Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

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

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

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

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**State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh**

YANGON, 9 Sept—Mr Mohammed Khairuzzaman, newly accredited Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman, Kommyintha at 10 am today.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.

MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe receives newly accredited Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Mr Mohammed Khairuzzaman at Zeyathiri Beikman.

MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Mr Mohammed Khairuzzaman, newly accredited Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA

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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**PERSPECTIVES**

Strive for success of Continuing Education Programmes

The State Peace and Development Council is making all-out efforts for the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with the global community, while endeavouring to achieve national objectives for uplifting health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation.

In this regard, systematic measures are being taken for enhancement of modern science and technology in each and every sector, producing more academicians and technicians in various fields, ensuring literacy for all citizens and literacy in sustainable development and providing access to permanent learning at any time for people of all ages for creating a constant learning society.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the 2005 International Literacy Day and United Nations Literacy Decade at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road in Yangon on 8 September.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that nowadays, it is no longer enough to teach learners writing, reading and calculating alone, and such kind of learning is not knowledge; that it is just a tool for pursuing knowledge; only when knowledge accrued from learning is applied for development and prosperity of human beings will the life of the people be peaceful and improved.

The literacy rate has increased year by year thanks to constant efforts of the entire national people in the drive for ensuring literacy for all citizens.

The country-wise literacy campaign could help increase the literacy rate of adults from 83 per cent in 1996 to 93.3 per cent in 2004. Under the 2005 summer literacy special programme, 94.1 per cent.

In conjunction with 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.

Various education centres in rural regions contribute much to regional development as well as enhancement of the living standard of local people.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon the entire national people including officials of the education sector to strive together with the government with national outlook and nationalism for success of Continuing Education Programmes.

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**Opportunities Descry**

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize the 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

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**Industry-1 Minister receives Chinese guests**

Yangon, 9 Sept —

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received Chongqing Metals & Minerals Import/Export Corporation President Ms Yuan Chang Yu and party at the ministry yesterday evening.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Industry 1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun, advisers, Directors-General, Managing Directors and Directors of the departments and enterprises.

MNA

Minister U Aung Thaung meets with Ms Yuan Chang Yu and party.

— INDUSTRY-1

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**Karatedo course opens**

President Dr Win Zaw of Myanmar Karatedo Federation delivering an address at the opening ceremony of Karatedo technical course.

— MKF

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**MCPA organizes annual conference**

Yangon, 9 Sept —

The seminars in commemoration of the annual conference of Myanmar Computer Professionals Association were held at MICT Park in Hline Township this morning.

Present were Vice-Chairman of E-National Task Force U Aung Myint, executives of Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association, MCPA and Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts Association and people.

Deputy Director-General U Tun Lwin of Hydrology and Meteorology Department, Professor Col Dr Nay Soe Maung of Defence and Medical Science Department, U Thurein Nyein of MMRD, U Min Teza of Managing Partner and Chief Editor U Kyaw Min Swe of Living Colour Media discussed their respective topics and answered the queries raised by those present.

Next, MCF President U Thein Oo, Vice-President U Tin Win Aung, Chairman of MCPA U Thaung Tin and MCEA Chairman U Aung Zaw Mynit replied to the questions of the interested persons.

In the evening, the dinner to mark the anniversary of MCPA was held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road.

MNA

The annual conference of Myanmar Computer Professionals Association in progress.

— MCPA
Putin meets Chinese Defence Chief, praises bilateral ties

Sochi (Russia), 8 Sept — Russian President Vladimir Putin praised ties with China and urged greater joint efforts to boost bilateral relations on Wednesday during his meeting here with visiting Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan.

Russian-Chinese ties are at a historical high and the strategic partnership between the two countries is crucial to the relations, Putin told Cao, who arrived in the Black Sea resort earlier from Moscow, where he had met his Russian counterpart Sergei Ivanov and Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov.

Links between the Armed Forces of the two countries conduct to boosting their defence capabilities, the Russian leader said, urging the two countries' military to work closely to benefit further growth of bilateral ties.

Putin praised the capabilities of both Armed Forces in last month's joint military exercises.

China and Russia held their first joint military exercises, code-named "Peace Mission 2005", from 18-25 August. The one-week manoeuvres, which started in Russia's Far East and later moved to East China's Shandong Peninsula, involved 10,000 troops from both countries.

Cao, for his part, said China and Russia, as permanent members of the UN Security Council, shoulder major responsibilities for safeguarding world peace and promoting common prosperity.

Cooperative ties between the two Armed Forces are expanding as the strategic partnership of the two countries continues to grow, the Chinese defence chief said.

The joint drills demonstrated a new level of mutual trust in political, military and security ties and have laid a firm foundation for deepening cooperation in national defence and security, Cao said.

He pledged greater efforts to boost bilateral ties.

Cao arrived in Moscow on Monday on a five-day visit to Russia. — MNA/Reuters

Musharraf calls for peaceful resolution of Iran’s nuclear issue

Islamabad, 8 Sept — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on Wednesday stressed the need to observe international legality and resolve Iran's nuclear issue peacefully, according to a statement issued by the Foreign Office.

"Pakistan, being a friend and immediate neighbour of Iran, wishes an early peaceful end to this issue," Musharraf said at a meeting with Ali Larijani, deputy of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran who called on him later Wednesday.

Musharraf also expressed the hope that Iran-EU dialogue will be resumed and pursued to a successful conclusion.

He said that Pakistan values its relations with Iran. As immediate neighbours sharing strong commonalities of history, faith and culture, the two countries have great potential and should spare no effort to further strengthen bilateral cooperation, he said.

Larijani, who arrived here early Wednesday morning to seek Pakistan's support for the continuation of Iran's nuclear programme, briefed Musharraf on the policies of the new Iranian Government. He conveyed the desire of the Iranian leadership to further intensify cooperation in various areas of mutual interest. Larijani appreciated Pakistan's positive role at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to help resolve controversy over Iran's nuclear programme.

He said Iran has seriously pursued its dialogue with IAEA to reach an amicable solution.

China offers help in enhancing safety of Malacca Strait

Jakarta, 8 Sept — The Chinese Government is ready to participate in international cooperation and contribute its share for maintaining and enhancing the safe navigation of the Malacca Strait with dominant role of the littoral states, an official said here on Wednesday.

"China, as one of the main users of the Strait, has always attached great importance to the safe passage of the Strait and has shown great concerns over the safe navigation and prevention of pollution caused by ships of the Strait," said Ju Chengzhi, the director general of China's Ministry of Transportation.

Ju was in Jakarta to lead the Chinese delegation in the two-day meeting on the Strait of Malacca and Singapore, attended also by delegates from 29 countries.

The Chinese Government, he said, supports the efforts and the dominant role of the littoral states — Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore — in safeguarding the sovereignty and security of the Malacca Strait pursuant to the UN Charter and other accepted international law.

"However, we have also been aware that the littoral states are facing increasing challenges from the continuing growth of maritime traffic to maintain the safe navigation of the Strait and their resources being strained," he said.

"The Chinese Government will consider to mobilise resources within our means to assist the littoral states at their request in the areas of capacity building, technical exchanges and personal training," he said. — MNA/Xinhua

1,895 US troops killed in Iraq since beginning of the war

Washington, 9 Sept — As of Thursday, 8 Sept, 2005, at least 1,895 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 1,470 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EDT on Thursday.

The British military has reported 95 deaths; Italy, 26; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; El Salvador, Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,756 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,361 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers. — Internet
India-China to sign MoU on intelligence sharing

NEW DELHI, 8 Sept — India and China will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in intelligence sharing and exchange of security-related information during the five-day visit of India’s Home Minister Shivraj Patil to that country beginning on Wednesday.

An approval in this regard was given by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), which is the apex body on security affairs, at a meeting chaired by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee told reporters on Tuesday.

The MoU on intelligence sharing and exchange of security-related information is to combat crimes like terrorism.

Patial’s five-day visit is a bilateral tour at the invitation of Chinese Public Security Minister Zhou Yongkang.

On his first official visit to China, the Indian Home Minister will hold talks with Zhou and is likely to meet Premier Wen Jiabao there.

Patil will also visit Beijing Police Training Center said it could dump three to eight inches of rain on parts of central and north Florida and southeastern Georgia.

At 8 am (1200 GMT), Ophelia was centred about 80 miles (130 kilometres) east of Cape Canaveral, Florida, and moving north-northwest.

China strengthens control of poppy seeds

BEIJING, 8 Sept — Five Chinese central government departments have jointly declared a ban on sales of poppy seeds and related food products on the market.

Recently, some dealers advertised the functions and advantages of opium poppy seeds in sales promotion of poppy seed dressings such as jam, which has seriously misled the consumers, said the Ministry of Health on Wednesday.

The ministry did not give examples of such misleading advertising.

The ministries of Health and Agriculture, the State Food and Drug Administration, the State Administration of Quality Supervision and Quarantine, and the State Administration for Industry and Commerce jointly announced the ban on sales of poppy seeds and relevant food, noting poppy seeds can only be used to extract edible oil.

The announcement said the only legal company for poppy seed oil is Nongken Co. Ltd. of northwest China’s Gansu Province, but the poppy seeds produced by this company cannot be sold in market either.

The joint announcement also said poppy seed oil should be controlled by the government as a kind of new resource food, which has to be tested before sale. The package and advertisement of poppy seed oil should abide by law.

No organization or individual is allowed to import poppy seed and poppy seed dressing, it noted, calling on local authorities to strengthen control.

— MNA/Xinhua

Four Britons killed in roadside bomb in Basra

BAGHDAD, 8 Sept — A roadside bomb detonated on Wednesday near a convoy of four-drive vehicles usually used by foreign contractors in Iraq’s southern city of Basra, an Interior Ministry source said.

An improvised explosion device detonated at about 9:00 am (0500 GMT) and hit a convoy of sport utility vehicles (SUV), destroying an SUV and killing four civilian Britons on the busy highway of Gzaiyza,” the source quoted Basra police reports as saying.

A white four-wheel drive vehicle was overturned on a railroad after it fell from the highway by the powerful blast, the source quoted Basra police reports as saying.

However, a British Embassy spokesman in Baghdad denied any casualties among British diplomats and military personnel in Basra, some 550 kilometres south of Baghdad.

“No British national involved in the incident this morning in Basra,” the spokesman told Xinhua without elaboration. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia to host NAM Information Ministers conference

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Sept — Malaysia will host the Sixth Conference of the Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries (COMINA) this November, a senior official said on Tuesday.

The conference, themed “Advancing Communication and Information Collaboration Toward A More Dynamic NAM”, is scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur on 19-22 November, Malaysian Minister of Information Abdul Kadir said.

Sheikh Fadzir said.

One of the highlights of the conference will be the possibility of setting up a practical and effective new organization or exchange among member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Abdul Kadir told reporters here. This would enable NAM member countries to have an effective exchange of news and information as many of the news sources are from Western countries now, Abdul Kadir said.

— MNA/Xinhua

Iraq rebuilding under threat as US runs out of money

BAGHDAD, 9 Sept — Key rebuilding projects in Iraq are grinding to a halt because American money is running out and security has diverted funds intended for electricity, water and sanitation, according to US officials.

Plans to overhaul the country’s infrastructure have been downsized, postponed or abandoned because the $24bn ($13bn) budget approved by Congress has been dwarfed by the scale of the task.

“We have scaled back our projects in many areas,” James Jeffrey, a senior state department adviser on Iraq, told a congressional committee in Washington, in remarks quoted by the Los Angeles Times. “We do not have the money.”

Water and sanitation have been particularly badly hit. According to a report published this week by Government Accountability Office, the investigative branch of Congress, $2.6bn has been spent on water projects, half the original budget, after the rest was diverted to security and other uses.

The report said “attacks, threats and intimidation against project contractors and subcontractors” were to blame. A quarter of the $200m-worth of completed US-funded water projects handed over to the Iraqi authorities no longer worked properly because of “looting, unreliable electricity or inadequate Iraqi staff and supplies”, the report found. — Internet

— Internet

Tropical storm “Ophelia” strengthens off florida

MIAMI, 9 Sept — Tropical Storm Ophelia strengthened slightly off Florida’s Atlantic Coast on Wednesday and seemed likely to turn away from land but its path was too uncertain to rule out a strike on Florida or Georgia, forecasters said.

Tropical storm warnings were in effect for a 120-mile stretch of shoreline from Sebastian Inlet to Flagler Beach in Florida, alerting residents to expect the storm within 24 hours.

Ophelia coalesced overnight from a loose swirling mass of thunderstorms and had top winds of 45 miles per hour. Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center said it could dump three to eight inches of rain on parts of central and north Florida and southeastern Georgia.

At 8 am (1200 GMT), Ophelia was centred about 80 miles (130 kilometres) east of Cape Canaveral, Florida, and moving north-northwest.
UN report says leaders have last chance to save poor

London, 8 Sept— World leaders have a last chance to fulfill promises to reduce poverty and boost health by 2015 or risk being damned by history for condemning millions of children to death, a UN report said on Wednesday.

The warning was issued a week before heads of state and government from 175 countries gather in New York to gauge progress on meeting the Millennium Development Goals in the face of attempts by the United States to declare them null and void.

"If this summit fails, there really is no way back," said Kevin Watkins, lead author of the UN's Human Development Report.

World leaders agreed in 2000 on a series of goals to be reached by 2015, including halving the number of people living in extreme poverty, cutting deaths of children under five by two-thirds and achieving universal primary education.

"If this summit doesn't produce a strong commitment to strengthen cooperation around the Millennium Development Goals...then we may as well forget the project," Watkins said.

"If that happens that would be an absolutely shocking indictment of the international community, and in particular of the key governments that failed to cooperate to deliver on the promises," he told a news conference to publish the 2005 report.

The annual report painted a dismal picture. Watkins said one child died from poverty every three seconds, 1.2 billion people were living on less than one US dollar a day and, at current rates of progress, 47 million children would not be in school by 2015.

The cumulative effect of failing to reach the target for cutting child deaths would mean 41 million extra and avoidable deaths over the next decade, the report said.

The UN report said 50 countries, with a combined population of 900 million, were actually moving back wards on at least one of the development goals.

India struggles with encephalitis outbreak, 600 dead

Lucknow (India), 8 Sept— Indian authorities are struggling to cope with an encephalitis epidemic in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh where more than 600 people have died from the disease, a health official said on Wednesday.

The encephalitis outbreak, which erupted in late July, is centred in the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh, but has also spread to the state capital, Lucknow.

"The management of patients is becoming increasingly difficult. There is no let up in new patients nor in the death toll," K.P. Kushwaha, a senior doctor in a state-run medical college in Gorakhpur Town, told Reuters.

Kushwaha said 31 people had died since Monday in the medical college alone. Most of those who have died are children. Symptoms include high fever, severe headaches and convulsions.

Officials said doctors and nurses in government hospitals in the densely-populated region were unable to cope with the flow of patients. "We are terribly short of doctors and nurses," Kushwaha said.

"The available staff have to perform double duties but there is a limit to their stamina." — MNA/Reuters

Saudi FM calls for building world anti-terror centre

Riyadh, 8 Sept— Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal on Tuesday called for building an international anti-terror centre.

Faisal made the call to world leaders who will gather in New York for the 60th UN General Assembly in mid-September.

Terrorism poses a big threat to global peace, security and international development and has brought great sufferings to many countries in the world, said Faisal.

Saudi Arabia proposed the building of the anti-terror centre during a conference on terrorism in February, which was attended by 45 states and eight regional and international organizations, including the UN, he added.

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Security has been stepped up across Afgha

istan in the run-up to 18 September elections that have been denounced by Taleban guerrillas, who have been battling US and government forces since their ouster in 2001.

"The car was passing a policeman’s house in the town of Girishk when it exploded but that was not believed to have been the target, said Mohammed Wali Alizai, spokesman for the Helmand provincial government.

"It seems their aim was to carry out a suicide attack on the Americans but it went off early," Alizai said.

"The car was completely destroyed, it’s in pieces," he said.

The United States has 20,000 troops in Afghanistan, most of whom are focusing on election security, as are 10,000 NATO-led peacekeepers and tens of thousands of government forces.

More than 1,000 people, most of them guerillas but including 49 American soldiers, have been killed this year, the bloodiest period since US-led forces arrived. The parliamento and provincial elections are the final part of a plan meant to restore democratic government and stability in Afghanista

after 25 years of conflict. — MNA/Reuters

Bungled car bomb kills four in south Afghanistan

Kabul, 8 Sept— A car exploded in a southern Afghan town on Wednesday, killing its three occupants and a passerby, in what appeared to be a bungled suicide attack, a provincial official said.

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"Nabi" hits hard S Korea’s eastern coast areas

Seoul, 8 Sept— Typhoon Nabi beat South Korea’s eastern coast areas with rain and strong winds on Wednesday, forcing over 1,000 people to evacuate.

About 1,100 people on the southern and eastern coasts were forced to leave their homes, reported South Korean Yonhap news agency.

Nabi, the 14th storm of this year, also grounded many flights, blocked trains and ferry services and closed down highways along the South Korean southern and eastern coastlines, while leaving tens of thousands of houses without electricity.

Cities hit hardest were Ulsan and Pohang, some 400 kilometres south of Seoul, on the eastern coast, where 130 buildings and 10 roads were flooded in the downpour, said Yonhap.

About 60,000 houses hold experienced electricity shortages in Ulsan. In Busan, South Ko

rea’s second-largest city, the typhoon downed signboards, uprooted trees and tore down the walls of houses, television footage showed. Nabi went ashore on the southern part of Japan on late Tuesday.

South Korean weather forecast authorities predicted the typhoon will be fully out of the typhoon’s influence around Thurs
day. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi police survey the scene following an explosion in Baghdad, on 8 September, 2005. — INTERNET

Nat’l Museum of China strengthens cooperation with British Museum

Beijing, 8 Sept— Curators of the National Museum of China and the British Museum signed a memorandum of understanding here on Tuesday to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the fields of exhibition and research.

The memorandum says the British Museum (BM) is expected to show the highlights of its worldwide collections to audiences in Beijing at the National Museum of China (NMC) when it reopens after its renovation and enlargement in 2008.
**IT’s stupid to be afraid of China’s development**

**BERLIN, 8 Sept—** A shift of the world’s economic centre of gravity from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific is inevitable but it’s stupid to be afraid of China’s development, Singaporean political mentor Lee Kuan Yew has said.

"Economically, there will be a shift to the Pacific from the Atlantic Ocean and you can already see that in the shipping volumes of Chinese ports," said Lee in a recent exclusive interview with German-language weekly Der Spiegel. "Every shipping line is trying to get into association with a Chinese container port," he noted.

China is learning very fast from the developed world, but it is not the reason for other countries to be afraid, said the first-ever Prime Minister of Singapore.

"In 50 years I see China, (South) Korea and Japan at the high-tech end of the value chain," he said.

"Look at the numbers and quality of the engineers and scientists they produce and you know that this is where the R&D will be done. The Chinese have a space programme, they are going to put a man on the moon and nobody sold them that technology," said Lee. "When asked how afraid the West should be of China’s rise, Lee said: ‘It’s stupid to be afraid.’"

He noted that the developed world is leading in many fields which the Chinese cannot catch up with for many years, if not decades. "In pharmaceuticals, I don’t see them catching up with the Germans for a long time," Lee Kuan Yew believed that China does not intend to enhance its influence through military means but economic competition.

"They will trade, they will not demand, ‘This is my sphere of influence, you keep out.’" said Lee. "I think they have calculated that they need 30 to 40 —maybe 50 years of peace and quiet to catch up (with the developed world)," he said. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Chile tries to kick teen smoking habit with new law**

**VALPARAISO (Chile), 8 Sept—** A corner of Nueva York and Moneda streets in downtown Santiago fills up every morning with young teenagers in school uniforms smoking cigarettes.

It could be almost any city corner in this South American country, which has the highest rate of teen-age girls smoking in the Western Hemisphere, a habit lawmakers want to kick with a tough new anti-smoking law set for a Senate vote this week. "All of my friends smoke, all of them," says 15-year-old Camila, a cigarette dangling awkwardly from her lips. "I just started smoking last month," she says, adding that since her grandmother died of cancer she tries to smoke only on weekends.

Most Chileans have their first cigarette at age 15, says the government’s National Narcotics Control Council, known as Conac. Overall, 26 per cent of teen-age girls and 55 per cent of Chilean women aged 19-25 smoke.

The new law, expected to pass easily, aims to stop girls like Camila from picking up the habit by imposing restrictions that have had some success in cutting smoking in countries such as the United States and Canada.

Legislators have been working on new smoking rules since March, when Chile made a commitment to the World Health Organization to bring anti-smoking legislation in line with other member countries. Anti-smoking groups say it will not be easy in a country with a powerful tobacco industry, an entrenched habit and where smoking among women has risen in the last 10 years.

The new law would prohibit smoking in public places such as airports and hospitals and in all government buildings, and limit smoking areas in bars and restaurants. It would also limit where tobacco firms can advertise, and prohibit the sale of cigarettes near schools.

The law would require graphic anti-smoking warnings on 40 per cent of the surface area of cigarette packages, which now carry a small cancer warning in gold-coloured letters. — MNA/Reuters

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**France to boost sentences under new terrorism law**

**PARIS, 8 Sept—** The French Government plans to increase jail terms for those convicted of belonging to terrorist organizations under a new anti-terrorism law, the Justice Ministry said on Wednesday.

Under the law, to be presented to the Cabinet in October, sentences for "running and organizing a terrorist organization" could rise to 30 from 20 years, a ministry spokesman said.

Following the bombings in London on 7 July, Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said France planned to reinforce its information-gathering procedures and crack down on militants.

His ministry has said the new law would include measures on video surveillance and the storage of telephone data.

Someone convicted of being involved in a life-threatening attack as a member of a terrorist group could face 15 or 20 years in prison, up from 10 at the moment, the ministry said. — MNA/Reuters

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**APEC Finance Ministers’ Meeting kicks off in S Korea**

**JEJU ISLAND (South Korea), 8 Sept—** The 12th APEC (Asia-Pacific Economy Cooperation) Finance Ministers’ Meeting (FMM) kicked off its two-day official sessions on Thursday morning at the South Korean southwest resort Jeju Island.

Finance ministers or senior finance officials from the APEC 21-member economies as well as high level representatives from Asia Development Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Bank attended the opening session of the 2005 APEC FMM at Shilla Hotel in southern Jeju Island.

"This year’s APEC FMM has two themes: ‘Free and stable movement of capital’ and ‘Meet the challenges of aging economies’. South Korean Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economy Han Duck-soo delivered opening remarks, which called on APEC members to take measures to curb high oil prices, imbalance in the global economy and real estate price’s surge. "Rising demand despite supply constraints is the main cause that is pushing the oil prices up," Han pointed out, adding ‘speculative demand and lack of transparency in the market information’ are also contributing to the consistent rise of oil prices.

The South Korean Deputy Prime Minister urged ‘oil producing and consuming economies to join their efforts to bring demand and supply into balance’, since high oil prices, ‘in a long term, undermine economic growth and deepen global uncertainties, threatening both oil producing and consuming economies’. Han continued to say that global economic imbalance is another risk that APEC members face. Shared responsibilities among the member economies were urged to resolve imbalance in the global economy. Han also said APEC members should keep close watch on the rising real estate prices.

“Each government should closely monitor the movements of real estate prices and the macro-economy, and take necessary measures,” said Han.

In addition, resolving obstacles to capital movements and addressing the possible challenges that would be brought by population aging are also important issues that call out for attention,” stressed Han.

The South Korean Deputy Premier also pointed out the need for APEC economies to “develop more cooperation projects into agreements and concrete actions” to achieve the growth of the APEC and global economy. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Italian scuba diver**

Stefano Barbara, 37, tries out an exercise cycle after his descent while taking part in a scientific experiment aimed at determining the effects of living underwater for a prolonged periods, off the Italian island of Ponza on 7 September, 2005. — INTERNET
Prime Minister General Soe Win made an inspection tour of Pakokku region on the west bank of Ayeyawady River on 12 August 2005, visiting regional development and greening tasks and irrigation projects.

Pakokku District is formed with five townships — Pakokku, Yesagyo, Pauk, Myaing and Seikphyu — in which, 1.35 million people live in their 34 wards and 1,205 village. The rural population of the district is six times larger than that of the urban areas as nearly 1.2 million people are rural dwellers. Pakokku District is the second most populous region in Magway Division after Magway District.

As the district puts less than 100,000 acres under paddy per year, its local food sufficiency is only over 30 per cent. Thus, it is relying mainly on the neighbouring Gangaw District to get rice.

The maximum annual rain fall of Pakokku District is only about 25 inches. And the region is seeing an unusual drought this rainy season. As water resources are scarce, large dams are impossible in the district.

Although large creeks such as Kyaw and Yaw pass through the district, there are limits to use their waters for irrigation. Moreover, it is important to tap and conserve the natural resources, as nature conservation and regional development have interrelations. The ongoing dry regional greening project covers the task of beautifying Tantkyi, Tetma and Kyakhsin hills lying in Pakokku District.

Water resources should be sought and exploited to the most possible degree to ensure adequate water supply in the region. Livestock breeding should be conducted in addition to agriculture to reduce poverty. The Senior General also visited Pakokku and Meiktila plains to study their situations in summer and prospects to grow crops, and made arrangements for officials at different levels to tour the areas. Poverty will be addressed by fully harnessing the regional land and water resources.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, officials are paying special attention to greening the two plains. Although both are dry plains, their topographies are different from each other. Concerning the effectiveness of the small-scale irrigation projects, Prime Minister General Soe Win said, “Although water supply projects in Pakokku region are small in size, they have been built with the lofty aims of collecting water from rivers and mini-dams should be built in other dry regions."

Prime Minister General Soe Win views the sinking of a tube-well in Pauk. — MNA

**Pakokku Industrial Zone is gathering strength, while assembling jeeps and trucks and manufacturing a wide array of goods. The zone is receiving more and more orders from nearby State-owned industries. The emergence of Pakokku Textile Factory has generated more job opportunities and disseminated technological know-how. Private industries are doing well in Pakokku region.**

Pakokku is the second most populous region in Magway Division after Magway District. There are 34 wards and 1,205 villages in Pakokku District. About 1.2 million people live in the district, and nearly 1.2 million are rural dwellers. The region cannot build a dam as large as a big dam, or even a small dam larger than 300 to 400 acres. But the combined capacity of a number of small-scale dams will be as effective and large as a big dam. The region cannot achieve sustainable progress, without the efforts of man to conserve and add value to the natural resources. Small-scale and mini-dams should be built in other dry regions.

Pakokku region is gathering strength, while assembling jeeps and trucks and manufacturing a wide array of goods. The zone is receiving more and more orders from nearby State-owned industries. The emergence of Pakokku Textile Factory has generated more job opportunities and disseminated technological know-how. Private industries are doing well in Pakokku region.

All in all, the economic, health, education, transport and greening sectors of Pakokku region will continue to bear fruits, and the entire west bank is entering a new age of prosperity.

*(Translation: TMT)*

*Kyemon* Myanma

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects agricultural...

(From page 16)

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win held a meeting with officers and other ranks at Maukmai Station. In his address, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said mobilizing the participation of the entire national people, the government has been taking steps in all spheres for ensuring peace and stability, national solidarity and strong national economy.

At the same time, Tatmadaw members have been upholding Our Three Main National Causes and endeavouring with might and main to implement the tasks for community peace and tranquillity and regional development in harmony with local people.

As a result, the entire nation including Shan State has seen stability and peace and economic progress. So, in response to the goodwill of the Government, local people are to contribute towards the implementation of the State’s seven-point Road Map. Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented a TV to the station and had a cordial conversation with Tatmadawmen.

He also met with service personnel, members of social organizations and townsmen at Namyun Hall in Maukmai. Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that Maukmai Region has enjoyed fruitful results in the agricultural sector to a certain extent. He called for extended cultivation of high-yield strains of crops through modern agricultural methods for local food security in line with the guidance. He urged local people to join hands harmoniously with departmental officials in carrying out regional development projects, and departmental officials, to give the priority to the interests of the regions where they have been assigned duties.

Of 36,113 cultivated acres in total in Maukmai Township, Shan State (South), there include 6,971 acres of paddy, 2,794 acres of crops, 102 acres of gardening, and 1,099 acres of hill-side cultivation. And there are 6,615 acres of fallow land, 47,703 acres of vacant land, 87,949 acres of forests, 339,320 acres of reserved forests and other 87,530 acres totalling 605,239 acres.

In 2005-2006, the region has put 23,885 acres under paddy, 2,700 acres under summer paddy, 2,505 acres under groundnut, 2,645 acres under sesame, one acre under green gram, 68 acres under pigeon pea, 457 acres under sugarcane, and 1,072 acres under corn.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected thriving paddy fields in Myaing Village, Wanhat Village-tract, Langkho Township.

Minister inspects Kanbawzathadi

YANGON, 9 Sept — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung visited Kanbawzathadi Palace in Bago today, and inspected a replica of the royal coach drawn by 16 stallions.

After observing the royal audience hall where the coach will be placed, the minister spoke of the need to replicate ancient artifacts according to historical records and display them systematically.

Accompanied by Director-General of Archaeology Department U Kyaw Win and officials, the minister viewed a replica of the Karaweik barge in a pond in the palace compound and landscaping work.

He also inspected arrangements being made for the greening of the environs of the palace.

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung visits Kanbawzathadi Palace in Bago — MNA

Workshop on updating reproductive and sexual health modules of medical curriculum held

YANGON, 9 Sept — A workshop on updating the reproductive and sexual health modules of medical curriculum was held at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning, with an opening address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo. The workshop was organized by the Medical Science Department, WHO and UNFPA.

The opening ceremony was attended by directors general and deputy directors general of the departments under the Health Ministry, rectors, directors, professors, officials of Directorate of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence, Dr Josephine Sauvarin of WHO (Geneva Headquarters), WHO Resident Representative Professor Adik Wibowo, UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Daniel Baker and guests.

In his opening speech Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo said more than 99 percent of women who die during their pregnancy and while having their babies are from developing countries. The cause of their deaths includes delivering babies with the help of unskilled midwives and inadequate health care during pregnancy. He said although there were 90 percent of women who delivered their babies with trained, skilled midwives in cities, the number of those in rural villages had not yet reached 50 percent. That is why the Ministry of Health initiated national health reproductive policies in 2003. And consequently, health conditions of pregnant women have improved significantly. For the improvement of obstetric and gynecological branches, medical curricula have been updated in medical universities in accord with the directive of the WHO, said the deputy minister. Then he stressed the need for constant updating of medical curricula and use of modern teaching methods.

Later, Prof Adik Wibowo and Mr Daniel Baker made speeches.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win hands over cash donation for Namhsan MCWA to Daw Kyi Htay, wife of Brig-Gen Thura Myint Thein. — MNA
**HIV/AIDS control mass activities launched**

**Yangon, 9 Sept**— The Union Solidarity and Development Association and the Ministry of Health organized mass activities on HIV/AIDS control in Yangon City this morning. USDA CEC Member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, CEC Member Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Director-General of the Health Department Dr Tin Maung Win, officials, Yangon Division USDA Secretary U Aye Myint, Joint Secretary U Tha Win and executives viewed the activities that covered the entire municipal area of Yangon City.

The mayor and the deputy minister and officials visited members of USDA and social organizations giving educative talks on HIV/AIDS, distributing pamphlets, hanging educative wall posters, posting educative stickers on to slow-moving vehicles, distributing pamphlets to the commuters and people at Pansodan Jetty in Kyauktada Township and Yangon Central Railway Station in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

The Vice-Mayor and officials of the Ministry of Health inspected similar activities organized by the USDA and the ministry and carried out by secretaries of USAs, executives and members and social organizations at the busy places in Insein, Hlinethaya, North Okkalapa and Thingangyun townships.

In addition, similar activities were carried out at markets, factories, workshops, jetties, railway stations, bus stops, bus terminals, and cinema halls the same morning. — MNA

**2005 USDA AGM in progress**

**Yangon, 9 Sept** — A film crew left here by air yesterday morning for Kengtung to shoot the scenes in Mayangon Township for the international sports competitions. Altogether 2.2 million for outstanding athletes and over 9.5 million for outstanding students including stipend were presented at the ceremony. On behalf of prize winners, archer police-L/cpl Ye Min Swe expressed thanks and the ceremony ended. — MNA

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**Minister for Religious Affairs receives Chairman of Myanmar-Korea Buddhist Association**

Ven Mok Tak calls on Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung. — MNA

**Yangon, 9 Sept**— The 7th prize-distribution ceremony in conjunction with the ceremony to present stipend to the students for 2005-2006 academic year and prizes to the outstanding athletes of the social committee under the Ministry of Home Affairs, took place at the gymnasium on Kyaikwawng Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township this afternoon, attended by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo.

Also present on the occasion were Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, wife of the Home Affairs Minister, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe and wife Daw San San Wai, and officials of police forces and departments under the ministry and wives.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo made a speech and awarded prizes to the four-distinction winners of matriculation exam in 2005. Afterwards, the minister accepted the cash donations by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour.

Next, Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, wife of the minister, the deputy minister and his wife Daw San San Wai, and officials presented prizes to other distinction winners.

Later, the minister and wife presented gifts to the athletes who secured gold, silver and bronze medals in the international sports competitions, and officials to the athletes who won prizes in the state/division sports competitions. Altogether K 2.2 million for outstanding athletes and over 9.5 million for outstanding students including stipend were presented at the ceremony. On behalf of prize winners, archer police-L/cpl Ye Min Swe expressed thanks and the ceremony ended.— MNA

**Respects paid to teachers of DA Course**

**Yangon, 9 Sept**— The conclusion ceremony of Diploma in Accountancy Course (Part-II) was held in conjunction with the ceremony to present stipend to the teachers at the training school of Auditor-General’s Office in Ahlon Township this afternoon.

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Accountancy Council Deputy Auditor-General Daw Thinn Thinn gave a speech. Next, the trainees paid respects to the teachers.— MNA

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**7th prize-distribution for 2005-2006 of Ministry of Home Affairs held**

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo presents gift to a student who passed matriculation exam with six distinctions.— MNA

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**Decide after assessment**

* Friend... You also think, don’t waiver Right from wrong, objectively Make assessment, vividly of the time With clear view... You do the assessment, you decide. * Friend... You must also know, lies Full of vexation, like blind elephant roaming forest Destroying race, willing to destroy nation Blind man’s not scared of ghost, fawning for the West make assessment, get clear picture of the time Get vivid view... You do the assessment, you decide. * Friend... Before your very eyes, today Doing all the work, who are they? make assessment, get clear picture of the time Get it vivid You do the assessment, you decide. * Friend... Together with you, the entire people What is required, is peace And thinking together, toward The new nation, hand in hand To go for peace, serious and serene Our Myanmar nation’s trend of together ness Raise the curtain, see the time With clear view You do the assessment, you decide. Hinthada Myint Ngwe (Trs)
Meeting to control influenza held

YANGON, 9 Sept — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo attended the opening ceremony of the meeting to control influenza, organized by Traditional Medicine Department, at Yangon Traditional Medicine General Hospital, on Ngadatgyi Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, this morning. The deputy minister delivered an address.

Director-General Dr Thein Swe of Traditional Medicine Department, Director-Dr/Sem Win of Research and Development Division, Deputy Director-General Dr Myat Ohn Khin and those present took part in the discussions.

Next, the deputy minister gave concluding remarks. — MNA

Priority to be given to competitions of triathlon athletes

YANGON, 9 Sept — The trials of triathlon event for the XXIII SEA Games will be held on 11 September morning.

Competition of the triathlon event will start in front of Fuji Restaurant near Karaweik Hall at Kandawgyi Lake, here, at 7 am.

After taking part in the 1500-m swimming event, the athletes are to continue their competition in the 40-km cycling event that will start from Fuji Restaurant to No 981 Machinery Workshop through the road encircling Kandawgyi Lake, Bahan Roundabout, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and 8th mile Junction and Pyay Road. They must return from the workshop and finish their competitions near Nawade Cinema Hall.

 Afterwards, the athletes continue to take part in the 10-km race that will start from Nawade Cinema Hall to Karaweik Palace through Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Myepadetha Island and the road encircling Kandawgyi Lake.

The competition organizing committee requested vehicles, trishaws and the people to give priority to competitions of the athletes.

Next, those participants took part in the discussions collectively and approved the resolutions.

Afterwards, U Myo Thant (Maung Soe Shin) of MWIA and Director Ms Ohnuki Misako of ACCU made remarks on the resolutions of discussions. Later, a delegate expressed thanks and the workshop concluded.

In the evening, the dinner was hosted to those who attended the workshop by MWIA at Sakura Tower on Sule Pagoda Road. — MNA

National Workshop for Copyright Awareness concludes

YANGON, 9 Sept — National Workshop for the Copyright Awareness and the Production and Utilization of the Myanmar Version of “Asian Copyright Handbook” concluded at Traders Hotel this morning.

At the workshop, group delegates answered the queries on the proposals of CEC members of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, officials of ACCU, departmental officials, literati, resource persons and advisers.

Next, those participants took part in the discussions collectively and approved the resolutions.

Afterwards, U Myo Thant (Maung Soe Shin) of MWIA and Director Ms Ohnuki Misako of ACCU made remarks on the resolutions of discussions. Later, a delegate expressed thanks and the workshop concluded.

In the evening, the dinner was hosted to those who attended the workshop by MWIA at Sakura Tower on Sule Pagoda Road. — MNA
Chinese President arrives in Ottawa for state visit

OTTAWA, 9 Sept — Chinese President Hu Jintao arrived in the Canadian capital of Ottawa on Thursday for a state visit aimed at promoting all-round partnership of cooperation between China and Canada.

During his visit to Canada, the first by a Chinese head of state in eight years, Hu is expected to meet the Canadian leaders to exchange views on ways of furthering bilateral cooperation.

China and Canada have seen rapid progress in the development of bilateral ties since the two countries established diplomatic relation 35 years ago, especially after the all-round partnership of cooperation was formed in 1997.

The two countries have maintained frequent high-level contacts and achieved significant results in their cooperation in the fields of these economy, science and technology, energy resources, agriculture, the environment and health.

In 2004, trade between China and Canada reached 15.5 billion US dollars, a 55-per-cent increase over the previous year. In the first half of 2005, the bilateral trade volume was recorded at nine billion US dollars.

The two countries have also kept close consultation and cooperation in international affairs.

On Hu’s visit to Canada, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said last month that the visit would “deepen bilateral cooperation in various fields and upgrade the all-round partnership of cooperation to a new level”.

The Chinese President will also pay a state visit to Mexico and attend the UN summit scheduled for 14-16 September in New York.

Wu says China to stick to road of peaceful development

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Sept — China will unwaveringly stick to the road of peaceful development, top Chinese legislator Wu Bangguo said here Wednesday.

“China has been and will always be a positive factor and staunch force in safeguarding world peace and promoting common development,” Wu said in a speech delivered at the Second World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments at the headquarters of the United Nations.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People’s Congress, is among Parliament speakers from more than 130 countries and regional parliamentary organizations attending the three-day conference, which opened here Wednesday.

“The Chinese is a peace-loving nation and China is a responsible member of the international community,” Wu said. “We focus on economic development, persist in reform and opening up, continue to improve people’s living standards, and strive to build a harmonious socialist society,” Wu said. — MNA/Xinhua

“Katrina” costs NASA at least $1.1b

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 9 Sept — Hurricane Katrina will cost NASA at least 1.1 billion US dollars, the space agency said on Thursday in its first assessment of the toll at its facilities along the US Gulf of Mexico.

The storm was likely to set back NASA’s plans for another shuttle launch next year. The hurricane hit the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, which assembles shuttle fuel tanks, and the Stennis Space Centre in Bay St Louis, Mississippi, which tests shuttle rocket motors.

“Your can’t just watch it on TV and get a feel for the devastation that I have seen down here on the Gulf Coast,” Bill Parsons, who is overseeing NASA’s hurricane recovery efforts at the two facilities.

“The agency is still assessing the storm’s impact to its work force. While most of the 300 employees at Stennis have been located, Lockheed Martin, which operates the Michoud facility under contract with NASA, has yet to hear from half of its 2,000 workers. No deaths have been reported, but many workers lost their homes.”
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 bona fide agents from all eligible countries for the supply and delivery of the following:-

Sr.No | Tender No. & Description of Goods | Issue Date | Closing Date & Time
--- | --- | --- | ---
1 | 15(T)/3/MR/(E)2005-2006 Purchase of Brand New BS 75 R Steel Rail - (1200) M. Tons | 12-9-2005 (Monday) | 27.10.2005 12:00 noon (Thursday)

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 reach the office of the Managing Director, Myanma Railways, No. 357/361, Merchant Street, Botataung Township, Yangon, Myanmar on or 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 Telegraphic/Telex/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.)

All 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:310, 522, 520, 540

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung Yangon

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V. SEA BRIGHT VOY: NO (721)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (721) are here by notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-9-2005 and cargo will be discharged away the curtain and shone all”, Annan said. The in-lars programme.

after Paul Volcker, the head of me personally, and I gramme in Iraq in an ad-

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claim for some of the oil-for food programme fraud

United Nations, 8 Sept—UN Secretary-General Ko Fi Aman accepted responsibility on Wednesday for mismanagement of the oil-for-food programme in Iraq in an add-ress to the Security Council on the investigation of the programme.

“The report is critical of me personally, and I accept its criticism,” he said after Paul Volcker, the head of a year-long probe, told the 15-nation Council its members too shared the blame for failing to super-vise the 64 billion US dol-lars programme.

The findings are “deeply embarrassing to us all”, Aman said. The in-quiry committee has ripped away the curtain and shown a business under a merchant as an un-sightly corner of the organiza-tions.

The report by the Inde-pendent Inquiry Com-mitee, headed by Volcker, a former US Federal Re-serve chairman, does not accuse Aman personally of wrong-doing but found that the “cumulative man-agement performance” of the Secretary-General fell short of the standard that the United Nations organi-zation should strive to main-tain.

Volcker told the Coun-cil that the programme, which allowed Saddam Hussein to sell oil to buy food and choose his own customers, “was a com-pact with the devil and the devil had means for manipu-lating the programme to his ends”. He recom-mended the creation of a new chief operating officer with mandate for adminis-tration as well as a strong and independent oversight board, reforms still in dis-pute among UN members.

Aman takes blame for some of the oil-for-food programme fraud

Pakistan denies assurance to India on spy

ISLAMABAD, 8 Sept—Pakistan denied an Indian media report that it had assured New Delhi that it would not execute an Indian convicted 14 years ago of spying and of car-rying out a series of bomb attacks.

“We have not given any such assurance”, For-eign Ministry spokesman Muhammad Naqee Khan said, contradicting a re-port in the Indian daily, The Hindu.

Sarabjit Singh was convicted of spying and involve-ment in bombings in Pakistan that killed 14 people, and the Supreme Court last month upheld the death penalty handed to him in 1991.

Singh’s lawyer plans to ask Pakistan’s Supreme Court to review its deci-sion and he also has the option of appealing to President Pervez Musharraf for clemency.

One of the chief pros-cution witnesses from the trial 14 years ago has re-anted and said Singh was innocent.

Tuesday’s edition of

The Hindu quoted un-named Indian officials as saying India had been told the case had become an “emotive issue” and the sentence would not be implemented.

The controversy comes at a time when In-dia and Pakistan are try-ing to speed a slow mov-ing peace process.

The Indian Govern-ment has pressed for clem-en cy for Singh ahead of talks between Prime Min-ister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan’s Musharraf in New York this month.

Sarabjit Singh’s fam-ily says he is a poor farmer from a border village who accidentally wandered into Pakistan in 1990.

Supporters elsewhere in India have protested, signed petitions and gone on hunger strikes to save the condemned man.

Death sentences are often handed down but rarely carried out in Paki-stan.

Caribbean countries seek reduction in oil prices from Venezuela

HAVANA, 8 Sept—Caribbean countries seek to reduce the cost of their petroleum imports from Venezuela, which prom-ised them favourable pay-ment conditions as part of PetroCaribe, an energy co-operation agreement in the region.

Leaders, or their re-presentatives, from 13 Car-ibbean countries are hold-ing a meeting with Ven-ezuelan President Hugo Chavez in Montego Bay, Jamaica, reports reaching here said.

The PetroCaribe summit takes place as oil prices skyrockets to un-precedented levels in the international market, rep-re-senting an enormous burden and stunting the development of regional economies.

During the meeting, the Venezuelan Govern-ment will sign agreements with the 13 countries reg-istered in PetroCaribe, a Caracas initiative meant to guarantee energy secu-rity in the region.

Chavez said the Car-ibbean countries will be asked to immediately pay 60 per cent of the cost, with the remaining 40 per cent either being paid within two years or with products such as sugar or bananas.

Caribbean diplo-matic authorities said the Venezuelan Government is likely to further discount

Twin beams of light known as the “Tribute in Lights” are tested at the former site of the World Trade Centre in New York on 7 September, 2005. —IN/TERNET

Advertisement

Pakistan denies assurance to India on spy

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 10 September, 2005

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Twin beams of light known as the “Tribute in Lights” are tested at the former site of the World Trade Centre in New York on 7 September, 2005. —INTERNET
Mahathir says soaring oil price will not hit Malaysia seriously

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Sept—The soaring oil price on the world market will not affect Malaysia seriously in the long-term, former Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad said here on Wednesday.

Mahathir, speaking after returning to Malaysia from his visit to Saudi Arabia, said “the oil price will not affect Malaysia seriously in the long-term.”

“I have always said that Malaysia is not dependent on crude oil,” he said.

“The oil price will not affect Malaysia seriously in the long-term, “Mahathir said.

Mahathir said that Malaysia cannot consume all the crude oil produced by its own refineries.

However, the Malaysian government will try to reduce the consumption of crude oil.

The former prime minister said that Malaysia depends on oil for its economy, but it is not a major oil-producing country.

While the government is trying to reduce the consumption of crude oil, it is also trying to increase the production of natural gas.

Mahathir said that the government is planning to increase the production of natural gas from 36 billion cubic meters per year to 45 billion cubic meters per year by 2020.

He said that the government is also planning to increase the production of LNG from 36 million tons per year to 60 million tons per year by 2020.

According to Mahathir, the increase in natural gas production will help to reduce the consumption of crude oil.

He said that the government is planning to invest $20 billion in the development of natural gas fields.

Mahathir said that the government is also planning to invest $10 billion in the development of LNG plants.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $5 billion in the development of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology.

Mahathir said that the government is also planning to invest $2 billion in the development of offshore wind farms.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $1 billion in the development of solar power plants.

Mahathir said that the government is also planning to invest $500 million in the development of geothermal power plants.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $100 million in the development of small-scale hydroelectric power plants.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $50 million in the development of biomass power plants.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $10 million in the development of fuel cells.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $5 million in the development of wave power plants.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $1 million in the development of tidal power plants.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $500,000 in the development of ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) plants.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $100,000 in the development of photovoltaic (PV) systems.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $50,000 in the development of solar thermal (ST) systems.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $10,000 in the development of concentrating solar power (CSP) systems.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $2,000 in the development of solar-thermal hybrid systems.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $500 in the development of solar-thermal passive systems.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $100 in the development of solar-thermal active systems.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $20 in the development of solar-thermal hybrid active systems.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $5 in the development of solar-thermal passive active systems.

He said that the government is also planning to invest $1 in the development of solar-thermal active active systems.
Swiss stay top equal in group with 3-1 win over Cyprus

Nicosa, 8 Sept.—Switzerland beat Cyprus 3-1 on Wednesday to stay firmly on course for a place in the 2006 World Cup finals.

The Swiss stayed top equal with France, 1-0 winners against Ireland in Dublin, in the tight European zone Group Four standings, both with 16 points from eight games.

Switzerland went ahead in the 15th minute when goalkeeper Michalis Morfis parried a shot by Alexander Frei but the club would vigorously defend itself having “done nothing morally wrong”.

Romania striker Mutu was sacked by Chelsea in October last year after failing an FA approved drugs test for cocaine, although the July 12 test referred to by the FA was negative.

The FA said in a statement: “It is alleged that Chelsea FC has breached Regulation 1(e) of The FA’s Doping Control Regulations, which states that interference with a drugs test or the Doping Control Programme will be regarded as amounting to a breach of the Doping Control Regulations”.

Chelsea responded with a statement saying it was “absolutely committed to the fight against drugs in football. We believe we have demonstrated this by our actions and would never attempt to contravene any rules in order to cover-up drugs in sport.”

“We have made it clear publicly that we will adopt a zero tolerance policy to anybody who fails a drug test and rejects the chance of help and rehabilitation when offered by the club.”

The FA rules on doping offences state: “The independent private testing/screening of players by clubs, club officials or any other person subject to FA rules is prohibited.”

“Such testing/screening will be regarded as conduct that would interfere with The FA’s doping control programme...”

Swiss officials launch bid to host 2016 Summer Olympics

Los Angeles, 8 Sept.—Community leaders in Los Angeles on Wednesday launched a bid to host the 2016 Olympics, possibly making the second biggest US city home to its third Summer Games.

The announcement was made by the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games, or SCCOG, at a news conference attended by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, SCCOG Chairman Barry Sanders and other local officials.

“We want the members of the US Olympic Committee board to know that LA is ready and eager to participate in the selection process and wants to emerge as their choice and, thereafter, as the final choice of the International Olympic Committee,” Sanders said.

“We believe that we are the world’s best place for the 2016 Olympics and we look forward to demonstrating that to everyone,” he said.

Los Angeles is the only American city to host the Olympics more than once. The city staged the Summer Olympics in 1932 and 1984. The last American city to host the Summer Olympics was Atlanta, in 1996.

The USOC is expected to name its bid city by 2007, and the International Olympic Committee will make its selection in 2009.

The city already has many of the facilities needed for the Olympics — airports, sports venues, transportation, media centres — which will help to cut down on construction, Sanders said.

“The history that's going to be made at the 2016 games will be good for the world but the games will also be good for us,” Villaraigosa said. “Our bid for the games will engage the creativity, the optimism of our people, people who come from every corner of the earth who are connected to every sports team but call Los Angeles home.”

Councilmen Bernard Parks and Tom LaBonge, Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogard and Olympic gold medallists Jamie Evans and Rafer Johnson were all on hand to help announce the city’s bid.

The USOC board, now chaired by Peter Ueberroth, is due to meet Saturday in Denver to begin sketching out guidelines for the 2016 race.

Within the next month the board is expected to announce those guidelines and begin the official bidding process, Sanders said.

Los Angeles is the first US city to formally enter the race. Chicago, San Francisco, Houston, New York and Washington are also possible contenders, Sanders said.

Owen says England players must share blame for defeat

Gateshead, (England), 9 Sept.—Michael Owen says the England players have to take their share of responsibility for the World Cup qualifier defeat by Northern Ireland.

Coach Sven-Goran Eriksson was lambasted in the national media after Wednesday's 1-0 loss in Belfast, England's first in the city since 1927.

“The manager, the players and the staff are all in it together,” striker Owen told reporters on Thursday.

“If the manager gets it's due in small part to the players. We were out there playing and we didn't perform well enough.

“We played well for the first half an hour but then seemed to get worse and worse.”

“But we take collective responsibility for the performance and now we have to show collective togetherness, stick tight and put it right in the next two games.”

Chelsea charged with misconduct over drug tests

London, 9 Sept—Premier League champions Chelsea were charged by the Football Association on Thursday for allegedly breaching rules governing private drug testing by the club on some players last year.

Chelsea issued a statement saying the tests “directly relate to the Adrian Mutu case” and that the club would vigorously defend itself having “done nothing morally wrong”.

Romania striker Mutu was sacked by Chelsea in October last year after failing an FA approved drugs test for cocaine, although the July 12 test referred to by the FA was negative.

The FA said in a statement: “It is alleged that Chelsea FC has breached Regulation 1(e) of The FA’s Doping Control Regulations, which states that interference with a drugs test or the Doping Control Programme will be regarded as amounting to a breach of the Doping Control Regulations”.

Chelsea responded with a statement saying it was “absolutely committed to the fight against drugs in football. We believe we have demonstrated this by our actions and would never attempt to contravene any rules in order to cover-up drugs in sport.”

“We have made it clear publicly that we will adopt a zero tolerance policy to anybody who fails a drug test and rejects the chance of help and rehabilitation when offered by the club.”

The FA rules on doping offences state: “The independent private testing/screening of players by clubs, club officials or any other person subject to FA rules is prohibited.”

“Such testing/screening will be regarded as conduct that would interfere with The FA’s doping control programme...”

MNA/Reuters

Who has qualified for the World Cup?

World Cup places booked

Germany
Argentina
Japan
Iran
South Korea
Saudi Arabia
Ukraine
USA
Brazil
Mexico

North American cities to host the World Cup

* USA
* Mexico
* Costa Rica

Seven teams now qualified

Africa
* South Africa
* Morocco
* Senegal
* Tunisia
* Namibia
* Sudan
* Egypt

Asia
* Japan
* China
* Saudi Arabia
* Korea
* Thailand

Europe
* England
* Spain
* France
* Belgium
* Netherlands

Oceania
* Australia
* New Zealand

The 2006 World Cup will be held in Germany, with 32 teams involved. At present, ten of those 32 slots have been filled, with Mexico the latest to qualify. Hosts Germany and Ukraine are through and South America's big two, Argentina and Brazil, have both sealed their places.

In addition USA, Japan, Iran, South Korea and Saudi Arabia have also qualified.

But who else will be on the plane to Germany in 2006? And which regions of the world will they come from?

Europe
* Germany
* Ukraine

12 others made up of seven group winners, two best runners-up and three winners of play-offs involving other six runners-up. England need two more victories to qualify.

South America
* Argentina
* Brazil

Two others qualify automatically and one more goes into a play-off with Australia, who beat the Solomon Islands in the Oceania qualifying final.

Asia
* Japan
* Iran
* South Korea
* Saudi Arabia

One other team to enter a play-off against Central American country.

Concacaf
* (North and Central America and Caribbean)

* USA
* Mexico

Next team from Guatemala, Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago and Panama, with fourth entering a play-off against team from Asia.

Africa
* No qualifiers yet

Winners of each of the five qualifying groups go through.

Oceania
* Australia beat the Solomon Islands 9-1 on aggregate in their two-legged play-off. They go through to play the fifth-placed South American country in a play-off in November.

Internet

Don’t Smoke
Major quake rocks Papua New Guinea

SYDNEY, 9 Sept — A major earthquake measuring 7.3 in magnitude shook parts of Papua New Guinea in the South Pacific on Friday, but there were no immediate reports of damage and a tsunami was unlikely, officials said.

However, effects to contact residents in remote areas near the quake were being hindered by poor communication lines, a spokesman for Papua New Guinea’s National Disaster and Emergency Services said.

The epicentre of the quake, which struck at 0735 GMT was off the east coast of New Britain province, about 130 km (80 miles) east southeast of Rabaul, the Hong Kong Observatory said.

Infections kill 3 after “Katrina”; others at risk

WASHINGTON, 9 Sept — Three people have died from bacterial infections in Gulf states after Hurricane Katrina, and tests for new diseases showed signs of a swine flu outbreak in Mississippi. A fourth person in the Gulf region is suspected of being infected with Vibrio vulnificus, a common marine bacteria, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Julie Gerberding told reporters, citing reports from state health officials in Mississippi and Texas.

“This does not represent an outbreak,” Gerberding told a news conference. “It does not spread from person to person.

“People who are compromised in immunity can sometimes develop very severe infections from these bacteria. We see cases of this from time to time along the coast,” she added.

Two of those who died were in Mississippi and one was an evacuee from Texas to Louisiana.

Guinea's National Disaster and Emergency Services

1. Martial song
2. To be healthy exercises
3. Morning news
4. Nice and sweet song
5. News
6. Weather
7:25 am
8.20 am
9.30 am
8:30 am
International news
8:45 am
9. Islands of Dhamma
9:00 am
10. A travel to Kyaing Tong - Peaceful easy Portfolio for easy listening.
11:00 pm
1. Martial song
2. Musical programme
11:30 pm
1. News
11:40 pm
1. Games for children
12:05 pm
2. Roundup of the week’s TV local news
12:35 pm
6. News
1:15 pm
7. English for Everyday Use
1:25 pm
8. National news
9. Dance of national races
2:20 pm
10. National news
2:50 pm
11. Musical programme
2:20 pm
12. “Kha and the Nook”
2:45 pm
13. International news
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday Use
4:45 pm
4. National news
5:00 pm
5. National news
5:15 pm
6. National news
6:00 pm
7. National news
6:30 pm
8. National news
7:00 pm
9. National news
7:15 pm
10. National news
7:30 pm
11. National news
7:45 pm
12. National news
8:00 pm
13. National news
8:15 pm
14. National news
8:30 pm
15. National news
8:45 pm
16. National news
9:00 pm
17. News
9:15 pm
18. International news
9:30 pm
19. Weather report
9:45 pm
20. National news
10:00 pm
21. National news
22. The next day’s programme

U Thit Hsan - Daw Than Shwe and family of No 701 (B), Yazana Tower, Bahan Township, recently donate K100,000 to U Chu Maung, member of Administrative Board of Hninzigon Home for the Aged. —U

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Friday, 9 September, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST today. During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Kachin State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan and Chin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyarwady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Magway Division and isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Sittway (5.08) inches, Namabin (3.42) inches, Aunglan (2.28) inches, Nyang U (1.85) inches, Minbu (1.57) inches, Co co Island (1.50) inches, Magway (0.59) inch and Pynnmana (0.78) inch.

Maximum temperature on 8-9-2005 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 9-9-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 9-9-2005 was 95%. Total sunshine hours on 8-9-2005 was 2.2 hrs approx.

Rainfalls on 9-9-2005 were (1.00) inch at Mingaladon, (0.91) inch at Kaba- Aye and (0.43) inch at the central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 75.59 inches at Mingaladon, 78.67 inches at Kaba-Aye and 82.60 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from East at (14-40) hours MST on 8-9-2005.

Bay inferences: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday’s low pressure areas persists over West Central Bay. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is weak elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 10-9-2005: Rain or thunder-showers will be isolated in Chin and Kayah States, Sagaing and Bago Divisions, scattered in Kachin and Shan States, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeyarwady and Yangon Divisions and widespread in remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-9-2005: One or two rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-9-2005: Isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Weather outlook for second of September 2005: During the coming weekend, rain or thunder-showers will be scattered in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

MNA/Reuters

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State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Republic of India

YANGON, 9 Sept — Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra, newly accredited Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinttha at 10.30 am today.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.

MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe receives newly accredited Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra at Zeyathiri Beikman.

MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw-Win inspects agricultural tasks in Shan State (South)

YANGON, 9 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint inspected progress of Taunggyi on 7 September morning.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected progress of cultivation of monsoon paddy along Taunggyi-Hopong Road and Hopong-Mongpong Road and upgrading and maintenance of Meiktila-Taunggyi-Loilem Road.

On arrival at Mongpong, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected Shwe Yin Aye strain paddy fields. The commander gave accounts of sufficient water supply and programmes for extended cultivation. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions.

He viewed progress of growing of monsoon paddy and corn plantations along Mongpong-Loilem Road and pine plantations along Loilem-Namhsan Road and progress of cultivation of monsoon paddy in Loilem-Namhsan Region.

He proceeded to Namhsan Station and presented cash assistance to Namhsan Station Maternal and Child Welfare Association through Chairperson of the association Daw Kyi Htay, wife of Brig-Gen Thura Myint Thein of the station.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win also inspected the 93-acre field of Shwe Yin Aye strain paddy of families of Namhsan Station near Namhsan-Mongnai Road and instructed the officers to extend paddy cultivation.

He looked into conservation of forests and plantations of monsoon paddy and seasonal crops along Mongnai-Maukmai Road and the 200-acre monsoon paddy model field at Nwapaukkwin, Singaing Village-tract- Maukmai Township.

(See page 8)