Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
From theory to practice

Our national goal is emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democracy and it is only through the united strength of the entire national people that our common goal can be realized.

Being one of the national forces, the Union Solidarity and Development Association is taking an active part in the construction of a modern and developed nation. For the members of the association to be able to do their bit in the national development endeavours, various courses designed to hone their abilities and skills are regularly conducted.

The concluding ceremony of the Myanmar and International Studies Course No 9 organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at the training centre of the association in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 7 September, and it was attended by member of the USDA Central Panel of Patrons Prime Minister General Soe Win.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister urged the trainees to adhere to “our three main national causes”, to strive for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and disciplined-flourishing democratic nation with Union Spirit and to put into practice what they had learnt at the course. New generation youths who would take the leadership role in the future Myanmar society should fully realize the value of the Union, Union Spirit, sovereignty and independence and defend the Union. And in building the nation into a modern and developed democratic nation, they must do so in accordance with the national policies and political programmes.

The USDA regularly conducts various courses with the aim of turning out citizens with deep conviction and high efficiency. At the Myanmar and international studies courses, lectures on national politics and security, political, economic and social developments of the nation and international affairs are given. As a result, the trainees have been able to make a comparative study of Myanmar and international affairs.

We believe that the new generation youths will actively take part in the construction of a peaceful, modern and developed nation by upholding “our three main national causes” and by correctly applying what they have learnt at the course to their practical life.

## PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 9 September, 2005

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

### Commander inspects tax free markets

**YANGON, 8 Sept**

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected Konymintha Tax-Free Market, Nawade Tax-free Market, Yankin Tax-free Market, Tamway Tax-free Market, Hanthawady Tax-free Market and Pantaya Lane Tax-free Market in Yangon City this morning.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe oversaw the sales of the household goods, vegetable and egg, fish and meat, rice and oil vendors in the markets, and cordially greeted the shoppers and shopkeepers. The commander then fulfilled the requirements.—MNA

### Nine-Precepts to be administered on 10 September

**YANGON, 8 Sept** — Joint-Creet Member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nayadaw of Shwe taung Pali University in Yan an young, Magway Division, Nayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikahyana Bhaddanta Tejaniya will administer the Nine Precepts on 10 September (Saturday) after morning session of Myanmar Radio and Television.—MRTV

### Foreign Minister felicitates Tajikistan counterpart

**YANGON, 9 Sept** — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Talbak Nazarov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Tajikistan, which falls on 9 September, 2005.—MNA

### Cash donated for rural area development

**YANGON, 8 Sept** — Central Executive Committee Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association In-charge of Mon State U Ohn Myint on 5 September went to Laming, Ye Township, Mon State, and accepted cash donated by local residents to be spent on rural area development.

At the cash donation ceremony organized by Laming USDA, the CEC member also accepted USDA membership applications. An official of Laming USDA also awarded outstanding students who passed matriculation exam for 2005 academic year with distinctions.

During his tour of Mon State, USDA CEC Member U Ohn Myint also met with Thanbyuzayat Township USDA members at the township USDA office and called for implementation of future tasks laid down by the association.

### National Workshop for the Copyright Awareness continues

**YANGON, 8 Sept** — A National Workshop for the Copyright Awareness and the Utilization and Production of the Myanmar Version of “Asian Copyright Handbook” continued today at Traders Hotel. At the workshop, matters related to collecting the data for the handbook were discussed by two groups.

Present on the occasion were CEC members of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, officials of ACCU, departmental officials, lawyers, resource persons and advisers. Afterwards, the participants took part in the discussions on copyright problems, writing, publishing, music creation, composing songs, buying and use of video plays.

Next, resource persons and advisers answered the queries raised by those present. Soon after holding the workshop, “Asian Copyright Handbook” will be published in Myanmar version with the additional supplement of materials related to the knowledge on copyright.

MNA
Expert warns of water reduction in River Nile basin

KAMPALA, 7 Sept—An expert has warned that a rapid increase in demand for livestock will put enormous pressure on water resources around the River Nile basin in future, according to local reports on Tuesday.

The Director General of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) based in Ethiopia, Carlos Sere was quoted by local media as saying that demand for livestock products will put enormous pressure on water resources and that the importance of livestock in managing water resources in the Nile basin has been overlooked.

Sere was speaking at the opening of a regional conference on the Nile basin livestock productivity in Kampala on Monday.

The conference under the theme of “developing a shared vision for livestock production” has drawn participants from Uganda, Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia. Sere said the Nile basin water sustains life for about 200 million people from 10 African countries.

“The Nile basin is home to about 200 million people. Water is the key resource determining their presence. Livestock are key to people’s livelihood and currently utilize a significant part of water,” Sere said. He said with population predicted to double by 2025, all countries that are sustained by the Nile basin waters face a major challenge of feeding their growing population.

“Already water shortages constrain food production in many parts of the River Nile basin, producing more food will require more water unless producers and food processors use the available water more efficiently,” he added. —MNA/Xinhua

Six die in El Salvador from heavy rains

SAN SALVADOR, 7 Sept—At least six people died in El Salvador on Tuesday when heavy rains caused a wall to collapse and triggered landslides, officials said.

In Ciudad Delgado, northeast of the capital San Salvador, a 19-year-old woman, her one-year-old child and a 24-year-old man were buried in a landslide, national emergency agency Coen said.

Two others may have died in Delgado, although that was not confirmed. Another person died in a mudslide in Mejicanos, north of the capital. And in San Marcos to the south, a mother and her young child were killed when a wall collapsed on top of them.

El Salvador’s ground is soaked and rivers swollen from weeks of intense rains, causing danger for neighbourhoods built on steep mountainsides and riverbanks.

Officials rescued 45 families on Tuesday, including six people injured in mudslides, on the edge of Ilopango lake to the east of San Salvador. —MNA/Reuters

Car bomb blast wounds 6 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 8 Sept—A car bomb struck a convoy of four-wheel drive vehicles usually used by foreign contractors in Baghdad on Wednesday, wounding one of the vehicles, wounding an occupant and five Iraqi civilians, police said.

“A car parked on the side of a road in Baghdad’s Karada District near a gas station detonated at about 9:00 am (0500 GMT) as a convoy of sport utility vehicles (SUV) was passing by destroying one of vehicles,” police officer Captain Ahmed Abdullah told Xinhua.

Boeing wins Singapore's fighter replacement contract

SINGAPORE, 7 Sept—Singapore has chosen American Boeing's F-15 for its Next Fighter Replacement Programme (NFRP), according to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) on Tuesday. “MINDEF is now in the process of seeking final clarifications and contract negotiation with Boeing,” the spokesperson said in a statement.

It knocked French Dassault's Rafale out of the bid for the NFRP contract worth more than one billion US dollars.

In April this year, the ministry ruled the Eurofighter Typhoon out from its selection, saying that the fighter’s systems and the supplier’s committed schedule for the delivery did not meet the requirements.

Singapore tightens phone card rules in terror fight

SINGAPORE, 7 Sept—Singapore said on Tuesday it is to tighten controls on pre-paid mobile phone cards to prevent their use in possible terror attacks on the city-state.

Pre-paid cards, which can be bought easily in many countries around the world with no need for identification, have been used to remotely trigger explosives in several terror attacks, including last year’s Madrid train blasts.

“In the region, we have seen elements of the Jemaah Islamiah using pre-paid cards extensively to avoid detection and sometimes to rig improvised explosive devices”, Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Wong Kan Seng said in a statement.

He said the government had worked with local telecoms operators to put in place a “practical” regulatory regime to be implemented by November. Singapore has repeatedly warned its citizens that it remains a prime target for terrorists such as Jemaah Islamiah because of the island republic’s close ties with the United States.

Car bomb blast wounds 6 in Baghdad

A vehicle turned over on a highway in Basra after four Americans were killed on 7 Sept, 2005.—INTERNET

Egyptian Govt compensates fire victims

CAIRO, 7 Sept—Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazef on Tuesday decided to give 15,000 Egyptian pounds (about 2,604 US dollars) to each family of each victim killed in Monday's theatre fire, the official MENA news agency reported.

Nazef also decided to give a compensation of 8,000 Egyptian pounds (about 1,389 dollars) for each person injured in the fire, which broke out late Monday in a theatre in the town of Beni Suef, some 120 kilometres south of Cairo.

The Prime Minister made the decisions at an urgent meeting, according to MENA. At least 31 people were confirmed dead and 35 others injured in the blaze that was believed to have been sparked by candles used in a play that was being performed at the theatre. —MNA/Xinhua

Four security guards from Virginia-based firm killed in Iraq

HARRISON, 8 Sept — Four US security guards killed in Basra, Iraq, today when their S-U-V- was bombed were from a Virginia-based security company.

The men, Ronald Hyatt, Robert McCoy, Robert Pole and Ryan Young worked for Herndon-based Triple Canopy. The company is doing contract work for the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, which is responsible for protecting US diplomats at home and abroad.

Company officials confirmed the deaths late this evening and say the men were part of an elite group of highly skilled security professionals. —INTERNET
New storm threatens eastern Florida

MIAMI, 7 Sept — Tropical storm warnings were posted for Florida's central Atlantic coast on Tuesday as a new cyclone formed and threatened to hit the state as a weak hurricane by the weekend.

The system was still an unnamed tropical depression, a loose swirling mass of thunderstorms, but was growing better organized and was expected to strengthen into Tropical Storm Ophelia over the northwestern Bahamas by Wednesday.

It would acquire the name when its 30 miles per hour winds hit 39 miles per hour. Forecasters said it looked unlikely to follow the path of Hurricane Katrina, which swept across southeast Florida and into the Gulf of Mexico, then burgeoned into a monster hurricane that devastated New Orleans and the northeastern Gulf region last week.

"It looks like it's going to impact a little bit further north than Katrina did," said Jennifer Pralgo, a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Centre.

The centre's extended forecast had it coming ashore in north central or northeastern Florida by Thursday and dissipating over Georgia without getting anywhere near the Gulf of Mexico.

Tropical storm warnings were issued for the northwest Bahamas and for Florida's east coast from Jupiter to Titusville, a 130-mile stretch that included the Kennedy Space Centre.

At 11 a.m., the storm was centred about 180 miles southeast of Cape Canaveral, Florida. It was expected to turn north-northwest and strengthen into a strong tropical storm or possibly a weak hurricane, with winds of at least 74 mph, Pralgo said.

Elsewhere in the Atlantic, Tropical Storm Nate strengthened as it inched toward Bermuda. It had top winds of 60 mph, was expected to become a hurricane and hit the British colony of 65,000 people on Friday.

Singapore Minister says Asia, Latam should bridge partnerships

SINGAPORE, 8 Sept — Countries in Asia and Latin America need to bridge partnerships so as to make business opportunities flow both ways, Singapore Minister of State for Trade and Industry Heng Chee How said here on Wednesday.

Speaking at this year's LatinAsia Biz Forum, Heng noted that Asia and Latin America have much to learn and benefit from one another.

He described Latin America as a region which is rich in resources, has a well developed agriculture sector, and enjoys an urbanized, well-educated population as well as a high Internet penetration rate. "Latin America is fast becoming an engine of growth for the global economy," Heng said, adding that it is also well placed to become a knowledge economy and to enjoy sustained growth in the coming years.

He also urged businesses from Latin American countries to regard Asia as a key market for the combined gross domestic product (GDP) of East Asia, including China, Japan, South Korea and 10 Southeast Asian nations, reached about eight trillion US dollars in 2004. Economic relations between the two regions have been growing rapidly in the past few years with Latin America's merchandise exports to Asia reaching 29 billion US dollars in 2003 and Asia becoming Latin America's third largest source of merchandise imports, according to Heng.

So far, Singapore has concluded free trade agreements (FTAs) with Panama and Chile, and is undergoing FTA talks with Mexico and Peru. — MNA/Xinhua

Basra car bomb kills many

BAGHDAD, 8 Sept — A car bomb explosion late on Wednesday in the southern Iraqi city of Basra has killed at least 16 people and wounded 21 others.

The explosion targeted a restaurant in the neighbourhood of al-Jumeiyat, near the centre of the mainly Shia city at around 9.00 pm (1700 GMT), said police official, Colonel Adnan al-Daraji. — Internet

Toyota's Corolla remains best-seller in August

TOKYO, 7 Sept — Toyota Motor Corp's Corolla ranked top in new vehicle sales in Japan in August for the third straight month, selling 87,716 units, the Japan Automobile Dealers Association said on Tuesday.

Following the Corolla were Honda Motor Co's Step WGN minivan, with sales of 8,130 units, and Nissan Motor Co's Serena minivan, selling 7,989 units. Remodelled versions of both minivans were launched in May.

Toyota accounted for four of the 10 best-selling vehicles in August. Honda and Nissan each accounted for three.

S Korea considers Pakistan as manpower source

ISLAMABAD, 7 Sept — The Pakistani Federal Minister for Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Monday said South Korea has agreed to consider inclusion of Pakistan in the list of manpower source countries and increase the quota of its workers, according to the Associated Press of Pakistan.

Addressing a Press conference here, Khan said the South Korean Government is planning to start a work permit programme for Pakistani workers and to place Pakistan in its source countries' list. "We would be able to export manpower to South Korea with an enhanced quota," he said.

Pakistan has been exporting manpower to South Korea for the last several years and at present there are 3,946 Pakistani workers contributing in South Korea's development, said the minister.

He also said during his recent meeting with the officials of the Malaysian Government, they assured that Malaysia will absorb a maximum number of Pakistani workers in different sectors such as manufacturing, construction, plantation, services and deep sea fishing in future. He added that it has been decided that an office will be set up in Kuala Lumpur for Pakistani private promoters to search for more job opportunities in Malaysia and to verify the demands of employers. — MNA/Xinhua
Friday, Saturday declared weekly holidays in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 7 Sept — The Bangladeshi Government has declared a two-day weekly holiday, with effect from next Friday to cushion the effects of increased energy price on the country’s economy.

Fridays and Saturdays will be the weekly holidays. Office hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a half-an-hour break from 1 p.m. The Daily Star reported on Tuesday.

The two-day weekly holiday is aimed at conserving energy, keeping 17 per cent government motor vehicles off the roads and thus cutting down the government expenditure.

A Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Khalida Zia took the decision Monday night on a set of proposals by the Energy Ministry in the wake of the latest petroleum price hike on Sunday.

The decision will be applicable to government, semi-government, and autonomous and quasi-autonomous offices. Educational institutions, however, will remain outside the purview of the government decision.

In its proposal, the Energy Ministry said the number of government motor vehicles contributed significantly to the high demand for petroleum. A two-day weekly holiday will cut down a day’s transport expense for the government staff, the proposal said. The meeting, however, turned down the business community’s demand for a two-day holiday on Saturday and Sunday, considering religious implications of cancelling the holiday on Friday, the daily reported.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) said on Monday night the new decision on weekly holiday will hurt the country’s international trade.

FBCCI President-elect Miss Tasmin Hossain was quoted as saying by the daily that it would have been better to announce the holiday on Saturdays and Sundays. He said the decision would force the business community’s losses to last three days a week from the international working days.

BGMEA President Anisuzzaman said the government decision would bring a “disaster” for country’s export trade.

In its proposal, the government said it would speed up the construction of a new airport in Medan following the crash of a Mandala passenger plane near the Polonia Airport that killed at least 150 people on Monday. The Jakarta Post newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Minister of Transportation Hatta Radjasa confirmed that the tender for the new airport, which has been in the planning since 1997, would be completed as soon as possible so that the project could begin early next year.

“We hope the construction of the new airport can commence next year,” Hatta was quoted as saying.

In 1987, a Garuda plane crashed at Polonia Airport when one of its wings hit an electricity pole in the housing complex. The accident left 28 people dead.

Monday’s crash occurred after the aircraft failed to take off and plunged through dozens of houses, residents and motorists. Besides possible human and technical errors, many have blamed the crash on the airport’s short runway and its location in a densely populated area in the middle of the city.

Adi Supranto, an executive with airport operator PT Angkasa Pura II, said the existing airport, despite its international status, was too small for medium-and wide-bodied aircraft, and was also surrounded by high buildings.

The current airport stands on 144 hectares of land and its runway is only 2.9 kilometres in length.

“Ideally, a standard international airport should have a more spacious area and its runway should be at least four kilometres,” he said.

The company has bought 1,365 hectares of land in Kuala Namo, Deli Serdang, some 40 kilometres south of Medan, and has completed the plans for the new airport.

“All the land was acquired in 1997 and the area was fenced off in 2002. We also completed the first phase of the drainage works in 2004,” he said.

Adi said that the number of construction companies, including ones from Singapore, Japan and France, had submitted bids for the project, which it is estimated will cost 13 trillion rupiah (1.3 billion US dollars).

Indonesian Govt to speed up new airport project in Medan

JAKARTA, 7 Sept — The Indonesian Government has said it would speed up the construction of a new airport in Medan following the crash of a Mandala passenger plane near the Polonia Airport that killed at least 150 people on Monday. The Jakarta Post newspaper reported on Wednesday.

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HK Shopping Festival attracts 4.6 million visitors

HONG KONG, 7 Sept — The Hong Kong Shopping Festival attracted 4.6 million visitors from 25 June to 31 August, bringing in about 1.85 billion Hong Kong dollars in spending, 24 per cent more than that of last year, said the Tourism Board of Hong Kong on Monday.

Fuelled by strong growth from long-haul markets, arrivals in July reached about two million, up 3.8 per cent over the same period last year, the board said. Tourist arrivals in the first seven months this year were over 13 million, up 8.7 per cent in comparison with the same period last year.

Board Chairman Selina Chow said: “One of the remarkable achievements is the record performance in July, which is traditionally a low tourism season as there are relatively fewer business travellers, particularly from long-haul markets.”

According to statistics, long-haul regions showed outstanding performance in July. Arrivals from Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific grew 35.3 per cent, while visitors from Africa and the Middle East increased 27.5 per cent.

Thousands of people remain in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, 8 Sept — In a grim indicator of what may lie ahead, authorities were removing the remains of more than 30 people from a flooded nursing home in a suburban New Orleans parish.

The discovery at St Rita’s Nursing Home in Lower St Bernard Parish came as 25,000 body bags arrived at the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

Early Thursday, the official death toll along Gulf Coast from Hurricane Katrina stood at 294, but that number is expected to rise dramatically.

Mortuary teams with refrigerated trucks began arriving Wednesday at the nursing home, where St Bernard Parish Sheriff Jack Stevens said “30-plus” bodies were found. Between 40 and 50 other people were rescued from the facility, Stevens said.

The parish is east of New Orleans, where between 10,000 and 15,000 people are believed to remain in the flooded city, and thousands are feared dead.

Deputies reported that floodwaters had reached a height of eight feet in some parts of St Bernard. The nursing home was still surrounded by about three feet of water on Wednesday, as authorities began removing bodies.— Internet

Gunmen kill three in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 7 Sept — Unknown gunmen killed three civilians in front of a mosque in northern Baghdad on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

“They were killed after they finished their evening prayers in a mosque in the Abu-Shah District at around 9 pm (1700 GMT), and two others were injured, including a cleric,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.— MNA/Xinhua

Saudi plane evacuated in Sri Lanka bomb scare

COLOMBO, 8 Sept— One woman died and more than a dozen people were injured on Thursday as they fled a Saudi Arabian Airlines flight before take off in a bomb scare Sri Lankan police suspect was triggered by a hoax call.

Hospital officials said they believed the woman who died had suffered a fracture and subsequent shock, while other passengers had suspected fractures after jumping out of emergency exits in panic as the plane sat on the tarmac at Colombo’s international airport.

There were no details on the woman’s nationality, but airline officials said the Boeing 747, carrying 452 passengers and crew, had been due to fly to Jeddah.
The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held the press meet No 6/2005 at the Information Ministry on 28 August 2005. At the meet, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi clarified the theft of Replica of Buddha’s Tooth Relic together with golden tray and miniature golden temple kept at the Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon). Before relating the incident, I would like to present a brief history of the pagoda.

Two Replica Buddha Tooth Relics of Myanmare were kept together with the Buddha’s Tooth Relic that was conveyed from the People’s Republic of China in 1994 under Sino-Myanmar friendship programme.

The Tatmadaw government built two pagodas — one in Mayangon, Yangon; and the other in Amarapura, Mandalay. Both pagodas were built with significant architectural designs.

When the Buddha Tooth Relic was conveyed to Myanmar for the second time, it was kept at Maha Pasana Cave and Buddha Tooth Relic Pagoda in Yangon and Maha Atula Waiyan Monastery in Mandalay. I have visited the pagoda in Yangon and paid obeisance to the Relic for several times during my visits to the city.

Pilgrims visiting any of the two pagodas, the symbols of Sino-Myanmar friendship, to pay homage to the Relic will feel the serenity.

In this article, I have extracted some of the most interesting points of the clarification made Brig-Gen Khin Yi as follows:

“When authorities inspected the pagoda, they found out that Replica Tooth Relic together with golden tray and miniature golden temple kept at the chamber of the pagoda was missing.”

“Once the incident was heard, the respective security members were making all-out efforts day in, day out in all aspects to recover the tooth replica in a short period of time. The Myanmar Police Force formed a central supervisory committee at the headquarters and made contact round the clock with those who were practically on duty to exchange information and make coordination.”

“A special squad led by the Head of Criminal Investigation Department was formed in order to provide close supervision. A thorough search was made at all the border check-points across States and Divisions. Moreover, those who are engaged in gold and jewellery business were informed of the incident and requested to come forward with information if they found any suspicious activities.”

“Each and every clue including litter left at the scene were collected and experts from CID tried to expose the case with patience. In other words, necessary police measures on crime were fully taken.”

Concerning the crime, leader of the Information Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan elucidated the points as follows: “For instance, we did not release the news on theft of Replica of Tooth Relic in Yangon immediately and we exposed the case only at this press conference. It was in consideration of not harming the efforts for exposing the culprit and investigating the case. To amplify my statement, we found that the culprit firstly tried to ascertain whether the case had been covered in the daily newspapers as well as by TV and radio. It meant he observed the situation to know whether it was known to the public. When he found out that the Government made no news release about the case, he assumed that the people had not learnt about the incident, so it was safe for him to sell out the objects he had stolen. Then he contacted gold shops in Mandalay and Toungoo and sold them out. Then, responsible personnel could easily trace and arrest him together with stolen objects. That is the reason news releases sometimes are not made immediately.

Similarly, we do not promptly release news as we need to take time in the interests of the nation. Some news naturally should be released immediately in view of preventing undesirable effects. Thus, we sometimes release news after thorough investigations. Likewise, some news releases are not made immediately in view of protecting the national interests. Such news should be tackled subtly to prevent adverse effects. I would like to convince you of the fact that the Government is taking appropriate measures in releasing news in consideration of the interests of the nation and the people. We invite suggestions and advice from the journalists.”

The minister’s words highlighted the correctness of the information policy, further dynamism of the police activities, and public reliance on the Myanmar Police Force.

I will now present the answer given by Brig-Gen Khin Yi to the question raised by U Aung Shwe Oo of Nippon TV.

He said that the MPF is striving its utmost to become an efficient and reliable force at present or in future; and that according to its motto, the MPF at various levels is now reforming its tasks after the formation of the management and reform committee. He said as had mentioned at the previous press conference, members of the MPF were performing duties in accord with the system of ‘community policing’.

Nowadays, every case is being dealt with according to the law, he said. Brig-Gen Khin Yi said that all cases are being examined and heard in conformity with the law. So, if there is any that is against the law, the people can report to the MPF and the police force will be ready to review it, he added.

Now, I am going to conclude my article with the message of Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, which said, “The people on their part should be well aware of the traps of fabricated and instigative false news made by internal and external terrorist destructive elements in collusion with some broadcasting stations and media.”

(Translation: TMT)

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects cultivation in Maungtaw Township, regional development tasks

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials also visited the model 100-acre fields at Latwedatpyin Village in Buthidaung Township. They also went to rubber plantation of Myanna Perennial Crops Enterprise on Buthidaung-Maungtaw Road and inspected rubber plantations. According to an official of the enterprise, there are 40,000 rubber saplings and 200,005 thriving rubber plants. An official also reported on arrangements for distribution of rubber saplings.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than proceeded to Maungtaw Township Hospital and met with doctors and staff of the hospital. Next, he inspected the hospital and X-ray room of it.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander arrived at the construction site of jetty by Rathedaung Township Development Affairs Department in the township and inspected the jetty.

An official of the township DAD reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than. In his report he said the Government has allotted K 10 million and Rakhine State Peace and Development Council provided K 3 million for the construction. Local people contributed K 3.5 million towards the fund of the jetty construction. It is a reinforced concrete type and is constructed at a cost of K 16.5 million. It is nearing completion and the jetty will be commissioned into service on 10 September.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsmen at the office of township Peace and Development Council.

In his address made at the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said with a view to improving the living standard of the people, arrangements are being made by the Government to grow more paddy year by year. As Rakhine State set its target of 1.1 million acres of monsoon paddy in 2005-2006, Rathedaung Township has the duty to make efforts to exceed the target of the township. The Government designated 24 special development zones in the country. Moreover, in an effort to develop the rural areas, the government also laid down five rural areas development tasks and has been implementing the tasks. The tasks include improvement of health, education and transportation and economic sectors and sufficient supply of drinking water and irrigation water. He also urged departmental officials to carry out the development tasks joining hands with local residents. He called for cultivation of 10 major crops and rubber and pepper.

Regarding the livestock farming sector, he also called for breeding of prawn, fish and layers and foals.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to Rathedaung Township Hospital and contributed K 100,000 to the fund of the hospital. Next, they went to Rathedaung BEHS and inspected construction site of the new school building. The new school is a two-storey building. During his tour of Rathedaung Station, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also met with families of officers and other ranks at the station. Next, they went to Sittway and viewed the damage of Phaungdawgyi Jetty.

An official of Myanma Port Authority reported on arrangements for construction of a new jetty. A new jetty will be 240 feet in length and 48 feet in width.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint visited Lawkannya Pagoda in Sittway.

MNA

YANGON, 8 Sept.—Third-placed Myanmar U-23 soccer team arrives back home

YANGON, 8 Sept.—Third-placed winner Myanmar U-23 squad remained on the standings of AFF U-23 Championship arrived back home by air this afternoon.

The Myanmar U-23 was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials concerned of the Ministry of Sports, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw and executives and relatives.

MNA
More primary, post-primary schools opened to enable all children to have access to primary education

(from page 16)

- Producing more academicians and technicians in all fields,
- Ensuring literacy for all citizens and literacy in sustainable development, providing access to permanent learning at any time for people of all ages for creating a continuous learning society.

With the aim of upgrading education standard of the entire nation and Education for All, endeavours have been made to create accessibility of Basic Education for everyone, to uplift the quality of education, to develop opportunities for modern teaching and learning and to include systematically drawn up and practically implemented plans for the completion of primary school education for all school-age children and eradicate adult illiteracy.

With regard to all school-age children being in schools and retaining in schools, the Education Promotion Programme (Second Phase) 1999 was conducted as a national movement. Therefore, the rate of enrollment of five-year-old children has been increased yearly. It was only 91 percent in the academic year 1999-2000. But in 2005-2006 academic year, it has increased to 97.58 percent. This is also the outcome of the cooperation and collaboration among the community and the organizations of well-wishers.

In order to ensure all children can have access to primary education, more primary schools and post-primary schools have been opened and also upgraded to middle schools. Thus, 30,414 primary schools, 5,545 post-primary schools, 2,014 affiliated and branch middle schools and middle schools, 1,962 affiliated and branch primary schools and primary schools are now in existence throughout the country.

This Formal Education is strengthened with Non-formal Primary Education Programme and Mobile School Programme for those school-age children who have difficulties to attend schools. For illiterates and neo-literates, Literacy and Continuing Education Programme is conducted as an integrated and continuous national movement. Moreover, for the disabled children who cannot attend schools, Inclusive Education Programme is being carried out to get access to equal educational opportunities. As national duty, continuous efforts are being made in cooperation with the entire nationals for ensuring literacy for all citizens, continuously.

The country-wise literacy rate has been increased.

The country-wise literacy movement, to upgrade the role of literacy in sustainable development, generate more family income and to improve quality of life of the literate people, Continuing Education Programmes are being conducted systematically.

Continuing Education consists of literacy promotion, income generation and better life programmes through Community Learning Centres (CLCs). Community Learning Centres are at crucial positions in realizing the Continuing Education. A total of 887 CLCs where people can get together any time of the day, spend leisure time, get information, learn life skills and also support the community development, have already been established. It is the concerted effort of the government and the people of Myanmar with its profound national spirit that could help achieve the fruitful results of “Literacy movement to ensure that literacy in sustainable development.

In conclusion, I would like to urge all responsible personnel:

- to make all our efforts to make Myanmar Modern Developed Nation with national spirit aiming at uplift of health, fitness and education standard of the entire nation,
- to keep on trying to build the Continuing Learning Society by implementing continuing education programmes for achieving sustainable development.

The video entitled “Endeavours of Myanmar in Literacy Campaign” was shown.

Goal medallist students sang the song titled “Education for All”. After the ceremony, the Secre-
ploma certificates on the trainees, and the Minis-
try of Sports was set up. In addition, the Govern-
ment has organized Myanmar Olympic Council, 
Myanmar Olympic Committee and Myanmar 
Sports and Physical Education Committee. Fur-
thermore, sports federations were formed, and 
arrangements for development of the sports sector 
are being implemented.

For ensuring development of the sports tech-
nology, athletes were allowed to take part in the 
international sports tournaments, and the invitational 
matches were held for enabling the athletes to gain 
sports experiences.

It can be said that as Myanmar youth teams 
emerged champions in the previous ASEAN U-17 
and U-20 Football Championships, Myanmar foot-
ball standard has improved.

Enhancement and success of the sports stand-
ard can uplift the prestige of the State as well as 
the citizens. Patriotism of the people must be fur-
ther valed for uplift of national prestige and in-
tegrity.

Therefore, footballers of the Tatmadaw are 
to try their best with patriotism to become out-
standing players who can bring honour to the State.

In the international sports sphere, sports gear 
concerning techniques, training and competitive-
ness are being improved with momentum. Greater 
progress can be seen not only in the sports man-
agement, legal affairs, financial matters and sports 
health matters but also in the related sectors.

At present, the Government is placing em-
phasis on equitable development of the sports man-
agement, legal affairs, financial matters, health, eco-
nomics and media sectors so as to thoroughly carry 
out the enhancement of the Myanmar sports stand-
ard.

Morality and discipline are important for nur-
turing the outstanding athletes. Athletes must have 
endurance and talent. Hence, the athletes must try 
their best for enhancement of their efficiency with 
diligence.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 urged them to 
uphold the concept that the improvement of the 
sports standard is a national duty as the sports suc-
cess can uplift the prestige and integrity of the State; 
to become outstanding athletes; and make utmost 
efforts to represent Defence Services (Army, Navy 
and Air) teams and then, to become selected foot-
ballers of the nation.

First, the football teams marched past the 
Secretary-1.

After that, Defence Services (Navy) and De-
fence Services (Air) teams played the match which 
ended with a goalless draw.

The first round matches of the tournament 
will be held at respective zones from 12 to 21 Sep-
tember. The teams of Group (A) will be played in 
South-East Command Zone (Mawlamyine), that of 
Group (B) in South-West Command Zone (Pathein), 
that of Group (C) in North-West Command Zone

**Foreign Minister sends message of sympathy to Indonesia**

*Yangon, 8 Sept.— U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr *N Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia for the loss of lives and property caused by the recent plane crash in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia*.

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**Literacy will be pleasant for future**

* For all beings, nutrition is vital
* The same goes, in the field of education
  * To be knowledgeable, to be literati
  * Writing comes first, that’s vital.
  * Toward that end, we think, conceive
  * For all school-age boys and girls
  * We rally around, to put them in school
  * We think and act, without hesitation
  * Chance for literacy for all
  * We lend a hand ardously
  * As we would help the disabled
  * We strive to provide education
  * That’s what we’re doing, in Myanmar.
  * * Also in the international community
  * As we strive by day and night
  * Toward acquiring education
  * Humphilly, as clearly seen
  * We are being activated in Myanmar
  * * All Myanmars having acquired literacy
  * This noble education for life
  * Continuous acquisition, for Myanmar’s future
  * In the human realm, development
  * That will materialize, as we’re hoping
  * We’re marching forward, in Myanmar.

*Nwai Cho (Trs)*

(In honour of International Literacy Day 8-9-2005)
YANGON, 8 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence met Tatmadawmen of local battalion in Kengkham region on 6 September and discussed development affairs with them following the inspection of Kengkham region situated on Hopong-Mongpyin-Kengkham-Naungwoe section. They arrived at Kengkham village where they were welcomed by military and departmental personnel.

At the briefing hall, Major Moe Zaw of local battalion briefed them on location of Kengkham region, transportation, communication, water supply, education and health. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint reported to them on arrangements to be made for construction of bridges and roads on Hopong-Mongpyin-Kengkham-Naungwoe section. The road was used as a timber extraction route in the past. Now, Tatmadawmen of local battalion are to upgrade the road. Local people will be able to travel to Yaksaw and Intaw in ease due to upgrading of this road. It will benefit smooth flow of regional products and help develop economy and social purpose in Kengkham region and its environs. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party then arrived at Kengkham village where they were welcomed by military and departmental personnel.

In Kengkham region, local peasants have already cultivated 174 acres of paddy, peanut and soya-bean in model plantation on Yaksawk village, 89 acres in Honavillage, 85 acres in Kupinak village, 14 acres in Hehtuk village. The road sections are to be made for inviting private businesses to grow teak plantations in eastern part of Naungwoe.

In connection with the reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win made a speech on the occasion. In his speech he said the Government is building the nation to become a peaceful, modern developed democratic one. Moreover it is trying hard to bring about harmonious development in all parts of the country. The Government has laid down tasks and is implementing a series of projects with genuine goodwill. Only when rural areas make progress will socioeconomic life of the entire people of the nation advance. As a result, the Government lays emphasis on implementation of development tasks in rural areas. Local people are to cooperate in the tasks of transportation, communication, agriculture, education and health sectors.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met military persons of local battalion and instructed them to pay serious attention to national consolidation and stability of the State.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented cash assistance to Tatmadawmen of Kengkham region. After that, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived at 18th mile timber plantation on Yaksawk-Intaw-Tapalang road section. They inspected perennial crops plantations and monsoon paddy fields along Yaksawk-Shwyenyaung-Taunggyi road section. They viewed 1,360 mango trees grown on 8 acres in Yaksawk.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived at Shwyenayoe paddy field of Taunggyi Township Police Force. They inspected thriving monsoon paddy. Maj-Gen Ye Myint briefed Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on arrangements to be made for invitation of private businessmen to cultivate teak trees on a commercial scale. A total of 60,000 teak trees have been grown on 200 acres in 18th mile timber plantation. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party proceeded to Yaksawk. They inspected perennial crops plantations and monsoon paddy fields along Yaksawk-Shwyenyaung-Taunggyi road section. They viewed 1,350 mango trees grown on 8 acres in Yaksawk.

Plans will be made for land reclamation in Mongpyin-Lethe-Kengkham region. Arrangements will be made for inviting private businessmen to grow teak plantations in eastern part of Naungwoe.

MNA
Asiayon, social organization, Myanmar Writ-er and Journalists Association, Myanmar Music Association, private printing and publishing enterprises, wellwishers, and guests.

The minister in his speech said that in the knowledge age, various sectors of human society are implemented through technology. And in the future, technology will play a more important role.

If the nation and people lag behind in technological development and knowledge, the nation will be able to make only a little headway in the drive for human resource development.

Then, facing an adverse effect, the nation and the people will not be able to catch up with the nations that can apply knowledge and technology effectively.

In conclusion, the minister called for continued donation of publications for opening self-reliant libraries in the remaining villages, and expressed thanks to the wellwishers.

Next, wellwishers presented donations to the minister, the deputy minister, Director-General of IPRD U Chit Nai, Director-General of Myanmar Radio and TV U Khin Maung Htay, Managing Director of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise Col Aung Nyein, Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win, and Managing Director of the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Bo Kyi.

After the ceremony, the minister cordially greeted those present.

In the future, technology will play a more important role. If the nation and people lag behind in technological development and knowledge, the nation will be able to make only a little headway in the drive for human resource development. Then, facing an adverse effect, the nation and the people will not be able to catch up with the nations that can apply knowledge and technology effectively.
INVITATION TO TENDER

MYANNA RAILWAYS

Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, Ministry of Rail Transportation, the Government of the Union of Myanmar, from reputed manufacturers or their bonfide agents from all eligible countries for the supply and delivery of the followings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No. &amp; Description of Goods</th>
<th>Issue Date</th>
<th>Closing Date &amp; Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>15(T)3/MR/ED/2005-2006 Purchase of Brand New BS 75 R Steel Rail - (12000) M. Tons</td>
<td>12-9-2005 (Monday)</td>
<td>27.10.2005 (Thursday) 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tender Documents are available at the Office of the Managing Director, Myanma Railways, No. 357/361, Merchant Street, Botataung Township, Yangon during office hours on payment of non refundable fee US$ 200 per set.

Bids are to be reach the office of the Managing Director, Myanma Railways, No. 357/361, Merchant Street, Botataung Township, Yangon, Myanmar before the Closing Date and Time. The Bids will be opened publicly at 14:00 hour on the Closing Date at Myanma Railways Head Office.

All Bids not accompanied by earnest money (Bid Bond) will not be considered. No Telegiaphic/Tele/Fax/e-mail proposal will be considered or accepted.

Myanma Railways reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders without furnishing reasons. Tender will be accepted only from Bidders who has purchased Tender Documents officially. (those tender document purchased through Embassies must declare for whom they are purchased.)

The above Goods and Services are to be purchased by our government’s allotted Foreign Exchange to Myanma Railways.

For further details please call:298589, 298636, 298587, 291982, 201555 Ext-510, 522, 520, 540

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon

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Heavy storms predicted in much of Thailand

BANGKOK, 7 Sept—Thunderstorms are predicted for Bangkok and its vicinity through Saturday, as the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation on Monday issued week-long warnings of heavy rains and possible flooding in over half of the country.

Director General Sunthorn Riewlaung warned residents and public agencies in 39 provinces to brace for heavy rain and flash rains, and reported the Thai News Agency on Tuesday.

Weather forecasts including a southwestern wind over the Andaman Sea and a low pressure covering the upper central region and the lower northeast region may cause heavy rain, thunderstorms and strong wind in the north, the east and the central part including Bangkok and adjoining areas.

Flash floods and mudslides could also occur, he warned. The department has warned local residents at risk areas to be prepared to move to higher ground in case of emergency.

Sunthorn said he had ordered local centres of the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department to follow the situation and make local alerts as necessary.

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430,000 Mozambicans suffering from drought

MAPOYO, 7 Sept — About 430,000 people in central and southern Mozambique are suffering from drought, while another 160,000 are set to need food assistance in the next two months.

The Mozambique’s Food Security and Nutritional Technical Secretariat released these figures on Monday, during a Mango symposium on the fight against poverty through food and nutritional security.

Addressing the meeting, Mozambican Deputy Agriculture Minister Caterina Pajuime said that hunger and malnutrition cause cumulative and irreversible effects that will reflect in difficulties for the children to learn at school and expose them to diseases and early death, during their first few years of life.

She urged all intervenors in every action against malnutrition in the country not to neglect this situation, stressing that “fighting against hunger and malnutrition is not a waste, but an investment in the country’s development”.

This symposium is taking place at a time when drought has attained alarming proportions both in Mozambique and in other countries in southern Africa.

The symposium was to promote a debate on the relation between hunger and absolute poverty, to present the results of an Assessment of the Implementation of the Food Security and Nutrition Strategy in the Development Process of Mozambique, among other issues.

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Thai Airways wins UN air travel budget

BANGKOK, 7 Sept — Thailand’s national flag carrier has won contracts worth more than one million US dollars a year to fly their officials for meetings in Southeast Asia, according to a statement issued Tuesday by Thai Airways International (THAI).

The annual deal has been officially awarded to THAI, said the statement.

The newly-inked contract come after THAI opened its Bangkok-New York express air route in April, which took only 17 hours for passengers to travel between the two cities.

The national carrier also plans to win more air travel budget from other international groups and transnational corporations based in the United States and Europe.

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Kenya relocates 47 jumbos in massive operation

NAIROBI, 7 Sept—

Kenya’s wildlife authorities announced here Monday they have successfully moved 47 elephants from an overcrowded reserve at Kenya’s coastal region to a national park about 140 kilometres away.

We are optimistic that by the end of this operation we shall have hit our target of moving 400 jumbos from Shimba Hills National Reserve which has a bloated jumbo population of about 700 individuals, to Tsavo East National Park, which current studies show has a big deficit,” Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) scientist Patrick Omondi said. — MNA/Xinhua

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403,000 Mozambicans suffering from drought

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The national carrier also plans to win more air travel budget from other international groups and transnational corporations based in the United States and Europe.
Bogus British spy jailed for life for kidnap, theft

LONDON, 7 Sept — A former barman who for 10 years posed as a British spy and brainwashed his victims into funding his luxury "James Bond" lifestyle was jailed for life on Tuesday for kidnap and theft.

Robert Hendry-Freagar, 34, was found guilty in June of conning hundreds of thousands of pounds out of at least seven victims.

In one case he persuaded three students that they were being hunted by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), and he needed money to arrange their protection.

"It appears that he has spent all of his criminal proceeds on a million-acre lifestyle of Rolex watches, fully loaded top-of-the-range BMWs, handmade suits and shoes, and other everyday 'James Bond' expenditure," Scotland Yard said at the end of the trial.

Hendry-Freagar, who was sentenced at London's Blackfriars Crown Court, had been convicted of 20 charges, including two of kidnap, 10 of theft, and five of deception.

"Mr Hendry-Freagar was an evil con artist. He ruthlessly exploited weaknesses in any of his victims," said Scotland Yard detective Robert Brandon after the trial.

"When he started he'd be charming, he'd listen and listen, and find any weakness in character, any vulnerability, and then he would ruthlessly exploit that.

"When he had control of his victims he went to whatever ends he possibly could to take all their money and all their dignity," Brandon said.

17th West China Commodity Fair opens in Sichuan

CHENGDU, 7 Sept — The 17th West China Commodity Fair opened on Tuesday in Miayang City of southwest China's Sichuan Province with more than 10,000 merchants from home and overseas attending the fair.

The current fair has an exhibition floor space of 126,000 square metres with respective halls for city display image, commercial talks, commodity show, real estate transaction as well as calligraphy and photo show, said sources with the fair organizing committee.

Meanwhile, a series of festivals and exhibitions involving sightseeing tours, food, beer and automobile will be held during the fair.

The fair, co-sponsored by the neighbouring provinces and autonomous regions in the west China including Shaanxi, Gansu, Sichuan, Ningxia and Inner Mongolia, targets at inviting investment and boosting economic cooperation.

Snakebite death rising in western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 7 Sept — The number of deaths from snakebite has reached 15 this year in western Nepal, local hospital said Wednesday.

The number of snakebite patients has increased this year to 15 in Rupandehi District, some 300 kilometres west of Kathmandu, in comparison with last year, Lamlini Hospital said in a press release.

The hospital receives at least one patient a day, the hospital noted.

Meanwhile, in Rajbiraj of the same district, the number of patients suffering from snakebite is increasing day by day in the Sagarmatha zonal hospital.

Two died while other two were injured in four separate accidents that took place in Birajpur on Monday.

Rajbiraj area is rampant with poisonous snakes that come out of the ground during the rainy season.

10th West China Commodity Fair opens in Sichuan

Chengdu, 7 Sept — The 17th West China Commodity Fair opened on Tuesday in Miayang City of southwest China’s Sichuan Province with more than 10,000 merchants from home and overseas attending the fair.

The current fair has an exhibition floor space of 126,000 square metres with respective halls for city image display, commercial talks, commodity show, real estate transaction as well as calligraphy and photo show, said sources with the fair organizing committee.

Meanwhile, a series of festivals and exhibitions involving sightseeing tours, food, beer and automobile will be held during the fair.

The fair, co-sponsored by the neighbouring provinces and autonomous regions in the west China including Shaanxi, Gansu, Sichuan, Ningxia and Inner Mongolia, targets at inviting investment and boosting economic cooperation. More than 10,000 kinds of commodities worth 15 billion yuan (1.85 billion US dollars) have been prepared for the fair, the sources said, adding that 1,200 projects in west China are seeking investors.
Podolski hat-trick fires Germany to win over South Africa

BREMEN (Germany), 8 Sept—A hat-trick by 20-year-old striker Lukas Podolski helped Germany to a 4-2 win over South Africa in Wednesday's friendly battle between the hosts of the next two World Cups.

Podolski, underlining his status as Germany's best hope of a home victory at the finals next year, supplied an exquisite chip for the first goal in the 11th minute.

South Africa, preparing to stage the 2010 World Cup but with no chance of qualifying for next year's tournament, equalized with a Shaun Bartlett penalty before Germany took control in a manic spell at the start of the second half.

Podolski set up Tim Borowski in the 47th minute and raced in himself to make it 3-1 a minute later. Benni McCarthy blasted past Jens Lehmann to bring South Africa back into the game in the 50th minute but Podolski struck five minutes later to complete his hat-trick and take his tally to 10 goals in just 17 games for Germany.—MNA/Reuters

Toni's triple takes Italy to victory in Belarus

MINSK, 8 Sept—Luca Toni struck a hat-trick for Italy as they recovered from an early scare to comfortably beat Belarus 4-1 in their World Cup Group Five qualifier on Wednesday.

Serbia were reduced to 10 men by English referee Graham Poll when midfielder Igor Duljaj cut down Xabi Alonso after Spain refused to kick the ball out of play when Kezman was on the ground in the dying minutes, but the home side were unable to make their numerical advantage tell.

The result means that Serbia remain top of Group Seven with 16 points, two ahead of Spain with both teams having two games left to play.—MNA/Reuters

Portugal hold 10-man Russia to 0-0 draw

MOSCOW, 8 Sept—Portugal moved a step closer to qualifying for the World Cup finals after drawing 0-0 with 10-man Russia in a tense Group Three qualifier on Wednesday. Leaders Portugal have 24 points from 10 matches.

Russian, with 19 points, remain tied for second with Slovenia who were held to a 1-1 draw by Latvia in Riga.

The Russians had captain Alexei Smeritin sent off in the 43rd minute after he picked up his second yellow card for dangerous play.

German referee Markus Merk had difficulty keeping tempers in check with the teams looking edgy and nervous.

Russia coach Yuri Syomin blamed Merk for letting the game get out of hand. Russia badly wanted to avenge a 7-1 drubbing in last October, their worst defeat since 1916.

The thumping cost coach Georgiy Yartsev and the country's long-serving soccer chief Vyacheslav Koloskov their jobs, prompting widespread changes.

Despite playing a man short for more than a half, the hosts had several opportunities to get on the scoreboard in the second period.

Alexander Kerzhakov wasted the best chance with 15 minutes left when he was alone in front of goal but mistimed his shot from close range.

Kerzhakov, the Russian league's top scorer last season, also had a shot blocked in the seventh minute after a nice dribble by Marat Izmailov. The striker then tested Portugal keeper Ricardo with a 15-metre blast 10 minutes later. At the other end, Maniche was off target twice from long range late in the first half.

Russia keeper Igor Akimiyev kept the visitors at bay in the second half.

In the space of three minutes he made a fine stop from Cristiano Ronaldo's low shot before he saved a dangerous header by Pauleta. Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari was pleased with the outcome.—MNA/Reuters

Serbia stay in control after 1-1 draw against Spain

MADRID, 8 Sept—Spain became the first side to breach the Serbia & Montenegro defence in a World Cup qualifier on Wednesday but were still only able to claim a 1-1 draw that meant the Balkan team remain in charge of Group Seven.

Spain dominated for much of the match at the Calderon and looked to have the game well under control when Raúl put them ahead with a clever improvised header in the 19th minute.

But they were unable to take advantage of several clear cut chances to extend their lead and Serbia levelled the game midway through the second half when Mateja Kezman cashed in on some poor keeping from Iker Casillas to direct a Predrag Djordjevic shot into the net.

Toni completed his hat-trick ten minutes later to complete his hat-trick and take his tally to 10 goals in just 17 games for Germany.—MNA/Reuters

Northern Ireland score shock 1-0 victory over England

BELFAST, 8 Sept—Northern Ireland beat England 1-0 to seriously dent their old rivals chances of winning European Group Six and qualifying directly for the World Cup finals on Wednesday.

Striker David Healy scored the winner with a powerful angled drive past England goalkeeper Paul Robinson in the 73rd minute after Steve Davis chipped the ball over a static defence.

The win, Northern Ireland's first over England in Belfast since 1927 and only their seventh win over England in 98 meetings, is a huge embarrassment for England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson, who suffered his first loss in a qualifying game since he took charge in 2001.

Eriksson's tactics will come under scrutiny after he tweaked the 4-5-1 formation used in an unconvincing 1-0 win over Wales on Saturday into a 4-3-3 led by Michael Owen, back from suspension.—MNA/Reuters

Miller double keeps Scotland's World Cup hopes alive

OSLO, 8 Sept—Scotland's Kenny Miller scored twice in a 2-1 win away to Norway on Wednesday that kept alive their slim hopes of reaching next year's World Cup finals.

The Scots, buoyed by a 1-1 draw at home to Group Five leaders Italy at the weekend when Miller also scored, have 10 points from eight games as they bid for the runners-up spot. Norway, who beat Scotland 1-0 in October, are second with 12 points from eight games behind Italy, who have 17 points after a 4-1 victory in Belarus also on Wednesday.

Miller, 25, exploited a defensive error in the 21st minute to stub the ball home from close range and fired in a second goal from 10 metres just 10 minutes later when Norwegian defender Andre Bergdolmo headed the ball straight to his feet.

Norway striker Ole Martin Aaest got a consolation goal with two minutes left from the edge of the Scottish area with many of the crowd already on their way out of the stadium.—MNA/Reuters

English cricketer Ashley Giles trains at the Oval ahead of the final test of the Ashes series against Australia.—MNA/Reuters
Quake jolts Banda Aceh again

JAKARTA, 8 Sept — An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter Scale jolted Banda Aceh, capital city of Aceh Province, and its surroundings on Wednesday at 01:42 pm, official news agency Antara quoted a local official as saying.

The quake’s epicenter was located on Nicobar Island, hundreds of kilometres west of Banda Aceh and 30 kilometres below the sea, Aceh Besar Meteorological and Geophysics Agency Chief Syahnan said.

The tremor’s epicenter was traced at 6.4 degree North Latitude and 95.0 degree East Longitude, he said.

There was no report on casualty and material loss, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

CASH DONATED: U Thaung Nyunt (IP-Red)-Daw Tin Tin Yi of No 14, Natmauk Street, Ward 39 (B), Dagon Myothit (North) Township, recently donated K100,000 to mark the birthday of daughter Ma Kaythi Moe in UAE. Joint-Treasurer of Administrative Board of Hninzigon Home for the Aged U Maung Maung Gyi accepts the donation. — yi

One-third of Britons cannot book ahead to see doctor

London, 8 Sept— Nearly one-third of Britons are unable to book an appointment with their doctor more than three days in advance, the health service’s watchdog said on Wednesday.

In a Healthcare Commission poll of 117,000 patients on their experience of dental, GP and local health services, 30 per cent complained they were unable to book an appointment three or more working days in advance.

Hamish Meldrum, chairman of the British Medical Association General Practitioners Committee, said the government’s 48-hour target for patients to see their doctor had led to surgeries stopping advanced bookings.

“We where disagreed with the government was over their particular 48-hour access target because it made the problem worse. It skewed practices towards a system of book on the day appointments,” he said.

“You cannot create significantly more appointments until you solve the capacity problem.”

Waiting times are a sensitive political issue.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Thursday, 8 September, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, southwest monsoon had withdrawn from the Central Myanmar areas. Rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Rakhine and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Yangon Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Coco Island (3.15) inches, Katha (1.93) inches, PyinOoLwin (1.65) inches, Hpa-an (1.61) inches, Myeik (1.54) inches, Taunggyi (1.30) inches, Yamethin (0.79) inch and Naung Oo (0.55) inch.

Maximum temperature on 7-9.2005 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 8-9.2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 8-9.2005 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 7-9.2005 was 3.0 hr approx. Rainfalls on 8-9.2005 were (0.51) inch at Mingalardon, (0.59) inch at Kabu-Aye and (0.63) inch at the central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1.2005 were 74.53 inches at Mingalardon, 77.76 inches at Kabu-Aye and 82.17 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba Aye) was 5 (mph from Southeast at (12:05) hours MST on 7-9.2005.

Bay influence: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area still persists over Central South Bay. Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay. Monsoon is weak else where in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 9-9.2005: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Shan and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Chin and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Yangon Division. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myammar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Thundery conditions in Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighboring area for 9-9.2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighboring area for 9-9.2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.
Government has laid down and is implementing sports aims

“Myanmar Sports — the World to Conquer”

Secretary-1 opens 21st Defence Services C-in-C’s Cup U-21 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament

YANGON, 8 Sept — On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Chairman of Defence Services Sports and Physical Education Administrative Board Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the 21st Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Cup Under-21 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna), here, at 3 pm today.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Maj-Gen Myint Swe, senior military officers, foreign military attachés, officials of the Ministry of Sports, guests, Tatmadawmen and their family members, members of Myanmar Fire Brigade and Red Cross Society, football fans and people.

First, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address, saying that Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Cup U-21 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournaments have been held 21 times annually since 1985. The tournaments are held with the aims of ensuring development of Tatmadaw’s football event, contributing towards the development of physical strength of the Tatmadawmen, turning out the new generation players for Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) teams, and representing the national teams.

For the uplift of the education standard of the entire nation, the following measures are carried out harmoniously:

- Enhancement of modern science and technology in each and every sector for the development of the nation,
- Development of educational activities and also every development sector is determined by education.

(See page 8)