Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Netherlands Ambassador

YANGON, 27 Sept — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, on behalf of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Gerard JHC Kramer, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Myanmar, who has completed his tour of duties, at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinttha here this afternoon.

Present at the call were Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Director-General at the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint, and Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet. — MNA

SEAMEO INNOTECH Administration Board Meeting

YANGON, 27 Sept — The 47th SEAMEO INNOTECH Administration Board Meeting was opened at Myanmar Ballroom-1 of the Traders Hotel here this morning. It was attended by directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Education, ambassadors of ASEAN countries to Myanmar, rectors, deputy directors-general, pro-rectors, professors, directors, and officials. On the occasion, SEAMEO INNOTECH Director Dr Erlinda C. Pefianco, Acting Chairman Dr Ramon Mohandas and Deputy Director Mr Abdul Wahid bin Sulalman extended greetings, followed by an address delivered by Director-General of the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) U Saw Lwin.

Next, officials of SEAMEO INNOTECH and delegates to the meeting posed for a group photo. The meeting goes on till 29 September. — MNA

President of MWAF clarifies federation tasks

YANGON, 27 Sept — President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation met members of MWAF at MICT Park in Hlaing Township, here, this afternoon. Present on the occasion were President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Prof Dr Daw May Yi, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe, Daw Khin Win, adviser Daw Khin Than Nwe and advisers, General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win and CEC members and others.

First, President of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivered an address. The president explained condition of tasks taken within six months and future work in detail. After the ceremony, the President cordially conversed with those present. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
General banking services training course No 4 (officer level) opened

YANGON, 27 Sept—The general banking services training course No 4 (officer level) of Banks Supervisory Committee was held at the Central Bank of Myanmar this afternoon.

Present were Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of CBM U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, members of Banks Supervisory Committee, directors-general and managing directors, executives of Myanmar Banks Association, guests, course instructors and trainees.

In his address, Minister Brig-Gen Hla Tun said that the main aim of the general banking services training course is to increase the number of native and foreign monks so that Buddhist missionary tasks can be carried out the world over.

YANGON, 27 Sept—Organized by the Ministry of Commerce, the ‘WTO/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Customs Valuation, Trade Facilitation and Rules of Origin’ was held at the Traders’ Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning, with an address by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

The seminar, which will go on till 29 September, was then held.

Deputy Foreign Minister receives Pakistani guests

YANGON, 27 Sept—Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu received eight-member trainees from Pakistan Administrative Staff College, National Management Course, led by Mr Khalid Iqbal, Member of Directing Staff, Pakistan Administrative Staff College, together with Ambassador of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhry, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning. Also present at the call were Directors-General and responsible officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

On-Job training course No 20 for auditors concludes

YANGON, 27 Sept—A concluding ceremony of On-Job training course No 20 for auditors was held at the training school of Auditor-General’s Office this morning with an address by Deputy Auditor-General Daw Thin Thin. Present on the occasion were officials of the Auditor-General’s Office, lecturers and trainees. Altogether 80 trainees took part in the two-month course. —MNA

MPT introduces Security Code Numbering system

YANGON, 26 Sept—Myanmar 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 system will affect the outgoing calls when the phone is not in use, but the incoming 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

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

People’s Desires

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Seminar on Customs Valuation commences

YANGON, 27 Sept—Deputy Minister of Commerce, the ‘WTO/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Customs Valuation, Trade Facilitation and Rules of Origin’ was held at the Traders’ Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning, with an address by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

In his address, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun said in

Ensure success of Fourth World Buddhist Summit

The Union of Myanmar is where Theravada Buddhism flourishes. The Sasana has been shining like the sun and the moon in the country from 103 Maha Era, 1 Sasana Era, when the Lord Buddha entered into Pari Nirvana, the final demise, to present, 2548 Sasana Era. Beginning 1 Sasana Era, the Buddha Synod has been held six times to make the Sasana flourish as long as the world exists. Of them, the fifth and the sixth Buddha Synods took place in Mandalay and Yangon respectively.

The order of the Three Pitakas in Myanmar is the same as that of the First Buddhist Synod. With the aim of spreading the light of the Buddhist Sasana throughout the world, Myanmar will host the World Buddhist Summit in the near future. It is also a rare occasion.

For the success of the World Buddhist Summit, Chairman of the Leading Committee for organizing the Fourth World Buddhist Summit Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the Work Coordination Meeting on the Fourth World Buddhist Summit at International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in Mayangon Township, Yangon. In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt stressed the need for organizing the summit on a grand scale in accord with the traditions and customs of Myanmar and in the spirit of true Buddhist.

It is encouraging and delightful to see the efforts being made in the country to keep Pali, Athakatha and Tika treatises under a single Sangha Organization and to ensure the purification and propagation of the Sasana.

With the opening of ITBMU, measures are being taken to increase the number of native and foreign monks so that Buddhist missionary tasks can be carried out the world over.

Steps are also taken to paint on the minds of the delegates to the Fourth World Buddhist Summit the pictures of flourishing Theravada Buddhism Sasana in Myanmar. This being the case, it is incumbent upon all the officials concerned to make sure that all the delegates to the summit witness the glittering rays of Theravada Buddha Sasana in Myanmar.
Top senator calls Iraq ‘quagmire’ for US

WASHINGTON, 26 Sept — A leading US senator said that the United States was locked in a “quagmire” in Iraq, calling the war a diversion from the hunt for Al-Qaeda boss Osama bin Laden after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

“The greatest threat to American security after 9/11 is Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden,” Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy told CBS television.

“We had an effective programme to try to deal with Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. We were diverted to going into Iraq. And as a result of going into Iraq, we see we are locked in it in a quagmire,” the Massachusetts senator said on the “Face the Nation” programme. Kennedy said Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi had given a “rosy assessment” of the situation in his country that was “in conflict with the national intelligence and in conflict with the reports that are coming back.”

“We have to free ourselves from the lies, the distortions about Iraq. Every time we have these misstatements, every time we have these lies, we sink further and further into the quagmire.”

“The facts, the growth of violence, the growth of violence in Iraq, says a lot more than political-speak does,” Kennedy said.

“We have to free ourselves from the lies, the distortions about Iraq. Every time we have these misstatements, every time we have these lies, we sink further and further into the quagmire,” he said.

Cuba urges revitalization of NAM

UNITED NATIONS, 26 Sept— Cuba on Friday called for revitalizing the Non-Aligned Movement and strengthening the Group of 77 to forge a common front to defend the interests of their peoples and their right to development and peace.

“We, as non-aligned countries, will have to entrenched ourselves in defending the United Nations Charter, because otherwise it will be redrafted with the deletion of every trace of principles such as the sovereign equality of states, non-intervention and the non-use of the threat to use force,” Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque said at the 59th session of the UN General Assembly.

The Cuban Foreign Minister expressed his belief that there would be no valid, real and useful reform to the United Nations for the time being. “It would take the superpower, which inherited the immense prerogative of governing an order conceived for a bipolar world, to relinquish its privileges. And it will not do so,” he explained. He said US President George W Bush had “handcuffed” the United Nations, and the war in Iraq had cost the world organization its credibility and respect. The United Nations was now living through the worst period in its 60-year history, he said. The Cuban Foreign Minister also argued that the United States would have to withdraw from Iraq.

Bay Area Marine killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 Sept— Another soldier from the Bay Area has lost his life in Iraq.

The Pentagon has announced that 24-year-old Lance Corporal Aaron Boyles of Alameda died Friday in Iraq’s Anbar Province.

Boyles graduated high school in Newark.

Three other Marines were also killed in the same incident.

Boyles was assigned to the 7th US Marine regiment based in Twenty-Nine Palms.

Dozens killed in Iraq violence

FALAFIJAH, 26 Sept— US airstrikes on rebel-held Fallujah left 15 dead while a guerilla attack in another troubled Sunni Arab town killed 10 more, as Britain and Egypt stepped up efforts to secure the release of hostages in Iraq.

The arrest of a top national guard commander with links to the insurgency dealt a blow to a fledgling security apparatus under pressure to secure Iraq in time for January elections.

As Britain admitted dismantling Sadam Hussein’s old army was a mistake, the latest US airstrike on Fallujah targeted what commanders said was a meeting place for militants of suspected Al-Qaeda operative Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi’s Unity and Holy War group, which is holding Briton Kenneth Bigley hostage.

But medics in the town, west of Baghdad, said there were again women and children among the casualties.

Two hospitals in the city reported receiving eight dead and 22 wounded, including women and children, while residents said many victims remained under the rubble.

An earlier US airstrike on another alleged hideout killed seven Iraqis, again including women and children, according to medics.

Denmark ready to support UNSC expansion

STOCKHOLM, 26 Sept— Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moller said on Friday that his government is ready to support an eventual expansion of the UN Security Council to better reflect today’s international power hierarchy.

Speaking with Det Funke news agency during the UN General Assembly in New York, Per Stig Moller said he expected permanent seats to be offered to Germany and Japan if the UN Security Council is expanded to include medium-sized countries.

Germany, Japan, India and Brazil all issued requests late Thursday for a permanent seat in the elite Council. Moller told Ritzau that if India was given a permanent seat, Pakistan and Indonesia were sure to lodge similar demands — as would Argentina and Mexico, if Pakistan were given a seat.

French President inaugurates Paris Motor Show

PARIS, 26 Sept— French President Jacques Chirac inaugurated on Friday Paris Motor Show, one of the major international activities of the sector that is experiencing a difficult time.

The Motor Show, grouping this year 480 exhibitors from 26 countries will present more than 60 new versions during the two-week exhibition, which is expected to attract about 1.5 million visitors.

After talking to world top car manufacturers, Chirac visited the Motor Show and showed special interest in French cars, especially the “clean cars”.

The manufacturers hope to boost their business in Europe, expecting to raise the new car sale by 2 per cent in 2004. The Motor Show, which is to be opened to the public on Saturday, will last till 10 October.

Porter Goss sworn in as new CIA chief

WASHINGTON, 26 Sept — Porter Goss was sworn in as the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) at the White House on Friday to succeed George Tenet who resigned in July.

Goss, a Republican from Florida, was nominated in August by President George W Bush to head the spy agency.

He was sworn in by White House Chief of Staff Andy Card as Bush stood nearby.

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Mortar rocket attack kills four in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 26 Sept—A mortar rocket landed in a busy square in central Baghdad on Friday, killing four people and wounding 14, Iraqi police said.

A policeman at the scene said the mortar had landed in a square on Palestine Street, a major thoroughfare, sending shrapnel flying across a wide area, killing and wounding passers-by. It was not clear from where it had been fired.

Baghdad has regularly bombarded areas of Baghdad with mortars, usually aiming for the heavily fortified Green Zone, home to the interim Iraqi Government and the US and British embassies.

They have also targeted well-defended hotels in the centre of the city, where many foreign contractors and journalists live.

In the past two weeks, more than 300 Iraqis have been killed in car bombings, shootings and other clashes throughout the country. Two areas of Baghdad, the central Haifa Street and the eastern Shiite district of Sadr City, are considered largely no-go areas for US troops following intense fighting.—MNA/Reuters

Oman’s oil exports, output fall in first seven months of 2004

ÖZ DHAHI, 27 Sept—Oman’s total export of crude oil reached 154.67 million barrels during the first seven months of 2004, a 5-per-cent decline compared with 276.86 million barrels during the same period last year, Times of Oman reported Saturday.

The paper quoted a statistical bulletin issued by the Oman Ministry of National Economy as saying the average price of Oman’s crude has risen by 18.2 per cent by the end of July this year, amounting to 32.61 dollars per barrel, compared with 27.6 dollars during the corresponding period of last year, added the bulletin. —MNA/Xinhua

CPC to adhere to independent foreign policy of peace

Beijing, 27 Sept — The Communist Party of China (CPC) will adhere to the independent foreign policy of peace and constantly improve its ability to handle international affairs so as to create a good international and surrounding environment for China’s modernization drive, says a major document released here Sunday.

This is a must for the Party to lead the people in achieving the great goal of building a relatively affluent society in an all-round way and in safeguarding world peace and development for common prosperity, says the decision on enhancing the Party’s governance capability, adopted at the recent Fourth Plenum of the 16th CPC Central Committee.

The decision says the Party will improve its ability to judge international situation, unwaveringly implement the set foreign policy and constantly enhance its capability of carrying out exchanges with the international community.

“We should always put national sovereignty and security in the first place and firmly safeguard state security,” says the document. Facing the new situation, “we should enhance the sense of state security, improve the strategy of state security, and spare no time to establish a scientific, well-coordinated and highly efficient work mechanism to maintain state security,” it says. — MNA/Xinhua

Indian PM raises issue of terrorism in talks with Musharraf

NEW YORK, 26 Sept — Upbeat over his meeting with President Pervez Musharraf, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Saturday he did raise the issue of terrorism with him and made it clear that Pakistan has to control the menace as a “pre-condition” for moving forward on the composite dialogue process.

“It (terrorism) did come up in our discussion and I mentioned unambiguously to President Musharraf that the starting point given by Pakistan in the January 6 statement that territory under Pakistan’s control will not be used for terrorist activities,” Singh said, winding up his official engagements on the last leg of his nine-day visit to Britain and the US. Significantly, the joint statement issued after the first-ever hour-long meeting between the two leaders on Friday did not refer to terrorism.

“We cannot discuss any substantive issue and Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) if terrorist acts are not controlled...therefore there should be no doubt that this is the pre-condition for moving forward,” Singh told a Press conference here, adding the Pakistan President “recognized” that this is the situation.

In his talks with Musharraf, Singh said there was a clear reference that in the spirit of the January 6, 2004 joint statement, they had agreed that CBMs would contribute to generating an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding so necessary for the well-being of the peoples of both countries.

Describing his one-to-one meeting with Musharraf as “very frank”, the Prime Minister said there was an “easy flow of conversation. There was never a dull moment”.

Singh said his maiden meeting with President George W Bush here was “very important” and that he had conveyed India’s interest in further strengthening the strategic relationship.—MNA/PTI

US third set of airstrikes kill eight, injure 17 in Fallujah

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 27 Sept—US aircraft carried out a third set of airstrikes on the rebel Iraqi stronghold of Fallujah overnight, targeting a meeting of suspected militants loyal to Jordanian mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

The US military said the “precision strike” targeted a group of around 10 militants meeting at a house in the centre of the city to plan operations.

Anas Ahmed, a doctor at a nearby hospital, said eight people were killed and 17 wounded in the attack.

“Multiple secondary explosions following the strike indicate the site was used by terrorists to store explosives and weapons,” a statement from the military said.

It was the third set of “precision strikes” in 24 hours, with two bombing raids on Saturday killing seven people and wounding 13, among them women and children, doctors said.

25-million-US-dollar reward up for his death or capture, is holed up in Fallujah and coordinating activities from there.

In its statement, the military said it was getting increasing intelligence from Fallujah, allowing it to strike more frequently at militant hide-outs and Zarqawi’s followers.

Zarqawi’s group, known as Tawhid and Jihad (Monotheism and Holy War), has claimed credit for many of the worst car bombings and attacks in Iraq over the past year, including a string of kidnappings in which several of the hostages have been beheaded.

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The “precision strike” targeted a meeting at a house in the centre of the rebel Iraqi stronghold of Fallujah, targeting a meeting of suspected militants loyal to Jordanian mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

After the latest attack, doctors would not let a Reuters cameraman film the wounded as reporters have been allowed to do in the aftermath of previous strikes on Fallujah. Residents would not also allow reporters near the site of the attack.

The US military believes that Zarqawi, a Jordanian born militant who is Washington’s number one enemy in Iraq, with a

A boy looks at a hole made by a mortar impacting near the Ministry of Oil, in Baghdad, Iraq on 25 September, 2004. —INTERNET

Oman’s oil exports, output fall in first seven months of 2004

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The paper quoted a statistical bulletin issued by the Oman Ministry of National Economy as saying the average price of Oman’s crude has risen by 18.2 per cent by the end of July this year, amounting to 32.61 dollars per barrel, compared with 27.6 dollars during the corresponding period of last year, added the bulletin. —MNA/Xinhua

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The paper quoted a statistical bulletin issued by the Oman Ministry of National Economy as saying the country’s total production of crude oil and condensates stood at 167,002 million barrels by the end of July this year, a 5.2-per-cent drop compared with 176.11 million barrels during the corresponding period last year, Times of Oman reported Saturday.

The paper quoted a statistical bulletin issued by the Oman Ministry of National Economy as saying the country’s total production of crude oil and condensates stood at 167,002 million barrels by the end of July this year, a 5.2-per-cent drop compared with 176.11 million barrels during the corresponding period last year, Times of Oman reported Saturday.

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Hostage crisis in Iraq put Britain in very difficult position

LONDON, 26 Sept— Kidnappers holding a British hostage in Iraq have put Britain in a very difficult position through their effective use of the media, Prime Minister Tony Blair conceded in an interview with a Sunday newspaper.

But he said he would continue to stand firm against extremists and made no apology for taking Britain into war in Iraq last year.

Speaking to the Observer newspaper on the eve of his Labour Party’s annual conference, Blair said he felt immensely sorry for the family of Kenneth Bigley, a 62-year-old British engineer held in Iraq under threat of death for the past nine days.

“What these terrorists understand is that they can use and manipulate the modern media to gain enormous publicity for themselves and put democratic politics and politicians in a very difficult position,” he said.

“The reason why these foreign terrorists are there in Iraq is to try to stop the country getting better, to murder anyone who tries to help its reconstruction or its democratic process.

“And our response, surely, has got to be to stand firm against that.”

He said the attacks on the United States on 11 September, 2001, had changed his approach to conflict, making him more preemptive.

“What’s changed for me is, post-September 11, you no longer wait for the thing to happen,” he said.

“You go out actively and try to stop it.”

Blair said he had never considered resigning over the past year and had never struck a deal to stand down and hand the reins of power to Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown. “You don’t do deals about jobs like this,” Blair said.

The Prime Minister, Washington’s closest ally in its war on terror, refused to either rule in or rule out any further military action against countries other than Iraq.

“There’s no point in hypothesizing in respect to situations that haven’t arisen yet,” he said.

“No, we don’t intend to go around starting conflicts all over the world. But the fact is that I do believe that this global terrorism is the central security threat facing our time.”

Jordan to supply Iraq with needed medicine

AMMAN, 26 Sept — Jordanian Health Minister Saeed Darwazeh said Saturday that Jordan will supply Iraq with the needed medicine in accordance with a Jordanian-Iraqi joint health agreement signed last month, the Jordanian TV reported.

Darwazeh made the promise after talks with visiting Iraqi Minister of Trade Mohammed Al Naharn on Iraq’s request for Jordanian drugs to meet the Iraqi hospitals’ increasing needs.

Jordan will also provide a training programme for the Iraqi medical officials in various medical fields, Darwazeh added.

For his part, the Iraqi minister praised the cooperation between the two countries, especially after the signing of the joint health agreement last month, according to the report.

The agreement allows the Jordan’s General Institution for Food and Medicine to hold medical tests on the food and medicine which are to enter the Iraqi market.

Singh invites NRIs to contribute knowledge to India

NEW YORK, 27 Sept — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday invited Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to contribute their knowledge and ideas in education, research, infrastructure, science and technology, services and all other sectors.

India, he said, cannot afford anything less than world class in every sector and their contribution would be welcome.

The ideas they put forward would be carefully examined by the government, he said.

Singh said the success of NRIs in the country of their adoption proves that Indians can do well in every field provided they get the right environment.

His government would work to provide such an environment, he told them.

More than 3,000 Indian-Americans repeatedly cheered him as he spoke of successes achieved by Indians overseas, strengthening relations between India and the United States and drew similarities between American and Indian societies.

Both American and Indian societies, Singh said, value tolerance of all religions, ethnic groups and cultural languages and diversity.

Hong Kong urges citizens to help protect intellectual property rights

HONG KONG, 26 Sept— To enlist public support and demonstrate Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government’s determination to stamp out piracy and counterfeiting, the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) Saturday held the “I Pledge” Fifth Anniversary Concert.

Speaking at the concert opening ceremony, Acting Director of Intellectual Property Peter Cheung said the pledges by people to support anti-piracy and anti-counterfeiting demonstrated a commitment to protecting intellectual property rights and showed respect for the rights of others, which would also help revitalize Hong Kong’s economy.

Cheung said he believed the concert and appeals by the participating entertainers would help enlist public support to stop downloading music or movies illegally from the Internet.

As a result, Hong Kong’s creative industry would benefit.

Launched in 1999, the “I Pledge” Campaign has attracted more than 8,000 members who have pledged that they will not buy pirated and counterfeited goods, and respect the intellectual property rights of others.
Poll shows British Labour Party slips to 3rd

London, 27 Sept— British Prime Minister Tony Blair, stung by public anger over the Iraq war, has seen his ruling Labour Party slip to third place in a newspaper poll on the eve of its annual conference.

The poll in Sunday’s tabloid News of the World put Labour in third place on just 28 per cent, behind the opposition Conservatives (32 per cent) and Liberal Democrats (29 per cent). A second poll in the Observer newspaper put Labour in second place with 32 per cent, against the Conservatives’ 33 per cent.

A third survey for the Independent on Sunday newspaper put Blair’s Labour Party ahead on 32 per cent, compared to the Conservatives’ 30 per cent.

Blair is expected to face a storm of criticism over Iraq at the Labour Party’s annual conference in Brighton, southern England, this week.

Blair, who is expected to call an election next year to seek a third term, has seen his once sky-high support fall over Iraq.

A MORI poll for the Financial Times newspaper on the eve of last year’s Labour conference put Blair’s party well ahead on 40 per cent, with the Conservatives second on 31 per cent and the Liberal Democrats third with 21 per cent.

The Premier has acknowledged that the Iraq war has dented his support, but insists he was right to join the United States to topple Saddam Hussein.

Blair will strive at the party conference to shift the focus from Iraq to domestic issues.

The fate of British hostages Kenneth Bigley, kidnapped in Baghdad on 16 September, has dominated front pages all week. In an Observer interview on Sunday, Blair played down his loss of support, saying voters always go through spells of “disappointment” with governments.

“What you’ve got to do in those circumstances is not buckle under it, but go out and make your case.” — MNA/Reuters

UAE and Iraq trade to touch $819m by year end

Abu Dhabi, 27 Sept — Trade between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iraq could reach $819 million US dollars by the end of 2004, the official WAM news agency reported on Sunday.

The full year forecast for the cargo exported from Dubai to Iraq this year stands at 611,600 tons, according to a top Dubai Government official.

The general cargo exported through the Dubai Ports Authority (DPA) to Iraq rose to 406,600 tons last year, up from 343,900 tons in 2002, said the report.

Over 30 per cent growth is expected this year in the non-oil trade between Dubai and Iraq, according to the report. Last year the non-oil trade between the two countries reached 601 million dollars, a phenomenal growth which reflects a high level of mutual interest in developing economic relations, said the report.

Most of the trading activities between Iraq and the UAE are taking place through Dubai, the trading hub of the region, Abdul Rahman Ghanim Al Mutawiee, director general of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), was quoted as saying.

Mutawiee was speaking at a two-day conference on Renewal and Reconstruction in Iraq currently being held in Dubai, which attracted over 100 Iraqi delegates.

The UAE Government encouraged Iraqi businessmen to set up the Iraqi Business Council (IBC) in Dubai, which is the largest business grouping of Iraqi traders outside Iraq. The IBC in cooperation with Dubai’s business community could play a vital role in enhancing bilateral trade between the two countries, the official added.

MNA/Xinhua

Iranian-Iraqi film wins “Golden Shell” award

Madrid, 27 Sept — An Iranian-Iraqi film set in the run-up to the US-led invasion of Iraq and starring an amateur cast of war-scarred children won the top “Golden Shell” award at Spain’s prestigious San Sebastian film festival on Saturday.

“Turtles Can Fly”, directed by Iranian-born Bahman Gobadi, opens with villagers in Iraqi Kurdistan who are desperate for news of the impending war, falling into a television antenna — and is not buckle under it, but go out and make your case.” — MNA/Reuters

Iraqi policemen direct traffic in front of the Iraqi Oil Ministry building in Baghdad, on 25 Sept, 2004. — Internet

China to consolidate ties with Cuba

Beijing, 27 Sept— Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Saturday that China has set an unsparing policy on consolidating ties with Cuba, and the policy will not alter regardless of changes in international situation.

Hu made the remarks at a meeting with Jose Ramon Machado Vcn- tuma, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and Vice-President of the Council of State of Cuba.

With concerted efforts, China believes the bilateral friendship between China and Cuba would be developed better, said Hu, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

In recent years, China and Cuba, as well as the Communist parties of China and Cuba, frequented exchange of high-profile visits, enhanced mutual trust and expanded cooperation in various fields, said Hu.

As both parties adhere to socialism, explore the path of development fit for their own national conditions and devote to economic development and the people’s living standards, there is a solid foundation for further cementing China-Cuba ties, Hu said.

Hu valued the achievements made by the Communist Party of Cuba, led by Fidel Castro and Raul, in leading the Cuban people to pushing forward the socialist cause.

Machado said that the two parties and two peoples supported each other in building socialism and closely cooperated in international issues, which greatly contributed to world peace and development.

The Cuban people admired the achievements of the Chinese people, Machado said, adding that Cuba is willing to strengthen cooperation with China in all fields.

People remove debris from their home, situated near the Ministry of Oli, after a mortar shell impacted on the roof, in Baghdad, Iraq, on 25 Sept, 2004. — Internet

Iraqi-Iranian film wins “Golden Shell” award

MNA/Reuters

30 per cent and the Liberal Democrats third with 21 per cent. The Premier has acknowledged that the Iraq war has dented his support, but insists he was right to join the United States to topple Saddam Hussein. Blair will strive at the party conference to shift the focus from Iraq to domestic issues. The fate of British hostages Kenneth Bigley, kidnapped in Baghdad on 16 September, has dominated front pages all week. In an Observer interview on Sunday, Blair played down his loss of support, saying voters always go through spells of “disappointment” with governments. “What you’ve got to do in those circumstances is not buckle under it, but go out and make your case.” — MNA/Reuters

UAE and Iraq trade to touch $819m by year end

Abu Dhabi, 27 Sept — Trade between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iraq could reach $819 million US dollars by the end of 2004, the official WAM news agency reported on Sunday.

The full year forecast for the cargo exported from Dubai to Iraq this year stands at 611,600 tons, according to a top Dubai Government official.

The general cargo exported through the Dubai Ports Authority (DPA) to Iraq rose to 406,600 tons last year, up from 343,900 tons in 2002, said the report.

Over 30 per cent growth is expected this year in the non-oil trade between Dubai and Iraq, according to the report. Last year the non-oil trade between the two countries reached 601 million dollars, a phenomenal growth which reflects a high level of mutual interest in developing economic relations, said the report.

Most of the trading activities between Iraq and the UAE are taking place through Dubai, the trading hub of the region, Abdul Rahman Ghanim Al Mutawiee, director general of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), was quoted as saying.

Mutawiee was speaking at a two-day conference on Renewal and Reconstruction in Iraq currently being held in Dubai, which attracted over 100 Iraqi delegates.

The UAE Government encouraged Iraqi businessmen to set up the Iraqi Business Council (IBC) in Dubai, which is the largest business grouping of Iraqi traders outside Iraq. The IBC in cooperation with Dubai’s business community could play a vital role in enhancing bilateral trade between the two countries, the official added.

MNA/Xinhua

Iranian-Iraqi film wins “Golden Shell” award

Madrid, 27 Sept — An Iranian-Iraqi film set in the run-up to the US-led invasion of Iraq and starring an amateur cast of war-scarred children won the top “Golden Shell” award at Spain’s prestigious San Sebastian film festival on Saturday.

“Turtles Can Fly”, directed by Iranian-born Bahman Gobadi, opens with villagers in Iraqi Kurdistan who are desperate for news of the impending war, falling into a television antenna — and is not buckle under it, but go out and make your case.” — MNA/Reuters

Iraqi-Iranian film wins “Golden Shell” award

MNA/Reuters

Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Saturday that China has set an unsparing policy on consolidating ties with Cuba, and the policy will not alter regardless of changes in international situation.

Hu made the remarks at a meeting with Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and Vice-President of the Council of State of Cuba.

With concerted efforts, China believes the bilateral friendship between China and Cuba would be developed better, said Hu, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

In recent years, China and Cuba, as well as the Communist parties of China and Cuba, frequented exchange of high-profile visits, enhanced mutual trust and expanded cooperation in various fields, said Hu.

As both parties adhere to socialism, explore the path of development fit for their own national conditions and devote to economic development and the people’s living standards, there is a solid foundation for further cementing China-Cuba ties, Hu said.

Hu valued the achievements made by the Communist Party of Cuba, led by Fidel Castro, in leading the Cuban people to pushing forward the socialist cause.

Machado said that the two parties and two peoples supported each other in building socialism and closely cooperated in international issues, which greatly contributed to world peace and development.

The Cuban people admired the achievements of the Chinese people, Machado said, adding that Cuba is willing to strengthen cooperation with China in all fields.
Up to 21 September 2004, altogether 8,317 self-reliant libraries were opened nationwide.

Libraries built to disseminate knowledge

Self-reliant library of Hsepan Village in Mongphyat Township being opened to disseminate knowledge to local people. — IPRD

With the participation of all the people including writers, publishers, distributors, readers and the rural people themselves, village libraries will come into being one after another.

Villagers of Htantabin Village now gain knowledge through their self-reliant library opened in the village in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State. — IPRD

The opening ceremony of self-reliant library of Pyinpin Village in Singu Township, PyinOoLwin District. — IPRD

Photo shows the opening ceremony of self-reliant library and mobile library of Yankin Township in Yangon Division. — IPRD
No 4 BEHS in Sangyoung…

(from page 16)

Development Council Office, heads of department, officials, the headmistress, teachers, members of the school board of trustees, social organizations, donors and students.

The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by students singing the song “Myanmar School” to the accompaniment of the school band. Two girl students, Ma Huin Su Hlaing and Ma Khaiung Cho Yun, acted as master of ceremonies.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Education, Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Energy, Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Deputy Minister for Health, Dr. Daw Than Than Aye, and Ma Hnin Su Hlaing and Ma Khaiung Cho Yun, formally opened the ceremony. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win unveiled the signboard. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the computer application room, language lab and multimedia performance of the students. They also observed students learning the use of advanced equipment at the computer aided instruction room, video system (electronic media) room, printed media (reading corner) and electronic media (audio system) room under the close supervision of teachers. At the art room, they viewed the works of students and the medals they won at the art competitions at home and abroad. A girl student presented the Secretary-1 a painting. Later, the Secretary-1 and party visited domestic science room and the school religious association.

At the ceremony to donate advanced teaching aids for the school, Headmistress Daw Than Than Aye said that the matriculation examination pass rate of the school in 2004 was 48 per cent. Teachers, parents and students are making coordinated efforts to increase the pass rate. The school will nurture the students to become brilliant intellectuals on whom the nation can rely by using the teaching aids provided by the Government and wellwishers effectively. Chairman of School Board of Trustees U Ohn Thaung explained the formation of the multimedia centre. Managing Director U Win Aung of Dagon International Ltd presented K 5.6 million for the school through the headmistress.

U Ko Ko Htwe-Daw Aye Aye Than of Tawwin Family Company presented K 5.6 million to Headmistress Daw Than Than Aye for No 4 BEHS, Sangyoung Township. — MNA

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Ayadaw-2 River Water Pumping …

(from page 16)

for Energy, Brig-Gen Than Htai, Deputy Minister for Education, Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Deputy Minister for Health Dr. Mya Oo, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads left here for Monywa, Sagaing Division by air on 25 September morning.

The Secretary-2 and party were welcomed at Monywa Airport by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn, Tactical Operations Commander Col. Hla Ngwe and senior military officers, departmental heads, members of social organizations and officials.

The Secretary-2 and party together with Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye went to Ayadaw River Water Pumping Project being implemented by the Water Resources Utilization Department under the Ministry of A&I by helicopter, where they were welcomed by Director-General of WRUD U Win Shwe, departmental officials and technical staff.

Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at the meeting with WVO members in Sagaing Division. — MNA
Ayadaw-2 River Water Pumping Project aims at supply of sufficient water for cultivation of 2,000 acres of farmland in Ayadaw region through seven phases all year round. Each phase is expected to be completed in March. Twenty-five percent of the project has been covered at present time.

Next, the Secretary-2 and party proceeded to Twingyi River Water Pumping Project near Pareinma Village, Myaung Township, Sagaing Division, where they were welcomed by departmental officials, the project in-charge and staff. At the briefing hall, the Secretary-2 and party heard reports on data on Twingyi river water pumping project, tasks of civilization, connection of service lines, installation of mortors, pumps and pipelines presented by Director-General of Water Resources Utilization Department U Win Shwe. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo gave supplementary reports.

Next, Agricultural Development Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein urged the officials concerned to make efforts to complete the project on time. If the project completes early, the local people will enjoy the benefits of it early. He also urged them to carry out the other tasks in cooperation with departments concerned to be able to cultivate crops the whole year round.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party inspected control room of river water pumping project and pumping of river water through the main channel. Twingyi river water pumping project will irrigate 10,000 acres of farm lands in Myaung Township in Twingyi region.

Li-Gen Thein Sein and party went to Maha Bawdhitthahtau Monastery in Monywa Township and presented offertories to Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhanna Jotika Bhaddanta Narada. They arrived back Monywa in the afternoon. Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein met officers and other ranks and their families at the hall of North-West Command in Monywa and gave instructions on matters relating to education, health, economic and social welfare. He also urged them to participate in implementing the seven-point future policy programme in their respective sectors for successful realization of the programme.

This year, 766 acres of monsoon paddy out of 1500 have been cultivated. The whole Ayadaw-2 Project is expected to be completed in March, 2006. Twenty-five percent of the project has been covered at present time.

Ayadaw-2 River Water Pumping Project will irrigate 10,000 acres of farm lands in Myaung Township in Twingyi region.

Ayadaw-2 River Water Pumping Project and gave instructions on timely completion of the project. Afterwards, the Secretary-2 gave instructions on timely completion of the whole project and inspected tasks of river water pumping project.

Later, the Secretary-2 cordially met local peasants and departmental officials. Ayadaw-2 River Water Pumping Project aims at supply of sufficient water for cultivation of 2,000 acres of farmland in Ayadaw region through seven phases all year round. The project benefited 212 acres of summer paddy.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Huay and officials gave supplementary reports on assistance rendered for Ayadaw-2 River Water Pumping Project.

After that, Lt-Gen Ye Myint asked the officials about condition of a variety of crops to be cultivated before and after the project.

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Ayadaw-2 River Water Pumping Project aims at supply of sufficient water for cultivation of 2,000 acres of farmland in Ayadaw region through seven phases all year round.

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.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Huay and officials gave supplementary reports on assistance rendered for Ayadaw-2 River Water Pumping Project.

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Libraries for all

Myint Thein Aung

Books are a true friend of human beings, and journals reflect every age. Books are an effective medium for educating and entertaining the people. Scholars have said that books give knowledge and entertainment, broaden horizons of the people and cultivate their intellectual curiosity.

It is a library that stores books of public interest and provides them to the people to read. It can also be called a knowledge bank. It can be called a place, too, where books are systematically collected for the public reading and from where people can get knowledge. We can also see it as a sort of window on the world.

When it comes to the information age, libraries in the world have changed their book collection centres to central information ones through the application of information technology. It can be seen that information on knowledge, politics, education and social areas is being provided to keep pace with the advancing information technology. Alongside the other sectors, libraries play a role in the efforts for development of the nation. That is why the role of library is taking the lead in the progress of human resources.

There are different kinds of libraries — national library, university and college library, special library and public library.

Among the public libraries of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, Sarpay Beikman Library is the biggest and most superior one in Myanmar. Yangon Sarpay Beikman Library is situated on Merchant Street in the busiest town centre of Yangon, and it was opened at Sarpay Beikman Building on 13 March 1956. Now, plans are under way to upgrade it into an e-library. Mandalay Sarpay Beikman Library was launched on 22 March 2001 on the second floor of Yadanaon Market in downtown Mandalay. As reference rooms have been set up in the two libraries, readers can choose books on various subjects to their liking.

Looking to the development of human resources, the Ministry of Information has opened public libraries at district and township information and public relations departments under the Information and Public Relations Department. And there are opportunities for the public to read books, magazines and journals free of charge. Moreover, as a result of establishing mobile libraries, those living in villages are now having access to the reading of books. That means “the establishment of libraries for all”.

Efforts of the Ministry of Information to open self-reliant libraries in every village can be seen and read in the daily newspapers. Accordingly, for the emergence of such libraries in every village, public are urged to take part in the drive, and only then can the aim be realized. It is heartening to see that steps are being taken for opening of self-reliant libraries in each village besides the existing libraries of Sarpay Beikman and district and township IPRDs and public libraries. Scholars have named the characteristics of a good library as five B’s — Book, Building, Brain, Budget and Borrower. They mean that a good public library should have enough books, be situated in a place that can be easily accessible to the public, be staffed with those who have proficiency in librarianship, have funds to purchase enough books and have borrowers or readers to read.

As there may be some financial difficulty in buying books for a library in the long run, collections of books by dint of donations are the most effective way to be used. It is required for organizers and officials to get those from towns and villages to donate books. In the process, book-collecting teams need to be systematically formed with those who are book lovers, those who want to participate in gratis education and those who wish to see the rural development.

Some readers would keep their books and journals in neat and tidy in their homes after they have read them. But most would set them aside in their houses or reuse them for other purposes. That is why measures should be taken to collect books and journals as donations once in a week or once in a month after setting a suitable date. A door-to-door system of collecting books also should be adopted because sometimes, donors themselves may not be able to go to libraries for their book donations. As for village libraries, they should have books that are suited to most of village people based on percentage of their education standard. It will be a good thing if we can keep books and journals at a library suited to most of the public who have the knowledge of basic education. As Myanmar, nowadays, has 93.3 per cent of adult literacy rate, books should be categorized into different levels such as basic, middle and high levels based on literacy rate of village folks.

To help develop human resources, the Ministry of Information is opening libraries called knowledge bank one after another. According to the motto “Bringing the Library to the People & bringing the people to the library”, arrangements are being made to open self-reliant village libraries besides opening of Yangon and Mandalay Sarpay Beikman Libraries, district and township IPRD libraries and travelling libraries.

State’s service personnel, scholars, publishers, book donors, social organizations and those responsible persons in towns and villages are urged to cooperate in implementation of the projects to open village libraries, in maintenance of these libraries and in efforts for the people to be able to read books on various subjects.

All in all, I would like to urge that libraries are to be launched in every village so that all Myanmar people can enlighten and gain knowledge, and the public, on their part, are to contribute to the drive in all aspects.

(Translation: ST)

Myanmar Alin: 23-9-2004

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.
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than looks into development tasks in Bago Division (West)

YANGON, 26 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division PDC, Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Chairman of Bago Division (West Branch) PDC Brig-Gen Hu Min, Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oo of local LIU and officials of the SPDC Office, this morning inspected monsoon paddy fields in Thayawady, Lepyadan and Mindat townships and main roads of sections of Yangon-Hpa-An Highway.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than arrived at the local battalion in Okpo and met with officials and other ranks and their families.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met division, district and township level departmental officials, members of social organizations and town elders at the Okpo Township Peace and Development Council Office. The Chairman of Okpo Township Peace and Development Council reported on steps being taken for development of education, health and social sectors and for successful realization of the five rural development tasks and farming undertakings in the township.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made a speech. He said that the Government has laid down and is implementing the border area development project, the 24-developmentation zone project and the five rural development tasks to bring about harmonious development across the nation. At present, unprecedented progress has been made in the length and breadth of the nation including border areas. Bago Division is among the six divisions that contribute their shares in development of national economy.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, efforts are being made to put 3 million acres of farm under monsoon paddy cultivation within a span of three years. This year, steps are being taken to cultivate 2.6 million acres of monsoon paddy and altogether over 2.5 million acres of land have already been put under paddy this year. Altogether 40 dams and reservoirs were built while virgin and fallow lands were reclaimed in the division. With the use of these irrigation facilities, measures are being taken to cultivate 300,000 acres of summer paddy as well as winter crops. As perfunctory efforts will not lead to national development, service personnel are to strive together with local people for Okpo to possess the characteristics of a town.

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US agrees to lend SPR oil to refineries

WASHINGTON, 26 Sept — The US Energy Department said on Friday that an agreement has been reached to lend 1.7 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to two companies whose refineries were running short of crude oil because of Hurricane Ivan.

The department said that 1.4 million barrels of crude oil would begin flowing from Saturday to two Shell Oil refineries and another 300,000 barrels to the Pascagoula Refining Co. in Gulf of Mexico.

A number of additional oil swaps stemming from hurricane-related supply disruptions are under negotiation, but officials in the US Energy Department would not identify the companies nor the amounts of oil involved. “We’re still reviewing requests and will act upon those requests as appropriate,” said Jeanne Lopatto, spokeswoman of the US Energy Department.

This will be the first use of SPR oil in the past two years since the US Government exchanged 296,000 barrels of oil with Shell Pipeline Co. to secure its storage tanks in advance of Hurricane Lili in 2002.

The Bush Administration has stressed repeatedly that the SPR can only be used at a time when US oil supply was severely disrupted and never used the SPR to curb the soaring oil prices in the past four years.

Kenya to get delayed loan from IMF

NAIROBI, 26 Sept — Kenya has met all economic conditions set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which could result in the release of a delayed loan to the East African country, a visiting IMF mission announced here Friday. “The mission has reached a referendum agreement with the (Kenyan) Government on programme objectives and policies for fiscal year 2004/05. This agreement is subject to review and approval by the IMF’s Management and Executive Board,” mission head Godfrey Kalinga told a news conference.

“Upon conclusion of the first review by the executive board, Kenya will be able to draw down the second disbursement of about 35 million US dollars,” Kalinga said.

Planes to be banned from flying low over London’s landmarks

LONDON, 26 Sept — Aircraft will not be allowed to make low-level flights over key London landmarks under new anti-terrorism rules which are to become effective on 27 October, the British Government said on Friday.

All non-authorized planes and helicopters will be banned from passing below 1,400 feet (427 meters) over areas including the Palace of Westminster, which hosts Britain’s Parliament and Queen Elizabeth’s official residence Buckingham Palace.

The aircraft which need to do this will have to get clearance 28 days in advance.

However, flights to and from Heathrow and London City airports will not be banned and police helicopters and other authorized aircraft will also remain exempt.

The British Department of Transport said in a statement that the move is not in response to a specific threat.

Transport Secretary Alastair Darling said “it seems necessary, in the public interest, to make restrictions on behalf of the metropolitan police for reasons of national security.”
**Indian Finance Ministry sees 6.5-7% growth**

**NEW DELHI, 26 Sept —** With economy poised for 6.5-7 percent growth, India’s Finance Ministry has expressed confidence that fiscal deficit would be within the targeted 4.4 percent of GDP during 2004-05 with robust tax collections.

At 6.5-7 percent GDP growth has been projected. If we achieve that, it’s not bad,” Finance Secretary D. C. Gupta said but added 8-10 percent GDP growth may not be possible. Unseasonal rains may result in lower-than-expected crop yields, marginally impacting agriculture growth, he said. However, Gupta said industry was growing by 7.8 percent while services sector and exports were also showing robust growth which would pull up the overall GDP growth.

“Manufacturing, electricity generation and capital goods are showing robust growth,” he said while expressing optimism about the overall growth this fiscal. — MNA/Reuters

**106 Mainland enterprises listed outside Mainland market**

**HONG KONG, 26 Sept —** By the end of August 2004, a total of 106 Chinese Mainland enterprises had been listed on stock markets outside the Mainland, an official from China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) said here Friday.

Speaking at the China Investment Policy Seminar, Han Ping, deputy director-general of the CSRC International Cooperation Department, said that those 106 companies had totally raised 32.86 billion US dollars in capital. — MNA/Xinhua

**Vietnam to prosecute 27 drug criminals**

**HANOI, 26 Sept —** Vietnam will soon prosecute 27 people who have been involved in trafficking and transporting a large amount of drugs from Laos and Cambodia to Vietnam’s southern region.

The transnational drug trafficking ring led by Nguyen Van Hai from central Nghe An Province transported and trafficked 23.544 cakes of heroin (some 283.9 kilos) from 1998 until their arrests in August 2003, local newspaper Liberation Saigon reported Saturday. They used fake identity cards, passports and driving licences to avoid police and border guards, and bought guns and grenades for self-defence from robbery, they sold heroin mainly in Ho Chi Minh City and Dong Nai Province.

Besides the 27 arrested criminals, Vietnamese police are tracking down 18 other people who got involved in the case. In Vietnam, possession, trading or trafficking 600 grammes of heroin or 20 kilos of opium is punishable by death or life in prison. By late 2003, the country had 169,000 drug addicts, of whom 30.5 percent were from 13 northern mountainous provinces. — MNA/Xinhua

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**CCRAS contraceptive shows no side effects**

**NEW DELHI, 27 Sept —** Scientists at the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) claimed to have developed a herbal pill with “99 percent success rate” and absolutely “no side effect”.

The scientists at the centre have developed the “first” herbal contraceptive pill — “Pappaladiya yagya” — using a recipe that was rediscovered in a 2,500-year-old medical text, Deputy Director of CCRAS Dr. K. D. Sharma told PTI.

The efficacy of the drug with different doses has been tested during Phase-I Multicentric, Toxicological, Terratogenic and Safety Studies at PGI, Chandigarh; JIPMER, Pondicherry and KEM Hospital, Mumbai. “No adverse effect in hormonal, biochemical, endometrial and sonographic studies for ovulation has been reported during the studies conducted on about 1,400 women,” he said.

The trials were conducted on fertile female volunteers in age group of 20-34 years having a menstrual cycle between 26-30 days (with 3-5 days menstruation period) and with inter-menstrual period between 13-24 months, he said.

“Prolonged administration of the drug has not shown any significant side effect or adverse effects,” Sharma said. The drug is undergoing Phase II clinical trials at various centres across the country, as per the standards recommended by international agencies.

The pill, offering a relatively cheap, non-toxic contraceptive, would hit the market within two years, Sharma said.

The pill, to be taken orally everyday except during monthly cycle, costs about 50 paisa, he said. — MNA/PTI

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**“Jeanne” slams into Florida with115 mph winds**

**FORT PIERCE (Florida), 27 Sept —** Hurricane Jeanne slammed into Florida with 115 mph winds and blowing rain on Saturday, punching a coastal region still scarred from Hurricane Frances three weeks ago.

The eyewall, the area of the hurricane around the eye with the strongest winds, came ashore on the central east coast in the area around Stuart late in the evening, and by 11 p.m. (0300 GMT on Sunday), the eye itself was starting to move ashore.

Whipping rain around like a carwash, it delivered a record fourth hurricane strike in one season to a storm-stunned Florida.

Long before landfall, Jeanne’s winds picked up debris and plowed tree limbs left behind by Frances’ onslaught, and snapped power lines that had only just been fixed. The storm peeled-off blue tarps that covered roofs damaged by Frances and huge waves pounded the Atlantic coast.

Jeanne’s winds and 8-foot storm surge earlier lashed the northern Bahamas; a 700 island chain of 300,000 people stretching from Haiti to off the Florida coast.

Jeanne, which was a tropical storm caused devastating flooding that killed as many as 2,000 people in Haiti and 34 in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico a week ago, was a Category 3 hurricane on the 1-5 Saffir Simpson Scale of intensity. Up to 3 million storm-weary residents in the state of 17 million people were told to evacuate coastal islands, mobile homes and flood-prone areas.— MNA/Reuters

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**Waves caused by Hurricane Jeanne crash behind the lighthouse at the Nassau harbour entrance as Jeanne passed through the island of New Providence, Bahamas, on 25 Sept. 2004. Jeanne’s eye made a direct hit on the northwestern island of Abaco on Saturday morning and its sustained winds strengthened to 115 mph (185 kph), making it the sixth major hurricane of the season. Forecasters predicted the storm will skirt the islands in the Bahamas, but will menace the central Florida Keys.**

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**A visitor walks before a large display model of Sony’s new PSP (Play Station Portable) hand-held game console during the Tokyo Game Show 2004 in Makuhari, some 30 kilometres west of Tokyo, on 24 Sept. 2004. Riding on the global success of Play Station 2 (PS2), Sony has launched its first hand-held game console to challenge rival Nintendo, whose Game Boy Advance monopolizes the worldwide portable game market.**

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**S P O R T S**

**Ferguson praises Ferdinand**

LONDON, 27 Sept.— Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said Rio Ferdinand’s return from suspension had lifted his entire team after their 1-0 win at Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday.

United made a poor start to the season as Ferdinand completed an eight-month ban for missing a drugs test, recording just one win in their first five Premier League games and drawing with Blackburn Rovers, Everton and Bolton Wanderers.

The improvement since Ferdinand pulled on a United shirt again could not be more pronounced as they beat arch-rivals Liverpool 1-0 on Monday before inflicting Spurs’ first defeat of the season.

Ferguson said he was not surprised by Ferdinand’s smooth return to United’s rearguard, which has clearly stemmed from the steadying influence of the England centre-back.

“I expected that, he’s been training so hard that I knew he’d fit in very easily,” Ferguson told Sky Sports News. “He’s been absolutely magnificent, he just oozed class today.”

**Costinha scores late goal to give Porto win-1-0**

LISBON, 27 Sept.— Captain Costinha scored a late goal to give champions Porto their first win of the Portuguese Premier League season on Saturday, 1-0 at Vitoria Guimaraes.

Porto share sixth place in the standings with Beira Mar, each on six points.

Midfielder Costinha scored six minutes from the final whistle following a scramble after a corner kick by Brazilian Diego. Porto had two efforts disallowed in the first half.

Porto finished with 10 men after substitute striker Helder Postiga was sent off for arguing with the referee.

Maritimo beat visiting Boavista 2-1 to share top spot with Benfica on nine points. Benfica host Braga on Sunday.

**Spur manager prefers Steve Bennett on pitch**

LONDON, 27 Sept.— Tottenham Hotspur manager Jacques Santini said he was surprised to see the referee of Saturday’s match against Manchester United at halftime, just minutes after awarding a penalty to the visiting side.

Ruud van Nistelrooy struck home the spot kick in the 41st minute after John O'Shea was fouled by Tottenham fullback Erik Edman, the only goal of the game.

Santini said he could not pass comment on the penalty decision because he was unsighted but he did question referee Peter Walton’s subsequent behaviour and why Walton switched to refereeing the game instead of the more experienced Steve Bennett.

“When, with my players and my assistant coaches, we see the referee against his goal against our team, I do not understand this situation,” Santini said.

Speaking in halting English, the former France coach did not accuse Walton of bias and said his performance was not the reason that Spurs lost their unbeaten record this season. However, he said he now understood how the championship worked and hinted that big teams got special treatment from referees.

“I was not happy with a lot of decisions of this referee today, although I respect referees,” said Santini who spent a lot of the second half smiling ruefully and shrugging his shoulders as Walton blew up repeatedly against Spurs. — MNA/Reuters

**Valencia’s fourth win put clear at top**

MADRID, 27 Sept.— Champions Valencia and rejuvenated Barcelona continued their impressive starts to the season with emphatic wins in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

African Player of the Year Samuel Eto’o grabbed a first-half double to help Barca to a 3-1 win at his former side Real Mallorca, while Valencia eased to a 2-0 home victory over Racing Santander.

The only two unbeaten sides in the league are level at the top on 13 points from five games but Valencia lead after two minutes but missed when he steered in from point-blank range after an 80th minute.

**As Roma’s coach offers resignation**

MILAN, 27 Sept.— AS Roma coach Rudi Voeller offered his resignation after the troubled club fell to a 3-1 Serie A defeat by a Bologna side forced to play for 40 minutes with just nine men on Saturday.

Roma, beaten 4-3 by promoted Messina and held to a 2-2 draw at home by unfancied Lecce on Wednesday, travel to Spain to face Real Madrid in the Champions League on Tuesday.

They are almost certain to do so without Voeller, however, after the German reacted to the defeat by offering his resignation to the club’s sporting director Franco Baldini.

“Voeller has put forward the idea of offering his resignation,” Baldini told the club’s web site.

“I have asked him to take the decision when he is more calm but he seems unmovable,” added the Roma official.

Voeller, who quit as Germany coach during their Spanish first division soccer match at Mestalla Stadium in Valencia, on 26 September, 2004. — INTERNET

**Costinha scores late goal to give Porto win-1-0**

LISBON, 27 Sept.— Captain Costinha scored a late goal to give champions Porto their first win of the Portuguese Premier League season on Saturday, 1-0 at Vitoria Guimaraes.

Porto share sixth place in the standings with Beira Mar, each on six points.

Midfielder Costinha scored six minutes from the final whistle following a scramble after a corner kick by Brazilian Diego. Porto had two efforts disallowed in the first half.

Porto finished with 10 men after substitute striker Helder Postiga was sent off for arguing with the referee.

Maritimo beat visiting Boavista 2-1 to share top spot with Benfica on nine points. Benfica host Braga on Sunday.

**Panathinaikos, Olympiakos win in 2nd round**

ATHENS, 27 Sept.— Reigning champions Panathinaikos and runners-up Olympiakos Piraeus both warmed up for next week’s Champions League matches with wins in the second round of the Greek First Division on Saturday.

Panathinaikos, who travel to PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday, confirmed their early lead at the top of the table with a convincing 3-1 home win over FC Xanthi.

Xanthi took a surprise lead after two minutes but a goal from Greek international Angelos Basinas and another from Rudolf Skrakel put them 2-1 up at the break.

Bassinas rounded things off with his second in the 64th minute.

**Inter secure 2-2 home draw with Parma**

MILAN, 27 Sept.— Inter Milan’s sluggish start to the Serie A season continued as they needed two goals from substitute Obafemi Martins to secure a 2-2 home draw with Parma on Sunday.

Leaders Juventus were held to a 1-1 draw at home by Palermo on Saturday, when As Roma slumped to a 3-1 defeat by Bologna, prompting Roma’s German coach Rudolf Voeller to resign.

Champions AC Milan, smarting from their defeat by Messina last week, play away at Lazio later on Sunday.

Inter trailed to a superb volley from Parma’s Alberto Gilardino before Martins equalized in the 72nd minute, converting a cross from Dutch winger Andy van der Meyde.

Parma restored their lead just two minutes later through Marco Marchionni, only for Martins to strike again with a fine left-foot shot to give Roberto Mancini’s side their third draw in the opening four games of the campaign.

We are scoring goals but we have to start conceding fewer,” said Mancini.

“We can’t continue to concede goals in this manner, something has to change,” said the Inter coach whose team picked up their only win of the season in mid-week with a 3-2 victory over Atalanta.

While the major title challengers have been stumbling, the less-fancied sides are enjoying unusual success in the early stages of the season.

Lecce’s impressive start continued with a 3-1 win over Cagliari, moving them into second place alongside Messina who were held to a goalless draw at home to Chievo Verona.

**Roma have begun their search for a new coach following the shock resignation of Rudi Voeller.**

**Inter Milan Obafemi Martins (L) celebrates after scoring against Parma during their serie A match at the San Siro Stadium in Milan, northern Italy, on 26 September, 2004. Inter Milan and Parma’s match ended in a 2-2 draw.** — INTERNET

**Valencia’s Stefano Fiore (L) and Racing Santander’s Juan Manuel Delgado fight for the ball during their Spanish first division soccer match at Mestalla Stadium in Valencia, on 26 September, 2004. — INTERNET**
SWRR Minister leaves for PRC

YANGON, 27 Sept — The Myanmar Delegation led by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa left for the People’s Republic of China to attend the First ASEAN-China Youth Affairs Ministers’ Meeting to be held in Beijing, from 27 September to 1st October.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, President of MCF U Thein Oo, President of e-National Task Force Vice-President U Aung Myint, Deputy Minister for Immigrantation and Population U Maung Aung, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura, Sein Thaung, directors-general, officials and their relatives.

C EC member lectures on State policies

YANGON, 27 Sept — Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein gave lectures on success of the State policies and seven-point future policy programme of the State to 80 trainees of the Course on Studying Development of Myanmar Women at Yangon West District USDA office today.— MNA

WEATHER

Monday, 27 September 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan State, isolated in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Homalin (2.84) inches.

Maximum temperature on 26-9-2004 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 27-9-2004 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 27-9-2004 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 26-9-2004 was (8.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 27-9-2004 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 6 mph from West at 14:20 hours MST on 26-9-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-9-2004: Scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Chin State, Mandalay, lower Sagaing and Bago Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in upper Myanmar areas.


Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-9-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Prize presentation ceremony held

YANGON, 27 Sept — With the assistance of Basic Education Department and Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs’ Association, organized by Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs’ Association, a ceremony to present prizes for Educational Project Competition for National Level was held at the meeting hall of MICT Park, Hline Township yesterday afternoon.

First, Vice-President of e-National Task Force U Aung Myint made a speech on the occasion. Next, President of MCF U Thein Oo explained matters relating to the Educational Project Competition at National Level. President of MCI U Maung Aung Zaw Myint explained the purpose of holding the competition. Next, Vice-President of e-National Task Force U Aung Myint, President of MCF U Thein Oo, Director-General of No 1 Basic Education Department U Tin Nyo presented prizes to winners. — MNA

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Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

No 4 BEHS in Sangyoung Township opens multimedia teaching centre
Secretary-1 inspects performance and learning of students at various sectors of multimedia centre

Yangon, 27 Sept — The No 4 Basic Education High School in Sangyoung Township, Yangon West District, Yangon Division, opened its multimedia teaching centre this morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, officials of the State Peace and Development Council. (See page 8)

Ayadaw-2 River Water Pumping Project will supply water to 2,000 acres of farmland in Ayadaw region
Secretary-2 inspects development tasks in Sagaing

Yangon, 27 Sept — Chairman of Agricultural Development Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than, Deputy Minister for Planning.

Agricultural Development Committee Chairman Secretary-2 inspects Twingyi river water pumping project in Myaung Township, Sagaing Division. — MNA

Pakistan delegation visits downtown Yangon
Yangon, 27 Sept — The visiting Pakistan study delegation led by Member of Parliament Mr M Khalid Iqbal arrived at Civil Service Selection and Training Board on Strand Road, this morning. At the meeting hall, Director-General of CSSTB U Hla Kyi explained salient points of CSSTB and Deputy Director-General of Planning Department U Ohn Kyaw and officials, those of the Ministry of National Planning Economic Development.

The delegation visited Drugs Elimination Museum, National Museum and the King Zafar Shah’s Tomb in the afternoon. — MNA