External pressures applied incompatible with international practices must be repelled

Myanmar and International Studies Course 9 concludes

YANGON, 7 Sept—The conclusion of the Myanmar and International Studies Course No 9 organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association took place at Pyidaungzu Hall of the USDA Training Centre in Hmawby Township this morning.

It was attended by Member of the USDA Central Panel of Patrons Prime Minister General Soe Win, the USDA secretary-general, the joint secretary-general, secretariat members, CEC members, guests, course instructors and trainees.

The Prime Minister in his speech said that the Association has been conducting a wide variety of courses to constantly produce qualified citizens capable of safeguarding the future nation with lofty aims. The Myanmar and International Studies Course is one of the important courses organized by the Association. So far, over 21,000 youths have completed respective courses conducted at the Training Centre.

Having gained the knowledge of comparative study of the State’s prevailing situations and international developments and changes to some extent, the trainees have learnt various subjects with political outlook, economic outlook, defence outlook and international outlook. The trainees will be knowledgeable with a vast reasoning power and are equipped with nationalistic fervour only when they are well-versed in such outlooks. Only then, will they be capable of safeguarding national prestige and integrity and national character.

And they will understand and appreciate the value of the Union, sovereignty, independence, and Union Spirit based on patriotism (See page 8).

Myanmar is a nation that respects and practises the five principles of peaceful coexistence in international relations. With the concept that the strength of the nation lies within, the government has to repel external pressures that are incompatible with international practices and carry on bringing about national development.
Third cash donation ceremony held for Performing Arts Competitions

YANGON, 7 Sept — The third ceremony to donate cash towards the funds of the Finance and Prize Presentation Sub-committee of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the City Hall of Yangon City Development Committee, here, this morning, attended by the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe. First, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa presented K 3 million to the commander.

Next, the commander, Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and the vice-major accepted K 200,000 each by Daw Myo Myint (Principal of School for the Children of Diplomats), U Tin Oo (Shwesin Yadana Gold Shop, and Asia Express Co.), K 100,000 by City FM Advertisement Entrepreneurs and well-wishers; K 50,000 each by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism; K 500,000 by Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon; K 700,000 donated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation; K 500,000 by the Ministry of Forestry; K 400,000 by the Ministry of Finance and Prize Presentation Sub-committee Chairman Secretary of YCDC U Tin Soe and officials.

So far, the sub-committee has accepted K 24,259,000 including today’s donations K 6 million. Well-wishers may donate cash for the competitions to the Head of Budget Department of YCDC, Tel: 251-407. — MNA

CEC member tours Mon State

YANGON, 7 Sept — USDA CEC member charged of Mon State U Ohn Myint met with local authorities, USDA and social organization members, and local people at Taikkyayang Dhammayon in Kyar-in Village of Mawlamyine Township on 3 September afternoon. The CEC member accepted cash donations for renovation of the Post-Primary School (Khayun) from well-wishers. He presented prizes to outstanding students. Mon State USDA Secretary U Tin Soe Moe Naing and Mawlamyine Township USDA Secretary U Than Sein gave away 25 dozens of exercise books each to school heads.

Next, the village organizer handed over 2,812 membership applications to the CEC members.

At Mon State Peace and Development Council Office, the CEC member attended the cash donations for rural development tasks. On 4 September, the CEC member proceeded to Kyayung Village of Ye Township. He attended the membership application and exercise books donation ceremony. Next, he inspected Station Hospital and provided necessary assistance to it.

In the evening, the CEC member attended the ceremony to donate cash towards the funds for carrying out rural development tasks at Ye Township PDC Office. — MNA

Chief Justice meets judges, law officers

YANGON, 7 Sept — Chief Justice U Aung Toe met with judges and law officers at State/Division, District and Township levels at the meeting hall of Supreme Court on Pansodan Street, here, this afternoon.

Chief Justice U Aung Toe stressed the need to perform their tasks with fairness, correctness and justice.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Supreme Court Justices, the director-general, officials, judges and law officers totalling 243. — MNA

Chief Justice U Aung Toe addresses meeting with judges and law officers. — MNA
China opposes double standards for terrorism issue

BEIJING, 6 Sept—There should be no double standards when handling terrorism, said a Chinese official when introducing China's basic position on the prevention and control of terrorism.

“Any form of terrorism is hazardous to the international community and no country, party or individual group should take double standards based on political or other selfish intentions while dealing with terrorism,” said Zhao Yongchen, Deputy Director-General of the Anti-Terrorism Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security, when addressing a panel of the ongoing 22nd Congress on the Law of the World on Monday.

"On the contrary, countries should join their efforts to harshly condemn the brutal atrocities against human rights carried out by all terrorists and terrorist groups," he said.

"China goes against all forms of terrorism," he stressed. According to him, the international community should adopt a shared position against terrorism and take legislative, administrative, judicial and other necessary measures to resolutely combat it.

He said efforts should be made to prevent the spread of terrorist and extremist ideologies that promote violence, racism, nationalism and religious hatred. China opposes the linking of anti-terrorism policies with specific religions and nationalities, he said.

“Any attempt to that effect will go against the will of the people,” he said, adding, "The diversity of civilization is the very basis of human existence and development, one cannot resolve conflicts or contradictions between different civilizations through rigorous counter-terrorism measures including military operations.”

China also believes anti-terrorism efforts should be helpful for maintaining peace and security for human beings and promoting civilized development and societal prosperity.

"In the process of fighting terrorism, one should take into account the settlement of existing problems and bear in mind a solution in the long run as well," he said.—MNA/Xinhua

China’s development poses no threat but contributes to the world

BEIJING, 6 Sept—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said at the 21st Century Forum 2005 Monday that China’s development poses no threat to any country, but makes more contributions to the peace and development of the world.

In his speech to the forum, Wen said that China is a member of the world family, it would like to make its due contribution to the sustainable development of the world.

China's development needs the world and the world needs China. China would stick to the opening up policy steadfastly, said Wen.—MNA/Xinhua

India’s Army plans expansion of aviation wing

NEW DELHI, 6 Sept—In its major drive underway to modernize all its arms—Infantry, Armour, Artillery and Mechanized units—the Indian Army has finalized plans to expand its aviation wing with acquisition of 197 light helicopters.

The Army has also decided to equip itself with light helicopter gunships for use in high-altitude areas. Top officials said the Army was awaiting the nod from the government for rapid expansion of its air fleet, after making a strong case for having its own medium lift transport helicopters, assault choppers, anti-tank combat helicopters and for the first time, to have limited number of light fixed wing aircraft.

Army officials have lamented lack of close air support in counter-insurgency operations, high-altitude areas and during Kargil operations to press for expansion of its air arm.

The contract for 197 light helicopters to replace its ageing fleet of Cheetahs and Chetak is almost at the final stages with two major bidders, the Eurocopter and American Bell Textron completing their second and final round of summer trials in Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan.

The Army Aviation Corp proposes to buy 55 helicopters outright and the remaining 142-odd be built under licence at Bangalore-based Hindustan Aeronautics in a deal estimated to be worth more than 500 million US dollars.—MNA/PTI

1,893 US troops killed in Iraq since beginning of the war

WASHINGTON, 6 Sept—As of Tuesday, 6 September, 2005, at least 1,893 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,467 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is seven higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EDT Monday.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,754 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,358 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.—Internet

Susilo orders investigation into plane crash

JAKARTA, 6 Sept—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Monday ordered Minister of Transportation Hatta Radjasa to launch a thorough investigation into the Monday’s plane accident that might have killed all 117 passengers and several people on ground.

The President also urged the Minister to take necessary steps to prevent another disaster in the future, presidential spokesman Andi Mallarangeng quoted Susilo as saying at the state palace here.

“The President gives his deepest sympathy and condolence to the families of the victims,” Andi said.

The Boeing 737-200 plane crashed into a residential area in the North Sumatra capital of Medan minutes after take-off from the Polonia Airport in the city. The plane hit dozens of houses and vehicles.—MNA/Xinhua

Chaos as Iraq limits driving to save fuel

BAGHDAD, 6 Sept—The country with the world’s third largest oil reserves should not run out of fuel.

But Iraq has come perilously close to doing just that. To save fuel, and to avoid general confusion, the government has ordered half the capital’s car fleet off the roads on any given day.

Tuesday was the first day of the new rule, and only cars with licence plates ending in an odd number could take to the streets. And an odd day it proved for drivers. At 9.00 am, normally the height of rush hour in this traffic-clogged capital, streets were almost empty. And the few officials who knew about the rule did not seem to understand it.

Police Colonel Tariq Ismail, directing a trickle of traffic in the city centre, apparently believed the rule was aimed at easing congestion rather than cutting the demand for fuel.

“The streets of Baghdad cannot cope with such a huge number of cars,” he said. “Many barriers have been put up in front of government buildings, making driving slow,” he said, referring to the ubiquitous security measures in place across Baghdad. “A better solution would be to set up alternative roads and bridges.”—Internet

A little penguin is held by wildlife rehabilitation supervisor Libby Hall before being released back into the wild at Collaroy Beach on Sydney's northern beaches, on 7 September, 2005. —INTERNET

Chinese workers clean up debris at a construction site in China’s capital Beijing on 6 September, 2005.
Putin warns against interference in ex-Soviet states

LONDON, 6 Sept— Foreign pressure for reform in former Soviet Union states risks turning them into chaotic “banana republics”, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in comments published on Tuesday.

"We are not against any changes in the former Soviet Union," Putin was quoted as saying by Britain’s Times newspaper at a briefing with Western academics and journalists. "We are afraid only that those changes will be chaotic. Otherwise there will be banana republics where he who shouts loudest wins." US President George W Bush has been trying to encourage former Soviet states to build the institutions of stable democracies without antagonizing Putin. Putin said it was no surprise that Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko’s chief of staff quit on Monday to protest what he said was rising corruption among top officials.

Thai shrimps export to EU may reach 70,000 tons a year

BANGKOK, 6 Sept— Thailand’s export of shrimps to the European Union (EU) is expected to reach 70,000 tons annually after the country regained a tariff privilege from the EU.

The local shrimp exporters was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying on Monday that they expected that Thai shrimp products could gain about 10 percent of the EU’s total market share in the future. This means the country’s total shrimp export to the trade bloc could reach 70,000 tons annually, they projected.

Last week, the EU announced that it would reduce its import tariffs for shrimp exporting countries, including Thailand, equally to those under its generalized system of preference (GSP) framework, beginning from mid September.

S Korea may cut troops in Iraq by about a third

SEOUL, 7 Sept— South Korea, which has the third-largest contingent of foreign troops in Iraq, may cut back by about one-third the number of its soldiers stationed there, a South Korean lawmaker said on Tuesday.

President Roh Moo-hyun has previously said South Korean troops would remain in Iraq until goals set by Washington and its allies were accomplished.

A Marine statement also said US and Iraqi forces destroyed a "foreign fighter safe house," killed two foreigners and arrested three others during a Tuesday raid in the same area as the bridge attack.

Elsewhere, Iraqi civilians said they could see smoke rising Tuesday from the northern city of Tal Afar, where fighting has been raging for days between US-Iraqi forces and guerrillas said to include foreign fighters. "The purpose of the strike was to prevent al-Qaida in Iraq terrorists from using the structures for vehicular traffic to conduct attacks," the US statement said. —Internet

British troops on trial for murder of Iraqi teen

COLCHESTER (England), 6 Sept— Seven British soldiers went on trial on Monday accused of beating an innocent Iraqi teenager to death with rifle butts in what the prosecution said was an "unjustified and wholly unprovoked" attack.

The prosecuting lawyer told the military court that the soldiers had attacked a group of villagers near Basra in 2003.

They fatally injured 18-year-old Nadiem Abdullah with a blow to the back of the head because they wrongly believed he had been in a car which had evaded an Army checkpoint.

"The victims were unarmed and they posed no threat at all," the lawyer, Martin Haslop, told the specially-convened court at a military barracks in this eastern English town.

"This was nothing more than gratuitous violence meted out to a number of innocent Iraqi civilians," he added, speaking on the opening day of a trial which will once again raise questions about the behaviour of British and US soldiers in Iraq.

The seven defendants — four serving soldiers and three former soldiers — are charged with murder and violent disorder.

The Ministry of Defence says it believes this could be the first time since World War Two that British soldiers have been court-martialled for murder. All seven deny the charges. —MNA/Reuters

US Marine jets bomb two bridges in Iraq

BAQUDAD, 6 Sept — US Marine jets on Tuesday attacked two bridges across the Euphrates River near the Syrian border to prevent guerrillas from moving foreign fighters and munitions toward Baghdad and other cities, the US command said.

A Marine statement also said US and Iraqi forces destroyed a "foreign fighter safe house," killed two foreigners and arrested three others during a Tuesday raid in the same area as the bridge attack.

Japanese Kabuki actor Ichimura Manjiro performs a classical dance called "Fuji-Musume", meaning "Wisteria Maiden", in the northern Spanish town of Santander on 4 September, 2005. — Internet

ASEAN Swap ceiling increases to $2b

JAKARTA, 6 Sept — Bank Indonesia and National Bank of Cambodia, the Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Bank of Thailand have signed here an agreement to increase the ceiling of the ASEAN Swap Arrangement from one billion US dollars to two billion dollars.

"The facility is a second line of defence to strengthen foreign exchange reserves and it may be used to support the balances of payments of ASEAN member countries including Indonesia," Antara news agency quoted Bank Indonesia spokesman Rizal Djafara as saying on Monday.

Finance ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) agreed to increase the facility ceiling at the ASEAN Financial Ministers’ Meeting in Vientiane, Laos, in April.

Under the programme, ASEAN member countries can seek a short-term loan by swapping domestic currencies for US dollars, euros or yen.

MNA/Xinhua

NBA Houston Rockets Chinese centre Yao Ming (L) waits as his blood sample is taken during a blood donation drive in Beijing, on 4 September, 2005. — Internet
Russian, Kyrgyz Presidents stress cooperation on world issues

MOSCOW, 6 Sept — Russian President Vladimir Putin and visiting Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiev said Monday that closer multilateral cooperation is needed in efforts to build a fair world order, the Interfax news agency reported.

Russia and Kyrgyzstan “stressed the need for deeper multilateral cooperation in the development of a fair and safe world order”, the two presidents said in a joint statement.

On the UN reform, they said it “should be based on consensus and mirror collective interests of the member states of the organization”. The United Nations should play a central role in international affairs and enhance its capability to respond to new threats and challenges, they said.

“The presidents condemned all forms of international terrorism and reiterated the determination of their countries to fight new threats and challenges together,” the statement said.

The two leaders also highlighted the importance of the Russian airbase in Kyrgyzstan, saying it is an “important factor for peace and stability in Central Asia within the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organization”.

Meanwhile, they called for increased cooperation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

India’s Bar Council opposes entry of foreign lawyers

NEW DELHI, 6 Sept — Bar Council of India (BCI) has expressed strong opposition to the possible entry of foreign lawyers and law firms in the country saying it will not be in the interest of lawyers at large in India.

“To allow foreign lawyers to practise in India will not be in the interest of lawyers in general,” BCI President Jagannath Pathak told PTI.

He said under the Advocates Act, 1961, foreign lawyers are not permitted to practise in India and there was no reason to change the existing provisions on this point. Taking a strong view of media reports that foreign lawyers’ entry was “imminent”, BCI passed a unanimous resolution on Saturday opposing any such move.

“The council reiterates its views on the issue of not permitting foreign lawyers and law firms in the country. The Bar Council of India once again strongly opposes the entry of foreign lawyers,” BCI said in its resolution. — MNA/PTI

Theatre fire kills 30 in Egypt after candle falls

MINYA (Egypt), 6 Sept— Thirty people were killed and 37 injured on Monday after a candle fell during a play in a provincial Egyptian theatre and set fire to curtains and the wooden stage, the state news agency MENA said on Tuesday.

The fire broke out at about 10.30 pm. (1930 GMT) during a performance at an experimental theatre festi-ival in the Nile Valley town of Beni Suef, 60 miles south of Cairo, it said.

The injured included 14 members of the theatrical troupe and some of the 37 injured had 80 per cent burns, it added. Seventy people escaped unhurt from the single-storey theatre, which was part of the town’s cultural centre.

“The fire broke out because a candle being used in the performance fell on the wooden stage and set fire to it and to props made of paper,” the agency said.

Firefighters put out the blaze within an hour. — MNA/Xinhua

Plane crashes in N-E Congo, seven dead

KINSHASA, 6 Sept — An Antonov plane crashed near the town of Isiro in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo on Monday, killing all seven people on board, a civil aviation authority official said.

“An Antonov-26 airplane coming from Beni crashed today just before reaching the airstrip in Isiro,” Andre Bakajika, head of civil aviation in the northeastern Oriental Province, told Reuters by telephone.

“The tower lost contact and the plane crashed and burned. None of the seven people on board survived the impact or the fire,” he said.

Bakajika said the plane belonged to a private Congolese company and that bad weather may have been to blame for the accident some 210 miles northeast of the provincial capital Kisangani.

A five-year civil war which ended in 2003 destroyed much of Congo’s infrastructure. Planes, many of them decades old, are often the only way of covering huge distances in a country the size of Western Europe.

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Bakajika said the plane belonged to a private Congolese company and that bad weather may have been to blame for the accident some 210 miles northeast of the provincial capital Kisangani.

Wild elephants attack oil palm plantation in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 6 Sept— A herd of 50 wild elephants destroyed around 500 hectares of oil palm and rubber plantations in Muko-Muko District, Bengkulu Province, Indonesia, over the past week.

The wild elephants attacked oil palm and rubber plantations at any time at night, Antara news agency quoted Maskur, a resident of Pondok Sugih Village, as saying on Monday.

He said the wild ele-phants’ attacks which had been escalating in the past week would destroy the huts of the local people on the plantations.

As the local people had difficulty driving away the wild elephants from the plantations, the Muko-Muko District administration is asking for assistance from the Provincial Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA), said the report.

WB accused of failing to help poor

YAOUNDE, 6 Sept— Activists accused the World Bank of failing to ensure that Chad invests newfound oil wealth in development, saying the money had only enriched foreign firms and political elites in one of the world’s poorest countries.

WB accused of failing to help poor

YAOUNDE, 6 Sept— Activists accused the World Bank of failing to ensure that Chad invests newfound oil wealth in development, saying the money had only enriched foreign firms and political elites in one of the world’s poorest countries.

The World Bank helped set up what it calls unprecedented safeguards to manage the earnings in Africa’s newest oil pro-ducer, a test case of whether petrodollars can fight poverty on the continent’s head of fuelling conflict and corruption.

But campaigners say they have seen no sign of promised schools and roads since oil began flowing in 2003 via a pipeline through Cameroon built by a consortium led by US-based Exxon Mobil and partly funded by the World Bank. The four-billion-US-dollar Doba oil project, with its 620-mile pipeline to the Gulf of Guinea, is one of the biggest foreign investments in Africa.

“I want to tell the World Bank that all the publicity they made around this project has amounted to nothing,” said Urban Moyomboye, head of a group representing the Miandoum area in the southern oil exploit-ing region of Doba.

“The project is a complete failure. People continue to live in total pov-erty,” he told Reuters, speaking after meeting Cameroonian activists in the Cameroon capital Yaounde last week.

The World Bank issued a statement in July saying it was “very concerned” by findings in a report by Chad’s oil revenue oversight committee that cited irregularities in funds transfers, poor serv-ice delivery and opaque tender processes.

Chadian activists want the World Bank to take action to improve the monitoring of the oil revenue, which are expected to earn the government two billion US dollars over 25 years.

“After three years we are not seeing the promised fall-out of the project,” said Lydie Beassemda, of Chad’s Alternative Research and Monitoring Group, a watchdog run by activists. “What we expect from the World Bank today is to put pressure on the Chadian Government to respect its written un-ertaking to direct oil rev- enues to benefit the poor masses,” Beassemda said.

Chad’s Government has accused the consor-tium of oil firms of selling its crude too cheaply and not respecting a revenue-sharing contract, depriv-ing it of funds.

The other participants in the consortium are US firm Chevron Texaco and Malaysian state energy company Petronas.

MNA/Reuters
Message from Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO on the occasion of International Literacy Day

YANGON, 8 Sept—The following is the message of Director-General of UNESCO on the occasion of International Literacy Day which falls today.—Ed

Today we celebrate International Literacy Day 2005. It is a day for recognizing the achievement of large numbers of men and women around the globe who have newly gained access to communication through the written word. We congratulate them and applaud all those—literacy tutors, extension workers, teachers, community groups, friends, neighbours and family members—whose supportive efforts have been indispensable. International Literacy Day, however, is not an occasion for complacency. When there are approximately 800 million illiterate adults, when two-thirds of the world’s illiterate adults are women, and when over 100 million school-age children never attend school, we can be in no doubt that much remains to be done.

The scale and character of the global literacy challenge, furthermore, are greater than these statistics indicate, for two main reasons. First, it is evident that large numbers of children emerge from processes of primary education without a secure command of essential literacy competencies. Many developed countries, despite their highly organized and well-resourced education systems, are finding that a significant proportion of children have a limited grasp of core literacy skills. With far fewer resources and facing enormous problems of poverty, exclusion and marginalization, many developing countries are finding it difficult to staunch the flow of children who leave school barely able to read and write. Within a few years, many of these children will join the hidden ranks of the functionally illiterate.

Second, the limited availability of concrete opportunities for adults to acquire, maintain and improve their literacy skills and learning capacities means that hundreds of millions of people, especially women, are condemned to a lifetime of illiteracy. In the twenty-first century, such a situation is unconscionable.

It is to address both of these challenges, which are related to each other and linked to other educational and development problems, that the drive to achieve Education for All (EFA) has been mounted. Closely associated with EFA is the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012), led and coordinated by UNESCO, which aims at mobilizing greater national and international efforts to achieve the Dakar goal of reducing illiteracy rates by half by 2015.

This year, International Literacy Day is devoted to the role of literacy in sustainable development. This is especially fitting since 2005 has seen the launch of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), for which UNESCO is the lead agency and international coordinator.

As the foundation of all subsequent education, training and learning, literacy is essential for sustainable human development in today’s complex and fast-changing societies. In such societies, rudimentary literacy skills are not enough for effective communication and participation. In addition, literacy itself is acquiring new dimensions in response to technological and cultural change. Consequently, literacy capacities need to be supplemented and updated so that individuals can deal with changing conditions and new uncertainties with confidence. The sustainability of literacy demands such adaptation.

The fulcrum of the relationship between literacy and sustainable development is citizenship, understood not as a formal entitlement but as the active, creative and dynamic activity of people as they shape and re-shape their lives. In this perspective, literacy is a precondition of effective social participation and a tool of empowerment at individual and community levels. A flexible set of literacy-based capabilities is essential for meeting the challenge of sustainable development.

How we learn to adapt will determine our welfare and security, and perhaps our very survival.

Literacy programmes are useful and effective vehicles for transmitting ideas and information pertinent to education for sustainable development (ESD). In some cases, such as literacy projects linked to income generation or sustainable livelihoods, a close synthesis is possible. Meanwhile, the orientation of literacy programmes towards empowerment, inclusion and local relevance, is likely to be a powerful influence on ESD approaches, especially in non-formal settings.

On International Literacy Day 2005, I call upon governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to give renewed attention and support to literacy as a vital instrument for achieving sustainable development. In this month when the world’s leaders will meet in New York to examine progress since the Millennium Declaration five years ago, it is timely to recall that education in general and literacy in particular are vital means for achieving sustainability, which is rooted in human capacities and their development.—MNA
UN Secretary-General’s Message on International Literacy Day

Yangon, 8 Sept.— The following is the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of the International Literacy Day which falls today. — Ed

In this year that marks the start of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), the theme of International Literacy Day is the role of literacy in sustainable development.

Literacy is a key lever of change and a practical tool of empowerment on each of the three main pillars of sustainable development: economic development, social development and environmental protection.

Experience and research show that literacy can be a major tool for eradicating poverty, enlarging employment opportunities, advancing gender equality, improving family health, protecting the environment and promoting democratic participation. A literate home environment is a boon to child development, having a positive impact on how long girls and boys stay enrolled in school and how effectively they learn. In recent years, many literacy programmes have become increasingly oriented towards local needs, especially through a focus on community development and environmental protection. Such approaches seek to provide an enriched version of literacy that goes beyond the basic mechanics of reading and writing to embrace life skills and relevant content.

As the foundation of learning throughout life, literacy is at the heart of sustainable development. Yet today there are an estimated 800 million illiterate adults, two-thirds of whom are women. More than 100 million children are not in school. It is clear that support for literacy continues to fall well short of need. On this International Literacy Day, let us recall that literacy for all is an integral part of education for all, and that both are critical for achieving truly sustainable development.

UN Information Centre

Myanmar and UN Literacy Decade

U Thaung Tun

What is UNLD?

UNLD stands for the United Nations Literacy Decade. The UN General Assembly adopted unanimously a resolution in December 2001 and designated the year 2003-2012 as the UN Literacy Decade.

What are the forces to launch the UNLD?

There are three main reasons:

(1) The first one is the enormous volume of illiterates in the world of today. At present one in five people over the age of 15 cannot communicate through literacy or take any part in the surrounding literate environment. UNESCO spelled out that over 861 million adults are in that position. In addition, over 113 million children are not in school and therefore not gaining access to literacy either. In an interconnected world where literacy is a key to communicate, such exclusion is not desirable and acceptable.

(2) The second one is that literacy is a human right for every human being. Basic education within which literacy is the key learning tool has been recognized as a human right by all nations of the world. It is also reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is a scandal that this right continues to be violated for such a large portion of humanity.

(3) Thirdly, literacy efforts up to now at national and international levels have proved inadequate. In many countries these attempts have so far failed to reach the poorest and most marginalised groups of people.

You said about some forces behind it. Then what are the salient aims?

As far as my knowledge goes, they are:

(1) to encourage all nations of the world to extend and intensify literacy campaigns for those who do not currently have access to it.

(2) to assist those nations which face a big literacy challenge and need assistance to address these problems.

(3) to convince all nations to recognize that the promotion of literacy is in the interests of all, as part of efforts towards peace, respect and exchange in a globalizing world.

(4) to create locally sustainable literate environments which will give people opportunities to express their ideas and views, engage in effective learning, participate in the written communication and exchange knowledge with others.

If so, what is the main target?

The overall main target for the Decade coincides with one of the goals set by the World Education Forum held in Dakar, Senegal in 2000; i.e to realize the goal of increasing literacy rates by 50 per cent by 2015.

What is the literacy position in present Myanmar?

According to the latest statistical report, the literacy rate of the whole Union is 94.1%. It means Myanmar is one of the top countries in Asia in terms of literacy.

Could you give some contributing factors to reach this position?

In fact there are many factors to be accounted for. Some are visible, some are not. I would like to state only three major factors.

(1) Correct national literacy policy and strategy.

(2) Sound organization and management system based on centralized decentralism practices.

(3) Voluntary active participation of the people at all levels. Please explain an overall picture briefly.

Myanmar has set its own way to achieve the Vision and Mission of LFA (Literacy for All). Myanmar sees that the problem of illiteracy cannot be solved separately. Hence, the national literacy policy has been laid down in conjunction with the overall EFA(Education for All) policy. To realise the goals of EFA, it is necessary to attack all these problems in three main fronts namely LFA (Literacy for All), UPE (Universalization of Primary Education) and CE (Continuing Education) simultaneously. LFA is the curative aspect of illiteracy whereas UPE takes the role of prevention. Provisions of CE is the essential requirement for the sustainable, strengthening and raising the quality of literacy and education leading to poverty-reduction and socio-economic development.

Regarding the strategy for LFA, Myanmar EFA Central Coordinating Committee has assigned the Central Literacy Committee to launch LFA campaign by The Community with Community Participation mobilizing Local available Resources on Voluntary Basis in Selected Regions and Townships under The guidance of Literacy committees concerned.

You mentioned “centralised decentralism” practices. What does it mean?

In terms of organization and management, while the Central Literacy Committee has set the main national literacy policy and strategy, the State/Division and Township Literacy Committees are given freedom to implement the campaign in accordance with their local conditions within the framework of policy laid down by the CLC.

What are some striking features of the campaign?

The two features are its voluntary nature and the mode of funding. All the literacy classes are run and financed by the community on voluntary basis. I’m happy to mention that the cultural value of charity and voluntary free service to all literacy campaigns by the community have contributed to the success of fund raising and recruiting volunteer teachers for the literacy classes.

Any more information?

Yes. Another striking feature is the expansion and extension of special literacy campaigns to remote areas and border areas where many ethnic groups were denied access to have the skills to read and write for many years. These special literacy campaigns have been given due attention by the Literacy Committees concerned. More happy to state that Basic Education Departments, Myanmar Education Research Department, and the Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Department in cooperation with NGOs such as the USDA (the Union Solidarity and Development Association), MMCE (Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association) are not only taking keen interest but giving technical, materials and other necessary assistance to these campaigns also.

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Having gained the knowledge of comparative study of the State’s prevailing situations and international developments and changes to some extent, the trainees have learnt various subjects with political outlook, economic outlook, defence outlook and international outlook.
Local people to make efforts joining…

(from page 16)

At the briefing hall of the local battalion, Lt-Gen San Yu reported on construction of 86-mile-long earth road in Hopong Township. Upon completion, earth road will link Mongpyin Village in Hopong Township and Namllan Village in Hsipaw Township.

Next, in his report, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint said that Taunggyi-Indaw-Kyaikgu-Nawngkio Road and Loilem-Laikha- Mongkai-Panket-Hsipaw Road which link Shan State (North) and (South) have been constructed. Hopong-Mongpyin-Namllan-Hsipaw Road is under construction, he added.

After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said thanks to the road network in Shan State (South) and (North) and the region. Moreover, he also called for upgrading the road network underpins the peace and tranquility and development of the region, local people are to preserve and maintain roads and bridges to travel easily from one place to another and living standards of the local people has improved.

As the road network underpins the peace and tranquility, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint gave supplementary reports. After fulfilling their requirements, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that development of a district or a township depends not only on management of the government and tasks implementation of the departments but also on participation of the people individually. Maungtaw District, being a border area, is to strive for development of formal trade. He added that necessary plans are to be implemented for carrying out double cropping, boosting crops productivity and extending land reclamation in the region.

He asserted that it is necessary to put the land under new crop pepper as well as rubber on a commercial scale. The Government has laid and is implementing the plans of peace and stability, booming of economy and development of human resources for ensuring the emergence of a modern and developed nation. The Government, departments concerned and local people are to join hands among them for achieving success of the plans. He urged officials to go right down to grassroots level for carrying out their tasks.

So far, Maungtaw Township has put 150,608 acres of land under monsoon paddy against the target of 155,979 acres for 2005-06. After the cultivation season, cultivation acreage will exceed the targets.

At Maungtaw No 1 Gate, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party heard reports on functions of the Director’s Office of Border Trade Department (Maungtaw) by officials. In Taunggyo Letwe, officials briefed them on matters related to Taunggyo Letwe Town. Head of Rakhsa State Forest Department U Tin Aye reported on growing of mangrove on both sides of creeks that flow into Naff River.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials and social organization members and gave necessary instructions.

At Taungyo Letwe Hospital, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than was met by Medical Superintendent Dr Aung Kyaw Moe, and inspected the hospital. Similarly, he donated K100,000 to Taungyo Letwe BEHS to Headmaster U Tha Lu Chay. Next, they inspected the police station of Taungyo Letwe and left instructions. They oversaw plantation of pepper and rubber at Mingala Nursery of local battalions near Zeyathiri Tat Pagoda in Kyeekanyin Village and the rubber and pigeon pea plantations of Maungtaw Township War Veterans Organization near Nwayontaung Village. On arrival at the rubber nursery of MAS in Maungtaw, they looked into plantation of rubber.

The plan was set to grow 100,000 acres of rubber in Rakhsa State. Efforts are being made for cultivation of 30,000 acres of rubber within three years starting from 2005-06.

MNA
**Rakhine State has put 8,218 acres of...**

At present, Rakhine State has put 8,218 acres of land under rubber plantations. Myanma Agriculture Service planted 305,000 rubber saplings at nurseries in 11 townships. For extending rubber plantations, nine townships grow 960,000 rubber saplings at nurseries and establish seven grafting nurseries.

They next viewed round the 100 acres of pepper plantation of Forest Department in Maungtaw. They proceeded to the tunnel at mile post 7-7 of Buthidaung-Maungtaw Road. Officials reported on maintenance of the wall of the tunnel. The cave built by AC Martin Co in 1918 is located between mile posts 7/6 and 7/7 on the road. The tunnel is 658 feet long, 15.5 feet wide and 10.5 feet high. The breadth of the motorway in the cave is 10 feet. It is as the bridge-shaped tunnel three feet thick at 298.42 feet above sea level. Public Works will carry out maintenance tasks.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party spent the night in Buthidaung.

**Commander oversees development tasks in Taninthayi Division**

**YANGON, 7 Sept — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and wife Patron of Taninthayi Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Tin Tin Nwe attended the opening ceremony of the organizational course (basic) course at Pale Yadana Hall in Myeky on 22 August morning.

At Myeky Myothit Construction Project near Kyekyu-Kyaikphya Bridge, the commander heard reports on construction tasks by officials and attended to their needs.

The commander inspected sea prawn breeding tasks being jointly carried out by Fisheries Department and Tha Hsso Aung Co.

On 23 August, the commander attended the final match of Commander’s Shield Chess Tournament at Taing Yan Aung Hall of the command headquarters and presented prizes to the winners.

In the afternoon, he inspected functions of Applied Research Division of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise and the Rubber Research and Propagation Farm in Shweida Village, construction of the main building at Myeik University and health care services of Myeik General Hospital and Gynecological and Obstetric Hospital.

On 24 August, the commander met with officers, other ranks and family members of the local station at Taninthayi Hall in Kyunyi Township Chairman of Taninthay Division Maternal and Child welfare Supervisory committee Daw Tin Tin Nwe presented 100 dozens of exercise books and stationery to students of the local station.

The commander met with local authorities, departmental and local people at the Township PDC Office. Daw Tin Tin Nwe donated 200 dozens of exercise books for basic education schools to Township Education Officer U Tun Lin.

Next, they inspected Kattala Hydel Power Plant. On 29 August, the commander met with Taitmadawen at Dawei Station Hall and then, he also called for production of the Myanmar version of “Asian Copyright Handbook” which meets the needs of Myanmar.

At the opening session of the workshop, Director-General of Asian General Manager of Copyright Agency Limited, Australia, on Copyright for creators and copyright in Asian countries, U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Director, Attorney General’s Office, on Copyright in Myanmar since 1914, Mr Daiki Tetsuro, Director of Intellectual Property management Section, Shogakukan Publishing Inc, on Friends or enemies? On the relationship between Authors and Publishers and U Kyaw Zaw Naing, Lecturer in Law Department, University of Yangon, on Problems and Prospects of Copyright for Myanmar Today. The resource persons replied to queries raised by those present. The workshop will last three days.

**22nd Congress on Law of World opens in Beijing**

**BEIJING, 6 Sept — The 22nd Congress on the Law of the World opened here on Monday. Luo Gan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of Chinese General**

Luo said it was the second time for China to host the Congress on the Law of the World. The 14th Congress held in Beijing in 1990 was very successful. The Beijing Declaration adopted at that Congress has had wide-ranging impacts and demonstrated the aspiration of the legal field to promote world peace and development by legal means. The current Congress’s theme — the Rule of Law and Harmony of International Society — is of highly realistic significance.

Luo said in the era of globalization, countries in the world have their interests intertwined, depend on each other for security and have common opportunities and common challenges.

“We should work together to forge a new international order with fairness and justice. We should establish a harmonious international community based on equal participation, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation for all the nations,” he said.

Xiao Yang, Chief Justice and president of the Supreme People’s Court said at the opening ceremony that to realize the rule of law in the world, we should build a harmonious international society to establish on the common, sovereign and progressive power of all over the world.

To maintain the rule of law is a common subject for all the countries, no matter the legally developed ones or legally developing ones.

“Therefore, communication among the legal professionals of the countries all over the world should be strengthened, so as to realize common development and progress. I believe the Congress will further the communication in the legal field and promote the progress of the world’s rule of law,” Xiao said. **— MNA**
**MMICWA holds cookery contest to mark 2005 Nutrition Week Activities**

YANGON, 7 Sept — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized the cookery contest and prize presentation ceremony to mark the 2005 Nutrition Week Activities at the hall of the association at the corner of Thanlwyn and Parami Roads in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, CEC members, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay and members, Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of Health Department, officials of UN agencies, members of MMCWA and social organizations and guests.

First, President Daw Khin Khin Win gave an opening speech. Next, Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of Health Department explained matters concerning the nutrition week activities.

President Daw Khin Khin Win presented first, second and third prizes to Dagon Myothit (South) Township MCWA, South Okkalapa Township MCWA and Dagon Myothit (North) Township MCWA respectively in the cookery contest.

The cookery course was conducted on 6 September. This morning, three teams participated in the contest. President Daw Khin Khin Win and party viewed the participation of the teams in the contest.

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**Winners of ASEAN Radio Quiz**

YANGON, 7 Sept — The ASEAN in Action plan is being implemented through the radio programme of the Myanmar Radio and Television. Facts about Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are aired on radio at 9:45 a.m. on Saturdays.

The ASEAN Quiz for the programmes broadcast in August 2005 was held at the MRTV yesterday morning. The first prize went to U Aung Saw Tha of Minbya in Mandalay Division, the third to Maung Tun Tun Win of Bago in Bago Division, the second to Ma Su Khin Lay Oo of Meiktila in Mandalay Division, the third to Maung Tun Tun Win of Bago in Bago Division, and the consolation prize to U Min Min Zeya Min of Katha in Sagaing Division. — MNA

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**Netherlands to hold Chinese culture festival**

BEIJING, 7 Sept — The Netherlands will hold a Chinese culture festival this October in its capital Amsterdam, visiting Vice-Minister of Culture Medy van der Laan said here Tuesday afternoon.

The Netherlands and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cultural cooperation on Monday in Beijing, which stressed that the two sides will develop the existing cultural cooperation to their mutual benefit, the official told a Press conference in its Embassy in Beijing. The two countries will encourage collaboration between cultural organizations and institutions with the aim of presenting cultural activities in each other country, according to the MoU. — MNA/Xinhua

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**US sub hits Turkish cargo ship, no injuries**

MANAMA, 6 Sept — A United States Navy submarine collided with a Turkish cargo ship on Monday off the coast of the Gulf state of Bahrain, but there were no injuries, the Navy said.

The Navy Fifth Fleet said in a statement the USS Philadelphia had hit the Turkish-flagged MV Yaso Ayseyn about 30 nautical miles northeast of the Gulf Arab island state.

The submarine was heading to Bahrain for a scheduled port visit and was not damaged in the collision, the statement added. — MNA/Reuters
Iran offers help over Katrina

TEHRAN, 6 Sept—
Iran on Sunday offered to send humanitarian aid to victims of hurricane Katrina, becoming the latest US ally to extend assistance to the country often dubbed the “Great Satan” in the Islamic republic.

“The victims have come about as a lack of timely assistance and we are prepared to send our contributions to the people through the Red Crescent,” said Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi.

Speaking at a weekly news conference, Asefi noted that Iran, which Washington has dubbed an “axis of evil” member and accuses of developing nuclear weapons and sponsoring terrorism, had been among the first to send condolences after Katrina hit.

“If Iran’s help is needed and requested, we will respond to the call, however we should make sure first that there is such a request,” he said.

Fellow “axis of evil” member North Korea, as well as staunch US critics Cuba and Venezuela, have also offered to send help to the victims of Katrina. MNA/Reuters

S’pore PM sends condolence letter to Susilo on air crash

SINGAPORE, 6 Sept—
Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Monday sent a letter of condolence to Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on the air crash which happened in Medan earlier on Sunday.

Lee said in the message that he was deeply saddened to learn of the air crash with the considerable loss of life, which includes the Governor of North Sumatra Tengku Rizal Nurdin. “We had worked closely with him in advancing Singapore- North Sumatra economic cooperation and, more recently, in the aftermath of the tsunami that struck Aceh in December 2004,” Lee said in the letter.

A Boeing 737-200 passenger plane bound for Indonesian budget carrier Mandala Airlines crashed into a residential area in the North Sumatra capital of Medan minutes after take-off on Monday morning, killing more than 140 people aboard and on the ground.—MNA/Xinhua

Lee Kuan Yew confident of Indonesian market

SINGAPORE, 6 Sept—
Singapore’s Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew said that the fall of Indonesian currency rupiah and stock is a temporary situation, according to Channel NewsAsia on Monday.

During an interview by Bloomberg Television, Lee also expressed his confidence in the eventual stabilization of the Indonesian market, saying that the current situation is different from that in 1997 as well as the Asian financial crisis.

“I don’t see the same situation as in 1997. Then, Indonesia was exposed with 180 billion worth of debts, in US dollars. There are no debts. There is about 30 billion in foreign exchange reserves, US dollars. So, this is more a psychological problem of the market, particularly with forex dealers,” Lee was quoted as saying.

He added that the pace of stabilization depends on the amount of oil subsidies the Indonesian Government will cut in October, as well as the economic effects of a social programme it will launch to help the poorest people against these subsidy removals.

The Indonesian economy is struggling to deal with the severe impact of high international oil prices and an ailing rupiah, which plunged to a four-year low last week. MNA/Xinhua

Typhoon “Nabi” hits southern Japan

TYO, 6 Sept—Powerful Typhoon Nabi was battering southern Japan with torrential rain and high winds on Tuesday, causing floods and landslides, snarling road transport and forcing people to flee their homes.

Police said one man was missing, believed to have been buried in a landslide that engulfed a home, and 10 others were injured.

At 9:00 a.m. (0000 GMT), the eye of the storm was about 40 kilometres (25 miles) southwest of Kushikino, near the southern tip of the mountainous island of Kyushu, Japan’s third biggest main island and home to about 10 percent of the country’s population.

Winds had weakened slightly, but were gusting up to 144 kilometres an hour at the storm’s centre. Japan Meteorological Agency said. Nabi — “butterfly” — in Korean, was moving north at 20 kilometres an hour but was forecast to swing east and beat a path up the Japan Sea coast, affecting much of Japan over the next few days.

Television showed roads deep under water in the city of Kagoshima and winds whipping at coastal roads on the island, which has a mixture of heavy industry and agriculture.

More than 70,000 people were being advised to evacuate from the city of Nobeoka in Oita Prefecture for fear that nearby rivers might burst their banks, public broadcaster NHK said. About 800,000 kilometres (320,000) of rain had fallen in some parts of Kyushu in 24 hours, NHK said.

The slow pace at which the typhoon is moving is expected to ease later this week as rains are expected to fall before Nabi moves on.

Hundreds of flights in and out of Kyushu and the neighbouring island of Shikoku were cancelled because of the high winds, as were high-speed “bullet” train services in western Japan.—MNA/Reuters
Annan says US should support UN development goals

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Sept — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan predicted on Monday the United States would fail in its efforts to delete the phrase “Millennium Development Goals” from a document on wide-ranging UN reforms world leaders are to approve at a summit next week.

The goals, enunciated at a 2000 UN summit, describe eight objectives on poverty, hunger, primary education, AIDS and others, with dates to implement them. Days before the largest gathering of world leaders in history on 14-16 September, UN ambassadors were still engaged in marathon negotiations to overcome deep divisions on how to tackle extreme poverty and enhance human rights, UN management reforms and global security.

“I think the idea of expunging the phrase “Millennium Development Goals” from the document is not on,” Annan told BBC World Service radio.

“It’s a phrase that has been embraced by the whole world,” he said. “And this is why I think that anyone braced by the whole world,” he said.

And this is why I think that anyone braced by the whole world,” he said.

The United States proposed that “Millennium Development Goals” be substituted by “internationally-agreed development goals” from a document on wide-ranging UN reforms world leaders are to approve at a summit next week.

US Ambassador John Bolton maintains some of the language went further than what the United States had agreed to in previous conferences and that the United Nations was trying to paper over differences that had existed for years. But Annan insisted most of the 191 UN member states disagreed with the US position.

Annan says terrorism in Iraq worse than Afghanistan

LONDON, 6 Sept — The US-led invasion of Iraq has turned the country into a new hub of terrorism worse than Afghanistan under Taleban, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Monday.

Annan, who has called the 2003 US-British invasion that toppled Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein illegal, told Britain’s BBC World Service radio that war there, was contributing to Muslim anger throughout the world.

“I think there are many Muslims that are extremely unhappy today. Unhappy because they feel victimized, they feel isolated, they feel victimized in their own society, they feel victimized in the West, and they feel this profiling against them. And the Iraq situation has not helped matters”, he said.

“In fact one used to be worried about Afghanistan being the centre of terrorist activities; my sense is that Iraq has become a major problem and in fact it’s worse than Afghanistan.”

The question of whether the Iraq war has inspired Islamic militancy has come to the fore in many countries, notably in Britain since suicide bombers killed 52 people in attacks on London on 7 July.

Prime Minister Tony Blair has accused militants of using Iraq and Afghanistan as an excuse for attacks and for recruitment. Leaked documents showed his security services had warned that war would inspire terrorism at home. Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda network, which is blamed for the 11 September, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington, was based in Afghanistan until US-led forces ousted the Islamist Taleban movement from power later the same year.

Annan last year told the BBC in an interview that the 15-member UN Security Council should have approved the Iraq invasion. Asked whether the invasion broke international law, Annan said.

MNA/Reuters

Mayor says Hurricane Katrina may kill 10,000

WASHINGTON, 6 Sept — Although body counting in New Orleans and other hurricane-ravaged areas in the United States will not be completed in weeks, the city’s mayor warned Monday that the killer storm may have claimed some 10,000 lives.

A week after the hurricane, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin warned on NBC’s “Today” that “it wouldn’t be unreasonable” that the death toll could be as high as 10,000.

Meanwhile, he said “great progress” has been made in the federal and local relief efforts and the momentum has picked up. “I’m starting to see some critical tasks being completed,” he said.

Federal officials had earlier predicted that the death toll might skyrocket. “I think it is evident it’s in the thousands.” US Health and Human Service Secretary Michael Leavitt said Sunday.

In the first official count in New Orleans, Louisiana, authorities have verified 59 deaths.

Adding to the misery of the devastated city, some 400 to 500 local policemen from New Orleans’, 1,600-strong police force were unaccounted for.

Meanwhile, long lines of vehicles crawled into Jefferson Parish west of the city early Monday as residents were allowed to return to salvage what was left of their homes. — MNA/Reuters

Singapore urged to build new bridge linking with Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 Sept — Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar on Sunday urged the Singaporean Government to agree to Malaysia’s proposal to build a new bridge to replace the existing causeway linking the two countries.

Malaysia definitely wants to build a new bridge over the Straits of Johor and hopes Singapore will show the same spirit of cooperation as it did in settling the issue of land reclamations, Syed said.

“Although the new bridge issue has not been resolved, we believe it can be done through consultation,” Syed was quoted as saying by local media. Senior officials of the two countries will meet next week in Malaysia’s administrative centre of Putrajaya to discuss about the bridge and other issues, Syed told reporters in Kota Tinggi in the southern state of Johor.

MNA/Xinhua

Typhoon Nabi to affect east China

BEIJING, 6 Sept — Typhoon Nabi, number 14 of this year which is moving northwestward, will affect some coastal cities in east China since 5 September, said an official with China Meteorological Administration (CMA) at the Monday Press conference.

Wang Bangzhong, deputy director of CMA’s weather forecast and disaster relief department, said affected by Nabi, the coastal areas in east and north-east China will see stormy weather from 5 to 7 September.

It will also bring heavy rainfalls to the Shandong Peninsula and the east edge of Northeast China, the official said. The CMA reports said from June through August this year, four typhoons landed in China, among which

Hangtang and Matsa were the most destructive.

According to the deputy chief, 46.12 million people suffered from the typhoons, which claimed 42 lives and left six others missing. The typhoons damaged 2.58 million hectares of farmland and pulled down 920,000 houses, causing a direct economic loss amounting to 32.76 billion yuan (4.04 billion US dollars) in the afflicted regions.

MNA/Xinhua

China is expected to launch the 22nd expedition to the South Pole in November, aiming primarily to collect meteorites on the Grove Mountain area, an official said on 21 August, 2005. — INTERNET
Brazil scramble draw in Sevilla centenary match

Sevilla (Spain), 7 Sept—Five-time world champions Brazil narrowly avoided defeat against Sevilla when an own goal by defender Pablo Alfaro allowed them to square a 1-1 draw at the Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium on Tuesday. The Spaniards looked as though they would give their fans a night to remember in a match to mark the club’s centenary when new signing Frederic Kanoute put them ahead early in the second half. But Sevilla skipper Alfaro cut short the celebrations when he turned the ball into his own net six minutes from time. Brazil, who sealed qualification for the 2006 World Cup when they crushed Chile 5-0 at the weekend, looked a little jaded at the start and Sevilla enjoyed the best of the early play. However, the visitors got into their stride as the half wore on and Sevilla keeper Antonio Notario had to react quickly to stop snap shots from Kaka and Robinho. Brazil striker Adriano beat Notario with a neat chipped finish in the 20th minute but his shot shved the outside of the far post.

Brazil keeper Dida then produced a great reflex save to block a sharp close range effort from Sevilla striker Javier Saviola and both sides had the ball in the net before halftime, only for their efforts to be ruled out for borderline offside.

Sevilla should have taken the lead when Luis Fabiano was put clear early in the second half but the Brazilian took too long to shoot and gave the defence time to recover. Seven minutes later the home crowd were given something to cheer when former Tottenham Hotspur striker Kanoute scored. He raced onto a masterful through ball from youngster Jesus Navas and then watched as Dida fumbled his near post drive.

But just when it looked as though Sevilla were set for a memorable victory, Alfaro turned the ball into his own net after a tearing cross from Adriano rebounded off the post into his path.

Brazilian defender Henrique then turned the ball into his own net in the 77th minute when he failed to read Udinese goalkeeper Marco Amelia’s no-look reaction save.

Brazilian captain Ronaldinho, who netted his second goal of the season, said: “The most important thing was to win the match. The other thing that’s important is to qualify for the World Cup. But we knew the match would be tough and it was always going to be difficult.”

Brazilian manager Dunga also said: “The most important thing was we did not lose. We were a little bit more nervous in the second half when we didn’t have the ball but overall it was a good game.”

But the Spaniards were not satisfied with a point and said they needed to improve to beat Brazil again in their next European qualifying match. Sevilla goalkeeper Vaclav Kolarik said: “We are disappointed with the result but we are happy with the performance. We played well against a very strong team.”

The result means that Brazil will now have to travel to South Africa in November to face Mozambique in their next World Cup qualifier. The match will be the first meeting between the two nations since Brazil beat Mozambique 4-0 in the 1990 World Cup qualifying round. Sevilla will face Real Madrid in their next match at the Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium on Tuesday. 

Angry Solano blames directors for Peru flop

Lima, 7 Sept—Peru midfielder Nilberto Solano has blamed the country’s football directors for yet another flop in the World Cup qualifying competition.

“The directors are to blame for our elimination,” said Solano, who missed Saturday’s humiliating 4-1 defeat away to Venezuela after falling out with coach Freddy Termero. “They don’t respect long-term projects and they stop backing the coach because of an adverse result,” he told the Andina news agency.

The Newcastle United player also called for the seven-man national team committee, which analyses the performance of the coach and players, to be scrapped. “There are lots of them, but they don’t have the international experience nor the necessary knowledge to decide on the team’s destiny,” he said.

Solano said the directors had failed to back former coach Paulo Autuori, who resigned in April following interference by the Peruvian Congress. The Brazilian coach was furious after the Congress summoned him before a special commission to justify his salary.

He was replaced by Termero, under whom Peru have suffered two heavy defeats in their last three qualifying games.

Peru, who last qualified for the World Cup in 1982, have allowed nine goals in their last three qualifying games. Peru, who last qualified for the World Cup in 1982, have allowed nine goals in their last three qualifying games.

The result means that Peru’s hopes of qualifying for the World Cup are virtually impossible and they will now have to rely on a combination of goal difference and other results in their remaining matches.

By contrast, Brazil, who have already secured their place in the World Cup finals, will now focus on their remaining matches to consolidate their position at the top of the South American qualifying group.

Real deny reports of Salgado loan deal

Madrid, 7 Sept—Real Madrid have denied reports they have agreed a deal to loan Spanish international right back Michel Salgado to Juventus during the January transfer window. “Despite the reports that have appeared in the Spanish and Italian media which include alleged declarations from the player about a loan move, we would like to make it clear that he made no such comments and the club is not considering loaning him to another team,” Real said in a statement on their web site.

The speculation about Salgado’s future started after Real’s decision to sign Spanish defender Sergio Ramos from Sevilla for 27 million euros (33.70 million US dollars) and their announcement that they have secured an option to buy Brazil right back Cicinho.

Salgado, who will be 30 in October, joined Real from Celta Vigo in 1999 and is under contract to the club until 2009.

G14 clubs join Charleroi lawsuit challenging FIFA

London, 7 Sept—Europe’s top clubs have joined Belgian first division team Charleroi in a lawsuit challenging world soccer’s governing body FIFA over the terms under which players are called up for international duty.

The G14 wants clubs to be compensated when players are injured representing national teams and is backing Charleroi’s claim for financial help after Abdelmajid Oulmers was out for eight months when he tore ankle ligaments playing for Morocco. The Charleroi midfielder was injured in a friendly against Burkina Faso last November and missed the rest of the season. The club is not considering loaning him to another team, “It is G14’s wish to seek a once and for all clarification of these regulations and they are legal, it is sensible for us to join this case,” the club said.

FIFA, which refuses to negotiate with the G14, has always maintained it is up to national associations to reimburse clubs for players on international duty and is not the responsibility of the world governing body.

FIFA says 75 per cent of the profits from major tournaments such as the World Cup are ploughed back into the national associations who decide themselves what to do with the money.

The legal case brought by Charleroi officially opened on Monday and which represents Europe’s 18 richest and most powerful clubs, has joined the proceedings by filing an ‘application for voluntary intervention’.

A statement on the G14 website said: ‘FIFA is determined to oppose Charleroi’s claim and any other club that wishes to challenge FIFA. It is the responsibility of clubs to make their own agreement with the leagues and national associations of the various countries.’

The case is due to be heard in Brussels in February 2006.

Beckham turns on Butcher in spat of captains

Belfast, 7 Sept—David Beckham has issued a rebuke to criticism from former England captain Terry Butcher, saying it was said the Motherwell manager had descended to that level.

In a Sunday newspaper headline “Becks is a liability, his legs have gone”, Butcher said Beckham lacked the pace and energy for wide midfield and was “completely vulnerable” in the centre where he played in Saturday’s 1-0 win over Wales.

Beckham began his retaliation on Tuesday by saying he would never sit in judgement on his successors as England captain.

“I respect all former England players who have worn the shirt and captained their country,” he told reporters as he prepared for Wednesday’s World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland. “You’ll never see me come out and criticize any captain in the future or in the past because I respect them. At the end of the day everyone has their opinion.”

“But I do find it a little bit sad that people drop to that level sometimes to criticise players, and I’m not just talking about myself, but some of the other players in the team.”

“I respect Terry Butcher as a footballer and an England captain... he’s got his right to his opinion. There’s no point in me questioning him about it because he’s put it on a double-page spread. ‘I’d rather he said it to my face, personally, but that’s the way it is these days.’

As for the doubts over his physical shape, Beckham retorted: “My fitness level is the same as it was five years ago.”

He was below par at the Euros but Butcher has been ebbing since he fired England to the 2002 World Cup finals.

Hampered by injury, he was below par at the Euros but Butcher has been ebbing since he fired England to the 2002 World Cup finals.

Former Liverpool and Scotland defender Alan Hansen expressed doubts about Beckham’s standing and scepticism over his new position in an article on Monday headlined “English love affair with Beckham nears its end”.

“Never in a million years is David Beckham going to evolve into a holding midfielder,” Hansen wrote, a comment which drew a laconic response from the England skipper. “I’m glad he’s not the England manager because I wouldn’t be in the team,” he said. Beckham, who remains convinced of his abilities in any position but aware of the sceptics.

Venus Williams of the US reacts after a missed point against Kim Clijsters of Belgium in their quarterfinal match at the US Open tennis tournament in Flushing Meadows, New York, on 6 September, 2005. Clijsters won the match 4-6, 7-5, 6-1.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

The Independent
Indonesia passenger plane makes emergency landing

JAKARTA, 7 Sept — A Boeing 737-400 belonging to Indonesian flag carrier Garuda Indonesia made an emergency landing on the Sumatra Province of Riau on Tuesday morning due to engine failure.

“The pilot told us one of the engines shut off. He asked all passengers to remain calm as he managed to control the situation,” Azwar Anaz, a legislator aboard the plane, quoted as saying by the Detikcom online news service shortly after the incident.

The plane carried 92 passengers, including Minister of Social Affairs Bachtiar Camitay and five legislators.

The engine problems came 40 minutes after departing from the Polonia Airport in Medan, where another Boeing 737 crashed on Monday killing 149 people on board and on the ground.

Passengers said they heard small explosion before Captian Sori Bagus announced the engine failure on the right wing. The plane was en route to Jakarta. “The pilot decided to make an emergency landing at the nearest airport,” Anaz said. The plane landed safely on the Pekanbaru Airport in the provincial capital of Pekanbaru. — MNA/Xinhua

CASH DONATED: Daw Mya Mya Si and family of crashed on Monday killing 149 people on board and on 7:50 am

Nabi kills at least nine in Japan

TOKYO, 7 Sept — Typhoon Nabi faded into a tropical storm and headed into the Sea of Japan on Wednesday after killing at least nine people on the southern Japanese island of Kyushu.

Thirteen people were missing and at least 80 were injured as Nabi drenched parts of Japan’s third biggest island with more than 1,000 millimetres (40 inches) of rain, triggering floods and landslides, authorities said.

One person was also missing in South Korea. Television pictures showed rescue workers and military personnel hunting for survivors among wrecked houses.

Police said at least 48 houses were badly damaged or destroyed completely and close to 5,000 houses had been flooded.

At the height of the storm, over 250,000 people fled their homes for evacuation centres throughout southwestern Japan, the Yomuri newspaper said.

About 80,000 households in Kyushu were still without electricity at 9 am (0000 GMT), Kyushu Electric Power said.

Floodwaters in many areas were already drying back by Wednesday morning, officials said.

“There are some low-lying areas that are still flooded, a lot of the water has gone down already,” said an official with the government in Miyazaki Prefecture, some of whose towns were particularly hard-hit.

Nearly 300 people spent the night on a train at Osaka Station after being stranded when the storm halted rail services, Kyodo News agency said.

Japan’s Meteorological Agency forecast that Nabi, whose name means “butterfly” in Korean, would travel northeast, skimming the country’s western coast and hitting Hokkaido, the northernmost of the country’s main islands, on Thursday.

The agency warned of heavy rains, high winds and possible flooding and landslides across northern Japan. — MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Wednesday, 7 September, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Shan, Kayin and Rakhine States Magway Division, widespread in Chin, Mon States and Yangon Division and scattered in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myingyan (1.54) inches, Yangon Kaba-Aye (1.19) inches, Loikaw, Namsam Yangon (Mingaladon) and Hmawbi (Agro Met) (0.02) inches each, Pyinuma (0.63) inch, Kanbalu (0.55) inch, Chaik and Yamethin (0.28) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 6-9-2005 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 7-9-2005 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-9-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 6-9-2005 was 6.5 hrs approx.

Rainfalls on 7-9-2005 were (1.02) inches at Mingaladon, (1.19) inches at Kaba-Aye and (1.38) inches at the central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 74.01 inches at Mingaladon, 77.17 inches at Kaba-Aye and 81.54 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from East at (12:20) hours MST on 6-9-2005.

Bay information: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed in the Northeastern Bay. Monsoon is weak in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-9-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Shan and Kayah States, and Magway Division, widespread in Mon State, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Mon-Tanintharyi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Seas will be slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of southeastward of Southwest monsoon from central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-9-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-9-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

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Local people to make efforts joining hands with authorities for ensuring smooth transport
Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects regional development tasks in Shan State (South)

Yangon, 7 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint on 5 September inspected regional development tasks in Shan State (South).

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win left here for Shan State on 5 September morning, and Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Brig-Gen Mya Win of Kalaw Station, Brig-Gen Thaung Htaik of Aungpan Station and senior military officers welcomed him at Heho Airport.

First, they inspected Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung road section of Heho-Shwenyaung and mixed cropping plantations of maize and beans and pulses near Pinphyit Village on Nyaungshwe-Yaksawk Road in Yaksawk Township.

Next, they visited Hsatthe Village in Yaksawk Township and a townelder U Ki and party welcomed them. At the meeting with local residents, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win urged the formers to make efforts joining hands with authorities for ensuring smooth transport in the region.

As development of the region depends on the transportation, better transportation will ensure the smooth flow of goods. Moreover, living standards of the local people will be improved. In addition, peace and tranquility will prevail in the region and implementation of development tasks will meet with success, he added.

Regarding the agriculture, he also urged local farmers to grow quality strains using modern cultivation methods.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected thriving mixed cropping of maize and pigeon peas cultivated by PaO national farmers on the other side of Hsatthe-Myeme-Mongpyin road.

In Hsatthe region, there are 5,250 acres of maize and 1,700 acres of pigeon peas.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party proceeded to Mongpyin Village in Hopong Township. (See page 9)

Rakhine State has put 8,218 acres of land under rubber plantations against the target of 100,000 acres
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than looks into development tasks in Maungtaw District

Yangon, 7 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence arrived at Sittway Airport on 4 September afternoon. He was welcomed by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station and officials.

Accompanied by the commander and party, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than proceeded to Maungtaw via Buthidaung by boat. On 5 September morning, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with officers, other ranks and family members of Maungtaw Station at the hall and attended to their needs.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on completion of monsoon paddy and per-acres yield presented by District Manager of Myanma Agriculture Service U Hla Soe at Kyeekanbyin Village-tract in Maungtaw Township.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on growing of rubber plantations at the hilly areas near the paddy fields and viewed broadcasting of fertilizers.

Next, they over-saw thriving monsoon paddy plantations along both sides of Maungtaw-Kyeekanbyin Road.

At Thiri Mingala Hall in Maungtaw, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with local authorities, local people, social organizations and gave instructions on regional development. He heard (See page 9)