Tatmadaw Govt charged with transition to democracy while performing duties of national defence and national development

The State is now on the path to progress in all sectors

YANGON, 18 Sept — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by the ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC office, departmental heads and officials, arrived at Mandalay International Airport by Tatmadaw aircraft on 16 September morning. They were welcomed there by Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and departmental officials.

First, Chairman of National Health Committee Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party visited the Traditional Medicine University in Mandalay where the pro-rectors and faculty members welcomed them. At the meeting hall of the university, Pro-rector (Admin) U Wa Tun reported that the university was opened in accord with the Head of State. The aim of the university was to improve Myanmar traditional medical science, to catch up with international medical science and to systematically produce potent Myanmar traditional medicines. The first year course started on 19 December 2001 and the main building of the university was opened on 26 December 2004. The 2004-2005 academic year started on 27 December. There are the first, second, third and fourth year courses. The number of students is 672. He said the university has six main departments including acupuncture department and other 10 departments. The university is equipped with a herbal garden for demonstration, computer rooms, language labs and an e-library. Next, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint gave a supplementary report. (See Page 8)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects production of rail clips at Pre-stressed Concrete Sleeper Factory (Myitnge). — MNA

Shan State (East) has grown over 500,000 rubber plants on 2,880.64 acres of land up to 2004-05

YANGON, 18 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony to broadcast fertilizer and weed 100-acre monsoon paddy plantation near Yanglaw Village in Kengtung Township on 15 September.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, departmental officials, local authorities and local people.

Additional Manager Shan State (East) Myanma Agriculture Service U Myint Thein reported on cultivation of paddy and other crops in Shan State (East). The commander submitted reports that efforts are being made for yielding 71 baskets of paddy per acre. Educative talks are being given to local breeders to carry out systematic breeding tasks. Arrangements are being made for extending summer paddy as well as garlic, onion, potato and soya bean in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that the State economy depends on the agriculture sector. Food sufficiency of Shan State (East) is 129.11 per cent. Except green gram and green bean, eight kinds of main crops have been cultivated in the region exceeding the target. Therefore, socio-economic life of the local people improved.

Shan State (East) has grown over 500,000 rubber plants on 2,880.64 acres of land up to 2004-05. And, arrangements are being made for extending more rubber plantations.

As peace and stability is prevailing in various parts of the state, departmental personnel are to make field trips to the rural areas for performing development tasks in cooperation with the local people. (See Page 7)

INSIDE

The news stories issued freely must be the ones that serve the interests of the public, but not the ones that harm the public interests. According to the press ethics, news stories shall be absolutely free from impartiality.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
In his address, the Secretary-1 said that the government forged national solidarity and placed emphasis on prevalence of peace and stability in the nation in accord with the national policy. In consequence, there emerged good foundations for national economic development as well as for promotion of socio-economic life.

It is obvious that the Government has laid emphasis on building of bridges across rivers and creeks and roads with a view to ensuring better transportation for the national people. As regards Myitnge or Dokhtawady River, three bridges have been built across it. By crossing the Myitnge Bridge via Yangon-Mandalay six-lane highway, easy access is now available to various States and Divisions of Upper and Lower Myanmar as well as to Mandalay International Airport from Mandalay.

As the bridge is situated on the Union Highway, it is certain that the political, economic and social lives of the national people will improve. In addition, better transportation will surely lead to closer links and more frequent contacts among the national brethren thereby further consolidating national unity.

It can clearly be seen how much the Government has exerted efforts in the interests of the nation and the people out of genuine goodwill. In reciprocation, the entire national people are to earnestly participate in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Such infrastructures for national development are to be attributed to the combined and collective efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

USDA CEC member Yangon Mayor inspects development tasks in Mingaladon Township

Yangon, Sept 18 — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin together with officials inspected tasks of paving roads to be undertaken by USDA in cooperation with townsmen in Mingaladon Township, this morning and attended the ceremony of handing over new school building of Mingaladon No 3 Basic Education High School.

The CEC member and party paid obeisance to Presiding Sayadaw Bhuddanta Çandobhasa of Zeyathin Monastery in Sanyiwa Ward in Mingaladon Township.

At the monastery, CEC member Mayor Brig-Aung Thein Lin met with departmental personnel, members of USDA and townsmen.

The CEC member and members of Yangon Division USDA then overaw tasks of building the roads and the overpass to be undertaken by USDA and people in the township. The CEC member fulfilled the requirements. Afterwards, CEC member Brig-Aung Thein Lin and officials looked into sanitation tasks at Mingaladon No 3 BEHS.

They attended the ceremony of handing over the new school building of No 3 BEHS of Mingaladon funded by the Ministry of Education, departments concerned and the people.

The director-general of No 3 Basic Education Department and officials formally opened the new building.

The CEC member and officials presented certificates of honour to departments concerned, members of social organizations and the wellwishers.

Headmistress Daw San San Win of the school expressed thanks.

Mayor Brig-Aung Thein Lin and officials of YCDC proceeded to Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoei) near Ahtayu village in Hmawby Township and inspected progress of the project.
**Aceh rebels hand over more weapons**

**JAKARTA, 17 Sept**— The Free Aceh Movement (GAM) handed over 109 pieces of their guns to the GAM Monitoring Team (AMM) in the province of Aceh on Friday, the second day of disarmament, a minister said.

"This shows a seriousness of the GAM to settle the problem," he added.

The minister expressed his optimism that the target of disarming 25 per cent of the rebels’ weapons could be achieved at the first phase of disarmament.

Right after the rebels complete the first phase, Indonesian Armed Forces will withdraw two battalions from the province, spokesman of the Iskandar Muda Military command covering Aceh Province Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmad Husein said.

"The Armed Forces will pull out one battalion on September 18 and another battalion will follow up on 21 September," according to the investigation’s inspector-general, Commander Lieutenant-General Paul Mikolashek, the Army’s inspector-general, contradicted the investigation’s findings that there were no systematic failures that led to detainee abuse.

One observation, taken from interviews of military personnel in the 4th Infantry Division, said officers ‘engaged in interrogations using techniques they literally remembered from the movies’.

Anthony Romero, executive director of the ACLU, said the documents were evidence of widespread abuse.

"When troops rely on movies to learn interrogation techniques rather than proper training, our government has failed and the blame is on Washington, not Hollywood," he said.

Another observation of the same infantry division noted: ‘there was no specific training on the treatment of detainees; the MPs relied on their common knowledge in this area’.

**ACLU releases Iraq prisoner abuse report documents**

**NEW YORK, 17 Sept**— Some US soldiers serving in Iraq interrogated prisoners "using techniques they literally remembered from the movies", according to documents from a US military report released by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The civil rights group released on Thursday 1,800 pages of documents obtained from the government as part of a federal lawsuit seeking information on the treatment of US-held detainees.

The US military was widely criticized after pictures of guards abusing detainees in Abu Ghraib Prison outside Baghdad were made public in April 2004.

ACLU said the documents, taken from interviews conducted for a 2004 investigation by Lieutenant-General Paul Mikolashek, the Army’s inspector general, contradicted the investigation’s findings that there were no systematic failures that led to detainee abuse.

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**First cross-Strait elite forum concludes with joint proposal**

**SHANGHAI, 17 Sept**— The first forum of elites from the Chinese mainland and Taiwan ended here Friday with a joint proposal calling for closer economic ties and pushing the peaceful and stable development of the cross-strait relations.

The four-day forum, which also included a series of seminars, slide shows, photo fairs, and an annual best photo competition, concluded with a joint proposal calling for closer economic ties and pushing the peaceful and stable development of the cross-strait relations.

The forum’s proposal urges investors to invest in the Mainland, saying their lawful rights will be protected.

It claims to actively push the progress of direct flights between the Mainland and Taiwan in 2006.

Meanwhile, the proposal calls for promoting agricultural exchanges and cooperation across the Taiwan Strait, including trade of agricultural products and exploration of fishing resources.

It also stresses the normalization of economic relations, such as two-way investment and cooperation in banking, securities and insurance.

The two-day forum of elites, which opened Thursday in Shanghai, attracted more than 120 scholars and business figures from both sides of the Straits.

They discussed issues such as the economic development of the Chinese Mainland and Taiwan businessmen’s investment in the Mainland, direct air and shipping links across the Straits, the prospect of agricultural exchange and cooperation between the two sides, and improvement in cross-strait investment and trade during the forum.

**Iraq violence prompts British U-turn**

**LONDON, 18 Sept**— A recent upsurge in violence in Iraq has prompted Britain’s government to shelve plans to reduce the number of its troops serving in the country, it was reported.

There was now no official target date for British soldiers to leave Iraq amid fears it is heading into full-scale civil war, The Sunday Telegraph newspaper said.

The original plan, never announced by Defence Secretary John Reid, would have seen thousands of British troops returned home by mid-2006, the paper said.

One serving British army brigadier told the paper that the military was increasingly worried about the long-term commitment to Iraq.

More than 200 Iraqi Shiites have been killed this week alone in attacks by Sunni extremists, with a car bomb killing at least 30 on the outskirts of Baghdad.

**Int’l Photography Festival opens in N China ancient city**

**TAIYUAN, 17 Sept** — The Pingyao International Photography Festival opened Friday in the 2,700-year-old city in north China’s Shanxi Province with nearly ten thousand pieces of works exhibited.

With the theme of "peace and progress", the festival, the only international event of its kind held in China, highlights a photo show to mark the 60th anniversary of the world Anti-Fascist War War and China’s anti-Japanese war, said Shen Weichen, head of the provincial publicity department.

More than 180 photographers from over 20 countries and regions brought their works to the festival, which also includes a series of seminars, slide shows, photo fairs, and an annual best photo competition, according to the festival’s organizing committee.

First held in 2001, the annual festival has become an important platform for culture exchanges, said Shen. Pingyao, located in the centre part of Shanxi Province, is famous for its well-preserved city wall and streets, stores, temples and residential housing built in the Ming and Qing dynasties.

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India, Russia to set up JSG for CECA

NEW DELHI, 17 Sept — Giving a significant thrust to their bilateral relationship, India and Russia will set up a joint study group (JSG) to explore the possibilities of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.

"Politically there is an in-principle agreement on setting up the JSG, which may be announced at the Indo-Russian Summit before the end of the year," Kanwal Sibal, India’s Ambassador to Russia, told reporters on sidelines of a Confederation of Indian Industries conclave here.

He said India was particularly keen to invest in the energy sector in Russia, with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation of India making a proposal to Gazprom to source oil and gas from the country on a long-term basis.

India’s Petroleum Minister Mani Shanker Aiyar, who has already visited the country twice, would be visiting it for the third time when he goes to Sakhalin site at month-end.

"We have identified areas of interest to us where potentially, if conditions are created, India would be willing to invest substantial sums in Russia’s energy sector. Russia can be a major partner in India’s quest for energy security," he said.

Identifying banking and technology sectors as the drivers of the bilateral relationship, he said there was a need to ensure that issue of business visas did not hamper this growth.

Bangkok braces for flooding

BANGKOK, 18 Sept — Bangkok is bracing for much more rain on Monday as season weather moves into Thailand from Vietnam and Laos.

A tropical depression moving across Laos and Cambodia from Vietnam is expected to hit the northern, northeastern and eastern regions of Thailand on Sunday bearing heavy rainfall and possible flash floods, the Thai News Agency quoted an announcement issued by the Meteorological Department as saying.

The announcement, released on Saturday evening, said the depression named Vicente — then centred 120 km east of the Vietnamese central province of Quang Tri — was expected to hit the province on Sunday. At least 11 provinces in Thailand’s North, Northeast and East are expected to experience heavy rainfall and flash floods.

As the depression moves further inland and then out to sea it will also cause heavy storms in both the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea for the next three or four days, the announcement said. In Bangkok, Governor, Apirak, Kosayodhin said more than 1,000 pumps were ready for emergency use.

Apirak said water could be drained within an hour if the amount of rain was not more than 60mm.

School children and volunteers collect the rubbish along the beach during the ‘Clean Up The World’ project held in Terengganu, east coast of Malaysia, on 17 September, 2005. — INTERNET

UN agency says ozone depletion likely to continue

GENEVA, 17 Sept — Ozone depletion is likely to continue and the so-called ozone recovery has yet to be confirmed, a United Nations agency said on Friday.

"The size of the ozone hole this year was expected to be in the same region as in 2002 and 2003, the two largest ozone holes recorded so far," Geir Braathen, an expert of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), told reporters on Friday.

He made the speech on an occasion to mark the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

For this time of the year, the WMO has never observed such a low ozone value as now seen over the South Pole, and ozone destruction started this year earlier than usual, he said.

At present, the hole over the Antarctic is about 27 million square kilometres and the WMO expects it to increase to about 28 million square kilometres, slightly below its 2003 peak at about 29 million square kilometres.

From May to mid-September, the meteorological conditions in the Antarctic stratosphere were close to the 1995-2004 average: colder than 2004 but a little warmer than in 2003, according to the WMO. 

Braathen said the so-called ozone recovery has yet to be confirmed but it is possible to say that ozone depletion is going on at a slower rate than before.

Based on recent patterns, he expects the ozone holes to hover around this year’s size for a few more years before they begin to shrink.

The WMO, in collaboration with the ozone science community, is keeping a close eye on the development of the ozone hole, the UN agency said.

MNA/Xinhua

Moderate earthquake hits India’s southern islands

NEW DELHI, 18 Sept — An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter Scale hit India’s southern Nicobar Islands on Sunday, causing no damage or injuries, according to the Indian Meteorological Department.

The quake, an aftershock from the 26 Dec earthquake, hit just under the Indian Ocean seabed northeast of India’s Nicobar Islands, the meteorological department said in a statement.

It was the fifth earthquake to rock the region this month, all with magnitudes ranging from 5 to 5.4.

The 26 Dec tsunami, caused by a magnitude 9 earthquake off the coast of Indonesia, killed about 3,500 people in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

MNA/Xinhua

1,898 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 17 Sept — As of Saturday, 17 Sept, 2005, at least 1,898 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 1,475 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count matches the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 pm EDT on Friday.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,759 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,366 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.—Internet

A US helicopter takes off from the scene of a roadside bomb attack that targeted 4 trucks loaded with foodstuff for Americans on 17 September, 2005, western Baghdad on the Ghazaliya Khadraa high way. —INTERNET
Hu says China to keep to road of peaceful development

UNITED NATIONS, 17 Sept—China will unswervingly keep to the path of peaceful development, Chinese President Hu Jintao reiterated here Thursday at the United Nations summit marking the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the world body.

China will continue to hold high the banner of peace, development and cooperation with all countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, he said.

"Always integrating our development with the common progress of mankind, we take full advantage of the opportunities brought by world peace and development while going for better promotion of world peace and common development through our successful development," "China will, as always, abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, actively participate in international affairs and fulfill its international obligations, and work with other countries to build a new international political and economic order that is fair and rational," Hu said.

The Chinese nation loves peace, and China’s development will not hurt or threaten anyone, but serve peace, stability and common prosperity in the world, the President noted.

Also at the meeting, the Chinese President put forward a four-point proposal for building a harmonious world with lasting peace and common prosperity:— A new security concept, featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation must be cultivated. — The United Nations should take concrete measures to implement the Millennium Goals, particularly in the area of accelerating the development of developing countries. — Every country has the right to independently choose its own social system and path of development. — Rational and necessary reforms should be carried out to maintain the authority of the United Nations and improve its efficacy and capacity to take on new threats and new challenges.

MNA/Xinhua

Poll shows American support for Iraq war at all-time low

NEW YORK, 17 Sept—Support for the war in Iraq among Americans has tumbled to an all-time low, according to a New York Times/CBS News poll published on Saturday.

Only 44 percent of those surveyed said the United States did the right thing by invading Iraq, the lowest rating since the question was first asked by the poll more than two years ago, the poll showed, according to The New York Times.

Furthermore, more than eight in 10 Americans are very or somewhat concerned that the war is costing money and resources needed in the United States, the poll showed.

The poll results come as the United States faces a bill of as much as $200 billion to rebuild the Gulf Coast after the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. President George W Bush has promised not to raise taxes to pay for it, as Americans also grapple with high prices at the pump in Katrina’s aftermath.

The poll also showed sharp racial divides in how the war is perceived by Americans. Only 36 percent of white Americans felt the war was having a negative impact in their communities, compared to 58 percent of black Americans.

Nearly 60 percent now disapprove of the president’s handling of the Iraqi conflict and nearly half of all Americans are not proud of what the United States is doing in the war, the poll found.

The nationwide telephone poll was conducted from 9 through 13 September among 1,167 adults and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.—Internet

US launches airstrike at guerilla hideout in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 Sept—US warplanes waged an airstrike at a guerilla hideout and weapons caches in a northern Iraqi town near the Syrian border, killing nine “suspected terrorists”, the US military said on Friday.

Two AV8-B Harrier jets shelled an abandoned school in Karabilah Thursday night. The target was being used by al-Qaeda militants as a launch pad to carry out attacks against “local civilians and coalition forces”, the military said in a statement.

The jetfighters used precision-guided 225-kilo bombs on the town, located some 320 kilometres west of Baghdad, the statement said.

“Nine terrorists were confirmed killed and one vehicle destroyed,” the statement said, adding that several explosions were heard after the attack.

The US troops have launched several offensive operations against guerrillas in Karabilah and several other towns on the Syrian border, known by the US military as a smuggling route for foreign fighters.

MNA/Xinhua

At least one killed, ten injured in Beirut explosion

BEIRUT, 18 Sept—A large explosion shook the eastern outskirts of Beirut on Friday night, killing at least one person and wounding some 10 others, security sources said.

One person was killed in the booby-trapped car blast in Ashrafieh neighbour-hood in Beirut, a senior security source said.

He added that the bomb was planted under the car and that it was believed to be detonated by a remote control. The injured were admitted to hospital for treatment.

Another security source said in details that the bomb exploded near a branch of Lebanon’s Byblos Bank in the area of Ashrafieh and heard throughout Beirut, adding it badly damaged a building and destroyed two cars.

Following the blast, Lebanese security forces sealed off the area, witnesses said.

The Lebanese capital, especially the mainly Christian areas east of Beirut, has witnessed a string of night time explosions since the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik al-Hariri who was slain in a car bomb on a Beirut street on 14 February.

MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb kills 30 in market in Nahrwan east of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 18 Sept—A car bomb killed 30 people and wounded 38 in a town east of Baghdad on Saturday at the end of one of the bloodiest weeks in and around the Iraqi capital since the US-led invasion of 2003.

A police spokesman said the explosion in Nahrwan, some 45 kilometres (30 miles) from Baghdad, also wounded 38 people.

“It was not a suicide bomb,” he said. “A car parked in the middle of the square and later it blew up.”

Iraq’s Shi’ite- and Kurdish-led government, backed by the United States, faces a Sunni Arab revolt that has intensified ahead of an 15 October referendum on a new Constitution.

Earlier on Saturday police in Baghdad found nine bodies shot in the head and chest in three separate incidents.—MNA/Reuters

Suicide car bomb hits joint US-Iraqi convoy

FALLUJAH, 18 Sept—A suicide car bomber blew himself up near a joint US and Iraqi military convoy in the restive city of Fallujah on Saturday, witnesses said.

“A suicide bomber drove his explosive packed car into a joint US and Iraqi convoy in the industrial area in Fallujah, destroying two vehicles belong to the Iraqi Army,” Abdul-Rahman, a local resident told Xinhua.

All the soldiers aboard were either killed or wounded, he said, adding that the blast also killed a civilian and wounded two others. — MNA/Xinhua
False and fabricated stories

Hla Thein Htay

The news stories issued freely must be the ones that serve the interests of the public, but not the ones that harm the public interests. According to the press ethics, news stories shall be absolutely free from impartiality. In today’s media world, some journalists and news agencies respect the press ethics and stand by the public while some journalists and news agencies are self-centred and invent stories for their self-interests.

Here, it can be said that media is like fire because proper use of fire brings benefits. Otherwise fire poses danger to men, and so does media. The International News Journal translated a story that was carried in the Newsweeek magazine of 22-8-2005.

In the story, a British official said weaponry scientists of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein were still held captive in Baghdad by officials of US Intelligence. UN weapons inspectors searched for weapons of mass destruction (WMD) for a decade in Iraq. But they found no WMD there. Nor did they find any documents or evidences for technologies to produce WMD.

The official added that UN weapons inspection commission submitted the case of the search of WMD in Iraq to the Security Council last June, but the SC did not take it seriously. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had recently disbanded the group comprising experts that was assigned duties to find out WMD of Iraq. The group found no evidences of WMD that had been banned for long in Iraq, he said.

The truth about the non-existence of WMD was revealed only later. Relying on the false information, the US and coalition forces invaded Iraq. Attacks with exaggerated stories have led to collapses of some unions and internal armed conflicts shedding a lot of blood in some nations. There still exist in the human society conflicts, casualties and deaths due to disunity among families, brothers and sisters and friends who have been incited by external events.

Such stories are carried by publications, motion pictures, dramas, and Jatakas discredited by the Lord Buddha for the audience to take invaluable lessons.

At the press conference No 6/2005 conducted by the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council on 28 August 2005, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that it was known to all that at 8.15 pm on 23 August 2005, BBC broadcast a fabricated news story on State Power and Development Council and the nation together with supplementary

Due to the BBC’s entertainment of false news story, the prices of US dollar, gold, and commodities went up suddenly, making an adverse effect on the people. So, it can be deduced that the BBC’s entertainment harmed the interests of the people instead of serving their interests. But, BBC gave a lame excuse that it was because it could not get any confirmation of the story. The station should have analysed the story whether it could be true or not. It is convincing evidence that BBC’s airing the news about the nation was intended to disrupt the interests of the people and to break up the Union.

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Therefore, the entire national people are urged to be fully vigilant against false and fabricated news stories aired by BBC and certain broadcasting stations that are under the complete domination of the Western bloc.

Translation: MS
Secretary-1 attends rice donation ceremony for monasteries, nunnery in Insein Township

Yangon, 18 Sept — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony to offer provisions donated by Tatmadaw families and local people to 15 monasteries and one nunnery in Insein Township this afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha and nuns, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, officials and wellwishers.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein donated alms to Ywama Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nandavamsa.

Next, the commander, the minister, the deputy minister and officials presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and Colonel General Staff (Air) Col Nay Win offered provisions to the Sayadaws and nuns.

Afterwards, the commander, the minister, the vice-mayor and wellwishers donated alms to the Sayadaws.

Commander, Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun and Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe accepted cash donations for the trust funds of the monasteries and the nunnery presented by wellwishers.

Today’s donations amounted to 452 bags of rice, 299 viss of edible oil, 678 viss of gram, 1,939 viss of iodized salt, 388 tubes of tooth paste, 3,828 bottles of traditional medicines, 3,982 bars of soap, 1,095 viss of dry fish, 60 packets of dry noodle, 1,920 packets of chilli powder and K 7,052,550.

Shan State (East) has grown over 500,000…

Furthermore, local people and officials from departments concerned and social organizations at the state, district and township levels should hold monthly meetings on regional matters and weak and strong points of the region for serving the interests of the region and the State. Therefore, local people are now to start practising discipline-flourishing democratic system that contributes much towards peace and stability and regional development.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected thriving paddy fields in Kengtung and viewed fertilizer broadcasting at 100 acres of model paddy fields.

At Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kengtung, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win paid homage to the Buddha image and made cash donations.

Afterwards, they oversaw development of Kengtung by car.

At Sasana Beikman in Kengtung, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended the ceremony to donate rice to nine monasteries of the town. They took the Five Precepts from Kengyin Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Khemaçara. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party offered provisions to the Sayadaws.

Dhammawdaya Monastery Presiding Nayaka Agga Maha Pandita Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arjeya delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

At the donation ceremony, 100 bags of rice, 10 viss of edible oil, 10 viss of salt and eight requisites were offered to the monasteries.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived at Golden Triangle Yeiktha in Kengtung.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win meets departmental officials, social organizations and local people at the fertilizer broadcasting and weeding at monsoon paddy fields in Kengtung — MNA
The Secretary-1 said the Tatmadaw government is performing duties for State defence and national development. At the same time, it is trying to transform the nation into a democratic one in accord with the desire of the people. In addition, now is the time when the government is striving its utmost to develop the country in all aspects that lagged behind others due to the instability after independence. The State is now on the path to progress in all sectors. Looking to the international community, it can be seen that industrialized countries are accumulating more wealth. The country itself is striving to gain necessary resources and produce technicians for the establishment of an industrialized nation. As Myanmar is an agro-based country, it will have to establish an industrialized one through the agricultural products. Meanwhile, measures are being taken for the emergence of human resources.

With such facilities as dams and reservoirs, seasonal and perennial crops are thriving in the nation. Steps are being taken for the nurturing of intellectuals and intelligentsia in the education sector. In this context, the Secretary-1 said, health sector plays an important role in producing intellectuals and intelligentsia as they will be able to participate in the national development drive only when they are strong and healthy. That's why construction of hospitals and dispensaries is being extended for the improvement of health care services. Traditional medical scholars have a role in providing health care to the public. Myanmar people, especially those in the rural areas, have been relying on traditional medicine since the times of their ancestors. There emerged famous Myanmar traditional physicians and efficacious medicines. With the advancing science and technology in the world today, it is necessary for the country to measure the efficacy of its medicines and to produce efficacious traditional medicines. For the development of Myanmar traditional medical world, measures need to be taken for exposing medical treatises that were obscured.

Being aware of the changing world today, it is necessary for the people to stand on their own feet in times of emergency. The State has established the Traditional Medicine University and is giving help for the development of Myanmar traditional medical science. Traditional medicine hospitals are being opened in big cities and other townships. Besides, the traditional medicine practitioners conference is being held (See page 9).
Tatmadaw Govt charged with transition to democracy... annually to improve the skills of the practitioner. So, students are urged to pursue their branches of traditional medical science extensively and systematically. They are to try for Myanmar traditional medical science to catch up with international medical science. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thein Sein greeted the students of Acupuncture Department, Mandalay Traditional Medicine University is situated in Ohbo Shwekyin Ward in Aungmyay Thazan Township. There are 221 first year students, 103 second year students, 174 third year students and 174 fourth year students totalling 672 in 2004-2005 academic year. In the herbal garden, herbal plants for six major diseases and 3000 other plants (300 kinds) are cultivated. Students can learn at the library various kinds of books on Myanmar traditional medicine and western medical science, magazines and journals. At the museum of the university, portraits of Myanmar traditional physicians and herbal plants from all parts of the country are hung. After attending the opening of Myitnge Bridge in Singaing Township yesterday, the Secretary-1 arrived at Myitnge Carriage and Cargo Shed of Myanmar Railways. The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed here by Deputy Minister of Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin and officials. Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min reported the Head of State on construction of carriages of high standard, fulfillment of requirements for spare parts, production of spare parts in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Industry-2, the Ministry of Transport, other ministries and private entrepreneurs and establishment of foundry. Factory Manager U Tun Oo reported on functions of the shed, repairs of carriages and cargo shed, production of bogie and rolling stocks and the main parts. Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min reported on the site chosen for construction of railroad and prospects for use of Myitnge Bridge as a rail-cum-road one. The Secretary-1 said the Head of State had given guidance on renovation of railroads, maintenance of locomotives and carriages and regular running of the trains. He spoke of the need to implement the guidance. He spoke on production of spare parts in coordination with the ministries and industrial zones and striving for earning regular income and progress of railway transport services. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the hook coupler, automatic coupler and dampers invented by the factory. The Secretary-1 and party met with faculty members of Mandalay Traditional Medicine University.— MNA

As Myanmar is an agro-based country, it will have to establish an industrialized one through the agricultural products. Meanwhile, measures are being taken for the emergence of human resources. The university is situated in Ohbo Shwekyin Ward of Aungmyay Thazan Township. There are 221 first year students, 103 second year students, 174 third year students and 174 fourth year students totalling 672 in 2004-2005 academic year. In the herbal garden, herbal plants for six major diseases and 3000 other plants (300 kinds) are cultivated. Students can learn at the library various kinds of books on Myanmar traditional medicine and western medical science, magazines and journals. At the museum of the university, portraits of Myanmar traditional physicians and herbal plants from all parts of the country are hung. The university is situated in Ohbo Shwekyin Ward of Aungmyay Thazan Township. There are 221 first year students, 103 second year students, 174 third year students and 174 fourth year students totalling 672 in 2004-2005 academic year. In the herbal garden, herbal plants for six major diseases and 3000 other plants (300 kinds) are cultivated. Students can learn at the library various kinds of books on Myanmar traditional medicine and western medical science, magazines and journals. At the museum of the university, portraits of Myanmar traditional physicians and herbal plants from all parts of the country are hung. The university is situated in Ohbo Shwekyin Ward of Aungmyay Thazan Township. There are 221 first year students, 103 second year students, 174 third year students and 174 fourth year students totalling 672 in 2004-2005 academic year. In the herbal garden, herbal plants for six major diseases and 3000 other plants (300 kinds) are cultivated. Students can learn at the library various kinds of books on Myanmar traditional medicine and western medical science, magazines and journals. At the museum of the university, portraits of Myanmar traditional physicians and herbal plants from all parts of the country are hung. The university is situated in Ohbo Shwekyin Ward of Aungmyay Thazan Township. There are 221 first year students, 103 second year students, 174 third year students and 174 fourth year students totalling 672 in 2004-2005 academic year. In the herbal garden, herbal plants for six major diseases and 3000 other plants (300 kinds) are cultivated. Students can learn at the library various kinds of books on Myanmar traditional medicine and western medical science, magazines and journals. At the museum of the university, portraits of Myanmar traditional physicians and herbal plants from all parts of the country are hung.
Lt-Gen Maung Bo donates cash for rural health centre to the officials.—MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing gave a supplementary report on the arrangements for cultivation of 1 million acres of monsoon paddy. Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo encouraged the local peasants. He gave instructions that as the Head of State is placing emphasis on the development of agricultural tasks, arrangements have been made for manufacturing agricultural equipment in the country. Local farmers are to strive for improving agricultural tasks and use agricultural equipment produced by the State to be able to transform from manual into mechanized farming. After that, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected the nurture of rubber saplings in the distribution farm.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to Hsinthwelat paddy fields of peasant U Kyaw Oo in Thaton Township and heard reports on extended cultivation of Shwepyitan, Hsinthwelat and Yesinlonhwe paddy strains up to 460 acres.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected sub-printing house of News and Periodicals Enterprise in Mandalay.—MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo donates cash for rural health centre to the officials.—MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo donates cash for rural health centre to the officials.—MNA
Development of Matlan Village makes clear that the accusations of destructive elements are totally wrong.

Chairperson Daw Nan Ngwe Hay of District WAO donates books to the library in Matlan Village to Chairman of Village PDC U Ainta. — MNA

child health care unit, one rural health care unit and four health care branches.

Number of sown acre-age increased to over 1 million acres from over 600,000 acres in Shan State (South). As there are 36,794 acres of paddy in Laikha Township, local food sufficiency of the township was 212.35 per cent in 2004-05 fiscal year. Now, arrangements are being made by local growers to export garlic, soya bean and other crops.

In the electric power sector, Zawgyi-1 and Zawgyi-2 medium-scale hydel power plants that can generate 30 megawatt was built in Yaksaw Township, Shan State (South), and the Coal-Fired Power Plant that can produce 120 megawatt was constructed in Pyintha Township, Shan State (South). As there are 530 megawatt from over 500 megawatt in Matlan Village, local people made concrete one, spending K 286.1 million. In addition, roads and bridges linking among villages have been constructed in the township.

The Government sank wells and built lakes for supplying drinking water, built TV re-transmission stations and opened village libraries for development of the rural areas in all aspects. Only when the entire national people participate in development tasks of the Government, will success be achieved. At present, members of USDA, MWAF, MCWA and other social organizations are taking part in the regional development tasks all out, and he explained development of rural regions.

Head of District Health Department Dr Cho Tun presented medicines to Midwife Daw Han Zar Tun of the rural health care branch of Matlan Village; Chairperson Daw Hwe Hwe Hla of District MCW Supervisory Committee gave 30 dozens of exercise books and one cassette for 67 students of Matlan BEPS to member of the school board of trustees U Sanda; and Chairperson of District MAO Daw Nan Ngwe Hay presented 300 books for Matlan Village Library to Chairman of Village PDC U Eind.

Daw Nan Htay Kywe of Health Department, on behalf of the local people, spoke words of thanks. She said that local people have enough food because of increased production of paddy, pea, onion and edible oil crops as well as breeding pig and poultry farms. There is no one who is malnourished and suffers from HIV/AIDS in the region. MWAF and MCWA often provide health care service to children and mothers. Furthermore, educative talks were given to the local people to prevent human trafficking and violence against women. Hence, local people enjoy fruitful results of health facilities without difficulties. In conclusion, she said that education and health equipment will be used for the village. U Sai Tun Oo of Matlan Village also expressed gratitude. He said that in the past, the village had no students and teachers. At present, school-age children are under proper care of teachers at the village school. After completion of primary education, they will be used for the village.

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At the time of the Government of the State Peace and Development Council, the Government and local people made concerted efforts harmoniously for development of the rural areas. Therefore, development in all aspects can be seen in Matlan Village of Laikha Township.

A doctor of Loilem District General Hospital provides medical treatment to the villagers of Matlan village. — MNA

Village of Matlan Village makes clear that the accusations of destructive elements are totally wrong.

Chairperson of District MCWA Daw Hwe Hwe Hla presents 30 dozen exercise books and a cassette to U Sanda for Matlan Village BEPS. — MNA

...
Danish police recover stolen Rembrandt painting

COPENHAGEN, 17 Sept—Danish police have recovered a self-portrait of 17th-Century Dutch master Rembrandt that was stolen in a daring raid on Sweden’s National Museum in 2000, a police spokesman said on Friday.

Danish news agency Ritzau said the police caught the four men while they were displaying the 40-million-US-dollar painting to a potential buyer at a Copenhagen hotel on Thursday evening.

“We have recovered the painting during a planned action,” police spokesman Flemming Steen Munch told Reuters, adding that two Iraqi men, a Gambian man and a Swede, have been arrested.

The painting was stolen alongside two masterworks by Renoir when armed robbers entered the museum on Stockholms’s waterfront just before closing time in December 2000.

Renor’s “Conversation” was recovered by Swedish police in 2001. MNA/Reuters

Venezuela says US drug criticism is political ploy

CARACAS (Venezuela), 17 Sept—Venezuela said on Friday that Washington’s criticism of its anti-narcotics effort was “false” and politically motivated and did not reflect the country’s successes fighting illegal drugs.

The US Government said on Thursday Venezuela had failed to stop illegal drug shipments to the United States last year in a judgment likely to worsen deteriorating political ties between Washington and the world’s fifth-biggest oil exporter.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a vocal critic of US foreign policy, dismissed the classification as part of a campaign by Washington to discredit his government.

“The government is political ploy” and that Washington would maintain programs to help Venezuela’s institutions and strengthen its political parties, Venezuela said.

Chavez said the US’s “false aggressions, the false signals we’ve been receiving,” he said in New York.

The White House said Venezuela would not face sanctions unless it is associated with the designation and that Washington would maintain programs to help Venezuela’s institutions and strengthen its political parties.

Venezuelan Vice-President Jose Vicente Rangel said.

Venezuelan Government officials cite their anti-narcotics cooperation with European countries and recent successes in halting cocaine shipments to the Caribbean.

MNA/Reuters

Bulgarian police seize smuggled ampheta-mines

SOFIA, 17 Sept—Bulgarian border police have seized 110 kilo (243 pounds) of amphetamine pills bound for Turkey worth around 3.2 million levs (2.01 million US dollars), the Customs office said on Friday.

Police detained a Turkish truck driver delivering automobile tyres from Britain to Turkey, the office said in a statement. The drugs were hidden in the driver’s tool box.

The EU-aspirant state has long served as a route for smugglers trafficking goods from Asia and Eastern Europe. It has been warned to tighten border controls and enforce the rule of law before joining the Union in 2007 or 2008.

MNA/Reuters

Annan warns world of nuclear brinkmanship

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Sept—UN Secretary-General Koofi Annan, highlighting the growing threat of the spread of nuclear weapons and terrorism, warned the world on Saturday of the danger of “diplomatic brinkmanship”.

He was addressing the UN General Assembly session hours before President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was to unveil new proposals intended to ally international suspicions about Tehran’s secretive nuclear programme. Annan said the global consensus underlying the Non-Proliferation Treaty was badly frayed and months of negotiation had ended in failure twice this year.

“Yet we face growing risks of proliferation and catastrophic terrorism, and the stakes are too high to continue down a dangerous path of diplomatic brinkmanship,” he said.

He was speaking against a backdrop of stalled negotiations over the nuclear ambitions of North Korea and Iran, with potentially far-reaching consequences for security in the fragile regions of Northeast Asia and the Middle East.

Annan took a veiled swipe at the United States, which thwarted agreement at this week’s world summit on how to combat weapons mass destruction because it was unwilling to renew an old pledge by nuclear powers to move toward disarmament.

“States could not even agree to reaffirm their existing commitments, or find a way forward, even at the level of principles. They have been content to point fingers at each other, rather than work for solutions,” the UN chief said.

MNA/Reuters

Democrats warn of potential “Katrina” contract abuse

WASHINGTON, 17 Sept—Rebuilding from Hurricane Katrina could be ripe for fraud if government whistleblowers are not better protected than those who lost their jobs after disclosing abuses in Iraq’s reconstruction, a leading Senate Democrat said on Friday.

Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota said all necessary resources should be deployed to rebuild New Orleans and the US Gulf Coast, but the billions of dollars in expected government spending must be carefully monitored.

“We simply must en- sure accountability forthese massive expenditures—so that these dollars don’t just wind up lining the pocketsof unscrupulous contractors, as we’ve seen all too often in Iraq,” Dorgan said at an unofficial hearing held by the Democratic Policy Committee, a congressional group.

“One of the keys to ensuring accountability is to have civil servants who witness fraud, waste and abuse to blow the whistle,” Dorgan said. Dorgan called the hearing to re- view the cases of two contract- ing officers who say they were forced out of jobs at the US Army Corp of Engineers after exposing problems with Iraq contracts.

MNA/Reuters

Eight missing after ship sinks in Siberia’s north

MOSCOW, 17 Sept—As many as eight people may have died on Friday after an overloaded cargo ship sank in the icy waters off Russia’s Siberian coast, officials said. Rescue officials told local news agencies the ship was carrying 15 people and around 80 tons of goods, although it was designed to carry less than half as much.

“Seven people were saved, the remainder are considered missing,” Emergencies Ministry spokesman Viktor Beltsov said, adding that their chances of surviving for long in the Arctic waters were very small.

MNA/Reuters

An 18-year-old man was killed in a hit-and-run accident in the village of Shchelkino, Kaliningrad region, police said.

A Gambian man and a Swedish woman were arrested.

MNA/Reuters

Dutchman sentenced for killing pregnant wife

BRUSSELS, 17 Sept—A 31-year-old Dutchman, who suffocated his pregnant wife at home and then brought her 18-month-old daughter to McDonald's for a "happy meal", got 16 years of imprisonment on Friday, the Dutch news agency ANP reported.

The victim, 29, was five months pregnant on December 16 last year when she was murdered at home in Zaandam northwest of Am- sterdam.

A court in Haarlem, west of Amsterdam, imposed a 16-year term on the man identified as SK, said ANP.

Amsterdam man R.N., 31, was also sentenced for his part in the crime.

Full names of crime suspects and convicts are usually withheld to the pub- lic in the Netherlands.

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Scientists find how “SARS” virus infects human cells

**LO S A N G E L E S , 17 Sept** — The first detailed images of a piece of spike-shaped protein on the shell of the SARS virus have unveiled how the virus grabs host cells and initiates infection, scientists reported on Thursday.

The structure, which shows how the spike protein grasps its receptor, may help scientists learn new details about how the virus infects cells.

The information could also be helpful in identifying potential targets for novel antiviral drugs or vaccines, the researchers from the Harvard Medical School said in the September 16 issue of the journal Science. The SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, coronavirus was responsible for a worldwide outbreak in 2002-2003 that affected more than 8,000 people and killed about 800 before under control.

Public health experts worry about another outbreak of the virus, which originates in wild animals.

Prior to this studies, researchers knew that one of the key steps in SARS infection occurs when the virus’ spike protein attaches to a receptor on the surface of target cells. Attachment of the spike protein permits the virus to fuse with a host cell and inject its RNA to infect the cell.

Thus a detailed understanding of how the spike protein complexes with its cell receptor, ACE2 (angiotensin-converting enzyme 2), could have important clinical implications, researchers said.

“The interest in understanding this complex has to do with the fact that this virus jumps from animals to humans, and then among humans,” said Fang Li, a post-doctorate researcher at Harvard Medical School and first author of the paper.

The researchers created crystals of the relevant fragments of the spike protein in complex with the ACE2 receptor. Then they analyzed the structure of the crystallized protein complex using X-ray crystallography.

The X-ray structure revealed that the spike protein complex showed a slightly concave surface that fits a complementary surface on the receptor, the researchers said.

The studies also revealed important new information about two specific amino acids that are most critical for determining how the SARS virus adapted from infecting only civets to infecting humans, Li told Xinhua in a telephone interview.

Both of these critical amino acids turned out to be right in the middle of the interface between the spike protein and the receptor. Even small mutations in the spike protein gene that alter the identity of amino acids at those sites can affect the virus’ ability to infect humans.

A dramatic epidemiological difference can result from what looks like an almost trivial mutation. In human SARS virus, such mutations enable viral transmission by altering the shape of the spike protein, which affects how well it binds to the receptor, Li said. — MNA/Xinhua

**Daily number of dengue cases falls in Singapore**

**S I N G A P O R E , 17 Sept** — A total of 54 new dengue cases were confirmed in the past 24 hours ending at 3 pm on Friday, down from 122 cases recorded in the past 24 hours ending at 3 pm on Thursday, according to a report from the National Environment Agency.

It said that a still high number of 92 confirmed or suspected dengue patients were admitted to hospitals on Thursday.

Public hospitals in Singapore have been running out of beds since early September when the daily number of dengue cases exceeded 100 for several consecutive days.

Non-urgent operations have been postponed.

A group of about 100 African penguins are released into the sea near Cape Town on 16 September, 2005 after recovering at the SANCCOB (South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds) rehabilitation centre. —INTERNET

A month later the sheep had healthier hearts than a control group of animals that had not received the cell transplant, the scientists said. The finding strengthens the possibility the technique will be used one day to treat heart disease in humans.

“As far as I know there has been no previous large animal study looking at the effects of stem cells in myocardial infarction (heart attack),” said Professor Philippe Menasche, a cardiac surgeon who worked on the research.

Stem cells are master cells in the body that can develop into any cell type. Scientists believe they could be used to treat diseases ranging from Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s to diabetes.

But their use is controversial because the most promising stem cells for treating human diseases are derived from very early human embryos.

Menasche and his colleagues, who reported the research in The Lancet medical journal, said an important aspect of their study was that the embryonic stem cells used in the research were not completely undifferentiated.

They had been guided or coaxed into developing into heart cells before they were transplanted in the sheep.

“They are not fully differentiated. They will complete their maturation and their differentiation in vivo, once grafted into the heart,” he explained in an interview.

The cells were implanted into the sheep two weeks after the animals suffered a heart attack. A month later new heart cells were evident. —MNA/Reuters

T’ai Chi helps women recover from breast cancer surgery

**C A N B E R R A , 17 Sept**— The traditional Chinese exercise of T’ai Chi helps women who develop persistent arm swelling after breast cancer surgery, an Australian researcher has found.

An Australian Associated Press report on Friday quoted Neil Piller of the Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide, South Australia, as saying that up to 30 per cent of breast cancer patients develop lymphoedema after a mastectomy or partial breast removal.

Piller studied 24 such patients who were taught a simple T’ai Chi exercise involving arm movements and deep breathing. They performed the exercise for 10 minutes twice a day for a month.

Fluid levels at the end of the month dropped an average of around 100 milliliters, a reduction of about 10 per cent, Piller said.

“It also improved the women’s range of movement, their arms felt less heavy,” he said. “They felt better and that’s what T’ai Chi is all about, it’s about feeling better,” he added.

Results of the study are soon to be published in the International Journal of Lymphology. — MNA/Xinhua

**Mouse stem cells used to repair sheep hearts**

**L O N D O N , 17 Sept** — Embryonic stem cell research moved a step forward on Friday as French scientists reported they had used master cells from mice to repair heart damage in sheep.

Researchers at the National Centre for Scientific Research in Montpellier, France and the European Hospital Georges Pompidou in Paris transplanted mouse cells into 9 sheep that had suffered a heart attack.

A month later the sheep had healthier hearts than a control group of animals that had not received the cell transplant, the scientists said. The finding strengthens the possibility the technique will be used one day to treat heart disease in humans.

“With the use of T’ai Chi after breast surgery can help women recover from lymphoedema,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua
Arsenal hoping to discuss new contract with Henry

LONDON COLNEY (England), 17 Sept — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger hopes to discuss a new contract with Thierry Henry while the striker recovers from injury in the next six weeks.

He is confident the France forward will open negotiations with the Premier League club over his long-term future.

"Maybe yes, why not," Wenger said on Friday. "Maybe it's a good opportunity and we will certainly try to use it. He has now got two weeks' rest and we will send him away for 10 days."

The prolific Henry has been a key player at the north London club since signing from Juventus in 1999 after his emergence as one of the best strikers in the European game. Arsenal's captain is within one goal of Ian Wright's club record of 185.

Henry's contract runs out at the end of the 2006/07 season and Wenger is hopeful he will extend that for a number of years.

"I don't know if he will need persuading over signing a new deal," the Arsenal manager told reporters. "When you say to me a lot of persuading it means a mountain of money for me. Our intention is clear and I'm convinced he will stay here. But Thierry is not a money man. He's not a guy who's obsessed by money at all."

"It's more about him being committed to the club and showing that," he added.—MNA/Reuters

Bayern extend winning streak to record 14 games

FRANKFURT, 18 Sept— Bayern Munich stretched their Bundesliga winning streak to a record 14 matches as a Martin Demichelis header proved enough to give them a 1-0 victory at home to Hanover 96 on Saturday.

Argentine midfielder Demichelis popped up unmarked at the back post to meet a Willy Sagnol cross and give Bayern the lead at their World Cup stadium in the 10th minute.

Felix Magath's side, missing Michael Ballack because of an ankle injury, kept Hanover at bay with few difficulties to make it five wins from five in the league so far this season.

That perfect start to the campaign follows a nine-match winning sequence on the run-in to last season's title and breaks the previous Bundesliga record set by Bayern in 1981 and matched by Magath's team last weekend against Nuremberg.

Bayern needed their latest win to stay on the heels of title leaders Borussia Dortmund, who have title ambitions, went in front in the seventh minute.

The French title holders looked tired four days after losing 1-0 to Barcelona in the Champions League on Wednesday, came back to win an entertaining clash with Borussia Dortmund 3-2.

Hamburg SV lost ground with a 1-1 draw at Eintracht Frankfurt.

With five matches played, Bremen have 13, followed by Hamburg in third on 11.—MNA/Reuters

Benitez says Rooney should follow Raul’s lead

LIVERPOOL (England), 17 Sept — Manchester United's Wayne Rooney would be wise to use Spain striker Raul as a role model, says Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez.

Rooney was sent off against Villarreal in the Champions League in midweek after sarcastically applauding referee Kim Milton Nielsen’s decision to book him for a foul.

Benitez worked with Raul as a youth coach at Real Madrid and has seen the forward develop into a respected international.

"The difference between players is not always the quality but their mentality," Benitez told reporters on Friday.

"Raul was with me when he was 16 years old. I remember Raul working really hard in training sessions and working really hard in the games."

"And he had a lot of control in terms of pressure, like talking to newspapers and the media," added Benitez. "Rooney is no different to Raul in the amount of pressure he faces. "When you are talking about good players, they are always in the spotlight."

Benitez has to make plans to stop Rooney when Liverpool play Manchester United on Sunday in the Premier League.

He believes the game will show how far his side have improved since last season when United won both meetings.

"If you can beat Manchester United, you can beat anyone," said the Liverpool manager. "That means you can think about being in the top three."

If United lose they may have contributed to their own downfall after inviting Benitez over to observe the team training when he was a little known coach in Spain.

"I went to Manchester United for one week to watch their training," Benitez added. "Sir Alex had some problems with Roy Keane about his contract so Steve McClaren was taking training. McClaren was then United's assistant manager but has since taken over the reigns at Middlesbrough."

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

CA D D I E  L A C K S
O O C A O A P
B U G L E M E A N D E R
A S C B F G I
L E T T U C E  T E R N
T A B R A G T E N
C H R I S P N O U
H I D E  A B D O M E N
A R T A P I
P R E F A C E  R O A M S
E G J R M S O
L A S E R  N E L S O N

Wiltord says he was the man who decided to sign for Bordeaux

PARIS, 18 Sept— A second half strike by Sylvain Wiltord gave Olympique Lyon a hardly deserved 1-1 draw at Girondins Bordeaux in a top of Ligue 1 match on Saturday.

Lyon extended their unbeaten run to seven games since the start of the season and have 17 points, four behind St. Etienne, who visited St. Etienne on Sunday. Bordeaux are on 12.

The French title holders looked tired four days after their stylish 3-0 Champions League victory over Real Madrid.

Bordeaux, who have title ambitions, went in front thanks to a superb goal from Czech international Vladimir Smicer in the seventh minute.

The former Liverpool player beat two Lyon defenders and fired the ball home from 18 metres, leaving goalkeeper Gregory Coupet no chance.—MNA/Reuters

Deportivo go top after 2-2 draw at Valencia

MADRID, 18 Sept— Deportivo Coruna came from behind to claim a 2-2 draw at Valencia that was enough to send them top of the Primera Liga on Saturday.

The Galicians, who beat Real Mallorca and Atletico Madrid in their first two games of the season, took the lead midway through the first half of an action-packed encounter at the Mestalla thanks to a cool finish from striker Diego Tristan.

Valencia suffered another setback when midfielder Ruben Baraja was sent off on the stroke of halftime, but they got back into the game at the start of the second half when David Villa converted a penalty at the second attempt.

Depor also found themselves down to 10 men when winger Pedro Munitis was dismissed for a second booking just before the hour and Valencia looked to have secured victory when Portuguese defender Miguel Monteiro cracked in a spectacular drive 10 minutes from time.

But midfielder Sergio allowed Depor to grab a valuable away draw when he finished off a lightning counter-attack with a simple tap-in three minutes later. MNA/Reuters

West Ham United’s Marlon Harewood strikes for a goal during their English Premier League soccer match against Fulham at Craven Cottage in west London, on 17 September, 2005. West Ham won the match 2-1.—INTERNET

Chelsea's Arjen Robben jumps up in celebration of his goal, Chelsea's second, against Charlton Athletic during their English Premiership League soccer match at The Valley, London, on 17 September, 2005. Chelsea won the match 2-0.—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle
Special Weather News
(Is issued at 16:00 hours MST on 18-9-2005)
According to the Meteorological Satellite Observations at (15:30) hrs MST today, Land Depression Vicente is centred about (300) miles Northeast of Bangkok (Thailand). It is likely to move westwards and pass over Myanmar within next few hours.
Under the influence of the Land Depression, rain storm squalls may be experienced in some parts of Eastern area, Central area and Lower Myanmar area, accompanied by surface wind speed which may reach (45) mph during the next (48) hours commencing this evening.

Earthquake report
(Is issued at 15:50 hours MST today)
An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.7) Richter Scale with its epicenter near Homalin about (495) miles Northwest of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (13) hrs (56) min (45) sec MST on 18th September 2005.

All this needs to be known
* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bothered whenever flattened
* Do not be softened whenever appeared

Sri Lanka to set up authority to transfer technology to villages
COLOMBO, 18 Sept — Sri Lanka Science and Technology Ministry has made arrangements to set up Sri Lanka Vidyathara Authority to take science and technology to the village level, the Daily News reported Saturday.
This proposed authority will be responsible for taking modern technology to rural areas from the centre in respect of research and development encompassing the universities, Science and Technolo- gyon. The ministry will set up resource centres at Divisional Secretariat level with computer link so that people in the villages can access modern technology to develop small and medium scale industries, he said.
The ministry has already set up 32 resource centres countrywide. The ministry’s intention is to set up 100 resource centres throughout the country by the year end.
MNA/Khinhu

WEATHER
Sunday, 18th September, 2005
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin State, rain or thunder showers have been isolated in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, Mandalay Division, scattered in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hpakha (2.20) inches, Meyeik (1.93) inches, Mandalay (1.58) inches, Kawthoung (1.50) inches, Lashio (1.15) inches, Shwebo (0.98) inch and Aunglan (0.24) inch.
Maximum temperature on 17-9-2005 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 18-9-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-9-2005 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 17-9-2005 was (19) hours approx. Rainfalls on 18-9-2005 were (0.24) inch at Mingladon, (0.44) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.38) inches at the central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (80.08) inches at Mingladon, (82.68) inches at Kaba-Aye and (88.78) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from South at (14:00) hours MST on 17-9-2005
Bay inference: The low pressure area over East Central Bay has intensified into a depression and crossing Orissa Coast of India at (06:30) hrs MST today. Weather is cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Special feature: Tropical storm “Vicente” in the South China sea is crossing Vietnam Coast near Darnang, this morning at (06:30) hrs MST. The storm is forecast to be weaken into a land depression while moving West and pass over Myanmar.
Forecast valid until evening of 19-9-2005: Rain or thunder showers will be isolated in Kachin State, scattered in Chin and Kayah States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kayin and Mon States, Yangon and Tannihayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is 80%.
State of the sea: Frequent squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (45) mph.
Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in Eastern, Central and Lower Myanmar areas.
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-9-2005: Some rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is 80%.
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-9-2005: One or two rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 19 September, 2005
Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, 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

Priority to be given to cultivation of rubber
Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects regional development in Mon State

YANGON, 18 Sept — State Peace and Development Council Member Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials of SPDC Office and ministries, inspected the regional development and the cultivation of monsoon paddy and rubber in Mon State on 16 September.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected the project of constructing Sittoung Bridge (Moppalin) in Moppalin village in Kyaiitk Township and heard a report on construction works. After hearing the report, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs.

On arrival at the research and propagation farm of Myamna Perennial Crops Enterprise, Lt-Gen Maung Bo viewed saplings of rubber, dura, tenera and pisifera displayed at the briefing hall and heard a report on the tasks being carried out and future tasks.

The Manager of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise in Mon State and officials gave supplementary reports. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that 260,000 acres of rubber plantations have so far been grown against the target of 4000,000 acres, (See page 10)

Members of MCWA and WAO make round-table discussions in Matlan village, Laikha. — MNA

YANGON, 18 Sept — As the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw are striving harmoniously for development of the region and the country, progress of peace and stability as well as development of economic, social, education and health sectors have been made in the region step by step. At present, rural regions of Shan State are making progress in all aspects by carrying out the five rural development tasks in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

In implementing rural development tasks in Shan State, Laikha Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Township Women’s Affairs Organization in cooperation with rural region development teams held a ceremony to donate equipment for rural development, health and education matters at the monastery in Matlan Village, Laikha Township, on 15 September afternoon. It was attended by members of Matlan Village Union Solidarity and Development Association, MCWA, MWAF and local people totaling about 500.

Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Htin Kyaw who presided over the meeting made a speech. He said that remarkable progress has been made in the education sector of the nation. Likewise, all the people have the opportunity to learn basic education. In this regard, primary schools have been upgraded to middle schools and high schools to enable every school-age child to pursue not only primary education but also middle and high school education.

For ensuring development of the education and health sectors, the border areas development plan, the