Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Brazilian President

YANGON, 7 Sept—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, on the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Federative Republic of Brazil which falls on 7 September 2005.—MNA

Those in authority have to conduct field tours down to the grassroots level in disseminating agricultural methods, carrying out health care services, raising the education standard and undertaking rural development tasks for the improvement of the regions they have been posted.

Too much reliance should not be put constantly on State in implementing small-scale projects, but on self-reliant measures for regional development.

ROUSING WELCOME TO VICTORIOUS MYANMAR U-17 YOUTH TEAM: Football lovers welcome the footballers near Myenigon Traffic Light on Pyay Road Tuesday. (News on page 11).—MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Cooperate harmoniously for industrial development

With a view to strengthening the national economy, government of the Union of Myanmar is making every endeavour for all-round development of the nation, enlisting the strength of the national forces and making the most of natural resources.

In its bid to modernize the nation, it gives special priority to industrial development and at the same time it is taking steps for the growth of import-substitute industries, industries producing export items and agro-based industries.

The work coordination meeting No 3/2005 of Industrial Development Committee was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Industry-1 on 5 September and it was attended by Prime Minister General Soe Win, who is also Chairman of Industrial Development Committee. Speaking at the meeting, Prime Minister General Soe Win urged innovations in improving the quality of old industrial items and production of new ones.

For industrial development of the nation, the government is rendering all the necessary assistance for the emergence of private industrial workshops and factories by establishing industrial zones in the areas that have favourable conditions for industrial development. Out of the industrial zones, Mandalay, Monywa and Ayethaya (Taunggyi) Industrial Zones have modern foundry shops, press shops, forging shops, heat treatment shops and machine shops and have started producing industrial items and ironwares. Each furnace of foundry shops in these industrial zones has the capacity of smelting about 5 tons of iron per day and therefore it will be possible to mass-produce a variety of quality ironwares in the near future.

It is expected that, in the very first year, Mandalay Industrial Zone will produce 1,200 tons of nine industrial items, Monywa Industrial Zone 850 tons of 29 items and Ayethaya Industrial Zone 780 tons of 49 items. Foundry shops, press shops and forging shops will be able to produce power tillers, combined harvesters, dryers, water pumps, compressors and electric turbines. It is necessary for private industrialists to make constant efforts to mass-produce their products, according to their skills and finance.

We would like to call on all those responsible in the government and private sectors to cooperate harmoniously with one another for the industrial development of the nation.

Direct train to run from Yangon to Ye

YANGON, 6 Sept—Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council, Commander of the South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing on 4 September went to the construction project site of a new railway station in Mawlamyine to assess the construction work.

At a meeting with officials, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min reported to him that the construction of railways on Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) is completed and approach roads for railways are under construction. Upon completion, there will be a direct train from Yangon to Ye, he said. An official of the project and Deputcy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than also reported on construction work and future tasks. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspected progress of the construction of a new railway station in Mawlamyine and fulfilled the requirements. The commander and party also inspected the construction of approach roads of the bridge.

PBANRDA Minister tours Mandalay Division

YANGON, 6 Sept—Accompanied by officials Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt made a field trip to inspect building of No 1 District-to-District road in Mandalay Division on 4-9-2005. — PBANRDA

Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspects the construction of district-to-district road No 1 in Mandalay Division on 4-9-2005. — PBANRDA

The minister and party went to the worksite of paving the gravel road near Zetaw village in Natogyi Township. Engineer U Tin Maung Lwin reported to them on progress in work during 2005-2006 fiscal year. The minister gave instructions on timely completion of the road. Afterwards, the minister and party also inspected the construction of road meeting the set standards. The minister and party went to Mahlaing Township and inspected measures being taken for paving the gravel road. After that, the minister and party arrived in Kyaukpadaung. At the briefing hall near Zeyatkyone village, Executive Officer U Huon Win of Kyaukpadaung Town-ship DAC and Senior Engineer U Hsan Win reported to them on progress in building roads.

The minister instructed officials concerned to upgrade gravel roads into tarred ones.

No 1 district-to-district road is 83 miles and two furlongs long. People can travel to Manda-ly and Meiktila in all seasons.

The people from Natogyi can go to Mand-alay in a short period.

U Ko Lwy-Daw Khin Thida and family donate K 1 million to Yangon Children’s Hospital through Medical Superintend-ent Dr Chit Ko Tin. NLM
China, EU pursue textile deal ahead of summit

BEIJING, 5 Sept — China and the European Union officials met again on Monday to try to reach a textiles deal to unblock millions of Chinese garments which have been held up at EU ports because they exceed import quotas.

Negotiators were scrambling to forge an agreement that could be blessed during a summit later in the day in Beijing between the bloc’s leaders and Chinese President Hu Jintao.

Another opportunity for any agreement to be announced would be on Monday afternoon, when European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson speaks at an EU-China business conference on the sidelines of the summit.

The problem has split the 25-member EU and overshadowed the run-up to the summit, which will be attended by European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who holds the EU’s rotating presidency.

Chong Quan, spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, said after Sunday’s talks wound up: “Both sides negotiated seriously today and there was an in-depth exchange of opinions. We continue to research the solution to this problem.”

Mandelson, who negotiates EU trade policy, failed to secure backing in Brussels on Friday for the immediate release of about 80 million garments, sweaters and other goods piled up in ports and warehouses or en route for Europe.

The garments have been impounded by Customs because quotas that the EU agreed with Beijing in June were quickly filled.

Countries with strong retail sectors, such as the Nordic states and Germany, have demanded the swift release of the goods.

But member states with large textile industries of their own, such as France, Italy and Spain, have insisted that Beijing cut its import quotas levels for 2006 and 2007 in return for the EU’s allowing in more Chinese imports in 2005 than agreed in June.

Barroso said both Brussels and Beijing were committed to the June deal, which created a breathing space to slow a dramatic burst in Chinese exports to Europe.

Moscow celebrates 858th anniversary

MOSCOW, 5 Sept — Amid sounds of the Moscow anthem and countless bright balloons, the Russian capital celebrated its 858th anniversary on Sunday.

Over 3,000 festive events were held during the City Day celebrations, attended by Russian Premier Mikhail Fradkov and many other high-ranking officials, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

“The government of the Russian Federation will do its utmost to back Moscow’s efforts and, in turn, hopes for understanding by Moscow of tasks Russia put forth before itself,” Fradkov said at the opening ceremony.

Moscow has a strong economy and could double its gross regional product by 2010, said Mayor Yuri Luzhkov.

Luzhkov noted that the Moscow government would solve their housing problem, and “by 2007, the minimum wage in the city will be higher than the (current) living wage”.

History’s first mention of Moscow dates from 1147 when it was an obscure town in a small province mostly inhabited by Merya, speakers of a now extinct Finnic language.

Today, Moscow gathers nearly one tenth of the Russian population in its urban area, making it one of Europe’s most populous cities.— MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia to launch anti-AIDS campaign

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 Sept — The Malaysian Ministry of Health will implement the needle exchange and condom handout programme for drug addicts in some areas starting from January next year in an attempt to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, local media reported on Monday.

The pilot project, cosponsored by the Malaysian AIDS Council, will be launched in areas in Kuala Lumpur, Johor Baru, Penang and possibly Kuantan, Minister of Health Chua Soi Lek was quoted as saying.

After the six-month pilot project which will involve 1,200 intravenous drug users, the ministry will re-evaluate the programme and then implement it nationwide, Chua said.

In addition, the Malaysian Government has allocated 2.39 million ringgit (635,638 US dollars) to supply methadone, which is an oral drug substitute, to treat about 1,200 hard-core addicts starting from October for a six-month period. — MNA/Xinhua

Two British soldiers killed by bomb in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 Sept — A roadside bomb killed two British soldiers travelling in an armoured Land Rover in southern Iraq yesterday, bringing to 95 the number of British military fatalities since the 2003 invasion.

The device exploded as a convoy passed through a mainly Sunni Arab district five miles east of a British army base known as Shaiba. The Ministry of Defence said the soldiers’ names, ranks and regiments would be withheld until next of kin were informed.

“We can confirm that two soldiers from Multinational Division South-east died this morning at 11.30 local time from injuries sustained in a roadside bomb explosion,” a ministry spokesman said.

They were the first British deaths since a roadside bomb and gun attack killed three members of the 1st Battalion Staffordshire Regiment in July. Yesterday’s attack occurred near Zubeir, a dusty town 30 minutes’ drive south from Basra, the provincial capital, and just minutes from Shaiba, a sprawling military base which doubles as a jail for suspected insurgents.— Internet

1,200 Colombian paramilitary militiamen disarmed

BOGOTA, 5 Sept — A total of 1,200 Colombian militiamen of the right-wing paramilitary United Self Defence Force laid down their arms to the government in Casanare, eastern Colombia, recently.

All of them are members of the Centaurs Block of the United Self Defence Force, or AUC. Their surrender brings to about 9,200 the number of fighters of the organization who have been demobilized under a peace process.

High-ranking peace-talk representative of the Colombian Government, together with observers from the Organization of American States, attended the disbanding ceremony in Yopal, the capital city of Casanare, 400 kilometres east of Bogota.

The Centaurs Block has always been quite influential in the central and eastern parts of Colombia. Vicente Castano, the leader of the block, is the brother of two other important leaders who are still missing, and together, the three are known as the “Castano Group”.

Vicente Castano, also known as “the professor” in the organization, often manipulates backstage, and he is believed to be the real powerful leader of the AUC. He is accused of participating in drug trafficking, and wanted by the US judicial departments.

The surrender of Vicente Castano marks the further disintegration of paramilitary organizations in Colombia and is also a significant step toward peace talks between the Colombian Government and paramilitary organizations. — MNA/Xinhua
Iran tells West that UNSC’s threats will not work

TEHERAN, 5 Sept — Iran said on Sunday threats of UN Security Council referral would not persuade it to abandon its nuclear programme.

US and European Union officials have warned they will push for Iran's nuclear case to be sent to the Security Council — which could impose sanctions if Teheran does not halt all nuclear fuel work and resume negotiations with the EU.

But Iran, which denies harbouring secret plans to make atomic bombs, says it has no intention of freezing uranium conversion at its Isfahan plant — where UN seals were broken and work resumed last month.

"Gone is the time when they could deny Iran its rights by threatening it," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi.

"It’s our legitimate right to have peaceful nuclear technology and we will not give that up," he told a weekly news conference.

The UN nuclear watchdog of Friday confirmed Iran had converted several tons of raw uranium into a gas at Isfahan which could at a later stage be enriched to make atomic reactor or bomb-grade fuel.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report also said it could not yet conclude that Teheran had no secret atomic weapons programme.

Iran says it has answered all of the IAEA’s outstanding questions about its nuclear programme and that nothing has been uncovered which would justify sending Teheran to the Security Council.

Speaking on state television on Saturday night, the deputy head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organizatión Mohammad Saeedi described talk of Security Council referral as “ridiculous”. Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani, who has been engaged in a flurry of diplomacy with non-Western countries ahead of an IAEA meeting later this month, said Teheran would not be bullied.

Mechanical failures halt ethanol production in Thailand

BANGKOK, 5 Sept — Thai Government plans to reduce Thailand’s reliance on imported petroleum for gasoline production have hit a snag, reported the Thai News Agency Sunday.

Mechanical failures have closed ethanol-producing factories for three weeks, while another industrial operation has run out of molasses.

PPT Public Co, Ltd has been asked by the Energy Ministry to speedily import some 50,000 litres of ethanol to make up for an unanticipated loss of local supplies for Thai-based production of gasohol.

Poruchai Rujiprapa, deputy permanent secretary to the ministry, was quoted by the agency as saying.

Local production has not been sufficient to meet the local demand due to production equipment failures, forcing emergency imports from abroad.

The imports are needed this month because current production of ethanol by local firms will not be able to meet consumption requirements next month if the raw materials are not on hand this month. The costs of imported ethanol should be 16-17 baht (40-42 cents) per litre, he said.

Ethanol is essential for the production of gasohol as it is mixed with gasoline. The urgent import of ethanol comes after Thai Alcool Co, Ltd, temporarily halted production of ethanol due to mechanical breakdowns, he added.

Thailand ceased gasohol production on 31 August, resulting in a loss to the market of about 130,000 litres of ethano from the market every day.

Repairs are anticipated to take about three weeks.

Another ethanol producer, Thai Agro Energy, produces about 150,000 litres daily but plans to stop production from September 20 as it has insufficient molasses, an essential raw material used to produce ethanol.

Militants attack Iraq’s Interior Ministry

BAGHDAD, 5 Sept — Guerillas launched a daring daylight assault on Monday against the Interior Ministry in Baghdad, killing two police in a surge of attacks by al-Qaida’s arm in Iraq, two British soldiers died in a roadside bombing in the south.

US Marines said Monday that al-Qaeda in Iraq launched multiple attacks the day before against US and Iraqi targets in Hit, 85 miles west of Baghdad. Eight civilians, an Iraqi soldier and three suicide bombers died in the Hit attacks.

Elsewhere, at least four Iraqi civilians including five children were killed in fighting Monday in Tal Afar, said Dr Abdul-Aal Kamal of the northern city’s hospital.

There was no report of casualties among the combatants, including the U.S. 3rd Armoured Cavalry Regiment, which is trying to wrest control of Tal Afar, 260 miles north of Baghdad, from guerillas and foreign fighters.

In Baghdad, thunderous explosions and volleys of heavy gunfire riddled the downtown area and a number of civilians were killed Monday as about four carloads of guerillas staged a lightning raid on the Interior Ministry, which is responsible for police and paramilitary units nationwide.

The guerillas, who fired automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades, withdrew after about 15 minutes, leaving two policemen dead and five wounded. There was no report of guerilla casualties.

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Iraqis flock to fundraiser for bridge victims

BAGHDAD, 5 Sept — Hundreds of Iraqis poured into a donation centre in Baghdad on Sunday to offer financial help to families of the victims of Wednesday’s stampede. Many Iraqis, increasingly frustrated at living with everyday violence, have been mourning the victims of the stampede on A’imma Bridge, which killed at least 1,005 people mostly women and children.

“We were in pain over the loss of hundreds of our citizens and we decided to turn our grief into benefit,” said Tha’ir al-Haznawi, a main organizer of the fundraising scheme. Eight-year-old Humam Jasim, himself a survivor of the stampede, was wrapped in an Iraqi flag and carried three cuddly toys. He waited in line to donate his 3,000 Iraqi dinars (two US dollars) pocket money and his favourite toys.

An Iraqi guerilla prepares to attack in Baghdad on 5 September, 2005.

OPEC looks at boosting products output

CERNOBBIO (Italy), 5 Sept— OPEC members could reschedule refinery maintenance or release products from commercial stocks to help ease supply problems caused by Hurricane Katrina, Acting Secretary-General Adnan Shihab-Eldin said on Saturday.

"Some OPEC countries that have export refineries, like Kuwait... and others, are looking if they can help... maybe by operating their refineries at full capacity, rescheduling their maintenance programmes... If they have some products stored in commercial inventories that may be needed, they may be available," he told Reuters on the sidelines of a business conference in Italy.

"I know for sure Kuwait is looking at that... I’m sure (Venezuela) is looking at that as well... they can do in this respect," he added.

OPEC said on Friday it was considering further measures to help ease problems caused by Hurricane Katrina, which hammered the US Gulf of Mexico coast on Monday, cutting out some 2 million barrels a day (bdp) of refining capacity.

The group’s spare oil capacity is mostly of heavy, sour crude in Saudi Arabia, which is hard to process into the transport fuels that the US needs urgently.

MNA/Reuters

National Guard troops evacuate a Hurricane Katrina victim near the New Orleans Superdome, on 3 September, 2005 — INTERNET

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters
China, ASEAN organize intellectual property symposium

BEIJING, 6 Sept—China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) jointly organized in Beijing an intellectual property symposium on Monday, which attracts more than 80 participants from China and 10 ASEAN countries.

Tian Lipu, commissioner of China's State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), said at an opening ceremony that as China and the ASEAN establishes their strategic partnership and formed a free trade zone, and that both sides are paying closer attention to intellectual property protection, which is crucial to scientific advancement and trade activities.

The symposium will help mutual cooperation and exchange in the field between China and the ASEAN countries, Tian said. The five-day symposium is scheduled to focus on construction of intellectual property legal system, intellectual property rights acquisition and management, intellectual property rights protection and economic development, intellectual property information dissemination and personnel training.

Five men shot by New Orleans police, four dead

NEW ORLEANS, 5 Sept—New Orleans police shot and killed four men and wounded one on Sunday after looters fired on officers, a policeman said.

The incident on Sunday morning, as the city began to clean up from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, resulted in four fatalities and one person in critical condition, said one policeman who asked not to be named. No police were wounded.

“Five men who were looting exchanged gunfire with police. The officers engaged the looters when they were fired upon,” said superintendent of New Orleans police, Steven Nichols.

Civilian helicopter crashes in New Orleans

BATON ROUGE (Louisiana), 5 Sept—A civilian helicopter that was not involved in rescue operations crashed in New Orleans on Sunday and the two people on board were slightly injured, a state official said.

The helicopter crashed in the area of the Danziger Bridge, said Mark Smith, spokesman for the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

“The helicopter came down hard and rolled over on its side and broke its blades off,” Smith told reporters in Baton Rouge.

“There were two civilians on the helicopter. Both sustained cuts and scrapes,” he said. It was not known why the helicopter was in the area, Smith said.

The US military and Coast Guard have conducted hundreds of helicopter flights in the New Orleans area in recent days searching for Hurricane Katrina survivors and have rescued thousands of storm victims.

Early mediareports said the crashed aircraft was a Coast Guard helicopter. Live television footage from the scene showed the red helicopter lying on the ground near a roadway, with smoke drifting from its cockpit. The ground around the wreck was blackened and churned up by the aircraft’s rotor blades.

Smith said he did not know if shots had been fired at the helicopter. Gunfire has been reported on numerous occasions in the New Orleans area in recent days.

Iran denounces US visa rejection for its delegation to UN

TEHERAN, 5 Sept—Iran on Saturday denounced the United States refusal to issue visas to an Iranian parliamentary delegation which intended to take part in a UN-sponsored conference in New York.

“The United States proved through its recent immoral act that it is not competent to host international conferences,” Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi said as quoted by the semi-official Mehr news agency.

Car bomb hits US convoy in southern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 5 Sept—A car bomb blew up near a US military convoy in southern Baghdad on Monday, causing casualties, police said.

“A car bomb detonated near a US convoy in Baghdad's southern district of Sadyiah, causing several casualties,” an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

The US troops have cordoned off the area preventing people as well as Iraqi police from approaching the scene, he said, adding it is not known whether the casualties were US forces or Iraqis.

Earlier Monday, dozens of gunmen waged coordinated attacks on the Interior Ministry in eastern Baghdad, killing three policemen and wounding four others, police said.

Iran's Khatami appointed as member of Alliance of Civilizations

TEHERAN, 5 Sept—Former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami was appointed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Friday as a member of "Alliance of Civilizations", the official IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

“Alliance of Civilizations” is a high-level UN organization consisting of 18 members with a task to promote communication and alliance among civilizations, especially between the West and the Islamic world.

Khatami is therefore one of the two cultural figures selected from the Middle East region. The other one is Chairman of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development Sheikh Mozah Bint Nasser al-Missned, the report said.

Khatami became Iran's President in May 1997 and was reelected in June 2001. His second term of office ended on 2 August, 2005.

Killings hit Katrina refugees in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, 5 Sept—People left homeless by Hurricane Katrina told horrific stories of rape, murder and trigger-happy guards in two New Orleans centres that were set up as shelters but became places of violence and terror.

Police and National Guard troops on Saturday closed down the two centres—the Superdome arena and the city's convention centre—but then penned the storm victims outside in sweltering heat to keep them from trying to walk out of the city until they were evacuated from the scene.

Military helicopters and buses took away thousands of people who waited in orderly lines in stifling heat outside the flooded convention centre. They completed the evacuation by late afternoon.

The refugees, waiting to be taken to sports stadiums and other huge shelters across Texas and northern Louisiana, described how the convention centre and the Superdome became lawless hellholes beset by rape and murder.

Severe conditions in the impromptu shantytown recounted two horrific incidents where those charged with keeping people safe had killed them instead.

In one, a young man was run down and then shot by a New Orleans police officer, another a man seeking help was gunned down by a National Guard soldier, witnesses said.

Police here refused to discuss or confirm either incident. National Guard spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Pete Schneider said “I have not heard any information of a weapon being discharged.”

“They killed a man here last night,” Steve Banka, 28, told Reuters.

“A young lady was being raped and stabbed. And the sounds of her screaming got to this man and so he ran out into the street to get help from troops,” Banka said.

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Internet

Joint US-Iraqi forces raided several houses in Tal Afar recently.

MNA/Internet
Hu Jintao meets Blair, Barroso, Solana

BEIJING, 6 Sept—Chinese President Hu Jintao met here on Monday with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, President of the European Union (EU) Commission Manuel Barroso, and EU Council Secretary-General Javier Solana, who are here to attend the eighth China-EU summit.

Hu said he had “very good talks” with Blair and Barroso concerning the July riots in Glenegles, Scotland, and Beijing, respectively. He is very glad to meet them again in Beijing.

China-EU leaders keeping frequent exchanges is conducive to enhancing mutual understanding, expanding mutually beneficial cooperation and boosting the development of China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership, he said.

Blair, whose country now holds the EU rotating presidency, said the EU-China comprehensive strategic partnership is “very important”, not only in bilateral trade and economic cooperation, but also in their cooperation in important political issues of the world.

Hu said China-EU ties are getting more mature after 30 years’ development. The two sides kept frequent high-level dialogues and consultation, and their bilaterial trade volume has seen continuous substantive increases.

Meanwhile, China and the EU has made new progress in their cooperation on important projects, and kept close contacts and coordination on major international and regional issues, he added. We appreciate EU’s adherence to home-China policy and its efforts in facilitating bilateral mutually beneficial cooperation,” Hu said.

He said China and the EU are “two important forces” on the present international stage.

Under the new circumstances of global multilateralism and economic globalization, the deepening of China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership is of profound importance to maintaining world peace, promoting common development and realizing mutual benefits, he said.

China attaches great importance to its relations with the EU, Hu said expressing his hope that the two sides will enhance mutual trust, expand consensus and promote the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership.

Hu noted China also highly values Sino-British ties, and is ready to join hands with Britain to further deepen the Sino-British comprehensive strategic partnership. He hopes Britain will play a “positive role” in advancing the bilateral ties during its holding of EU rotating presidency.

Quake jolts Manado, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 6 Sept—An earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter Scale jolted Manado, capital of North Sulawesi Province, on Monday morning, but there was no immediate report of casualties or material damage.

The tremor’s epicentre was located in the Sulawesi Sea, about 300 kilometres west of Manado, at a depth of 400 kilometres, said the head of the local geophysics and meteorology station, Subardjo. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia’s air crash death toll reaches 149

JAKARTA, 6 Sept—Indonesian Minister of Transportation Hatta Radjasa said on Monday evening the death toll in the air crash earlier in the day has reached 149, comprising 102 passengers and 47 residents on the ground.

Hatta said in an interview with the Detikcom online news service that the figure was based on various reports coming to him.

A Mandala Airlines’ Boeing 737-200 with 117 people onboard crashed into a densely populated residential area minutes after take-off from the Polonia Airport in the North Sumatra capital of Medan earlier in the day.

Hatta said the government plans to move the Polonia Airport to the quieter district of Kuala Namu following the accident. The Chinese Embassy here confirmed that two Chinese businessmen were among the passengers perish in the disaster.

The two were identified as Xu Feng Chun and Xu Thien Wu, residents of Putian County in Fujian Province. — MNA/Xinhua

Bomb threats sent 11 to Tokyo hospitals

TOKYO, 6 Sept—Eleven hospitals in Japan’s capital of Tokyo have received bomb threats, Kyodo News agency said on Monday amid heightened security ahead of a weekend general election.

The University of Tokyo Hospital and 10 other university hospitals in Tokyo received threatening letters or phone calls this month saying they would be bombed within 45 days, Kyodo said, quoting police.

No demands were made in the letters, Kyodo said, adding that no suspicious objects have been found at the hospitals and that the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department had launched an investigation.

Asked about the Kyodo report, a Tokyo police spokesman declined to comment, saying he had no information about the case.

Japan has been tight-fitting security ahead of a general election on September 11 and in the wake of a reported warning that al-Qaeda might be preparing to attack an Asian city.

Concerns about an attack in Japan rose late in August after France’s top terrorist investigator, Jean-Louis Bruguiere, was quoted by the Financial Times as saying al-Qaeda may be preparing an attack on an Asian financial centre such as Tokyo, Sydney or Singapore.

Japan’s National Police Agency has said up to 13,000 police would be deployed throughout Japan in the run-up to next Sunday’s election, with the emphasis on major cities such as Tokyo and the western city of Osaka. — MNA/Reuters

China coal mine explosion traps 16

BEIJING, 6 Sept—A gas explosion in a Chinese mine has trapped 16 people underground, the official Xinhua news agency said on Tuesday, the latest accident to hit the world’s deadliest industry.

Two escapers after the explosion in a mine which local officials had previously ordered to suspend production until it raised safety standards, Xinhua said.

The mine is located in Zhongyang Township in Shanxi Province, one of China’s top coal-producing areas.

Emergency workers were trying to rescue the trapped men and top mine safety officials and the deputy provincial governor had rushed to the site, Xinhua said.

More than 2,700 people were killed in floods, mudslides, tunnel collapses or other mining accidents in the first half of this year, and the government recently ordered around 7,000 mines to halt production in order to improve safety. — MNA/Reuters

Japan typhoon drives thousands from homes

TOKYO, 6 Sept—Typhoon Nabi lashed southern Japan and South Korea on Tuesday, killing four people, injuring dozens and forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes.

At least 14 others were reported missing as waves driven by 78 mph winds slammed into coastal barriers and storm surges flooded seaside towns.

The typhoon made landfall and travelled Japan’s southernmost main island of Kyushu, weather officials said.

Heavy rain and wind also pounded the neighbouring island of Shikoku.

By late evening, the storm had moved into the Sea of Japan and was heading northeast over open water. Nabi, which means “butterfly” in Korean, grounded hundreds of flights, blocked train and ferry services and closed highways, stranding tens of thousands.

“arid the wind and rain were so strong earlier this morning, I could hardly walk — I couldn’t leave the building,” said Mitsui Shari from his flooded grocery store in Kyushu’s Tarumizu town. “The water just keeps on coming in from under the door.”

Japan sent 70 soldiers to fortify barriers, assist evacuees and provide other help in storm-hit areas, said Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda. More than 270,000 households in Kyushu lost power, said Kyushu Electric Power Co spokesman Tetsuo Yano.

The storm killed at least four people and injured 51, a National Police Agency official said on condition of anonymity citing agency rules. Another 14 were missing, he said.— Internet

At least four killed, 14 missing amid strong winds, rain

Typhoon Nabi was packing winds of up to 162 kilometres per hour as it slowly moved toward Japan’s southernmost main island of Kyushu, Japan’s Meteorological Agency said on 5 September, 2005. — Internet

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Helicopters were seen flying over Baghdad after the guerillas attack on 5 September, 2005. — Internet
The endeavours for people's progress

Moe Htet Myint (Delta Region)

In accord with the motto “Let’s help the illiterate” the locals collectively helped the illiterate as well as the teachers and students. And the youths contributing voluntary services to the literacy campaign also helped local villagers in their farm work.

The mass movement for national development needs zeal and energy. And the endeavours for the majority’s interest and self-interest usually bear fruits. Thus, the literacy campaign not only realized its aims, but also contributed to emergence of a constant learning society. Moreover, the campaign has also helped further vitalize the nationalistic fervour of the people.

Pali, Sanskrit, Mon, Pyu and Myanmar languages flourished throughout Tagaung, Beikthano, Srikestra, Hanlin, Bagan, Pinya, Inwa, Toungoo, Nyaungyan and Konboung eras in the history. The Myanmar literature we are using today has evolved from the stone inscriptions of Bagan period.

Myanmar literature reached its peak during the periods of Pinya, Inwa, Nyaungyan and Konboung periods. Since the late Konboung era, the Myanmar literature had been in a state of decline because of the colonial rule.

In his guidance given at the opening of Myanmar and International Studies Course No 6 and Special Refresher Course No 7, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said, “A study of Myanmar affairs during the colonial era reveals the oppressions, exploitation and discriminations the people were suffering from during the colonial era. The nation had faced the evil legacy of the colonial rule soon after she regained independence. Thanks to the united efforts of the people with the vision to set up a strong independent and sovereign nation, Myanmar regained independence and sovereignty in 1948.”

Because of the burning internal insurGENCY, the nation’s literacy campaign was weak during the period from 1948 to 1964. Since 1964, the nation has been able to launch the campaign with might and main. Maung La Min (Agriculture University) praised the efforts of the nation to launch the campaign with greater acceleration for human resources development. Even the world has acknowledged Myanmar’s efforts for development of the rural human resources. Thanks to the literacy campaign, covering the 3 Rs courses and compulsory primary education project, the illiteracy rate fell from 57 per cent to 1.14 per cent during the period from 1964 to 1988, and literacy rate reached 78.6 per cent during the same period. Teachers and university students energetically took part in the campaign.

A study of Myanmar affairs during the colonial era reveals the oppressions, exploitation and discriminations the people were suffering from during the colonial era. The nation had faced the evil legacy of the colonial rule soon after she regained independence. Thanks to the united efforts of the people with the vision to set up a strong independent and sovereign nation, Myanmar regained independence and sovereignty in 1948.

A large number of institutions of higher learning have been built in the nation to open more opportunities; to provide access to education. Thanks to the mass movement to enable all children to complete their primary education, the school enrollment rate of the nation has reached 97.58 per cent. Now there are 154 universities and colleges in the nation, up from 32 in 1988, and the number of students at the institutions has reached over 890,000 at present. In 1988 the number was only 130,000. The government set up 24 development zones in the whole nation for all the regions of the nation to have equal access to higher education and nurture and produce human resources region-wise. Institutions of higher learning have been built in the nation based on the 24 special development zones.

The UN report for the second year of the UN literacy decade said that women represent about 500 million of the global illiterate persons; that the majority of children who cannot attend classes are girls; that the education level of young women and girls should be improved; that there is no other better way than to raise the productivity of new generation, to reduce the mortality rate of mothers and children, to develop the nutrition tasks, to control the deadly diseases including AIDS; to improve the health conditions, and to open educational opportunities; and that more opportunities should be opened for millions of women to get access to education and to enter new life. Myanmar is taking part together with the international community to realize the aims of the UN Literacy Decade. She has been always nurturing human resources to set up a learning society. It is the duty of all to take part in the literacy movement and rural education development as a national task.

As we can gain knowledge from literature, I honour Myanmar’s endeavours and accomplishments in the international literacy campaign and the UN Literacy Decade.

Too much reliance should not be put constantly on State in implementing...

(from page 1)

Officials reported on progress of cultivation of monsoon paddy in Aunglan Township, measures for meeting targeted per acre yield of ten major crops, and administrative, economic and social sectors, and ongoing tasks.

The commander stressed the need for departmental officials to serve as good organizers in making trips down to the grassroots level in regional and national interests.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint said sharing border with Bago Division, Aunglan is blessed with favourable climate resulting from a number of irrigation facilities and forests and has been facilitated with transport links. So, the region is enjoying cumulative economic development.

Thanks to the three major plans being implemented for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation by the government, the entire nation has seen rapid progress.

The government has been investing heavily in construction of dams, bridges, roads, factories and mills for the development of respective regions. In this regard, too much reliance should not be put on constantly the State in implementing small scale projects, but on self-reliant measures for regional development.

Those in authority have to conduct field tours down to the grassroots level in disseminating agricultural methods, carrying out health care services, raising the education standard and undertaking rural development tasks for the improvement of the regions they have been posted. Local people on their part are urged to lend themselves to the drive in concert with the officials, and to be vigilant against the dangers of internal and external destructive elements.

Next, he inspected medical store, operation theatre, wards, X-ray room and dental unit of Aunglan People’s Hospital and left necessary instructions.

On arrival at Bwetkyi Bridge Project being implemented on Yangon-Pay-and-Mandalay Highway in Aunglan Township, officials gave accounts of progress of work that is ongoing plans. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on the project and inspected the old Bwetkyi Bridge and the new Bwetkyi Bridge under construction. On completion, the reinforced concrete type facility will be 1,770 feet long with a 28-foot-wide motorway and two three-foot-wide pedestrian paths on it. And it will be able to withstand 60 tons of loads.

He proceeded to Duyingabo River Water Pumping Station Project in Aunglan Township. Officials of the Water Resources Utilization Department reported on supply of water, progress of cultivation of over 4,000 out of 5,000 acres of high-yield strain paddy, and arrangements for meeting the targets. Lt-Gen Ye Myint dealt with matters on the requirements for the project and inspected the main pump and parts.

Afterwards, he inspected No 10 Sugar Mill and greening tasks in Duyingabo, Aunglan Township.

Together with Bago Division (West Branch) PDC Brig-Gen Hla Min, Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed the 200-acre model paddy plot on Yangon-Pay-and-Mandalay Highway in Kyiyanakon Village, Duyingabo, Aunglan Township, and supply of water from the canal of Duyingabo River Water Pumping Project.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived back here in the evening. In the morning, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met officers and other ranks and families of regiments and units of local station in Aunglan.

In his discussions, Lt-Gen Ye Myint called for participation in rural developmental tasks, extension of agriculture and livestock breeding farms for staff welfare, and growing of suitable perennial crops.

Commander, Mayor look into city upgrading, greening tasks

USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo meets with service personnel and social organizations in Aunglan. — MNA

Secretary-General of USDA receives Japanese goodwill youth delegation

YANGON, 6 Sept— Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo met Japanese goodwill youth delegation led by Mr Micho Takatani at the USDA Headquarters at 1 pm today.

Present at the call were Joint Secretary-General of USDA U Zaw Min, Secretary U Thein Zaw and CEC member U Thein Sein. They discussed the objectives and work programmes of the USDA and cooperation between local people and the USDA in national and regional development tasks.

After the meeting, they exchanged souvenirs and had a documentary photo taken. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect dredging of the drain at Sawlawgyin Junction in Insein Township. — MNA

YANGON, 6 Sept— Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected upgrading and greening tasks in Yangon this morning.

First, the commander and the mayor looked into tarmacking of road in Yankin Township and clearing of rubbish, mud and silt along Khunnapinlein creek.

Next, they inspected tarmacking of road in South Okkalapa Township and clearing of grass and undergrowth and dredging of drains. They then looked into tarmacking of road in Insein Township and dredging of drains.

Afterwards, the commander and the mayor instructed officials concerned to supervise systematic disposal of garbage and made arrangements to fulfill the requirements.

Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Brazil

YANGON, 7 Sept— U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Celso Luiz Numes Amorim, Minister of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil, on the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Federative Republic of Brazil which falls on 7 September 2005. — MNA
Spare no efforts to speed...

(from page 16)

8. Promote women’s economic independence and economic empowerment, in particular ensure women’s equal access to economic, financial and market resources and benefits; promote women’s employment and decent work, and improve labor protection and social security systems;
9. Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and prevent and combat all forms of trafficking including related exploitation and human rights violations, and safeguard the rights of migrant women;
10. Promote women’s equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and support local women’s initiatives for peace;
11. Strengthen women’s role in environmental protection, environmental management and disaster reduction, increase their access to such basic requirements as clean water, sanitation, energy, health care, food security and the protection of biodiversity, and promote people-centered sustainable development;
12. Implement gender-mainstreaming strategies and provide adequate resources and strong political support to national machineries for gender equality; but ensure that such strategies and machineries do not replace specific actions and programs targeting women;
13. Meet the needs and respect the rights of women in disadvantaged situations and ensure that they equally participate and benefit in social, political, economic and cultural spheres;
14. Recognize men and boys as gendered persons and further recognize their capacities in bringing about changes in attitudes, relationships and access to resources and decision-making, encourage and support their equal participation in all activities and programs for gender equality;
15. Create an enabling international environment for women’s advancement where peace and solidarity prevail, and promote a balance between economic development and social development among regions; strengthen cooperation in providing least developed countries and developing countries with financial and technical resources and personnel training to enhance capacity-building;
16. Respect, within the international framework, the different paths for gender equality developed by countries in accordance with their own situation; enhance mutual understanding and experience sharing for common development. — MNA

World Women’s Conference...

(from page 16)

together with the president, also explained the success of the World Conference during the past ten years and holding of workshops to address the challenges.
She also read out the Beijing plus 10 declaration.
Also present were members of panel of patrons of MWAF, the vice-president, executives, the patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization, intelligentsia and group leaders, subgroup secretaries and the federation members. — MNA

Yangon East District carries out Nutrition Week activities

YANGON, 6 Sept — Yangon East District carried out Nutrition Week activities at the General Hospital in North Okkalapa Township this morning.
On the occasion Yangon Division Material and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Chairperson Daw Khin Thet Htay formally unveiled the signboard on Nutrition Week activities-2005. The chairperson and officials next gave away tablets of folic acid to pregnant women and vitamin-A tablets to the children under five.
Then they viewed the documentary photos on the activities and contents of iodine in table salt.
Daw Khin Thet Htay made an opening speech. Later, Daw Khin Thet Htay and officials presented prizes winners of various contest held to mark the Nutrition Week activities-2005. — MNA

DHF prevention campaign carried out

YANGON, 6 Sept — Department of the Ministry of Health and Yangon City Development Committee- YCDC this morning launched a campaign to prevent Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever in seven townships in Yangon City simultaneously. Preventive measures against DHF were carried out in Hlthetaya, Mingladon, Dagon Myothit (South) and (North), North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa and Hline townships.
Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa visited Hline Township this morning to check contingency measures against dengue fever.
They viewed measures to drain stagnant waters which mosquitoes need to breed, to keep surroundings clean and to spray with insecticide being carried out in Ward 16 in Hline Township and greeted ward dwellers. — MNA

Computer, management courses open

YANGON, 6 Sept — In his opening speech the Minister said basic and advanced courses are being conducted continuously in order to improve the efficiency of departmental staff. As now is the age of computer, people are in a position to know everyday news happening in the world within minutes. That’s why it is necessary for the ministry to keep abreast of the developing world. Progress of the State depends on its development of human resources, the minister added. Hence, he said the students are to take interest in their subjects and to make all-out efforts in the interests of the State as well as for themselves.
A total of 49 trainees are attending the Basic Computer course (1/2005) and 38 trainees, Management Course (2/2005). The courses will take 5 weeks each to complete. — MNA

Military Attache of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Col Zafar Jamil and wife welcome Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence and wife at the reception to mark the Armed Forces Day of Pakistan Tuesday. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa inspect measures against DHF in Hline. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Wednesday, 7 September, 2005 9
Officials concerned to try their utmost for youths to be convinced that use of drugs can lead to inflicting HIV/AIDS
Wider education on scourge of narcotic drugs and psychotrophic substances among people coordinated

YANGON, 6 Sept— A coordination meeting on wider education on scourge of narcotic drugs and psychotrophic substances among the people was held at the Ministry of Information yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Myint, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Secretary of Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and officials, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, as well as to be in conformity with culture and traditions of the nation.

Meanwhile, officials concerned to try their utmost for the youths to be convinced of the fact that the use of drugs can lead to inflicting HIV/AIDS and to organize the entire national people to take part in the fight against drugs by doing their bit as a national duty, he said.

The minister urged those from the media field to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts in obtaining information and requirements.

Next, Secretary of CCDAC Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi reported on measures taken by CCDAC, poppy cultivation and production in the nation in the past and control of drugs in successive eras, efforts of the Tatmadaw in control and eradication of drugs, steps being taken for development of border areas, the 15-year drugs eradication plan, the New Destiny Project, menace of narcotic drugs and collaboration with international community in the fight against drugs.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo reported on medical treatment given to drug addicts and education tasks being taken.

Deputy Manager of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory Dr Myint Sein and Assistant Manager Dr Aung Htay Oo reported on seizure of drugs and findings on drug testing and dangers of drugs seized.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan urged mediamen to strive for the youths and the people to be convinced of dangers of drugs and organize the latter to participate in the fight against drugs as a national concern.

After the meeting, those from media world viewed various kinds of narcotic drugs and findings on drug testing displayed there.

UMFCCI Officials leave for China

YANGON, 6 Sept—Joint-Secretary-2 of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Tun Aung and Executive U Tin Ko Ko yesterday evening left here by air to attend the Fourth Round Table Conference on Chamber of Commerce Partnership & ASEM Trade and Investment Exposition to be held in Xianmen, China from 7 to 10 September 2005. They were seen off at the Yangon International airport by UMFCCI Secretary General U Sein Win Hlaing and officials.

UMFCCI Joint-Secretary-2 U Tun Aung and Executive U Tin Ko Ko seen at the airport before their departure for China. — MNA

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UMFCCI Joint-Secretary-2 U Tun Aung and Executive U Tin Ko Ko seen at the airport before their departure for China. — MNA
YANGON, 6 Sept — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint welcomed back and honoured the victorious Myanmar football team which won the AFFU-17 Youth Championship-2005 at Yangon International Airport this afternoon.

Among those who welcomed back the Myanmar soccer team were Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Immigration Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, MOC Vice-Chairman Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, officials of the Sports Ministry, Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Central Work Committee Chairperson Daw Aye Aye and members, Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw and executives, film and video stars, selected Myanmar sport athletes, trainees of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon) and soccer fans.

The victorious Myanmar football team members were accorded rousing welcome, handed bouquets and garlanded by those present.

The victorious soccer team went in a motorcade along the route from the airport to Aung San Stadium through 8th-mile Junction, Hledan Junction, Alon Road and U Wisara Junction. The team members were accorded rousing welcome along the route by members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, students, soccer fans and the public from the townships of Yangon North District, Yangon West District and Yangon East District.

At the grand stand of Aung San Stadium the manager, coaches and footballers were introduced to the public individually. Deputy Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Kyaw San presented the championship shield and the fair plays award to the Yangon mayor.

Then, artistes entertained the footballers and public with songs.

At 3.55 pm, a meeting between sports writers and the victorious Myanmar football team was held at the Aung San Stadium. At the meeting, the president and officials of the MFF answered the queries raised by the journalists.

MNA
Government of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Forestry
Myanmar Timber Enterprise

Dated: 5-9-2005
Sealed Tender No. 03/2005-2006/MUSE
Myanmar Timber Enterprise Will Hold a Sealed Tender Sale as follows.

Commodity: Teak Logs/Conversions & Hardwood Logs
Quantity: About (10,511) Tons
Date: 15-9-2005 (Thursday)
Time: (12:00) Noon
Place: Assistant Director’s Office, MUSE, District Forest Department, MUSE.
Earnest Money: JPY-10,000

Please Contact the Marketing Unit(2) of the Export Marketing and Milling Department of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise for Further Details.

Trade Mark Caution
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Large waves claim one life in HK

HONG KONG, 5 Sept—Large waves claimed one life and injured another when the two men enjoyed the sights of big waves at Shek O Beach in the southern part of Hong Kong Island on Sunday.

According to Hong Kong Police, the two men were pushed into sea waters by big waves when they were taking pictures.

A vessel of the marine police rushed to the scene soon after they received the call for help at about 11:24 am (0324 GMT).

A police spokeswoman said a 40-year-old man passed away after he was rescued and sent to the hospital. The man, having a Hong Kong identification card, named Zhou Biao, said the police.

Hong Kong Commercial Radio reported that the man, a visiting scholar of the City University of Hong Kong, came from the Chinese mainland. The injured man is in a stable condition now.

Russia to implement every agreement with Kyrgyzstan

MOSCOW, 5 Sept—Russia is ready to implement every plan and agreement with Kyrgyzstan, Russian President Vladimir Putin told visiting Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev on Sunday.

“We know about the difficult political processes that have taken place in your country... I want to tell you that Russia is always ready to implement all the earlier plans and agreements, which were reached, in particular, with your participation,” Putin told Bakiyev, according to the ITAR-TASS news agency.

Putin believed that “we know about the offer of the Kyrgyz President after his resignation.” Putin said and noted. “This meets the spirit and level of our partnership and the strategic allied relations.”

In Putin’s view, Russia and Kyrgyzstan are interacting “in a broad range of issues on the bilateral level and at international organizations.”

“We are responding to terrorism together in the Collective Security Treaty Organization. We also have rather good economic plans,” Putin said.

Bakiyev for his part said that Kyrgyzstan is targeted at deeper integration with Russia. “We will do our best to build up and deepen the integration, I can say that for sure. Our economic and political cooperation is spreading. Trade with Russia has grown 15.6 per cent despite the difficult circumstances,” he said.

The Kyrgyz President also noted that though interaction between Kyrgyzstan and Russia goes on, the two nations are not using their economic cooperation potential in full.

He expressed satisfaction with the cooperation in the fight against terrorism and the interaction in the anti-terrorist fight at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Community and the Collective Security Organization Treaty.

Aid group warns against changing anti-poverty aims

London, 5 Sept—Millions of people in developing countries will die prematurely if Washington succeeds in changing United Nations’ plans to reduce poverty, a campaign group said on Monday.

The United States is demanding changes to the final declaration of a September 14-17 summit due to be held at the United Nations, including deleting goals aimed at halving poverty and hunger, ensuring universal primary education and stem AIDS by 2015.

“ActionAid warns of millions of early deaths and millions of children denied education unless (British Prime Minister) Tony Blair and other world leaders block a US bid to water down commitments in dozens of key areas,” the charity said.

“Less than two weeks before the summit, nations are sharply divided over tackling poverty, reforming the world body, human rights, terrorism, intervention in case of genocide and proliferation,” ActionAid said in a new report which has presented over 500 changes to the summit’s final declaration, says it has never agreed to the development aid target set by most rich nations of 0.7 per cent of GDP and does not want to make firm spending commitments at the summit.

ActionAid said in a new report that 100 million more people are living in poverty in Africa than 15 years ago. Since 1990, life expectancy in Africa has fallen by 15 years — largely through HIV and AIDS.
Scientist warns new technology may increase identity theft

**Dublin, 5 Sept—** New technology could increase rather than solve the problem of identity theft and fraud, a British criminologist warned on Monday.

Identity cards and chip and pin technology for credit cards will force fraudsters to be more creative and are unlikely to alleviate the problem.

Dr Emily Finch, of the University of East Anglia in England, said dependence on technology was leading to a breakdown in individual vigilance, which experts believe is one of the best ways to prevent fraud and identity theft. "There is a worrying assumption that advances in technology will provide the solution to identity theft whereas it is possible that they may actually aggravate the problem," she told the British Association science conference.

"Fraudsters adapt their behaviour to suit the circumstances," Finch, who interviewed criminals about why and how they commit crimes and the impact new technology is likely to have on them, found fraudsters were tenacious and would change their methods to elude new security measures.

"Studying the way that individuals disclose sensitive information would be far more valuable in preventing identity fraud than the evolution of technologically advanced but ultimately fallible measures to prevent misuse of personal information after it has been obtained," she added.

Data from the US Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft Survey Report released two years ago showed that 4.6 per cent of 4,000 randomly selected people questioned in a poll had been the victim of some form of identity theft in the past year.

Finch said fraud and identity theft was not always done for financial gain. Sometimes people wanted to start again with a new identity.

Identity cards could potentially increase fraudulent behaviour, she warned. In June, the British Government introduced legislation for national identity cards, saying they would counter terrorism, crime and illegal immigration. But critics say the scheme is expensive, unnecessary and intrusive.

"What fraudsters know about is human nature," said Finch. "And they adapt to things like the Internet which provides an absolutely fantastic base to access personal information." — MNA/Reuters

New Orleans zoo animals survive Katrina’s wrath

**New Orleans, 5 Sept—** Thousands of people are feared dead in the rubble of storm-shattered New Orleans, but at the New Orleans zoo only three of its 1,400 animals died in the wrath of Hurricane Katrina.

The famous Audubon Zoo has the good fortune of being located on some of the city’s highest ground, but it also had a disaster plan for the animals that worked better than the city’s plan for humans.

It suffered no serious flooding, but the storm’s fierce winds toppled several large trees and knocked down branches throughout the 52-acre grounds.

The only fatalities so far were two otters and a raccoon, zoo curator Dan Maloney said on Sunday.

He said the zoo had planned for years for the catastrophic storm that has long been predicted for New Orleans, which is mostly below sea level and almost surrounded by water. — MNA/Reuters

New hurricane forms in Atlantic, no threat to land

**M Lyon (Florida), 5 Sept —** A new hurricane has formed in the Atlantic Ocean, but unlike Hurricane Katrina it does not pose a threat to land, the US National Hurricane Centre said on Sunday.

At 11 am EDT (1500 GMT), Hurricane Maria was centred 605 miles southeast of Bermuda, with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph — the fifth hurricane of the season.

"Maria should remain well to the east of Bermuda and only pose a threat to shipping interests," the Hurricane Centre said. Maria was a category 1 storm, with hurricane force winds extending up to 15 miles from the centre.

At its peak, Katrina was a category 5 storm and caused catastrophic damage in Louisiana and Mississippi when it made landfall last Monday.

Maria is the 13th named storm of the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season, one of the busiest on record. — MNA/Reuters

Blair says moral duty to scrap trade barriers

**London, 5 Sept —** Developed nations have a “moral responsibility” to reach a deal to cut trade barriers to help alleviate poverty in the world’s poorest countries, British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on Monday.

Failure to make progress at World Trade Organization talks in Hong Kong in December could mark the end of WTO attempts to boost the world economy by lowering trade barriers from farm goods to services, Blair said.

Writing in the Financial Times newspaper at the start of a tour of China and India, Blair said rich nations should set a 2010 deadline to end farm subsidies. "It is our moral responsibility to help those in poverty by allowing them the means to grow and prosper," Blair wrote in the article, carried on the paper’s web site. "And it is clearly also in our own economic interest."

He said World Trade Organization ministers meeting in Hong Kong have a "huge responsibility" to take steps to lift people out of poverty.

— MNA/Reuters

Irish coral reefs bulldozed by deep-sea trawlers

**Dublin, 5 Sept—** Deep-sea fishing trawlers are bulldozing 4,500-year-old cold water coral reefs off western Ireland, a British marine biologist said on Monday.

Dr Jason Hall-Spencer, of the University of Plymouth in southern England, told an international science conference urgent measures were needed to preserve the spectacular kilometre-deep coral and unusual organisms that thrive in the ocean depths.

"Some of these areas have yet to be explored, but even before we have had a chance to see their treasures, they are being bulldozed by deep-water trawling. It is crucial that we take steps to protect the coral reefs before it is too late," he said.

Despite calls for international efforts to stop fishing nations from ravaging ocean beds and destroying cold-water coral, Hall-Spencer said there was no protection for the reefs located 53 miles off the Irish coast.

He estimated that about 40 per cent of the coral reefs had been destroyed.

"Protection is needed now," said Hall-Spencer. "The idea is to get in quick to preserve the few bits that are left."

Deep-sea coral reefs have also been found in Norway, Sweden, Japan, Alaska, Nova Scotia, Maine, Colombia, Brazil and Mauritania.

Commercial trawlers in search of fish drag heavy-weighted nets along the bottom of the sea and damage the sponges, coral and other organisms in the process.

— MNA/Reuters
Beckenbauer leads Klinsmann criticism after defeat

FRANKFURT, 6 Sept — Juergen Klinsmann is going through his trickiest spell as Germany coach, with Franz Beckenbauer leading a chorus of disappointment after a 2-0 defeat by Slovakia.

Germany’s performance in Bratislava on Saturday was their worst since Klinsmann took charge in July last year. Shoddy defending cost them two first-half goals and the partnership between strikers Miroslav Klose and Gerald Asamoah lasted just a few minutes.

The optimism that abounded after Germany’s strong third-placed finish at the Confederations Cup has trickled down as Germany, who have an international match against Ukraine at the weekend, are struggling to make the finals of next year’s European Championship.

“Germany had shown similar frailty in last month’s World Cup qualifier against North Ireland and the game in Cardiff.”

Asamoah lacked bite.

Klose and Gerald Asamoah could make a welcome return after missing the Slovakia game through illness.

Owen says England up with the best

BELFAST, 6 Sept — Striker Michael Owen has dismissed claims that he is no match for the best players in the world after their laboured 1-0 victory over Wales.

A sceptical British media have seized on comments by Wales manager John Toshack after Saturday’s World Cup qualifier that England would struggle against the game’s top four or five sides.

But Owen, available again after missing the game in Cardiff through suspension, told a news conference on Monday: “We can compete at that level, no problem.”

“It’s easy to go for one or two games but, the better the opposition, the better the best players always play.”

He added: “I just find it sad that we’ve lost the momentum from the Confederations Cup.”

Klose will almost certainly miss the match in Bratislava after a shin injury forced him out of training on Monday.

Deutche Bundesliga midfielder Torsten Frings is also out and injured but full-back Arne Friedrich could make a welcome return after missing the Slovakia game through illness.

Gemmell says four 1978 World Cup scots took banned pills

GLASGOW, 6 Sept — Former Scotland midfielder Archie Gemmell has claimed four team mates took banned substances at the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina.

Winger Willie Johnston, then with West Bromwich Albion, was sent home after testing positive for an energy boosting stimulant.

Johnston said it was to combat hay fever.

Now Gemmell, in his autobiography “Both Sides of the Border,” claims three other players also took pep pills.

He said: “I saw the guys openly taking them in the changing rooms. It was something that, seemingly, quite a few people did. But it was the first time I had seen it.”

Gemmell refused to name the players but wrote: “Willie (Johnston) took all the blame but it is most certainly true that three others in the team took the same pills. I saw the guys openly taking them in the changing rooms.

“To this day, I really don’t know why they took those pills. I suppose it was meant to give you a little more energy.

“It could have been a situation where four Scotland players were sent home in disgrace, but, at the time, they only took two players from each team for urine samples.”

Kenny Dalglish, who shared a room with Gemmell in Argentina, said in the Scottish Daily Record: “He would have to substantiate that. It’s the first I have heard of this. I certainly don’t know of anybody taking that stuff.”

In the Scottish Sun, former Scotland striker Joe Jordan said: “Archie Gemmell has started to explain something and he should complete it.

“He shouldn’t just say this or infer that. If he has any information as to what they were, similar to the British skier who used the nasal inhaler.”

Briton Alan Baxter was stripped of the slalom bronze medal he won at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics. He tested positive after using a nasal inhaler he thought was harmless.

“arabbit Adriano (down) celebrates with team mate Robinho after scoring against Chile during their World Cup 2006 South American Group qualifying soccer match at Mane Garrincha Stadium in Brasilia, Brazil. —INTERNET

British midfielder Archie Gemmell was the only major signing in the close season, joining from Bundesliga side VfB Stuttgart for up to 15 million euros (18.85 million US dollars), while former captain Patrick Vieira went to Juventus for 20 million euros.

The new season, which will seat 60,000 compared to 38,000 at Highbury, is expected to increase matchday income by about 20 million pounds a season.

The club are considering refinancing the 157 million-pound project, currently funded by bank loans, through a longer term debt facility such as a creditwrapped bond, which is backed by an insurer allowing the borrower to achieve lower funding costs.

More funds for Wenger as Arsenal profits rise

LONDON, 6 Sept — Arsenal managing director Keith Edelman said adequate transfer funds would be available for manager Arsene Wenger after full year profits at the Premier League club almost doubled and cash reserves soared.

Arsenal, who finished second behind Chelsea last season and won the FA Cup, announced on Monday pre-tax profits of 13.9 million pounds (35.67 million US dollars) from 10.6 million in the year to end of May.

Net debt increased by 12 million to 153 million pounds, but strong sales of season tickets and corporate boxes at the new Emirates Stadium, which opens next season, helped cash reserves rise to 63.1 million from 17.6 million.

The sponsorship deal with Emirates Airlines, worth 100 million pounds over eight years from the start of next season, also bolstered funds.

“We are confident the board would support him in strengthening support.”

The big issue facing the club is whether to try again for the transfer of Manchester United.”

Wenger said he had £20 million to spend this season and won the FA Cup, announced on Monday.
Torrential rains kill 25, affect 170 schools in E China

Hefei, 6 Sept — Torrential rains ravaging Yuxi County in east China’s Anhui Province between 2 and 4 September claimed lives of 25 including six students and has affected normal schooling of 170 primary and middle schools in the county, local source said.

The county’s educational bureau has ordered suspension of classes on Monday and Tuesday in all primary and middle schools across the country.

Preliminary statistics showed that the disaster has damaged nearly 1,400 classrooms with floor space totalling 41,500 square metres. Four students were killed in house collapses and the other two were drowned in the floods caused by the torrential rains.

The county government said the direct economic losses inflicted by the disaster were about 32 million yuan (3.95 million US dollars). The county’s relevant departments are going all out to restore and repair the damaged school buildings and try to resume classes in most of the schools by 7 September. MNA/Xinhua
World Women’s Conference anniversary meeting recounted

President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe recounts the experience of attending the 10th anniversary conference of the 4th World Women’s Conference.

The conference was held in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China, from 29 August to 1 September. At the meeting, Beijing Plus 10 Declaration was issued. The following is the excerpts from the declaration:

Excerpts from Beijing Plus 10 Declaration

Yangon, 6 Sept—The meeting to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China, from 29 August to 1 September. At the meeting, Beijing Plus 10 Declaration was issued. The following is the excerpts from the declaration:

We are determined to:

1. Spare no efforts to speed up full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the attainment of the MDGs;
2. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and ensure their full enjoyment of all human rights as an inalienable, indispensable and integral part of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
3. Intensify efforts on poverty eradication and halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people in hunger and extreme poverty, strive to free all women and men from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty and free the entire human race from want;
4. Ensure women’s equal and full participation in political, economic and social decision-making and strive for the early achievement of gender parity in management in both public and private sectors;
5. Speed up the implementation of Education for All, ensure women’s and girl’s equal access to information and media resources and strengthen all other measures to enhance capacity-making;
6. Ensure women’s enjoyment of health throughout their life cycle and provide affordable and quality health care services; promote women’s reproductive health in line with the ICPD Program of Action; eradicate all practices that are detrimental to the health of women and girls;
7. Ensure that women and girls have the knowledge and means to prevent HIV transmission and have equal and universal access to counseling, treatment and care;