontologists have been wondering what is the purpose of the long neck on a group of predatory reptiles that roamed the earth millions of years ago. — INTERNET

The new guidelines, published in July, suggest that people who once thought their cholesterol levels were fine should take statin drugs to get them even lower.

The National Institutes of Health and the National Cholesterol Education Programme panel that issued the guidelines cited several studies showing that people who used statins greatly lowered their risk of heart disease.

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Third group starts talks with Liverpool

London, 25 Sept—A third group have started talks with Liverpool aimed at taking control of the Premier League club, according to a report on Friday's Financial Times.

Mike Jeffries and Stuart Ford, two American-based entertainment executives with Liverpool roots, are keen to put together a deal potentially worth 100 million pounds (180.2 million US dollars), said the Financial Times.

"We would like to be able to contribute to helping Liverpool become the most successful club in the world," Jeffries was quoted as saying.

Two weeks ago, Thai media tycoon Paiboon Damrongchaitham, also bidding to buy a stake in Liverpool, said he would meet representatives of the club later this month to try to finalize a deal.

Paiboon took over negotiations after Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was forced to back out of his proposed 120-million-US-dollars deal for a 30-per-cent stake in Liverpool due to fierce criticism of his plan to use public money.—MNA/Reuters

Arsenal retains lead at top of Premier League

London, 25 Sept—Champions Arsenal retained their two-point lead at the top of the Premier League with a 1-0 win at Manchester City as title rivals Chelsea beat Middlesbrough 1-0 on Saturday.

Chelsea had to be patient at Middlesbrough, Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba scoring the 81st-minute winner with a deflected low drive after midfielder Frank Lampard had squared a free kick.

Yet to produce sparkling football under new coach Jose Mourinho, Chelsea ground out their third 1-0 league win and have conceded only one goal in seven league games.

"At halftime, I was saying to the players, you are playing amazingly and... we are not scoring goals, but we must keep the self belief," Mourinho told Sky Sports News. Despite scoring only seven goals in the seven games, Mourinho believes it is only a matter of time before Chelsea's attack clicks.

"I'm very pleased, and the players are really happy in the dressing room — and that's a good sign," he said.—MNA/Reuters

Czech soccer federation claims Nedved retired from int'l football

Prague, 25 Sept—Czech captain and a playmaker Pavel Nedved has retired from international football because of persistent injury, the Czech soccer federation said on Friday.

The 32-year-old European Footballer of the Year said this month he would not return to the national squad until he had fully recovered from a knee injury.

"It really saddens me to be leaving the national team and I believe that my former teammates, who I was honoured to play with, as well as my fans... will respect and understand my decision," he said in a statement.

"I do not want to be seen as leaving without feeling or as being dis-gruntled. And because of this, I wish Czech football further success," he added.

Midfielder Nedved, who plays for Juventus in Italy, suffered the injury in the Euro 2004 semifinal loss to Greece.

Nedved made his debut for the Czech Republic against Ireland in 1994 and played 83 times for his country, scoring 17 goals.

He moved to Lazio from Sparta Prague in 1996, helping the Rome-based club to victories in the Italian Cup in 1998 and the European Winners' Cup in 1999.

The following season Lazio clinched the Italian league and cup double and Juventus paid 41 million euros (49.5 million US dollars) for Nedved in 2001.—MNA/Reuters

Owen leaves out of squad due injury

Madrid, 25 Sept—England striker Michael Owen has been left out of the Real Madrid squad to play Athletic Bilbao this weekend because of a minor leg strain. The 24-year-old played the last 10 minutes of his side's 1-0 victory against Osasuna last Tuesday but was only able to jog around the pitch on Friday's training session and will not travel to Bilbao with the rest of his teammates.

Owen has made just one start for Real in the league since joining the club from Liverpool for 12 million euros (14.76 million US dollars) in the close season.

With Raúl likely to fill in on the left in the absence of injured midfielders Zinedine Zidane and Santiago Solari, Guti and Fernando Morientes are favourites to join Ronaldo in the Real attack for Saturday's match.—MNA/Reuters

FIFA seeking ways for players' better form at World Cup

London, 25 Sept—FIFA is looking at ways to help players improve for major international tournaments starting with the 2006 World Cup.

The Football Committee and technical and Development Committee of world soccer's ruling body met on Thursday in Zurich to discuss the sport's coordinated match calendar.

"The view of the technical experts in world football is very clear — players, especially internationals, are taking part in too many matches," FIFA said in a statement.

Both committees agreed that there should be a longer preparation period for the next World Cup, with a proposal to end 2005-06 European domestic sea-
Provisions provided to monasteries, nunneries in Yangon West and East Districts

YANGON, 26 Sept — Families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated provisions to 15 monasteries and 7 nunneries in Sanyaung Township this afternoon.

They visited Shwedagon Pagoda before proceeding to the monasteries and nunneries. Eleven families of Tatmadaw and 15 families of wellwishers donated provisions to the monasteries and nunneries in Sanyaung Township.

The provisions donated to monasteries and nunneries included 160,000 packages of Tatmadaw families to Captain Nyan Tun.

Next, the Chief of Staff (Navy), the Vice-Adjoint- General, the Deputy Minister for SWRR and senior military officers accepted the donations from wellwishers. Today’s donations for monasteries and nunneries in Sanyang Township were 438 bags of rice, 2,163 viss of oil, 2,870 viss of traditional medicine, 3,268 cakes of Padonna soap, 100 copies of ma-gazines and K 4,574,090.

Similarly, provisions of Tatmadaw families and wellwishers were donated to six monasteries in Botataung and Pazundaung townships at 3 pm today. The ceremony was held at Mingalārāma Pali Tekkatho on Theinbyu Street.

Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Vice-Adjoint- General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and officials donated provisions to the Sayadaws. Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Captain Nyan Tun and Lt-Col Than Hlaing offered rice, oil and gram donated by Tatmadaw families and wellwishers to the Sayadaws.

Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Captain Nyan Tun and Lt-Col Than Hlaing offered provisions to a Sayadaw.— MNA

MPT introduces Security Code Numbering system

YANGON, 26 Sept — Myanma Posts and Telecommunications has introduced the Code Numbering System for subscribers in order to prevent others from using illicit extensions of the telephones in Yangon City. The caller is to use the code number which will be provided by the Auto Exchange concerned. The new security system will affect the out-going calls when the phone is not in use, but the in-coming calls will not be affected.

The subscribers may contact the Auto Exchange concerned in person or through their representatives producing the Citizenship Scrutiny Cards.— MNA

WEATHER

Sunday, 26 September 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers were widespread in Tanintharyi Division, scattered in Kayin, Shan and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division, isolated in Mon, Kayah and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing.

Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Machanbw (4.65 inches and Putao (1.18) inches.

Maximum temperature on 25-9-2004 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 26-9-2004 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 26-9-2004 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 25-9-2004 was 7.0 hours approx. Rainfall on 26-9-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 109.80 inches at Yangon Airport, 104.33 inches at Kaba-Aye and 106.81 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Southwest at 18:30 hours MST on 25-9-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-9-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin State, Tanintharyi and upper Sagaing Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).


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Po Wa (Trs)

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UMFCCI officials meet guests

YANGON, 26 Sept — Chairman of Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum (GMS-BF) U Win Aung, Vice-President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aung Lwin and CEC members, on 23 November, met Chairman Mr T Ishakzadee Jochu (Thai-land) Ltd and party at UMFCCI office.

They discussed matters relating to the visit of a delegation of Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Bangkok, and economic matters.

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Pakistan delegation arrives

YANGON, 26 Sept — A Pakistan delegation led by Mr Mr Khaliq Entikham arrived here this afternoon.

They visited Shwedagon Pagoda this afternoon and members of Pagoda Board of Trustees conducted them round the pagoda. The delegation comprises eight members attending the National Management Course of PASC.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Director-General of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Hla Kyi, Pakistani Ambassador Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhry and officials.

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Beware—they’re digging up old wounds

* The wounds they inflicted on us With traditional medicines, brewed We’d heal spiritually and physically In consideration of every aspect We did the curing correctly In consideration of every aspect

Those who cannot bear to see us and want to see it as it was before

We are working incessantly To bring it back into correct form Those who inflicted wounds before

While we all try to preserve Myanmar character To bring it back into correct form

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MNA
Efforts being made for development of private industrial sector

Secretary-1 addresses coord meeting on establishment of modern iron product factories

YANGON, 26 Sept — A coordination meeting on establishment of modern iron product factories in Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi (Ayethaya) was held in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Industry-2 at 2 pm today, with an address by Industrial Development Committee Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win.

It was also attended by Industrial Development Committee Secretary Myanma Industrial Development Committee Chairman Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, MID Work Committee Chairman Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Taunggyi (Ayethaya) Industrial Zone in charge Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, members of MID committee and work committee, officials of SPDC office, heads of departments, officials, chairmen of respective industrial zone supervisory committees, industrialists and guests. Addressing the meeting, the Secretary-1 said foundry shops and press shops are being established in the industrial zones of Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi (Ayethaya) with the assistance of the State. Today’s meeting is held to make arrangements to complete the construction projects in time (See page 9)

Salingyi Dam inaugurated to irrigate 600 acres of farmlands and to supply drinking water

The opening ceremony of Salingyi Dam constructed by the Construction Group-4 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Salingyi Township in Monywa District, Sagaing Division was held this morning with an address by Chairman of the Agriculture Development Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Defence, Sagaing Division Li-Gen Thein Sein.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Li-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officials and local people totalling over 4,500.

Speaking on the occasion, Li-Gen Thein Sein said as Salingyi (See page 9)