Way paved for wider involvement of private industrialists in industrial sector

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein on tour of development tasks in Shan, Kayah States

Yangon, 11 Sept — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, left here by Tatmadaw aircraft on 9 September afternoon and arrived Heho Airport in Shan State (South).

The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed there by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, senior military officers and departmental officials.

Accompanied by Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein proceeded to Coal-fired Power Plant (Tikyit) of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise near Pyintha Village of Pinlaung Township.

In the briefing hall, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on the purpose of building the power plant, kind of generator, investment, water supply, power supply programme, coal availability and utilization and power production.

Chief Engineer U Tin Aung of MEPE briefed the Secretary-1 on production process of electricity and preventive measures being taken for air pollution.

The Secretary-1 heard reports on the plant and gave necessary instructions. Next, they inspected computer-aided power control room and turbines of the plant.

Completion of three-storey main building at Government Technological College (Ayethaya) in Taunggyi.— MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
To meet crop cultivation targets

Myanmar is an agro-based country and agricultural sector development will contribute much to growth in national economy. With this in view, the government is taking necessary measures for development of the agricultural sector.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials concerned, on 1 and 2 September 2005 made an inspection tour of NyaungU, Chauk, Salin, Pyinbyu and Magway Townships in Mandalay and Magway Divisions.

During the tour, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met division, district and township level departmental officials and members of social organizations at City Hall in Magway and gave instructions on regional development. He also called for active public participation in greening tasks and meeting the target of monsoon paddy cultivation.

Although Magway Division is blessed with arable virgin and fallow lands the division in the past found it difficult to engage in agriculture as it has scanty rainfalls. Moreover, the division lagged behind in development due to poor transport. Nowadays, implementation of river water pumping projects and building of small-scale dams have been accorded special priority in the division. In consequence, local people have now been able to engage in extended cultivation of monsoon paddy and other crops. Accordingly, the sown acreage of paddy in the division has increased to over 230,000.

Virgin and fallow lands were reclaimed in Tebokan Region, Salin Township, where long-staple cotton and other crops are being grown.

Tasks for ensuring regional greening are being carried out in Magway Division, Shinmataung greening task in Yezagyo Township, Kyaukhsintaung greening task in Myaing Township, Tankyitaung greening task in Pakokku Township and Minbutaung greening task in Minbu Township are gaining much momentum.

New roads, new river crossing bridges and airport were built for those in the division to move about from one place to another, thereby contributing to improvement of socio-economic life of the local people.

In the meantime, artesian wells were sunk for supply of potable water to rural regions and villages, where water is scarce.

Therefore, local authorities, farmers and local people are to make concerted efforts to meet the targets of crops cultivation and engage in greening tasks making better use of favourable conditions created by the government.

Coordination meeting on 24th
donation of provisions held

YANGON, 11 Sept— The first coordination meeting on 24th donation of provisions to Pyaytaung Township Townships in Bago Division (West) took place at Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council office on 7 September. It was attended by Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Chairman Brig-Gen Hla Min, local authorities, social organizations and others.

Brig-Gen Hla Min and committee members for organizing the donation made a general round of discussion. Wellwishers far and near may participate in the donation. For further information, one may contact the following numbers (Tel: 053-22102, 053-22536, 053-21685).— MNA

Vice-Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and party supervise tasks of dry day inspection teams.— MNA

YANGON, 11 Sept — Vice-Chairman of the Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, together with deputy leader of the supervisory group Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Huy, committee members Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla, senior military officers, departmental heads supervised the functions of inspection teams this morning.

Similarly, committee members Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khan Yi, Director-General U Khan Maung, senior military officers and departmental heads performed supervision tasks in the evening.

The dry day inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver’s licence, wheel tax bill, wearing of respective uniforms and breaking of traffic rules at the main points of Yangon City from 7 am to 5 pm today.— MNA

New medicine for diabetes introduced

YANGON, 11 Sept— Pioz (Piogliazone 15/30 mg) and Lipicard (Micronized Fenofibrate-200mg) imported by USV Limited of Mumbai, India, was introduced at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, here, this evening, attended by Professors, Associate Professors, medical academicians and guests.

Professor and Head of Department of Medicine of Institute of Medicine-1 (Yangon) Prof Dr Saw Naing presented matters on Aggressive Management of Diabetes Dyslipidaemia and Dr Shashank Jos and Dr

Introduction of new medicine for diabetes in progress.— MNA

Similarly, committee members Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khan Yi, Director-General U Khan Maung, senior military officers and departmental heads performed supervision tasks in the evening.

The dry day inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver’s licence, wheel tax bill, wearing of respective uniforms and breaking of traffic rules at the main points of Yangon City from 7 am to 5 pm today.— MNA

Trials of Triathlon Contest end

YANGON, 11 Sept — The trials of Triathlon Contest took place in front of Fuji Restaurant near Karaweik Hall of Kandawgyi Lake, here, this morning.

Director-General U Thaung Htik of Sports and Physical Education Department launched the 1500-m swimming contest.

Next, the competitors continued their competitions in the 40-km cycling and the 10 km race.

In the contest, Chit Oo of South-West Command won the first prize, Khin Maung Thant of SPEI (Yangon) second, Thet Paing Toe of SPEI (Yangon) third and Min Zaw of Central Command fourth.

Later, they answered the queries raised by those present.

MNA

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S’pore forms inter-ministerial committee to deal with dengue fever

SINGAPORE, 10 Sept — Singapore has formed an inter-ministerial committee led by Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Yaacob Ibrahim to deal with the surge of dengue fever cases, Channel News Asia reported on Friday night.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said at the launch of the National Healthy Lifestyle Campaign that the government is looking very closely at the current situation, which has been quite worrying. He urged Singaporeans to take the threat seriously and join the government’s effort to tackle the problem.

Some 8,850 dengue fever cases were reported in Singapore from the beginning of this year to 3 September, with the highest weekly number of 547 cases being recorded last week.

The total number for last year was 9,459 cases, almost doubling the 4,788 cases in 2003.

Health Minister Khaw Boon Wan appealed to the public “to take a SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) approach” in dealing with the situation at a Press conference on Wednesday.

As the treatment of the disease keeps each patient at hospital for about 10 days, public hospitals in the city state have experienced bed shortages in the past few days.

Non-urgent operations have been postponed in these hospitals while more hospitals began to receive dengue patients.

Earlier this week, the National Environment Agency (NEA) allocated another six million Singapore dollars (about 3.6 million US dollars) for a dedicated mosquito control programme.

It came after the agency announced in late August an additional 7.5 million Singapore dollars (about 4.5 million US dollars) to its yearly fund of 2.5 million Singapore dollars (about 1.5 million US dollars) used for flushing the drains, one of the most likely mosquito breeding sources.

The NEA also recruited more field inspectors, put up posters at bus stops and Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) stations, and distributed new sets of dengue educational kits to 70,000 families in the past two months.

Vietnam to raise local content in ships

HANOI, 10 Sept — Vietnam’s biggest shipbuilder will pour 10 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (roughly 633 million US dollars) into producing components, in a move to raise the proportion of locally-made parts in ships.

The Vietnam Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (Vinashin) will intensify investment in manufacturing rolled steel, diesel engines, cranes and steering systems, so that it can increase the local content to 65 per cent by 2010 from the current 25 per cent, the state-owned corporation said on Friday.

The Vinashin has recently received big orders on building container and cargo ships from foreign shipping lines, including a 142-million-dollar contract inked with a German firm in April, and a 336-million-dollar contract signed with a British company late last year.

The corporation has obtained the Vietnamese Government’s green light to issue bonds in the international market in the third quarter, in a move to raise funds for new shipbuilding projects.

Vietnam, home to 119 seaports, received 74,500 ships and handled 127.6 million tons of cargoes last year.

The country, which currently has 1,025 ships with a total crew of 20,000, is calling for foreign and domestic investment to develop its shipping fleets.

Iraq in faceoff with airport security firm

BAGHDAD, 10 Sept — Iraqi troops were ordered to reopen Baghdad airport yesterday after a British security company halted commercial flights in a pay dispute, cutting one of the country’s few outside links.

The government threatened a show-down with Global Strategies Group, saying the London-based firm over-stepped its powers when private guards shut the airport at dawn.

“My forces have entered the airport,” the acting transport minister, Esmail Amer, told Reuters. “We are taking some technical measures now and will soon resume the flights, maybe in the next few hours. We will not let the airport be closed in any way. It is a matter of sovereignty for us.”

Ali al Abu Ghanim, the airport’s flight control chief, said the national carrier Iraqi Airways would fly but passengers were left guessing whether flights would resume.

Global did not confirm whether the government had seized control and it was unclear who was in charge.

The company said soldiers were not trained in airport security to the standards required by international airlines.

“Passenger and cargo screening will not happen. It’s just not safe,” said spokesman Giles Morgan.

The London-based company said it was forced to suspend operations because the transport ministry, which owns the airport, had not paid it for seven months.

A similar dispute in June shut the facility for two days. — Internet
Iran cleric says atomic work will go ahead

TEHERAN, 10 Sept— Iran will not be intimidated by international threats to abandon its nuclear programme, which the West fears is a front for covert bomb-making, said former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Friday.

Rafsanjani called on the Western countries to stop making a fuss over Iran’s atomic activities, which he said was only to meet the Islamic state’s energy needs and not to build bombs.

Iran faces mounting international pressure after the UN nuclear watchdog said Tehran had resumed uranium conversion at Isfahan last month, ending a freeze of sensitive nuclear work under a November 2004 deal with France, Britain and Germany. "It is determined to use peaceful nuclear technology and not to threaten or cause us to give it up," Rafsanjani told on Friday prayer worshippers at Teheran University.

Washington and the EU that suspect Iran could use its nuclear power programme to develop the capability to produce atomic weapons, are trying to reach a broad consensus for sending Iran’s case to the UN Security Council.

The International Atomic Energy Agency’s governing board met on 19 September in Vienna to discuss Iran’s nuclear programme. Rafsanjani called on the United States and the Europeans to avoid adopting “illogical” measures at the IAEA meeting.

"If they make immature decisions or implement their threats, Iran will not be the only country to be harmed," he said in a sermon broadcast live on state radio. "It is our sovereign right to obtain atomic technology for peaceful purposes." — MNA/Reuters

Heavy rains hit India’s Mumbai City

NEW DELHI, 10 Sept— Heavy rains again lashed India’s financial capital Mumbai on Friday, inundating several areas of the metropolis while suburban train services were affected. Press Trust of India (PTI) reports from Mumbai.

More than the southern Mumbai localities, the northern suburbs were badly hit by rains that started in the afternoon, Mumbai police officials said.

More than a dozen intersections in the city and suburbs witnessed traffic jams due to water logging. Water logging in at least three sections of western and central railway has slowed down the suburban railway traffic, the officials said.

Mumbai police control room authorities told PTI that water logging was reported many parts of the city’s western and eastern suburbs and parts of central Mumbai. — MNA/Xinhua

G-20 ministerial conference starts in Pakistan

BHURAN (Pakistan), 10 Sept — The G-20 ministerial meeting started Friday in Bhurban, about 50 kilometres north of Islamabad, to evolve a common strategy in the negotiations on agriculture and overall cut in trade distorting support, and blue box criteria and review green box criteria.

The meeting would discuss the issues pertaining to the market access, tiered formula for tariff reduction and sensitive products, exports competitions, exporting state trading enterprises, scope and disciplines on commercial displacement.

The meeting would also discuss other areas of negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO) including Negotiating Agriculture Market Access, services, trade facilitation, rules, and other matters and formulate recommendations for the 6th Ministerial Conference of the WTO to be held in Hong Kong in December 2005.

The delegates from Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Bolivia, China, Cuba, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Paraguay, the Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zambia attended the two-day meeting. — MNA/Xinhua

Bangladeshi police seize time bombs, bomb-making materials

DHAKA, 10 Sept — Bangladeshi police on Thursday seized 20 time bombs, firearms and a huge quantity of bomb-making materials resembling to those used in the 17 August serial blasts from two houses of suspected militants in the capital.

A police team Thursday night raided the house of Abdus Samad, a suspected member of the banned Islamic outfit Jamaatul Mujahedin Bangladesh (JMB), and seized the time bombs, three kilos of explosives, 200 detonators, switches, wires, batteries, capacitors and other materials.

The team also seized leaflets and Islamic books from the house and arrested three persons during the raid.

Earlier, a joint team of Rapid Action Battalion and police raided the house of Ataur Rahman, younger brother of JMB chief Abdur Rahman, in the capital in the early hours on Thursday. Abdur Rahman reportedly is the mastermind of the 17 August countrywide blasts in which three people were killed and over 150 others injured.

Sixty compact disks containing militant train- ing manuals, one cut rifle, one revolver with bullet, 700 capacitors were seized from the house. Five people were arrested during the intelligence officials suspected that the mis- creants who kept bombs and huge bomb-making materials in the houses were preparing for another serial blasts in the country.

Police hopes that the Interpol will soon issue red notice across the world against Abdur Rahman and his ally Siddiqui Islam and Bani Bangla Bhai, operation commander of banned militant organiza- tion the Jagra Muslim Janata Bangladesh. — MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake rocks seas of Indonesia

HONG KONG, 11 Sept — An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter Scale jolted the sea waters west of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia at 1:30 am (Hong Kong time) Sunday.

According to the Hong Kong Observatory, the epicenter was initially determined to be 4.8 north latitude and 95.1 east longitude, about 80 kilometres south-southwest of Banda Aceh. — MNA/Xinhua

1,896 US troops killed in Iraq since beginning of the war

WASHINGTON, 10 Sept — As of Saturday, 10 Sept, 2005, at least 1,896 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 six higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EDT on Thursday.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,757 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

Suicide car bomb kills Iraqi woman, wounds three

BAGHDAD, 10 Sept — A suicide car bomb blew up near a US military convoy in southern Baghdad on Friday, killing an Iraqi woman and wounding three people, police said.

“A suspected suicide bomber blew up an explosive-laden vehicle near a US military convoy on the highway in Doura District, killing an Iraqi woman and wounding three civilians,” an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

It was not clear whether there were any US casualties in the attack as the US troops scaled off the area, preventing people and Iraqi police from approaching the scene, the source said.

Guerrillas often resort to bombing attacks in a bid to undermine the US-backed government and drive out foreign forces. — MNA/Xinhua

A soldier secures the area after the bomb attack in southern Iraqi City of Basra on 7 September, 2005. — Internet

A man who was evacuated from his neighbourhood is helped from a truck at a processing centre in New Orleans on 9 September, 2005. Many residents have remained in the city despite the threat of forced evacuation by authorities. — Internet
China, Canada vow to boost trade

OTTAWA, 10 Sept — Chinese President Hu Jintao and Canada’s Prime Minister Paul Martin vowed on Friday to boost trade and investment.

The two countries agreed to deepen their 35-year-old relationship and signed a range of agreements on cooperation in nuclear power, aviation, health, education and commerce.

Hu vowed to back Chinese investment in Canada, saying the country’s advanced technology and rich natural resources made it a natural partner for China, with its abundant labour and rapid economic growth.

“The Chinese Government will support well-established Chinese enterprises in their efforts to come to Canada to invest according to market rules,” he told a news conference alongside Martin.

Hu said the two leaders had agreed to boost trade to 30 billion US dollars by 2010, double the 15.5 billion US dollars recorded in 2004, according to Chinese statistics. Canada cites higher figures. Martin said Canada would seek to maximize the benefits of Chinese investment and also tap China’s huge consumer market.

“As long as investment comes in here and obeys our laws and is subject to our regulations … that is the kind of thing that obviously Canada — as any other country would — will encourage,” he told the news conference.

Companies from energy-hungry China have invested in two projects in Canada’s rich oil sands, in the western province of Alberta, which rival Saudi Arabia’s conventional reserves in size. But no specific oil deals were mentioned on Friday.

The two countries signed a range of agreements on Friday to boost trade and investment.

India-Russia form JV defence firm for spare parts

NEW DELHI, 10 Sept — A joint venture company of Indian and Russian defence firms has been set to resolve the long-standing problem of shortage of spares for maintenance of Indian naval assets, a high-level Russian military delegation Friday said.

In a presentation before the Defence Ministry and the Indian Navy, a 20-member delegation informed them that the joint venture firm, Rosoboron-service (India), would create a bonded warehouse in Mumbai for spares and maintain the Indian naval assets of Russian origin.

Almost the entire range of naval assets like surface vessels, submarines, missile systems and aircraft of the Indian Navy would be taken care of by the JV, they said.

Earlier talking to reporters, chief of the delegation Major-General V Drizin, Deputy Director of Russian firm "FSMATS", said the Roso-boron-service within a few months would also take responsibility for the Soviet or Russian origin assets of the Indian Air Force.

The Rosoboron-service (India), they said, would become a "one-stop shop" for all after-sales service, repair, maintenance, upgrade and training needs of all assets of Indian Navy of Russian origin.

The problem had become acute following disintegration of the Soviet Union with the Armed Forces having to negotiate with scores of different companies for supply of spares or maintenance. At times, this had also affected the battle-readiness of certain equipment of the Indian Armed Forces.

The Indian firm, with which eight Russian companies have created the JV firm, is Mumbai-based Krasny Marine Services.

Iran says continuous riots in Iraq threat to all countries

TEHERAN, 11 Sept — Iranian Interior Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi said on Saturday that continuous riots in Iraq were a threat to all regional countries, stressing the root of the turbulent situation was the current foreign occupation, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Iranian Minister of Interior Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi said the insecurity and the guerrilla acts in Iraq, which were associated with the foreign occupation, exerted detrimental impact on the security of the neighbouring states, the report said.

"Such moves account for the promotion of regional insecurity and the broader terror dormant in Iraq," Mohammadi was quoted as saying at a meeting with a Jordanian delegation.

Iran has been keeping a close watch on its western neighbour since the downfall of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Typhoon slams into eastern Chinese city

BEIJING, 11 Sept— A typhoon made a direct hit on Sunday in a sprawling city in prosperous eastern China where nearly a million villagers and farmers had been evacuated from flimsy huts to safety.

Typhoon Khanun, which spared the island of Taiwan on Saturday after forecasts predicted a near direct hit, made landfall in China’s mountainous Zhejiang Province, where storms regularly trigger fatal floods and landslides.

The new city of Taizhou, with a population of over 5 million, took the full brunt, a city official said, adding that those evacuated by the army had been taken to schools, railway stations, hotels and other solid buildings for protection.

Signboards have been blown down and definitely trees will be uprooted and houses damaged, “the official said, adding that 330,000 people had been moved to safety in Taizhou alone.

Indonesia to launch nat’l defence industry programme in 2007

JAKARTA, 10 Sept—Indonesia hopes to launch its national defence industry programme in 2007 to reduce the country’s dependence on other countries for arms supply, a minister said.

“Dependence on other countries for armament affects the defence budget allocations for each force,” Minister of Defence Juwono Sudarsono said on Friday.

The Army now is depending on 13 countries for the supply of arms, and the Air Force is relying on 12 and the Navy on 11 other countries. “Imagine each force has more than 10 foreign arms suppliers,” Antara news agency on Saturday quoted the minister as saying.

In view of this situation, he said the Ministry of Defence in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Research and Technology had developed a national defence industry programme which was expected to be implemented in the next two years. Sudarsono said the Indonesian Army has 200,000 personnel while the Air Force 24,000 and the Navy 35,000.

Anti-war mom Cindy Sheehan criticizes Sen Feinstein’s stance on Iraq

SAN FRANCISCO, 10 Sept — Anti-war mom Cindy Sheehan is criticizing Senator Dianne Feinstein’s refusal to support an immediate withdrawal of American troops from Iraq.

The Vacaville mother, whose 24-year-old soldier son was killed last year in Iraq, is bringing her anti-war campaign to San Francisco.

After meeting with the California senator’s state director yesterday, she called on Feinstein to support bringing US troops home.

Feinstein’s spokesman says the Democratic senator was in Washington yesterday, but would be willing to meet with Sheehan if asked. He says Feinstein believes immediate withdrawal from Iraq would lead to civil war there.

Sheehan embarked on a 25-state bus tour after keeping vigil at Bush’s ranch in Crawford, Texas, for nearly a month. The tour will end in the nation’s capital on 24 September, when anti-war protesters plan a major demonstration.

Iranian girls que in line at a food distribution centre in Baghdad on 9 September, 2005. — Internet

Ashrita Furman of the US attempts to set a new Guinness record balancing 22 milk crates on his chin in Pisa, Italy, on 10 September, 2005. Furman failed in the attempt and will try again in New York in the next month. He currently holds more than 25 Guinness records, including the record for having the most records, and has broken more than 90 records overall. — Internet

Iraqi girls que in line at a food distribution centre in Baghdad on 9 September, 2005. — Internet
Helicopter with VIPs crashes north of Kabul, injures 9

KABUL, 11 Sept— A helicopter crashed on Saturday morning when it hit a tree in a place north of Afghan capital Kabul, and nine persons injured, a local TV station reported.

“We have sent someone to the place, and the investigation about the crash is still going on, but the casualties is still unclear,” he added. On the same day, the convoy of the cars of the Defence Minister was under attack.

“The convoy of the cars for Abdul Rahim Wardak was attacked by some militants this morning at about half past nine, after the convoy sent the minister to the airport and returned to the office,” the spokesman said.

“Fortunately the Defence Minister was not in the car at that time, but four persons in the convoy have been arrested in this regard,” he added. The Defence Minister, together with some other high-ranking officials, left for Panjshir Valley to pay homage to late Masood at his home Saturday morning.—MNA/Xinhua

Norwegian oil production continues to fall

STOCKHOLM, 11 Sept — Preliminary figures from the Oil Directorate show that the oil production on the Norwegian Shelf is dropping, Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK) reported on Friday.

In August, the daily production averaged 2,497,000 barrels, against 2,576,000 in July.

One reason was planned maintenance on the Visund and Vale fields, which closed down all production there, according to the NRK.

Also in July the production was down due to maintenance work.

Figures for the first seven months of the year show that the production of oil was altogether 11.2 per cent lower than in the same period last year.

Production of gas, on the other hand, has increased by 5.1 per cent compared with the same period last year. NRK reports.

MNA/Xinhua

French industrial production down 0.9% in July

PARIS, 11 Sept — French industrial production fell by 0.9 per cent in July from the June figure and manufactured output fell by 1.2 per cent, according to figures released by France’s national statistics institute INSEE on Friday.

These figures “are a bit surprising because they are lower than expected when we were anticipating a slight improvement”, said Michel Devilliers, chief economist of INSEE.

The said poor performance can be explained partially by the holiday of the French Bastille Day.

Alexandre Bourgeois of Natexis Banques Cavaclanti, which gathered more than 150 Parliament leaders from around the world, will end Friday.

“Strengthening Sino-Brazilian relations benefits not only the two countries and the two peoples, but also regional and global peace and development,” Wu said during his meeting here with Brazilian Chamber of Deputies President Severino Cavalcanti.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress (NPC), met Cavalcanti on the sidelines of the Second World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments.

The three-day event, which started on Monday, will end in a consensus and enrich the strategic partnership has in recent years undergone an all-around development, showing fruitful cooperation in all areas,” Wu said.

He said the NPC hopes to establish a mechanism for regular communication with the Brazilian Parliament so that both sides can frequently exchange ideas on bilateral ties and other issues of mutual concern, promote mutual understanding, broaden their consensus and enrich the contents of bilateral ties.

Cavalcanti, for his part, said Brazil attaches great importance to developing ties with China, an important friend of Brazil.

Brazil stands ready to strengthen communication and cooperation with the Chinese side at every level and in all fields, and to learn from each other’s strengths and draw on each other’s experiences, said Cavalcanti.

He expressed full agreement with Wu’s idea on making communication the two parliaments more regular and institutionalized.

Both sides decided to step up consultation in the regard and work to set in motion the mechanisms as soon as possible. —INSEE

Setting up mechanisms urged for regular Sino-Brazilian communication

NEW YORK, 11 Sept— Top Chinese legislator Wu Bangguo recently called for the establishment of regular communication mechanisms between the parliaments of China and Brazil.

Pakistan releases 371 Indian fishermen

ISLAMABAD, 11 Sept— Pakistan on Saturday released 371 Indian fishermen jailed in the southern port city of Karachi, according to the Associated Press of Pakistan.

The Indian fishermen will leave for Lahore, capital of Punjab Province, in the evening on a flight to India via Wagah border, about 30 kilometers east of Lahore.

“We have withdrawn all cases against these fishermen and they have been issued travelling documents. They are free to go home,” an unnamed official was quoted as saying.

The officials of Indian High Commission in Islamabad have made arrangements for the fishermen’s return journey.

Meanwhile, 51 Pakistani fishermen will arrive at Wagah border Monday after their release from Indian jails.

Pakistan has decided to release 435 Indian nationals including 371 fishermen and 64 civilian Prisoners detained in its jails on 12 September.

The Indian side has indicated that it will also release a total number of 152 Pakistani nationals including 101 civilian prisoners and 51 fishermen detained in Indian jails on the same date, a Foreign Office statement said Friday. —MNA/Xinhua

Families of gun victims march through London

LONDON, 11 Sept— Families of shooting victims marched through London on Saturday calling for an end to the rising problem of gun crime in the capital.

The “Not Another Drop” march was led by three families who have lost relatives to gun crime holding posters appealing for help in catching the murderers and an end to such deaths.

The procession began in Kensal Green in north London and passed to pay respects outside the flat in Harlesden where seven-year-old Toni-Ann Byfield and her father Bertram were shot dead in 2003.

Patsy Hopwood, whose son Kavian was murdered in Stonebridge in 2003, was due to address the marchers at a school close to where he was shot dead.

The campaign was launched in 1999 in response to eight murders in the Brent area of the capital. It is backed by police, the local authority and community representatives.

“I can’t be anything other than absolutely horrified and concerned about what’s happening — the availability of the firearms and the ages of people that are becoming involved in firearms,” Chief Superintendent Andy Bambril told BBC TV.—MNA/Reuters

Drive safely

A US soldier runs for cover in Tal Afar on 9 September, 2005.—INTERNET

China and India are the largest growth markets worldwide for cars. China is expected to overtake Germany this year as the third largest car manufacturer after the US and Japan while India is today’s fastest growing large car market.—INTERNET
Myanmar with a great number of diverse tourist attractions

Hiay Aung (Tourism Service)

Make a tour if you have money! The phrase the Myanma Hotel and Tourism Service used in its drive not long time ago was very common at that time, drawing the attention of those who loved travelling.

Now, the nation’s tourism industry has made a remarkable progress in providing transport services locally. Last year, the Myanma Hotel and Tourism Service organized 734 package tours across the nation for about 26,000 travellers, earning some K 122 million that accounted for about five per cent of the income of the entire tourism services of the nation or about K 2,300 million.

If the starting point is Yangon, it will be convenient for tourists to visit any captivating places in the nation. If one feels to enjoy the natural beauty of a beach, one may tour Ngwehsaung or Chaungtha beach resorts. Thanks to the emergence of Bo Myat Tun Bridge and Ngawun Bridge (Pathein), one can get there from Yangon in four hours. Fascinating more and more visitors, the beaches have seen increasing number of hotels and motels alongside restaurants and souvenir shops year by year.

Not far from Yangon is Moe Yan Gyi natural lake in Bago Township where the Ministry of Forestry has set up a bird sanctuary. The visitors can take boat trips in the lake, study a wide range of rare species of birds, or lead a secluded life for relaxation. Golf enthusiast tourists may put up in Bago Shwe Wah Tun Hotel to play golf course in Hanthawady Golf Course or Ye Mon Golf Course.

Kyaihtyoe, Mawlamyine, Hpa-an and Thanbyuzayat are worth a visit. In the past, during the Kyaihtyoe Pagoda Festival, the hotels, motels, restaurants, and lodging houses in the region could not provide enough accommodation for all the pilgrims. Now, enough accommodation is available there for the visitors.

Due to the emergence of Thanlawin and Mawlamyine bridges, Hpa-an and Mawlamyine are easily accessible from Yangon.

The Mingala Garden in Pyay is a secluded place and is pleasant with forests and natural lakes. Interesting sites near the garden are Sirekstara ancient city, Hmawzar Museum, Akaik Hill and cheernoot enterprises. Proceeding along Taungup Road from Pyay via Nawaday Bridge, one can reach Ngapali Beach Resort.

The distance between Yangon and Pyay, and that between Yangon and Toungoo are of the same length. From Toungoo, one can proceed to Shweegyin, Madauk or Thandaung. Twenty-eight miles from Toungoo is Thandaung hill resort that stands at an altitude of around 4,000 feet.

Situated along Yangon-Pathem waterway are Maubin, Wakema and Myaungmya where tourists can study the way of life of rural people and try regional foods and snacks. If the tour coincides with the Mawtinsun Pagoda Festival, one can visit pagodas and make a pleasure tour around Ngapulaw, Maubin and Haugyiyan.

Mandalay is also a convenient starting point for tourists. The two-day trip to PyinOoLwin is in the highest demand. One can visit Kandawgyi National Gardens, go for a picnic, study a various species of flowers and birds, play golf, take the swimming in Dattawgyaint Waterfall or Pwaygauk Waterfall resorts, and visit Maha Arntthoo Kanta Pagoda or Peikchin Ravine.

Tourists can visit Mandalay, Sagaing, Monywa, and Po-U Mountain on pilgrimage in addition to Alauhtaw Kassapa Pagoda Festival.

There are tour programmes from Mandalay to Bagan where over 80 hotels, motels and restaurants are run. There, one can enjoy the beautiful natural scenery of the Ayeyawady River, visit three Buddha Tooth Relic pagodas, and enjoy panoramic view of Bagan from Nammyint Tower.

Then, one can pay a visit to Mt. Popa, a natural habitat of diverse species of birds as well as a secluded place with religious buildings and meditation centres. From the Popa Recreation Centre, one can enjoy a pleasant view of Popa Plain that stretches as far as the eye can see.

From Bagan, one can proceed to Kamna and Pakokku on the other side of Ayeyawady River or Natma Hill via Gangaw. The Ministry of Forestry runs a recreation centre in Natma Hill from which one can enjoy natural scenic beauty of Chin Mountain Range.

In fact, Myanmar is a region with a great number of diverse tourist attractions. Now, air flights of such local airlines as Air Mandalay, Yangon Airway, and Air Bagan have served as a transport network covering the entire nation. Patao in the northermmost part and Myeik Archipelago in the southernmost of the nation are easily accessible by air. The beauty of the confluence in Myitkyina is absolutely captivating.

Making a trip to Kawthoung, one can enjoy the beauty of Andaman Sea. After Kawthoung is Andaman Recreation Centre equipped with international standard facilities.

Many package tours are regularly organized from Mandalay to Bagan, Bhamo, Mawlaik, and from Bagan to Mandalay by the luxury cruise, MV Road To Mandalay, for tourists to enjoy scenic beauties of the Ayeyawady River and lush and green forests along the route.

The Government has made all necessary arrangements for holidaymakers for rest and recreation. Vacationers can enjoy themselves by making a tour of any part of the nation that is rich in breathtaking natural beauties. Indeed, the speedy emergence of international standard facilities for recreation is due to the brilliant performance of national entrepreneurs and the effective encouragement and assistance of the Government.
Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported on matters related to the installation of the machine shop project. He continued his reports that installation of the machine shop was completed cent per cent. The shop will be installed with 30 machines, and of them, 20 have been installed. Now, the shop is under test-running programme. Of them, 80 per cent of machines at the shop is serving orders of private entrepreneurs. On completion of installing the remaining four machines, the shop will conduct its functions on a commercial scale.

In reporting the completion of the forging shop, the minister said that construction of the building and preparations for installation of the machines have been completed. Now, 27 machines have been installed. And, 70 per cent of power line installation was finished. On completion of installing the power lines, the machines will be in operation and cast brake drums and flywheels. He explained completion of installation of power lines and construction of the dam.

The commander briefed the Secretary-1 on organizing the work committees of factories including the industrial zone supervisory committee for development of the industrial zone (Ayethaya).

After hearing the reports, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that he had arrived Taunggyi (Ayethaya) Industrial Zone several times, and more and more progress had been witnessed. Of the private industrial zones set up by the Government, modern Foundry Shop, Press Shop, Forging Shop, Machine Shop and Heat Treatment Shop have been built at Taunggyi (Ayethaya) Industrial Zone, Monywa Industrial Zone and Mandalay Industrial Zone. And, they are producing machine parts. As the industrial sector plays an important role in development of the national economy, the Government is making arrangements for improvement of State-owned industries and private ones. Therefore, scattered private industries are organized to establish region-wise industrial zones.

The cottage industries are essential for development of the industrial sector. While efforts are being made to earn capital from the agriculture, meat and fish, forestry and energy sectors, arrangements are being made in the education sector to continuously turn out qualified technicians. Arrangements are also being made for improving quality products gradually. They can manufacture high-quality and export quality. As the Government has already laid down policies and objectives for development of the industrial sector, industrialists must be in good quality. The metals used must also be of high quality. The products must be in good shape, creative and advanced always. Further, the Head of State gave guidance that the aims are to be set to improve the industrial sector and manufacture modern industrial products of export quality.

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MEC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects scale morel of the main building of Loikaw University. —MNA

Industrialists should strive for emergence of a modern and developed nation

The Secretary-1 Inspected the three-storey government college in Loikaw. They were welcomed by Principal Dr Thi Thi Moe, faculty members and officials. Next, they inspected the three-storey main building of the college that is nearing completion.

The Secretary-1 and party went to Loikaw in Kayah State by Tatmadaw aircraft. They were welcomed at Loikaw Airport by Kayah State PDC Chairman Col Hla Myint Shwe and (See page 9)
Industrialists should strive for...

(from page 8) Officials on arrival at Loikaw University, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Deputy Director-General U Soe Myint of the Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar), Rector U Sein Oo and faculty members.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein first inspected progress in construction of the main building of the university. The rector reported on background history of the university, specialized subjects being offered in the university, the number of faculty members and students and conducting of research annually. In response to the reports, the Secretary-1 said on completion of the project, Loikaw will be glorious with the new university. The government, after studying the educational fields of neighbouring nations and international universities, is making arrangements to draw necessary curricula and provide modern teaching aids. He said basic education gives knowledge and higher education, technology to the students. It is important to train students to become highly qualified ones as they will have to go into their profession after completing their higher education. That is why it is necessary for universities to ensure that they are good in both form and essence. For the development of its human resources, the State must be equipped with knowledge and intellectuals. Likewise, the Secretary-1 said citizens of the country should be equipped with knowledge that can distinguish between good and bad. Only then can they build a democratic nation. Therefore, teachers who have responsibilities to build an educated nation are urged to perform their tasks dutifully.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party viewed a site for construction of the main building of the new university. The rector reported on background history of the university, specialized subjects being offered in the university, the number of faculty members and students and conducting of research annually. In response to the reports, the Secretary-1 said on completion of the project, Loikaw will be glorious with the new university. The government, after studying the educational fields of neighbouring nations and international universities, is making arrangements to draw necessary curricula and provide modern teaching aids. He said basic education gives knowledge and higher education, technology to the students. It is important to train students to become highly qualified ones as they will have to go into their profession after completing their higher education. That is why it is necessary for universities to ensure that they are good in both form and essence. For the development of its human resources, the State must be equipped with knowledge and intellectuals. Likewise, the Secretary-1 said citizens of the country should be equipped with knowledge that can distinguish between good and bad. Only then can they build a democratic nation. Therefore, teachers who have responsibilities to build an educated nation are urged to perform their tasks dutifully.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets the chairman of the industrial zone supervisory committee and entrepreneurs at Taunggyi (Ayethaya) Industrial Zone. — MNA

Basic education gives knowledge and higher education, technology to the students. It is important to train students to become highly qualified ones as they will have to go into their profession after completing their higher education.

USDA CEC member tours Bago Division

YANGON, 11 Sept — USDA CEC member Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min carried out cleansing of Buddha images together with USDA members at Shwemawdaw Pagoda and sanitation tasks at the platform of the pagoda in Bago on 9 September.

Accompanied by Bago Division USDA Secretary U Saw Maw Tun, the CEC member met with departmental officials and USDA members in Pyin. The CEC member and the Division Secretary accepted 1,260 membership applications.

Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and the CEC member visited Toungoo General Hospital where USDA members were donating blood.

Yesterday morning, the CEC member accepted 1,125 USDA membership applications in Htantabin Township. The CEC member presented cash towards the funds for construction of roads and schools to officials. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and USDA CEC member Maj-Gen Aung Min visit blood donation ceremony of USDA members at Toungoo General Hospital. — RAILWAYS

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets Vice-Chairman of Kayah State Special Region-2 U Tun Kyaw and party. — MNA

At 7 pm on 10 September, Lt-Gen Thein Sein received Vice-Chairman U Tun Kyaw and members of Kayah State Special Region-2 at Ngwetaung Yeikha in Loikaw. Also present at the call were SPDC members Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers and Kayah State PDC Chairman Col Hla Myint Shwe.

During their meeting, they discussed education, health, transport and agriculture, regional development and community peace and tranquility.
Local people to engage in extended cultivation of rubber...

(from page 16)

At the briefing hall of the rubber plantation of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise in Mrauk U, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard a report presented by Deputy Supervisor Daw Khin Htay Than on work being carried out for extended cultivation of rubber and other perennial crops and cultivation of 67,000 rubber saplings and others.

After giving instructions on cultivation of quality strain rubber, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than viewed round rubber and pepper plantations.

At 2.30 pm, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials, social organizations, townswelders and others at the Mrauk U Township Peace and Development Council Office.

At the meeting, the Chairman of Township PDC reported on the salient points of the township, education, health, cultivation of monsoon paddy and perennial crops. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint gave a supplementary report.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than stressed the need for local authorities and departmental officials to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for extended cultivation of monsoon paddy, perennial crops and other cash crops and to make preparations for Rakhine State to put 1.2 million acres under monsoon paddy.

He called on local people to engage in extended cultivation of rubber as it is in high demand in both local and foreign markets and to take part in the five rural development tasks.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than greeted those present on the occasion.

At 4 pm, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party offered flower, water, light and joss-sticks to the Buddha images and made cash donations. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to the model monsoon paddy plot in Phunyin Village, Mrauk U Township.

After that, they arrived at the Kothaung Stupa where they offered flower, water, light and joss-sticks to the Buddha images and made cash donations. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party offered cash donations to the funds of Shitthaung Stupa to Pagoda Board of Trustees Chairman U Maung Pru.

Commander, Vice-Mayor inspect development of Seikkyi-Khanaungto

YANGON, 11 Sept — Chairman of Yagon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yagon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swye, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials inspected development tasks of Seikkyi-Khanaungto Township this morning.

The commander and party oversaw 130 feet long and 18 feet wide bridge that can withstand 15-ton loads, being built by Yangon City Development Committee and Myanmar Port Authority and gave necessary instructions.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swye and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa then looked into the new auto-telephone communication station where an official conducted them round the place.

The commander and party proceeded to Basic Education High School of Seikkyi-Khanaungto and inspected it.

They later inspected Township People’s Hospital.

On arrival at Township PDC office, the commander and the vice-mayor met with service personnel, social organizations and townswelders, left instructions and fulfilled the requirements.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Deputy Director-General Dr Reinhard Hartstein and party of Deutsche Welle (DW) of Germany.

Information Minister receives German guests

YANGON, 11 Sept — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Deputy Director-General Dr Reinhard Hartstein and party of German International TV Deutsche Welle (DW) at the ministry this morning.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads of the ministry and the head of office.

Construction Minister inspects Bwetgyi Bridge construction project

YANGON, 11 Sept — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun accompanied by officials of Public Works, arrived No 4/212 Bwetgyi Bridge construction project yesterday morning and inspected the progress of the construction works of the new bridge, heard reports on load test of the old bridge and attended to the needs. The new Bwetgyi bridge is reinforced concrete type with the length of 1,770 ft and the width of 28 ft, and it will withstand 60 tons of load.

At the briefing hall, he heard a report presented by an official of Myanma Agriculture Service on cultivation of Manawthukha paddy strain, Hsinthwelat paddy strain and Shweyinaye paddy strain.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with local farmers and urged them to cultivate quality paddy, utilizing fertilizer properly.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected thriving of paddy in the model plot.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party left there and arrived in Minbya in the evening.

Next, the minister examined and inspected it.

The commander and party proceeded to Basic Education High School of Seikkyi-Khanaungto and inspected it.

They later inspected Township People’s Hospital.

On arrival at Township PDC office, the commander and the vice-mayor met with service personnel, social organizations and townswelders, left instructions and fulfilled the requirements.

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Provisions of Tatmadaw families and wellwishers donated to monasteries, nunneries in Sangyoung, Thakayta, Dawbon

YANGON, 11 Sept — Tatmadaw families and wellwishers donated provisions to 15 monasteries and one nunnery in Sangyoung Township and 24 monasteries and two nunneries in Thakayta and Dawbon Townships today.

Present on the occasions were members of the Sangha and nuns, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, senior military officers, local authorities and wellwishers.

At Thantithukha Dhammayon of Koedatgyi Pagoda in Sangyoung Township at 1 pm, member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka of Weluwun Monastery Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Aggavamsa administered the Five Precepts. Next, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun and party offered alms to the Sayadaws.

The deputy ministers and officials accepted cash donations from wellwishers.

Chairman of Sangyoung Township Sangha Nayaka-Committee Presiding Nayaka of Nyanitha Monastery Maha Sudhamma Jotikadha Jotika delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Today’s donations for 15 monasteries and one nunnery in Sangyoung Township amounted to 368 bags of rice, 166 viss of edible oil, 298 viss of gram, 1,659 viss of iodized salt, 322 tubes of tooth paste, 6,773 bottles of traditional medicine, 3,318 bars of soap, 17 bottles of fish sauce, 60 packets of dry noodle, 829 viss of dry fish, pictures of Kyaihkhtio Pagoda and K 5,769,050.

A similar ceremony for donating provisions to 24 monasteries and two nunneries in Thakayta and Dawbon Townships was held at Dhamma Bhadanta Jotika of Dawbon Township administered the Five Precepts.

Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Maj-Gen Ngwe Thein, Maj-Gen Tin Soe of the Ministry of Defence, and Colonel General Staff (Air) (Mechanical) Col Chan Maung donated provisions of Tatmadaw families to Sayadaws and nuns.

Wellwishers also presented alms to the Sayadaws and nuns.

Next, the Chief of Staff (Navy), the deputy ministers and officials accepted K 19,554,450 for the trust funds of the monasteries and nunneries donated by wellwishers.

Bangladeshi delegation arrives

YANGON, 11 Sept — The delegation led by Commodore Khondker Moyeenuddin Ahmed, (G), ndc, psc, BN of National Defence College of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, arrived here by air for a visit this afternoon.

They were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Commandant of National Defence College Brig-Gen Than Maung and military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Military Attaché of Bangladesh to Myanmar Brig-Gen Helal Uddin Ahmed, psc and officials.

Sayan Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ingisa of Thakayta Township delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

Today’s donations of Tatmadaw families and wellwishers for monasteries and nunneries in Thakayta and Dawbon Townships amounted to 600 bags of rice, 235 bags of edible oil, 424 viss of gram, 2,408 viss of iodized salt, 472 bottles of tooth paste, 6,288 bottles of traditional medicines, 2,358 bars of soap, 2,358 cakes of soft soap, 1,279 viss of dry fish, 1,080 packets of chilli powder, 15 bottles of fish sauce, pictures of Kyaihkhtio Pagoda, 60 packets of dry noodle and K 19,554,450.
Hewlett-Packard to cut 6,000 jobs in Europe

Paris, 10 Sept — US computer giant Hewlett-Packard will shed 6,000 jobs in Europe with more than half the cuts in France, Germany and Britain, a union official said on Friday. “They will start informing staff in all the countries in the coming week. But the information was given to the European works council at a meeting here,” said Marc-Antoine Marcantoni of the European Metal Workers Federation in Brussels.

He said some 1,250 to 1,300 jobs would go in France and 145 in Belgium. — MNA/Reuters

Embryo with two mothers approved in Britain

LONDON, 10 Sept — The British Government has granted scientists a licence to create a human embryo that would have genetic material from two mothers, the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority said on Thursday.

A team from Newcas
tle University was allowed to transfer material created when an egg and sperm fuse into another woman’s egg for mito
chondrial research, the watchdog said in a news release.

The groundbreaking work aims to prevent mothers from passing mito
dchondrial diseases on to their unborn babies, which arise from DNA found outside the nucleus, and thus inherited separately from DNA in the nucleus.

Mitochondria are small structures that exist in every cell of the body, except red blood cells. They are the “powerhouse” of the cell, producing most of the energy that human need to grow and live.

Those organs in the body that require a lot of energy to work properly, such as the brain, heart, and kidney, are particularly dependent on well functioning mitochondria.

One unique feature of mitochondria is that they have their own DNA — mitochondrial DNA, which is inherited from the mother only.

If this DNA is faulty, the mitochondrial disease occurs. At present, no treatment for mitochondrial diseases exists. Studies in mice show it is possible to prevent the transmission of mitochondrial disease by moving the pronuclei — the genetic material which will go on to form a nu
cleus — from a fertilized egg containing bad mitochondrial and putting it into another fertilized egg which only contains good mitochondria.

Douglas Turnbull, professor of neurology at Newcas
tle University, and Dr Mary Herbert, scientific director of Newcastle Fer
tility Centre at the city’s Centre for Life, said they do the same in humans. — MNA/Reuters

China, Hungary pledge to further bilateral ties

BEIJING, 10 Sept— China and Hungary on Thursday pledged to boost political, economic and cultural cooperation to enhance bilateral ties.

During an hour-long talk with Hungarian Prime Minister Gyurcsány Ferenc, Wen said he hopes the two countries will im
prove political exchanges to deepen their friendly cooperative partnership.

He suggested the two countries implement the principles drawn down in the joint statement signed last year, maintaining high-level contacts and enhancing consultations on key international and re
gional issues.

In the economic sector, he urged the two coun
t ries to deepen cooperation in trade and invest
m ent. He said China will take efforts to promote trade between the two countries and China wel
comes and supports Hun
garian companies to ex
pand businesses in China.

“The business sectors of the two countries should improve contact and com
munication to jointly seek pragmatic results through cooperation,” Wen said.

He also urged the two countries to improve ex
gchanges in culture, educa
tion and tourism to en
develop bilateral ties.

Wen said China appreci
ates the Hungarian Gov
erment’s consistent and firm adherence to one-China policy and its support to China’s efforts in realizing national reunification.

“I believe we will con
tinue to have Hungary’s understanding and sup
erport on the issue,” he said. — MNA/Reuters

Rats, bats plague Nicaragua’s Miskito Indians

MANAGUA (Nicaragua), 10 Sept— A plague of rats caused by snake hunting is threatening thousands of Miskito Indians with famine in a remote corner of Nicaragua’s jungle, while vampire bats are raising concerns about rabies, a United Nations agency said on Thursday.

Miskito Indians from communities near the Coco River face severe food shortages after ro
dents ate most of their crops, and they are in
creasingly worried about attacks by blood-sucking bats, Alfredo Misael of the United Nations Develop
tment Programme said.

“The rats destroyed between 90 per cent and 100 per cent of the crops, di
cetically affecting 4,500 peo
pople,” he said in a telephone interview.

In the summer rainy season the rats flee river
side homes for higher ag
cultural land, where they gorge on Miskito crops of rice and plantain.

The rat population has swelled in Miskito territories as people hunt more snakes — the rats’ natural predator — for food and for their skins.

Vampire bats, which are also worrying locals, are relatively common in Central America and feed mainly by drinking the blood of livestock and birds. Reports of attacks on humans are infrequent, but since the bat popula
tion is on the rise, offi
cials fear attacks on hu

Polar ice reveals pre-industrial pollution

**Wellington, 10 Sept — Pre-industrial humans may have had a much bigger effect on the atmosphere than previously thought.**

This NZ-led research is being published on Friday in the journal, *Science,* said New Zealand's National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA). It said the surprising finding is one result of research into atmospheric methane. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, which is believed to contribute to global climate change. The new discovery came from an effort to pinpoint the cause of changes in the amount of methane in the atmosphere over recent centuries. The research team comprised scientists from New Zealand, Australia, and the United States. It was led by Dominic Ferrari, who is based at NIWA and is also affiliated to the University of Colorado in the United States. The scientists used ice cores that were drilled from Law Dome in Australian territory, East Antarctica, and analyzed minute quantities of methane that were extracted from tiny air bubbles trapped deep in the ice cores. The scientists traced the origins of this methane using measurements of the carbon isotopes in the methane and atmospheric models. They showed that the overall amount of methane in the atmosphere was relatively stable until the industrial age, but the source of that methane varied dramatically.

"Looking at the last 2000 years, we've found much higher levels of methane from forest and grassland fires until about 1000 years ago when these emissions began to drop dramatically," said the paper's lead author, Dominic Ferrari. "This tallies well with both natural climate change and human land use." The analysis suggests that over the period 0–1500 AD, the indigenous population of the Americas regularly burned grassland and woodland areas for agriculture and hunting. But the indigenous population plummeted after European explorers arrived, and accordingly so did the extent of the burning and its methane by-product. The results also indicate that methane emissions from wildfires are likely to be higher during warm and dry periods, such as El Nino events, and may therefore increase with future climate change. *MNA/Xinhua*

**Scientists find human brain still evolving**

**Los Angeles, 10 Sept — The brain, the most important organ of humans, is still under way of evolution, scientists reported on Thursday.**

Earlier fossil record and genetic studies had clearly show that the evolution of higher cognition began sometime after the chimp and human lines diverged, and accordingly so did the extent of the burning and its methane by-product. The results also indicate that methane emissions from wildfires are likely to be higher during warm and dry periods, such as El Nino events, and may therefore increase with future climate change. *MNA/Xinhua*

**Specialists improve breast cancer care**

**New York, 10 Sept — Elderly women with breast cancer whose surgeons refer them to cancer specialists are twice as likely to be prescribed tamoxifen, a treatment recommended for preventing recurrence of the disease, a new study shows.**

"Older women should be given the opportunity to have these conversations with medical oncologists," Dr Rebecca A Silliman of the Boston University School of Public Health, the study's lead author, told *Reuters Health.* While tamoxifen has long been recommended for older women with estrogen-receptor-positive breast cancers, except those with extremely low-risk tumours, older women are less likely than younger patients to receive definitive care, Silliman and her colleagues note in the medical journal *Cancer.* Silliman's team conducted the current study to see if older women who met with a medical oncologist were more likely to be prescribed tamoxifen and referred for further treatment when appropriate.

The study included 559 patients 65 years of age or older with early-stage breast cancer treated by 191 surgeons. The women were interviewed by telephone 3, 6 and 15 months after surgery. Seventy-nine per cent of the participants had been referred to medical oncologists, somewhat lower than the 88 per cent seen among younger patients in other research, the investigators reported. Two patients were roughly as likely to be referred as healthier patients. *MNA/Xinhua*
Chelsea stroll to another win, City hold United

LONDON, 11 Sept—Champions Chelsea notched up their fifth Premier League victory of the season with a routine 2-0 win over bottom club Sunderland on Saturday.

Chelsea's victory was never in doubt as they imposed their will on the visitors, with Didier Drogba netting a brace to lift his tally to 10 goals for the campaign.

Sunderland were frustrated throughout, with Damien Duff and Geremi the only players to offer any real threat to the Chelsea defence.

The victory takes Chelsea to the top of the Premier League, with Manchester United and Arsenal still to play on Sunday.

Manchester United were held to a 1-1 draw by local rivals City at Old Trafford, with Charlton Athletic recording their fourth successive win, 1-0 at Birmingham City, and England striker Michael Owen making his debut for Manchester United as his side drew 1-1 with Fulham.

Chelsea were frustrated by Sunderland in a dull first half but took the lead after 54 minutes when Cameron midfielder Geremi took advantage of a poor throw by Sunderland keeper Mike Pollitt to score.

The champions dominated the second half and doubled their advantage when Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post stage when striker Didier Drogba rose at the far post
Artists in Brazil protest US rights record
SAO PAULO (Brazil), 11 Sept — Dozens of performance artists dressed in orange prison jumpsuits stopped traffic in front of the US Consulate in Sao Paulo on Friday to protest what they called a Bush Administration clampdown on civil liberties.

Dressed in military fatigues and armed with a megaphone, US artist Coco Fusco, who organized the event, ordered some 50 “prisoners” to march together and scrub the ground in front of the consulate with toothbrushes.

Fusco, a professor at Columbia University, was criticizing abuse at US prison camps in Guantanamo Bay and elsewhere where detainees considered terrorists are being held without trial, and measures that have limited domestic freedoms since the 11 September, 2001, attacks on the United States.

The state of emergency, which we thought would be temporary, has become the normal paradigm for the government and increasingly is determining foreign and domestic policy,” she said in a statement.

Fusco studied interrogation techniques with retired military officers to prepare for the piece, called “Bare Life Study ‘1’, the first in a series to be staged in different places around the world.”

Powell slams US storm effort
WASHINGTON, 11 Sept — Colin Powell, the former US secretary of state seen as a potential leader for Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, has joined the chorus of Americans criticizing the disaster response at all levels of government.

“There have been a lot of failures at a lot of levels — local, state and federal,” Powell said in an ABC interview for the “20/20” programme to be broadcast on Friday evening.

American political figures from both major parties have assailed the slow response to the hurricane’s assault last week on the US Gulf Coast, which devastated New Orleans and killed hundreds, possibly thousands, in the region.

“There was more than enough warning over time about the dangers to New Orleans. Not enough was done. I don’t think advantage was taken of the time that was available to us, and I just don’t know why,” Powell said in excerpts on ABC’s web site.

He said he did not think that race was a factor in the slow response, but that many of those unable to leave New Orleans in time were trapped by poverty which disproportionately affects Blacks.

Powell was the highest-ranking Black official during US President George W Bush’s first term and chairman of the military Joint Chiefs of Staff during the 1991 Gulf War.

He is among various names mentioned in Washington as a potential “hurricane czar” to take over the long-term recovery effort.

MNA/Reuters

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WEATHER

Sunday, 11 September, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State, rain or thunder-showers have been scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Mon State, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Duwei (3.82) inches, Bilin (3.15) inches, Pyapon (3.07) inches, Hukha (2.79) inches, Myeik, (2.60) inches, NyaungU (2.48) inches, Pakokku (1.46) inches and Shoebro (1.30) inches.

Maximum temperature on 10-9-2005 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 11-9-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 11-9-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 10-9-2005 was 0.6 hour approx. Rainfalls on 11-9-2005 were (0.59) inch at Mingaladon, (0.39) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.51) inch at the central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 76.69 inches at Mingaladon, 79.76 inches at Kaba-Aye and 84.96 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from South at (10:50) hours MST on 10-9-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the West Central Bay persists. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is moderate to strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 12-9-2005: Rain or thunder-showers will be isolated in Kachin State, scattered in Sagaing Division, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States and Tanintharyi Division. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in Coastal areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-9-2005: Some rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 12-9-2005: One or two rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

MNA/Reuters

Bare Life Study ‘1’, the first in a series to be staged

Flood Bulletin
(Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 11-9-2005)
According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Toungoo is (642) cm. It may remain above the danger level (600) cm during the next (3) days.

Earthquake Report
(Issued at 00:30 hrs MST on 11-9-2005)
An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.9) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar about (860) miles South of Kaba-Aye seismonological observatory was recorded at (23) hrs (30) min (33) sec MST on 10th September, 2005.

Monday, 12 September
View on today:
7:00 am 1. Recitation Parittas by Missionary Sayadan Oottamahara 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise 7:30 am 3. Morning news 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song 7:50 am 5. Song of national races 8:00 am 6. Cute little dancers 8:10 am 7. 8:20 am 8. 8:30 am 9. International news 8:45 am 10. Grammar Made Easy 4:00 pm 1. Martial song 4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit 4:30 pm 3. Demonstration Exercises for Correct Pronunciation 4:45 pm 4. 5:00 pm 5. Dancer variety 5:15 pm 6. 5:30 pm 7. Song and dance of national races 5:40 pm 8. 5:50 pm 9. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe) 6:05 pm 10. Industrial achievement 6:15 pm 11. 6:30 pm 12. Evening news 7:00 pm 13. Weather report 7:05 pm 14. 7:40 pm 15. 8:00 pm 16. News 8:17 pm 17. International news 8:18 pm 18. Weather report 19. 9:00 pm 20. The next day’s programme
Government concentrating on improvement of State-owned and private industries

MEPE built Coal-fired Power Plant (Tikyit) on 105.16 acres of plot near Pyintha Village of Pinlaung Township to generate 120 megawatt with the aims of meeting power to the nation with the use of coal extracted from Tikyit region. They proceeded to Taungyi of southern Shan State in the evening. Yesterday morning, they arrived at Taungyi (Ayethaya) Industrial Zone where the chairman and members of the industrial supervisory committee and industrialists welcomed them.

In-charge of the industrial zone Minister for (See page 1)

YANGON, 11 Sept—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and senior military officers on 8 September morning inspected the rubber nursery where 44,800 rubber saplings are being grown in Kyauktaw Station and gave instructions on extended cultivation of rubber. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with officials and other ranks and their families at the hall of Kyauktaw Station and called for fulfillment of education, health and social affairs of the families and collaboration with local people for regional development.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than proceeded to the rubber nursery of the local battalion where he inspected 37,000 rubber saplings being grown there and gave necessary instructions.

After looking into the model monsoon paddy plantation in Thayettabin Village, Kyauktaw Township, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than greeted local farmers and called for extended cultivation of monsoon paddy and other crops.

After that, they arrived at Thayettabin Bridge Construction Project site on Yangon-Sittway Highway. At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard a report presented by an official on progress of work and future tasks and attended to the needs.

Next, he inspected the construction project site. On completion, the 160 feet long and 30 feet wide bridge will be able to bear 60 tons of load.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party offered “soon”, water, light, scented sticks and fruits to the Mahamui Buddha image. Next, they offered Shwe Thungan to the Buddha image.

Later, they made cash donations towards the funds of the pagoda through Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Tun Aye Tha.

After that, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than signed in the visitors’ book.

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