True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation wherever he lives to cultivate and possess strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to uphold and safeguard.

As peace and stability prevails in the regions of the country, departmental officials are to go down to rural areas to supervise development work.

Government will be able to expedite its development drive only when peace and stability of the State and national solidarity prevail perpetually in the nation.

Public participation needed to promote education system into electronic education

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends opening ceremony of multi-media classrooms of Mottama BEHS

The role of traditional medicine and traditional medicine practitioners is very important in enhancing the level of public health care services. To improve the standard of traditional medicine, universities of traditional medicine have been opened and all the necessary requirements fulfilled. Moreover, traditional medicine hospitals have been built in major towns and in some townships.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Minister inspects dams in Mandalay Division

Maj-Gen Huay Oo inspects Nyaungon Dam being built in Meiktila Township. &ri

YANGON, 19 Sept—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo on 17 September met with the chairman of Meiktila District Peace and Development Council and members of Meiktila District and Township Agriculture Service Coordination Committee at the meeting hall of Montaing Dam in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Division and discussed matters on irrigated facilities and greening in the region. At the meeting, the minister stressed the importance of timely cultivation of paddy, disseminating of quality strain and techniques and boosting the per acre yield.

After inspecting the dam, the minister proceeded to Nyaungon Dam project being implemented by Construction-7 of the Irrigation Department near Nyaungon Village in Meiktila Township.

At the briefing hall, officials concerned reported on progress of work, construction of feeding canal to link Chaunggauk Dam with Lunngin, Letkhokbin and Nyaungon dams as well as Meiktila Lake.

Later, the minister met with local authorities, USDA executives and agricultural coordination committee members and discussed matters on greening the region and supply of water for cultivation purpose. Then, the minister inspected paddy fields near the dam and construction of 1.02-mile feeding canal to Letkhokbin Dam. He also inspected the in-flow of water into the Lunngin dam through almost one mile long feeding canal.

The Chaunggauk Dam is located in Pyawbwe Township. It is 6,000 feet long and 34 feet high. Its water storage capacity is 12,500 acre-feet. Having the wide and strong catchment area, the Chaunggauk Dam will provide about 20,000 acre-feet of feeding water to Meiktila Lake, it is learnt. — MNA

Minister receives Indian and Chinese Ambassadors

YANGON, 19 Sept—Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col. Thein Nyunt receives Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra today. They discussed matters on border and rural area development tasks. The minister also received Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun who has completed his tour of duty this afternoon and discussed border and rural areas development projects and drug elimination endeavours.

Also present at the calls were Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Brig-Gen Than Tun, Director-General U Than Win of Education and Training Department and officials. — MNA

Officials leave for Japan

YANGON, 19 Sept—Minister for Tourism Affairs Col. Thein Nyunt receives Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun.

MWEA Executive Daw Kyi Kyi Nyein and Assistant Manager U Ye Thiha seen before their departure for Japan. — MWEA

Minister Col Thein Nyunt receives Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun.

Corrigendum

YANGON, 19 Sept—Please read “Myitnge Sleeper Factory has a capacity to produce 1000 pre-stressed concrete sleepers, 3000 rubber pads, 5000 pandrol clips and 2000 insulator pads per day.” instead of news carried in the box on Page-8 and in Column-1, Page-10 of this paper on 19-9-2005. Error is regretted.
Chinese V-P calls for closer economic ties with France

BEIJING, 18 Sept — Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan called for closer economic ties with France when meeting with a French delegation led by President of the Senate Christian Poncelet.

Despite the continuous growth of bilateral trade volume, Zeng said China and France still enjoy great potential in expanding cooperation in view of the economic capacity of the two countries. He said he hoped that the two countries would improve cooperation in energy resources, aviation and transportation based on the principle of mutual benefit and common development.

He urged the two countries to promote cooperation among medium and small enterprises and further exchanges in the fields of agriculture, environment protection and high-tech industry.

He also voiced the hope that both countries would solve the trade problems properly in a bid to promote the healthy growth of Sino-French friendly relations.

Poncelet hailed the France-China cooperation and urged the two countries to improve understanding of the business sectors so as to widen the scope of bilateral cooperation and upgrade economic and trade cooperation. — MNA/Xinhua

President Mugabe denounces Britain over Iraq war

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Sept — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe on Sunday sharply criticized Britain and the United States over the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003, labelling the war as "state terrorism."

"Is it not obvious that Britain, under the regime of Tony Blair, has ceased to respect the Charter of the United Nations?" he stressed.

"Witness its being a principal member of the anti-Iraq illegal coalition that went on a devastating campaign of the country in complete defiance of the United Nations Charter!" he added.

"Any state or group of states that commits such an act of aggression on another, justifying it on blatant falsehoods, surely becomes guilty of state terrorism," he added.

The US-British coalition invaded Iraq in March 2003 without the authorization of the UN Security Council on the grounds that the Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

On the US budget, Clinton warned that the federal deficit may be coming untenable, driven by foreign wars, the post-hurricane recovery programme and tax cuts that benefitted just the richest one percent of the US population, himself included.

"What Americans need to understand is that...," added Clinton.

"We have never done this before. Never in the history of our republic have we ever financed a conflict, military conflict, by borrowing money from somewhere else.

Clinton added: "We depend on Japan, China, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and Korea primarily to basically loan us money every day of the year to cover my tax cut and these conflicts and Katrina. I don't think it makes any sense." — Internet

Clinton launches withering attack on Bush on Iraq, Katrina, budget

WASHINGTON, 18 Sept — Former US president Bill Clinton sharply criticized George W Bush for the Iraq war and the handling of Hurricane Katrina, and voiced alarm at the swelling US budget deficit.

Breaking with tradition under which US presidents mute criticisms of their successors, Clinton said the Bush administration had decided to invade Iraq "virtually alone and before UN inspections were completed, with no real urgency, no evidence that there were weapons of mass destruction."

"The war diverted US attention from the war on terrorism "and undermined the support that we might have had," Bush said in an interview with an ABC's "This Week" programme.

"The US strategy of trying to develop the Iraqi military and police so that they can cope without US support "I think is the best way we may not have, in the short run, enough troops to do that," said Clinton.

"There are many of those who were poor, disabled or elderly were left behind. If we really wanted to do it right, we would have had lots of buses lined up to take them out," said Clinton.

On the US budget, Clinton warned that the federal deficit may be coming untenable, driven by foreign wars, the post-hurricane recovery programme and tax cuts that benefitted just the richest one percent of the US population, himself included.

"What Americans need to understand is that... every single day of the year, our government goes into the market and borrows money from other countries to finance Iraq, Afghani-

Russian envoy calls on strengthening Nepal-Russia ties

KATHMANDU, 18 Sept — There is a need to strengthen economic ties between Nepal and Russia for mutual benefits, a Russian envoy to Nepal said here on Saturday.

"We need to explore new avenues for integrating the trade and commerce activities between the two countries," Andrei L Turofinov, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Nepal, said at a function organized to mark 80th anniversary of Russian Centre for International Scientific and Cultural Cooperation.

"A meeting between deputy ministers of the two countries will take place in Moscow next year," Andrei revealed.

Russia has the power to influence the course of international politics, so Nepal should approach the Russian Government rather than waiting for Russia to include Nepal in its priority list, said Lila Prasad Sharma, former Nepali ambassador to the Russian Federation.

"Russia can be a good market for Nepali products, including garments, carpets, handicraft," Sharma added.

The 1960s were the golden period for rotation between the two countries, Bhagwan R Tuladhar, president of Nepal-Russia Friends Association, a non-governmental organization, noted, adding, "We need to revive business activities between the two countries." — MNA/Xinhua

US GI killed by roadside bomb in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 Sept — A roadside bomb killed a US soldier on patrol in western Iraq, the US military said on Sunday.

The soldier, assigned to the 56th Brigade Combat Team, was taken to a US military hospital in Baghdad, but died of his wounds on Saturday night.

The attack occurred near Al Asad Air Base in a volatile guerilla region near Syria. At least 1,899 US soldiers have been killed since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003.

A Chinese official (with loudspeaker) gestures to the re-entry capsule of the Shenzhou-V spaceship on display in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province on 17 September, 2005. China might launch its second manned space mission next month, the Shanghai Morning Post reported early this month citing a space official. — Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 20 September, 2005 3
Kazakh Premier, Chinese Defence Chief meet on relations

ASTANA, 18 Sept — Kazakh Prime Minister Daniyal Akhmetov met with Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan here on Saturday, with both sides indicating the willingness to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Kazakhstan and China are good neighbours whose traditional friendship and cooperative relations have been further developed in recent years, Akhmetov said. Chinese President Hu Jintao's successful visit to Kazakhstan in July and the signing of the declaration regarding the establishment of strategic partnership between both countries by President Hu and his Kazakh counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev lifted bilateral relations to a new level, he said.

Kazakhstan adheres to the one-China policy and supports China's reuniﬁcation drive and the efforts dedicated to regional and world peace and stability, the Premier said.

He added that his country is willing to step up cooperation with China within the framework of regional and international organizations, and to jointly crack down on "the three evil forces" of terrorism, extremism and splitsim.

During the meeting, Akhmetov highly appraised the military cooperation between the two countries and hoped that bilateral military exchanges and cooperation would be reinforced.

Cao, for his part, said since the establishment of diplomatic ties 13 years ago, the Sino-Kazakh relations have seen smooth development, with leaders of the two countries maintaining close contacts, mutual political trust being enhanced and bilateral cooperation in various ﬁelds yielding fruitful results.

The decision by leaders of both countries to establish a strategic partnership showed that the Sino-Kazakh ties have entered a new phase of development.

Cao added that as the Sino-Kazakh friendly cooperation deepens, the relationship between the two militaries has also taken on a positive momentum of development. He said China attaches great importance to the friendly cooperation between the two armies and is willing to continuously consolidate and enhance such cooperation.

He said his visit was aimed at promoting mutual understanding, broadening consensus, developing friendship, boosting cooperation and pushing forward bilateral ties and military relations.

Cao arrived here from Tajikistan on Thursday.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai PM says fair trade system key to success of MDGs

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Sept — Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand stressed the importance of a fair international economic system on Friday and called for greater effort to rejuvenate the United Nations when he addressed the UN summit.

He said the Millennium Development Goals will not be achievable simply because of the internationally committed Official Development Assistance percentage alone, but depends as much on the ability of the international community to deliver a fairer system of world trade. He said free competition must be fair, but unfortunately, not everyone is equally fit to race in the same free competition. The ability to take part in fair trade is the opportunity for a nation to help itself. To encourage self-help, international efforts must ensure that free competition goes together with fair competition, he added.

On the issue of UN reform, the present-day world of globalization demands a United Nations that is dynamic in outlook, ﬂexible in structure, and ﬁrm in its commitment to the enduring ideals for which it was created, the Prime Minister said. "The United Nations must be rejuvenated, strengthened or even reinvented in order to be a more effective, more efﬁcient, more transparent and more accountable global body to serve the international community," he added. — MNA/Xinhua

Liberal Democrats call for end to Iraq occupation

LONDON, 19 Sept—Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman Sir Menzies Campbell is set to call for an end to the US and UK "occupation" of Iraq.

But he will stop short of calling for a date for the withdrawal of troops. He will also say Britain needs an ethical foreign policy, stressing human rights and multilateralism.

In his speech to the Liberal Democrat annual conference, Sir Menzies will say the Iraq war was illegal and conducted on a "false prospectus".

"The threat was manufactured not in the sands of Iraq, but in the corridors of Whitehall," Sir Menzies will tell delegates.

He will also attack the "inevitable failure" to plan for post-war Iraq, which is illustrated by a "terrible daily carnage" in the country.

"Two and a half years on, we must begin to bring this occupation to an end," Sir Menzies will say.

Last year the party passed a motion calling for the withdrawal of troops by the end of the year, but Sir Menzies is not expected to name a date for withdrawal in his speech.

MNA/Xinhua

Local soldier loses leg in Iraq attack

BAGHDAD, 18 Sept — A soldier from Cuyahoga Falls lost his leg after a suicide bomber attacked his convoy in Iraq this week.

Sgt Joseph Gross, 28, is on his way to a medical centre in San Antonio, Texas, Sunday, News Channel 5 reported.

He’s expected to be in the hospital for a month. Two other soldiers were also hurt in the attack.

MNA/Xinhua

US troops learning counter-insurgency lessons from India

NEW DELHI, 18 Sept — Taking forward their cooperation in combating terrorism, the United States is sending a team of National Guards for specialized training at the Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School (CIJWS) of the Indian Army at Varanage in Mizoram, the Indian Express newspaper reported on Saturday.

Quoting Army ofﬁcials, the newspaper report said that this would be the ﬁrst time that US National Guards would be sending a team to India. The US soldiers will be at the school for the third consecutive year. The exercise aims at increasing the inter operability between the Armed Forces of the two countries, as also assisting in fostering a greater bond between India and the United States.

Mizoram lies in India’s northeast.

Apart from the United States, CIJW also trains ofﬁcers and personnel of friendly nations, including Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Singapore, South Africa, Iraq, Gana, Botswana and Kazakhstan.

According to the report, the training is part of the joint Indo-US exercises code-named “Yudh Abhyas” (war-exercise).

The US contingent will have 40 personnel from the 25th Infantry Division and the National Guards.

MNA/Xinhua

An F1 powerboat races during a timed trial session in front of the Singapore skyline on 17 September, 2005. — INTERNET

US military vehicles drive by a burning truck following a roadside bomb attack in western Baghdad on the Ghaizaliya Khadura highway that targeted four trucks loaded with food supplies for Americans on 17 September, 2005.—INTERNET

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He’s expected to be in the hospital for a month. Two other soldiers were also hurt in the attack.

MNA/Xinhua
Indonesian President urges UN reform

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Sept— Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono pledged his country’s continued support for efforts to strengthen and revitalize the effectiveness of the United Nations in facing the new challenges.

The President made the remarks when he addressed the UN summit, scheduled for 14-16, which focused on development and the reform of the United Nations and other pressing issues of the world today.

He said the international community needs a reformed Security Council with a membership that is reflective of global realities. No effort at UN reform is complete unless it affirms and brings into reality the central role of the General Assembly as the main body of the United Nations, he said.

On the responsibility to protect people from genocide, he said force should be used only when all other means have failed in order to save innocent citizens from ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

On the fight against terrorism, the President stressed the need to develop an effective international cooperation to deal with this threat and find its root causes, and he expressed the belief that interfaith dialogue and empowering the moderates can reduce violent radicalism.

The projected Human Rights Council, he noted, should be a subsidiary body to the General Assembly and free of politicization and double standards.

On the issue of development, he urged the developed countries to fulfill their commitment to a genuine and mutually beneficial global partnership for development, provide financing for development, and grant market access to developing countries in a rules-based international trading system.

At the same time, developing countries must achieve good governance, fight corruption, make efficient use of their limited resources, and plan and carry out appropriate development strategies, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

One killed in blast in Beirut

BEIRUT, 19 Sept— One was killed and two injured when a hand grenade accidentally exploded in the Kuwait Information Office in Beirut on Monday, Kuwaiti Ambassador Ali Suleiman Saeed said.

Asyaa al-Alayli, a Lebanese employee, died in hospital, and Hussam al-Jamal and Mirna Mugharbel, both Lebanese, were wounded.

“Regrettably, it happened when one of the employees, with the knowledge of his colleagues, was playing with some old explosive materials left over from the 1975-1990 civil war. It exploded, hitting him and two of his colleagues,” Saeed said.

He said the hand grenade had been in the office for more than two years.

Earlier reports said that the explosion was caused by a parcel bomb, and the blast occurred when al-Jamal tried to open the parcel. — MNA/Xinhua

Suspected letter bomb blast injures one person in British Embassy in Zagreb

BELGRADE, 19 Sept— A staff member of the British Embassy in Zagreb was injured early on Monday in a suspected letter bomb blast inside the embassy, said reports reaching here from Croatian capital of Zagreb. The worker received minor injuries after a device exploded in apso sund central time, a spokeswoman for the embassy Tessa Fras told the Croatian news agency.

Anti-EU sentiment in Croatia has been inflamed by a delay in talks over the country’s joining the European Union (EU), whose rotation presidency is chaired by Britain during the second half of 2005.

The EU postponed entry talks with Croatia in March over the country’s failure to cooperate fully with the Hague international war crimes tribunal.

MNA/Xinhua

HK ready to receive tourist inflows during Mid-Autumn Festival

HONG KONG, 18 Sept— Hong Kong’s various tourism related departments have made full preparations for welcoming the Chinese Mainland tourists who visit Hong Kong around the Mid-Autumn Festival that falls on 18 September.

The Immigration Department has added additional 200 staff members to various cross boundary check points to shorten the clearance time for passengers.

Quite a number of public bus routes have decided to extend the business hour to around 2:00 on Sunday and Monday mornings and add more buses for various routes.

While Hong Kong Disneyland, the hottest tourist attractions in Hong Kong which opened on September 12, opened half an hour earlier than the usual time, to welcome the first week after the theme park’s opening, hundreds of tourists had lined up for entrance before its opening.

As the Mid-Autumn Festival is a traditional Chinese festival for family gathering, quite a number of Hong Kong citizens choose to tour Disneyland.

MNA/Xinhua

Train derails in north-central US state, one killed

WASHINGTON, 18 Sept— A commuter train derailed Saturday morning near Chicago, the largest city in the north-central US state of Illinois, killing at least one person and injuring 83 others, news reports said.

There were a total of 189 people, including four crew members, on the five-car train, which derailed when it was travelling from Joliet to Chicago, officials quoted as saying.

Seventeen of the injured were in serious condition. — MNA/Xinhua

Exhibition showcases Tibetan culture in Rome

ROME, 18 Sept— An exhibition of Tibetan photographs and Tangkas, a traditional Tibetan painting, was opened here Friday afternoon.

As part of the ongoing “2005 China Tibet Culture Week” in Italy, the exhibition is held to promote among Italians a better understanding of the Tibetan tradition and the changes of Tibetan people’s life today, said Qian Xiaoqian, head of the culture week delegation.

The culture week is jointly sponsored by the China International Culture Association, the Foreign Culture Exchange Association of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), and the Foundation Italy-China.

More than 200 pictures, including 30 taken by 19 foreign photographers in Tibet earlier this year, are displayed on the exhibition in the Venice Palace.

Visitors to the exhibition can also see 15 Tangkas, which showcases the religious tradition and the theory of traditional Tibetan medicine.

MNA/Xinhua
India and Pakistan likely to withdraw troops from Siachen Glacier

Islamabad, 18 Sept—The much-awaited accord on troops withdrawal from Siachen Glacier between Pakistan and India is on cards as the two neighbours have agreed in principle on demilitarization of the world’s highest battlefield. The Nation reported on Saturday.

Islamabad and New Delhi have broadly agreed to demilitarize the Siachen Glacier after having discussed in detail the vital issue through “informal” diplomatic channels during the last two months, unnamed diplomatic sources were quoted as saying here.

They said that earlier the two sides could not settle this vital issue on composite dialogue agenda because of India’s insistence on authentication of troops’ present positions. However, after having several rounds of so-called secret diplomacy, the two countries had been able to overcome their differences on Siachen demilitarization to a great extent, they added. In the coming days, discussion both at formal and informal level would be continued to formalize an agreement on troops withdrawal from the glacier, they said, adding that the accord could be announced during the visit of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Pakistan, likely to take place in October this year.

A source here said that Singh was keen to convert the world’s highest battlefield into a “mountain of peace” and he had been able to overcome the stern opposition in this regard by the Indian military establishment, which was against the move.

Pakistani top leadership has also shown willingness to reciprocate to the desire of the Indian Prime Minister of troops withdrawal from Siachen and both sides have agreed to resort to give and take on the contentious issue, he added.

Pakistani and Indian troops have been in a state of confrontation since 1984 in Siachen, a 76-kilometre-long block of ice at heights of over 6,000 metres.

The Siachen standoff is one of the eight issues covered under the ongoing composite dialogue process the two countries initiated early last year to resolve their outstanding bilateral issues including Kashmir.

MNA/Xinhua

China donates money for Aceh, Nias reconstruction

Jakarta, 18 Sept—Chinese Ambassador to Indonesia Lan Lijun here Saturday donated 1.5 million US dollars on behalf of the Chinese Government to the Aceh and Nias Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency.

The money, as part of the two-million-US-dollar aid package promised by Chinese President Hu Jintao during his visit to the archipelago in April this year, would be used to facilitate the reconstruction work on these two islands, said embassy official Xie Yonghui.

The rest of the money, some 500,000 US dollars, was paid in the form of aid materials such as power generators and carpets. They arrived here two months ago and were currently deployed in Nias.

The embassy planned to send its people to Nias at the end of this month to review the dispatch of the aid materials.

The tsunami in December last year devastated Aceh, killing some 120,000 people and making some 200,000 homeless.

MNA/Xinhua

Eighty fishing trawlers looted in Meghna Estuary in Bangladesh

Dhaka, 18 Sept—Pirates looted cash and goods worth five million taka (76,900 US dollars) from some 80 fishing trawlers in the estuary of Meghna River off Bhola, 300 kilometres south of Dhaka, leaving over 100 crew and fishermen injured and two missing.

Many of the injured crew and fishermen were thrown into the river and later rescued by the fishermen of other boats, The Independent reported Saturday.

The pirates coming in 15 speedy trawlers attacked the fishing trawlers in the estuary and continued their looting spree from Thursday night to Friday morning.

Two fishermen thrown to the river after being injured remained missing.

MNA/Xinhua

One-third of Canadian university students indulged in drinking

Ottawa, 18 Sept—One-third of Canadian university students are indulging in drinking, according to a survey by a research centre at the University of Toronto.

The survey of 6,282 full-time students from 40 Canadian universities was released by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. It showed 32 per cent of undergraduates admitted at least one indicator of being alcohol-dependent, such as failing to perform everyday obligations because of alcohol, needing a drink first thing in the morning or downing five or more drinks at one outing. That number has not changed since a similar survey in 1998, but it is still significantly higher than the general population, where about 20 per cent report similar drinking patterns, said researcher Edward Adlaf. The biggest worry comes not from the potential for creating long-term alcoholics, but the immediate dangers, he said. Ten per cent of those surveyed reported alcohol-related assault, 9.8 per cent reported booze-fuelled sexual harassment, and 14 per cent said they had unplanned sex because of alcohol.

Drunk students are also at risk of falls, dying or being injured in automobile accidents or getting caught up in brawling, Adlaf said. The survey suggested that universities themselves play a role in students’ drinking behaviours. One-quarter of students asked said they had taken advantage of low-priced booze promotions at campus bars and believe that university alcohol policies are not enforced.

MNA/Xinhua
Government will be able to expedite its development...

from Ngwe Taung Dam on 16 September morning. Next they inspected agricultural work and measures being taken for conservation of natural forests along Pon Creek and in Bawlakwe and Pasawng regions, Htoo Creek Bridge built at the confluence of Pon Creek, Htoo Creek and the regions in the eastern part of Thanwin.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party went to Meise Township in Kayah State. At the office of the township PDC, he met with departmental staff, social organization members and townsenders. The township council chairman reported on agricultural, health, economy and social issues of the township. Giving instructions, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said the government is undertaking tasks for all sectors for the building of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation enlisting the strength of the entire national people. In doing so, the government will be able to expedite its development drive only when peace and stability of the State and national solidarity prevail perpetually in the nation. He added he was delighted to see the agricultural and regional development of Meise Township in Bawlakwe District. Food is self-sufficient as the township could produce 138.58 percent of rice in 2005-2006. For the progress of education sector, those educated who are discharging duties in other departments are urged to cooperate with teachers of the Ministry of Education in teaching the youths of the region. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win urged those present to participate in building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. He next presented gifts to departmental personnel and made cash donations for the township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women’s Affairs Organization. He also presented gifts and provisions for the Tatmadawmen of the region to Col Win Huy of Meisei Station.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party proceeded to Pasawng Station where they met Tatmadaw members and their families. He briefed them on progress in various sectors in the time of the Tatmadaw government, organizational tasks for upholding ‘Our Three Main National Causes’, crushing destructive elements, implementation of four tasks for building the Tatmadaw. He then cordially greeted those present. He also met service personnel, members of social organizations and local people at Pasawng Township PDC office.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the commander and party inspected Htoo Creek, Pasawng-Bawlakwe road. They next visited Bawlakwe Station and Bawlakwe Township PDC office. Bawlakwe District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Kan Tun reported on extended cultivation of 4032 acres of monsoon paddy and health, education and information affairs of the district. In his speech, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said as peace and stability prevails in the regions of the country, departmental officials are to go down to rural areas to supervise development work. He next stressed the need for boosting cultivation to ensure food security in the region in accord with the guidance of the Head of State and active participation of the national people in the successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win went to Bawlakwe Station by car and met with Tatmadawmen and their families at Hsipyushin Hall. During the meeting, he explained the developments in the time of the Tatmadaw government and stressed the need for undertaking agricultural and livestock breeding tasks on a manageable scale. He greeted those present.

Afterwards, he presented gifts and provisions for the Tatmadaw members to Col Aye Lwin of Bawlakwe Station. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party went to Heho in the afternoon via Loikaw. Later, they arrived back here in the evening by air. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win meets local authorities, officials, social organizations and local elders. — MNA

YANGON, 19 Sept —Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence inspected cultivation of monsoon paddy, transport and regional development in Kengtung, Lwelka, Mongpuyi and Kengtawng regions on 15 September.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived in Namsang in the afternoon. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party together with Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and officials inspected cultivation and transport in Mongnai, Langhlo and Maukma regions.

They proceeded to Homein in Langkho Township where they were welcomed by Col Aung Kyaw Soe of Homein Station, officers, departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win provided foodstuff for the Tatmadaw members to Col Aung Kyaw Soe at the regional battalion.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party met departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people at the Union Hall of General Administration Department in Homein. Head of Township GAD U Tin Maung Soe reported on education, health, agriculture, construction, transport and facts about service personnel. In his address, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said local people learnt that Homein was the result of peace and it also reflected the strong solidarity of the national people, the government’s goodwill and development of the nation.

He said he was pleased to see all-round development of the region with the government’s assistance and participation of national races.

He urged the service personnel discharging duties in the region to carry out the tasks for development of economic, social, education and health sectors.

He said local people have now realized the correct endeavours of the officials and assistance with goodwill. Confidence and cooperation of the people grew, he said.

He said service personnel are the representatives of the government to deal with local people. They are to organize the local people to understand the policies of the government. A peaceful, modern developed discipline-flourishing nation would emerge soon, he said.

He called on all departmental officials and local people to make efforts for development of the region.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented gifts to national race leader U Naw Mein Khun and cash assistance for service personnel in Homein to Head of Township GAD U Tin Maung Soe.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected Homein, Sihnthaung and Punchaung. In the evening they arrived in Loikaw. — MNA

The British army and police commandos could not stop the two British soldiers held after Basra clash

BAGHDAD, 19 Sept—Two British soldiers have been arrested in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, sparking unrest outside a police station where they are being held.

It is thought the men - who were reportedly undercover - are accused of failing to stop at an Iraqi checkpoint.

UK officials said they did not know why the pair were being detained.

Two British tanks sent to the police station where the soldiers are being held were set alight in a clash between British troops and protesters.

British officials would not say if the two men were working undercover.

Officials said they had received no reports of UK personnel being injured, but local council spokesman Nadhim al Jabari said two civilians were killed in the clashes. — Internet
Ministry of Education is implementing the 30-year education plan paving the way for students to meet the challenge of information and communication technology-ICT. Thanks to the combined efforts of the government and people, multi-media classrooms are mushrooming in schools nationwide.

Yangon West District launches anti-TB campaign

Yangon, 19 Sept — Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee launched the DOTS project this afternoon attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint. The ceremony to launch the project was held at No 2 Basic Education High School in Latha Township.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Chairperson of the supervisory committee Daw Khin Thet Htay, officials, members of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and guests.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented prizes to South Okkalapa, Botataung and Dawbon townships of the district, that won first, second and third prizes respectively in the DOTS provider awards. Dr Kyaw Myint presented gifts to winners in the anti-TB quiz.

In conclusion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo urged those present to participate in implementing the education promotion plan.

Construction of Ayeyawady Bridge Yadanabon inspected

Yangon, 19 Sept—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun accompanied by officials concerned yesterday morning inspected earth work and construction of small bridges at the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project site on Sagaing bank.

At the briefing hall on Sagaing side, the minister heard a report presented by officials on construction of the approach structure, installation of steel beams and other salient points of the project.

After hearing the report, the minister gave instructions on minimizing loss and wastage and worksite safety and fulfilled the need.

At the briefing hall on Mandalay side, officials reported on construction of the approach road, preparation for installation of steel beams and future tasks.

The minister looked into the scale model of the approach structure on Mandalay bank and fulfilled the requirements.

The four-lane bridge is 5,614 feet with 6 feet wide pedestrian lanes on either side. On completion, it will be able to bear 60 ton-lode.

I & P Ministry provides cash assistance to students of staff

Yangon, 19 Sept — Ministry of Immigration and Population provided cash assistance for students of the staff families for 2005-2006 academic year and honoured outstanding students.

At a ceremony held at the Population Department here today, Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa presented cash awards to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination for 2004-2005 academic year with flying colours and Deputy Minister U Maung Aung presented cash assistance for 620 students.

At the ceremony, the ministry provided over K 5.3 million to 778 students.
U Khin Zaw Win presents credentials to Indonesian President

YANGON, 20 Sept — U Khin Zaw Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Indonesia, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, on 8 September 2005, in Jakarta. — MNA

Model villages competitions...

(from page 16)

Speaking on the occasion, U Thein Han said establishment of model villages is an example of rural areas development tasks. According to the guidance of the Head of State, national development does not continue without urban development only. Therefore, efforts should be made for development of villages. Model villages are to make efforts for all-round development by implementing the fifteen development tasks, and only then will they be designated as model villages. If there is no cooperation between the government and people, the nation will lag behind in development.

Yaksawk Township which won the first prize in the competitions. The village has a population of 4453.

The village is able to sell its agricultural produce to various regions in the nation. The populace of the village are very busy with their agricultural work.

Still, they actively participate in implementing the development tasks for their village to become the model one. In terms of per capita income, economic growth, poverty rate in rural area and adult literacy rate, Myanmar is included in developing countries.

The government has constructed the infrastructures for development of villages. Model village has a population of over 90,000 and there are 43 dams to supply irrigation water to 39,249 acres of land. A total of 15,380 acres has been extended. As there are 3,470 acres of oil crops in the region, edible oil is in surplus every year.

There are 6,279 acres of paddy, 18,540 acres of maize and 419 acres of mango in Pinphyit village tract which includes Yandwinngakyaung Village.

There are gardens, sports ground and firewood. 200,000 saplings are planted in the village for greening of environment and firewood.

There are gardens, paddies fields and animal farms in model villages and nearby villages. With the better transport, all-round development has been made in every village.

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Endeavours made for rural development

A doctor providing a medical check-up to a villager—MNA

Yaksawk Township USDA Executive U Maung Maung Lwin presents 60-dozen exercise books to the headmaster of Pinphyit Village No 1 BEPS—MNA

A member of MCWA presents 300 books to chairman of Yantwin Ngarkyaung Village PDC U Bo Thein.—MNA

Members of USDA, WAO and MCWA giving nutrition to children at Pinphyit Village in Yaksawk Township.—MNA

A specialist of Shan State Hospital gives treatment to eye, ear, nose and tooth patients.—MNA

An official gives prize to a villager at prize-distribution ceremony of Model Villages competition—MNA

Bookworms seen at Alinyaung Library in Pinphyit Village in Yaksawk Township.—MNA

A specialist of Shan State Hospital gives treatment to eye, ear, nose and tooth patients.—MNA

Endeavours made for rural development
Members of WAO take part in development...

Members of WAO continued to Kyonthut Zeteseik Mobile School being undertaken by MWAF and the Ministry of Education and donated stationery, bags and school uniforms to the students whose families are working at the construction project of Panmawady River Bridge (Myinkaseik) over Panmawady River. Headmistress Daw Khine Nyo Oo explained inauguration of mobile schools and learning of disabled children to the officials of WAO.

They then arrived at Inma Model Village in Pantanaw Township, Maubin District in the evening, viewed providing of medical treatment to 1,435 villagers patients of 75 villages in the Township by Medical Superintendent Dr Thein Wai and the specialists of 200-bed Maubin District Hospital and donated 0.1 million to Dr Thein Wai and party for the expenses of medical treatment.

Chairperson Daw Aye Aye Kyaw and members looked round the treatment of eye specialists to eye complaints in station hospital. Members of WAO in cooperation with the staff of health department also provided medical treatment to the patients.

Inma Model Village, located on Yangon-Pathem Highway has over 900 houses. Economic and living conditions of the village is high. In addition, Village USDA, WAO and MCWA have been systematically organized as well. There are 300 members of WAO in the village.

State-owned business to be sold

YANGON, 19 Sept — Ministry of Industry-1 is going to sell the land of 0.137 acre of No 5-A Mawlamyine Ice Factory on Upper Street in Shwe taung Ward. Mawlamyine at a price of 24.34 million, the land of 1.250 acres of No 3 Mawlamyine Ice Factory on Lagunain Street in Myinethaya Møythi, Mawlamyine at a price of 117.66 million, the land of 0.229 acre of cinema of the Ministry of Information on No 3 Shweban Ward in Rupa South Ward, Sittway in Rakhine State at a price of 6.484 million through competitive bidding system.

Application forms are available at Privatization Commission Office at No 313 Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Yangon as from 22 September.

The application forms are to be submitted at 10 am to 4 pm on 21 October.

Further information is available on telephone (245506, 245516, 245537) of the department.

Early warnings raised doubt on Bush disaster plans

WASHINGTON, 19 Sep — In the months before Hurricane Katrina, President George W. Bush sought to cut a key programme to help local governments raise their preparedness, and state officials warned of a “total lack of focus” on natural disasters by his homeland-security chief, documents show.

The disclosures add to questions over the administration’s emergency-response planning. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff’s priorities and the way the White House budgets for disaster preparedness after the September 11 attacks. The agency has borne the brunt of criticism over the delays and problems in responding to Katrina, and its head, Michael Brown, resigned after being removed from the recovery effort. Local emergency officials had also warned the administration over problems meeting a National Response Plan requested by Bush as a battle-plan for emergencies. The International Association of Emergency Managers said in April that state and local emergency management programmes were in “desperate need” of federal funding to meet new standards.

Entries invited to Armed Forces Day Commemorative novel, short story, article competitions

YANGON, 19 Sept — In commemoration of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the Working Committee for Organizing Literary and Photo Contest today announced to hold the novel, short story and article competitions.

The entries in the novel and short story are to reflect Tatmadaw’s 12 fine traditions and the competitors can name their titles as they like.

Entries are available on tel-4567890, 4567891, 4567892, 4567893 of the department away from preparation of natural disasters, as it focused increasingly on terrorism.

In July, the National Emergency Management Association wrote lawmakers expressing “grave” concern that still-pending changes proposed by Chertoff would undercut the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“Only when the Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong”. If the Tatmadaw is strong, the country will be strong. The dis-aster preparedness for all types of disasters has been forgotten at DHS”.

FEMA, formerly a Cabinet-level agency, was folded into the new Homeland Security Depart-ment as part of a major government reor-ganization after the Sep-tember 11 attacks. The agency has borne the brunt of criticism over the delays and problems in responding to Katrina, and its head, Michael Brown, resigned after being removed from the recovery effort. Local emergency officials had also warned the administration over problems meeting a National Re- sponse Plan requested by Bush as a battle-plan for emergencies. The Inter-national Association of Emergency Managers said in April that state and local emergency management programmes were in “desperate need” of federal funding to meet new standards.

Members of MWAF and Ayeyawady Division WAO provide cash assistance, school uniforms and stationery to school children.

Members of MWAF and Ayeyawady Division WAO visit Imma model village Station hospital where a specialist is giving treatment to patients.

Winners of the 34th international letter writing contest announced

YANGON, 19 Sept — The winners of the 34th international letter writing contest (under 15) titled ‘A letter to my favorite fairytale character’, organized by the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and the Ministry of Education that was held to hail World Postal Day at the township BEHSs in the whole country on 13 November 2004 were announced today.

In the National level contest, Maung Kaung Si Thu of Yankin BEHS-2 stood first; Ma Zun Oo Hlaing of Nanyalaybin BEMS-1 second and Ma Eint Hanni Tun of Bogalay BEHS-1 third. Consolation prizes went to Ma Yadana Lin of Lammadaw BEHS-2, Ma Nan Kham Mon Mo of Mongpyin BEHS and Ma Thin Nu Aung of Bhamo BEHS-2. Honourable mentioned prizes went to Ma Nan Htart Htar Cho of Loikaw BEHS-1 and Ma Su Yi Mon Soe of Bogalay BEHS-1. The first prize winning letter of Maung Kaung Si Thu will be sent to UPIN in Switzerland for the international level contest.

The prices—distribution ceremony will be held at the celebration of World Postal Day on 9 October. Those winners are to contact in persons or by phone (591438, 591386 and 591390) Directorate of Telecommunications, Plot No 68, Ayawin Road, Dagon Mothit (Seikan) township.

Katrina survivor found as officials clash

NEW ORLEANS, 19 Sept — Rescue workers combing hard-hit New Orleans neighbors found a survivor on Sunday who had cramped out in his home since Hurricane Katrina, while officials clashed over when residents should return to the devastated city. The discovery of survivor Reyne Johnson nearly three weeks after Katrina ripped southern Louisiana and Mississippi relieved the search crews, who had been finding more and more corpses as floodwaters that forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee the historic city recede. The Louisiana death toll rose to 640 on Monday, bringing the total dead from Katrina to 883, including 218 in Mississippi and 19 combined in Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

“A Katrina” survivor found as officials clash

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Members of MWAF and Ayeyawady Division WAO visit Inma model village

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 20 September, 2005

Members of MWAF and Ayeyawady Division WAO provide cash assistance, school uniforms and stationery to school children.

--- MNA

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The disclosures add to questions over the administration’s emergency-response planning. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff’s priorities and the way the White House budgets for disaster preparedness after the September 11, 2001, attacks. Organizations representing emergency-response and security officials at state and local agencies had complained of funding shortages and what they saw as an excessive shift by the Homeland Security De-
Uganda donates $200,000 to US “Katrina” victims

KAMPALA, 18 Sept—The Ugandan Government has donated 200,000 US dollars to US Katrina victims, according to a Press release from the Ugandan State House on Friday. “President Yoweri Museveni, on behalf of the Ugandan Government, has extended assistance worth 200,000 US dollars to the people of the United States of America whose lives, homes and properties were lost and displaced by Hurricane Katrina that recently hit the American Gulf of Mexico coastline,” the release said.

President Museveni, who is currently attending the United Nations General Assembly, gave the cheque worth the amount to former US President George Bush Senior during a meeting on Thursday in New York.

George Bush thanked President Museveni and the people of Uganda for the generous offer and concern for the disadvantaged and devastated people of America. He said that the offer will go a long way in contributing to the alleviation of their suffering,” the Press release said.

The number of deaths caused by Hurricane Katrina rose to 792 in the United States by Thursday.— MNA/Xinhua

Chile, China conclude 4th round of FTA talks

SANTIAGO, 18 Sept—Delegates from Chile and China wrapped up their fourth round of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations on Friday after making important progress and will meet again in October to continue the talks.

The two sides reached agreements on issues concerning animal and plant quarantine and technical barriers to trade, and meanwhile made substantial progress in talks on market access, rules of origin, trade facilitation, mechanisms for solving commercial disputes and legal issues, the Chinese delegation said in a communiqué.

After five days of hard work, significant headway was made in this round of negotiations, the communiqué said.

The Chinese delegation headed by Assistant Commerce Minister Yi Xiaozhun started the fourth round of FTA talks with the Chilean delegation headed by Carlos Furche, Director of International Economic Relations of the Foreign Ministry on Monday.

The FTA talks were launched last November by Chinese President Hu Jintao and Chilean President Ricardo Lagos Escobar on the sidelines of an informal meeting of APEC leaders.

Experts believe that an FTA between Chile and China would provide a strong incentive for Chilean goods to be exported to the Chinese market.

According to official statistics, Chilean exports to China in 2004 reached 3.2 billion US dollars, while for this year, they have surpassed 2.18 billion dollars.

The next round of FTA talks will take place in late October in the Chinese capital of Beijing.— MNA/Xinhua

Ecuador mulls 1-to-12 year jail sentences for money launderers

QUITO, 18 Sept—Ecuador’s Congress is studying a bill to introduce jail sentences ranging from one to 12 years for money launderers in Ecuador, legislators sources said Friday.

Congress will continue next week the second and final debate on the Bill for the Suppression of Money Laundering.

The bill proposes jail sentences of 8-12 years for perpetrators in cases where the amount of money laundered surpasses 500,000 dollars, when money laundering leads to criminal association, or when public institutions are involved.

The sentence would be 4-8 years if the amount of money is between 100,000 dollars and 500,000 dollars, but it would be reduced to 1-5 years if no criminal association is involved.— MNA/Xinhua

'Guinness’, one of the 256 chihuahua dog entries in a race to determine America’s fastest chihuahua, is seen dressed in his Spiderman costume at Petco Park in San Diego, California on 18 September, 2005. (C)Trading Times
Garuda to purchase 28 Boeing aircraft

JAKARTA, 18 Sept — National flag carrier PT Garuda Indonesia has made a contract worth two billion US dollars to buy 28 new aircraft from the US jet-maker Boeing Co, a local newspaper reported on Saturday.

The contract is a renegotiation of previous contracts signed since the late 1980s with the world's second-largest commercial aircraft producer, said The Jakarta Post, quoting an official with the company.

The new agreement was signed by Garuda president Emirsyah Satar and Boeing senior vice-president Dinesh Keskar in New York on Friday.

In the deal, Garuda will buy 10 Boeing 787-Dreamliners, instead of six with the company.

Of previous contracts signed since the wake of previous contracts, for now, it needs only to add some six million dollars to the deal.

The first units of the 737-New Generations would join the fleet in 2009 to serve regional routes, Alex said. The remaining would be ordered gradually until 2012.

The Dreamliners, which can accommodate 240 passengers each, will be delivered between 2011 and 2013. The state-of-the-art aircraft can fly non-stop for 8,500 nautical miles, which means passenger can fall asleep in Jakarta and wake up in London or Vancouver without having to stop in transit.

"(The aircraft) fit with Garuda's business plan," Alex said. Garuda currently operates 57 aircraft, of which only six are made by Boeing's strongest competitor Airbus. The airline has several times renegotiated deals with Boeing to adjust its plans to market condition.

Cuban eye operations for Venezuelans pay oil bill

HAVANA, 18 Sept — Venezuelans are flocking to Havana by the plane-load for free eye operations under a medical programme funded by their country that is helping Cuba pay for oil imports and keep its socialist economy afloat.

More than 70,000 Venezuelans have been operated on for cataracts and other eye ailments this year and the goal is 150,000 by the end of 2005, a Cuban health official said on Friday.

Operation Miracle, a new programme cementing the alliance between the left-wing governments of Communist Cuba and oil-producing Venezuela, is restoring the vision of poor Venezuelans. It has turned Cuban hospitals into production lines for eye surgery, jamming corridors with patients awaiting their turn.

"It's so wonderful for us. We could not afford this in Venezuela," said Fabiola, who was accompanying her 75-year-old mother from the city of Maracaibo for a cataract operation.

"This is how (Venezuelan President Hugo) Chavez helps the poor," she said in a crowded waiting room at Havana's Pando Ferrer Eye Hospital. She declined to give her last name.

On 20 August, a record 1,648 eye operations at some 20 hospitals were performed in one day, the health official said. Hotels and educational campuses have been taken over to house Venezue-lan patients who get free air travel to Cuba, lodging and food while they are in Havana, courtesy of the Venezuelan state.

They are driven around in new buses from China, often escorted by police on motorcycles. The VIP treatment underscores the priority President Fidel Castro has given to a programme that is paying for vital shipments of 90,000 barrels a day of Venezuelan oil and gasoline, which represents an energy bill that exceeds 1.5 billion US dollars a year at today's high prices. Cuba, economically hobbled since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, has been providing medical care to Ven-ezuelans for five years and sent 20,000 Cuban doctors and dentists to work in Venezuelan slums.

In December, Castro and Chavez signed an agreement fixing payment for these services within a broad cooperation deal that renewed oil shipments at preferential rates. — MNA/Reuters

Spain arrests 20 members of neo-Nazi group

MAZARRON, 18 Sept — Spanish police have arrested 20 members of a neo-Nazi group that organized outings to attack immigrants, government officials said on Saturday.

Police found 18 places in the southern province of Valencia over a two-year investigation where the group, called "The Anti-System Front", met and stored illegal arms.

The arrests follow a crackdown in April on the Spanish branch of international neo-Nazi group "Blood&Honour", which resulted in the arrest of 21 people accused of illegal arms dealing and defending genocide.

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In December, Castro and Chavez signed an agreement fixing payment for these services within a broad cooperation deal that renewed oil shipments at preferential rates. — MNA/Reuters

China Agri University celebrates centennial anniversary

BEIJING, 18 Sept — China Agricultural University (CAU) celebrated its 100th founding anniversary here on Friday.

Chinese President Hu Jintao, who is in New York now attending the UN summit on the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, sent a congratulatory letter to the CAU for its centennial anniversary.

Hu said in his letter that the CAU has played an important role in the economic and social development of China's rural areas, hoping that the CAU would continue its efforts to train more students and to provide better service to China's rural population. — MNA/Reuters

China makes breakthrough in making super-large generating sets

WUHAN, 18 Sept — With the push of a button on Friday morning, Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan commissioned another 700,000 kilowatts generating set in the giant Three Gorges Project in central China's Hubei Province.

All the fourteen 700,000 kilowatts generating sets in the northern bank power station, which feature high localization rates, have gone into operation by now.

"Successful localization of hydroelectric equipment in the Three Gorges Project implies that China is able to design, manufacture, install and operate on its own 700,000-kilowatt water turbine generator sets," Zeng said at the commissioning ceremony.

According to Zeng, two of the generating sets have achieved localization rates of 71 per cent and 85 per cent, respectively.

Zeng called for summarizing the experience gained in localization and continuing to push forward the construction of large-scale hydroelectric projects and independent manufacturing of major technological equipment.

He noted that of the 12 generating sets in the northern bank power station, now under construction, eight are expected to be completed by domestic enterprises themselves.

According to the official plan, the Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze River, with an estimated cost of 180 billion yuan (approximately 21.7 billion US dollars), will have 26 generators with a combined generating capacity of 18.2 million kilowatts.— MNA/Reuters

Greek Air Force officers watch a formation of MB-339A PAN from Italy's Pony aerobatic team during an airshow at the air-force base of Tanagra, 70 kilometres (about 43 miles) north of Athens, on 17 September, 2005. Air forces from 13 countries take part in the three-day static and flying show.—INTERNET

Pablo Picasso's artwork 'Buste de femme' is displayed by staff at an auction in Tokyo on 17 September, 2005. The painting was sold at an auction for 180 million yen ($1,616,306).—INTERNET

GREEK AIR FORCE
Liverpool, Man United in goalless stalemate

LONDON, 19 Sept — Liverpool and Manchester United played out a dull 0-0 draw in a Premier League match of few scoring chances and little creative flair at Anfield on Sunday. United’s Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy missed the best opportunity just before halftime, chipping the ball on to the top of the net from a tight angle.

Liverpool, the European champions, recorded their third draw in four league matches this season, while United slipped seven points behind champions Chelsea who won 2-0 at Charlton Athletic on Saturday, their sixth successive victory.

United controlled the first half but failed to break down a packed Liverpool defence until moments before the interval when van Nistelrooy ran on to a pass by defender Rio Ferdinand before lifting his shot over advancing goalkeeper Jose Reina and inches over the crossbar. Liverpool improved in the second half and their captain Steven Gerrard tested United keeper Edwin van der Sar with a fierce long shot.

Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez, whose side have scored only one goal and conceded none in four league games, was satisfied with the performance.

The match was littered with fouls and two players from each side were booked, though United’s England striker Wayne Rooney, sent off in a Champions League match at Villarreal last week, escaped a yellow card.

Blackburn Rovers play Newcastle United, Manchester City meet Bolton Wanderers and Wigan Athletic face Middlesbrough later on Sunday. Arsenal host Everton on Monday.—MNA/Reuters

English Premier League reports

LONDON, 19 Sept — Brief match reports of Premier League games played over the weekend:

Blackburn Rovers 0 — Newcastle United 3

England striker Michael Owen scored his first goal for the club to help Newcastle claim their first win of the season at the sixth attempt.

Alan Shearer put the visitors ahead with a fierce shot from just outside the penalty area midway through the second half and Owen doubled the lead with a neat finish.

Newcastle’s French midfielder Steven Deco was sent off after fouling Robert Earnshaw before lifting his shot over advancing goalkeeper Jose Reina and inches over the crossbar. Liverpool improved in the second half and their captain Steven Gerrard tested United keeper Edwin van der Sar with a fierce long shot.

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Blackburn Rovers play Newcastle United, Manchester City meet Bolton Wanderers and Wigan Athletic face Middlesbrough later on Sunday. Arsenal host Everton on Monday.—MNA/Reuters

Leverkusen win with Voeller back at helm

FRANKFURT, 19 Sept — Bayer Leverkusen came from behind to beat strugglers MSV Duisburg 3-1 on Sunday and make it a winning return to coaching for Rudi Voeller.

Voeller, director of football at Leverkusen, took over as temporary coach this week after Klaus Augenthaler paid the price for the club’s worst start to a season in 22 years.

The early signs were not good for the former German boss as Duisburg moved ahead in the 31st minute with a Klemens Lavieri header but goals from Juan and Dimitar Berbatov put the visitors in front by the interval. Brazilian Atismon, nominally a defender but playing more like a left winger, blasted in a minute from time to cap a brilliant individual display and send Leverkusen up to seventh place with seven points from five matches.

In Sunday’s other match Schalke 04 were held to a goalless draw at home to Hertha Berlin, who had Gilberto sent off in the 26th minute.

The result left Schalke down in fourth place, already six points behind leaders Bayern Munich, and will only increase the pressure on coach Ralf Rangnick.

Bayern are top with a maximum 15 points from five games after claiming a 1-0 victory at home to Hannover 96 on Saturday, a result that stretched their winning run to a Bundesliga record 14 games. Werder Bremen stayed within two points of the leaders with a 3-2 win at home to Borussia Dortmund.

Hamburg’s 11 points after a 1-1 draw at home to Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday, with Schalke up in fourth place two further back.

Augenthaler’s dismissal followed Leverkusen’s 1-0 defeat by CSKA Sofia in the UEFA Cup on Thursday.

The side seemed to be feeling the effects of that draining match as they left Lavric unmarked to head in the 24th minute.

New Zealand’s Michael Campbell poses with the World Match Play trophy after beating Ireland’s Paul McGinley recently.—INTERNET

Marseille clinch first home win this season

PARIS, 19 Sept — Improving Olympique Marseille laboured to a 2-1 win over promoted Troyes on Sunday, their first Ligue 1 victory at home this season.

The result lifted Marseille to joint 13th in the 20-team standings with eight points after seven games.

The hosts went ahead in the 22nd minute when midfielder Franck Ribery, exploiting a blunder in the Troyes defence, scored from close range.

Marseille, who had lost twice and drawn once at their Stade Velodrome venue in earlier league matches, doubled their lead 12 minutes later with a superb volley by Sabri Lamouchi.

Although Troyes reduced the deficit when Sebastien Graz scored from the penalty spot just before the hour, Marseille held on for their second Ligue 1 win a row, having tamed Sochaux 1-0 away last week.

Monaco delivered another sub-par performance before losing 2-0 at home to Stade Rennais, Kim Kallstrom and Yohann Gourcuff getting the goals for the Brianty side.

Juventus maintain perfect start, Milan lose

ROMA, 19 Sept — Juventus maintained their 100-per-cent start to the season with a 2-1 win over Ascoli as AC Milan suffered a surprise 2-1 defeat at Sampdoria on Sunday.

Champions Juventus moved on to nine points from three matches, two ahead of Fiorentina who beat Udinese 4-2. Lazio and Palermo also have seven points after wins over Treviso and Siena.

AC Milan captain Paolo Maldini equalled Dino Zoff’s record of 570 Serie A appearances but had little else to celebrate after a defeat that left his side five points behind Juventus.

Juve’s victory marked a return to form for their captain Alessandro del Piero.

The diminutive forward, who has struggled to earn a starting place since Zlatan Ibrahimovic’s arrival last season, produced an inspired performance, putting his team ahead with a 13th-minute penalty after midfielder Domenico Crisciante handled in the area.

Juventus dominated possession but a deflected shot by Serie A debutant Alfredo Cariello shortly after the half hour hour gave Ascoli level.

Del Piero re-established Juve’s lead with a well struck free kick just before the break and they could have extended their lead in the second half if Ibrahimovic’s finishing had been more precise.

AC Milan striker Alberto Gilardino gave his side an early lead at Sampdoria and wasted a chance to double the advantage when he blasted Andriy Shevchenko’s cutback high over the bar.—MNA/Reuters

New Zealand’s Michael Campbell poses with the World Match Play trophy after beating Ireland’s Paul McGinley recently.—INTERNET
Three more killed in violence in Canada’s biggest city
Ottawa, 19 Sept  Three more people have been officially charged with stealing 70 million US dollars from Brazil’s Central Bank in one of the world’s biggest bank robberies, the local media reported Saturday.

These charged Friday by Brazilian federal prosecutors include three men who were arrested shortly after the robbery in August and another three who are still at large, the local Agencia Estado news service said.

The suspects allegedly spent three months tunnelling under a busy avenue in Fortaleza, a city 2,350 kilometres northeast of Sao Paulo, to break into the Central Bank vault.

Some of the stolen Brazilian reales were taken from Fortaleza to Sao Paulo, hidden inside grain sacks on a commercial flight, the prosecutors said.

MNA/Xinhua

Six Brazilians charged in one of world’s biggest bank heists
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Weather

# OF CERTAINTY

Forecast valid until evening of 20-9-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Chin, Shan, Kayah, Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 70%.

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m/s.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-9-2005: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-9-2005: One to two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

MNA/Xinhua

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YANGON, 19 Sept — The government has built necessary infrastructures for equitable development of economic, education and health sectors.

As part of an effort to step up the implementation of regional development tasks in border and rural areas in Shan State, Yaksawk Township Union Solidarity and Development Association has organized model villages competitions in cooperation with the township Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Township War Veterans Organization.

Pinphyit Village in Yaksawk Township won the prize in the competitions. The prize presentation ceremony was held at Basic Education Primary School of Pinphyit Village on 17 September and Chairman of Yaksawk Township Peace and Development Council U Thein Han chaired the ceremony together with Secretary of the township USDA U Aung Kyaw Nyunt and townselder U Than Lwin.

It was attended by representatives of model villages in the township, members of USDA, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and social organizations, Shan traditional cultural troupe and local people totalling 1,351.

Establishment of model villages is an example of rural areas development tasks. National development is not confined to urban development only.

Specialists of Shan State Hospital give treatment to eye, ear, nose and tooth patients. — MNA

Members of WAO take part in development tasks of Myaungmya, Pantanaw Townships

YANGON, 19 Sept — Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation is actively participating in the State’s Development Programmes as part of the drive to develop women’s life underlining vital role of women in building peaceful and modern developed nation.

Chairperson of Ayeyawady Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Aye Aye Kyaw, Division Organizer Dr Daw Hla Darni Chein and members arrived at Myaungmya No 1 Basic Education High School on 17 September and encouraged Ma May Zin Aung, a disabled school girl, who is studying in Grade-11 of the school.

In accord with the programme of Inclusive Education of the Ministry of Education, Chairperson of Ayeyawady Division WAO and executives of Town-ship Maternal Child Welfare Association presented stipend to Ma May Zin Aung after enjoying her painting and knitting skill with the use of the first toe and the second toe. At Youth Development Centre in Myaungmya, they donated books to U Win Kyi, the head of the centre.

Next, U Win Kyi explained the progress of nursing 43 school boys who are national races of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar and Shan, and donation of local authorities and wellwishers. Members of WAO then viewed round the centre.

On arrival at Seiktathukha Monastic Education School in U Peikkon Ward, members of WAO met with volunteer teachers of the school, presented stipend, school uniforms and stationery to the school and paid obeisance to the Sayadaw of Seiktathukha Monastery. They then offered provisions to the Sayadaw.

They proceeded to monsoon paddy plantation in Layendan Village, viewed the progress of reading power activities undertaken by MWAF and the Ministry of Education and presented dailies, exercise books and stipend to the villager women.

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