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

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and 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

Senior General Than Shwe receives Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces

YANGON, 20 Sept — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe received Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chaisit Shinawatra and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha here at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chief of Military Affairs Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and Military Attache Col Prissapa Suvanatat. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe cordially greets Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chaisit Shinawatra. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**Minister for Mines inspects preparations for opening of Myanmar Gems and Jewellery shop**

YANGON, 20 Sept — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint inspected the preparations for opening of the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery shop at the ground floor of the Myanmar Gems Museum on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Managing-Director of No 2 Mining Enterprise U His Thein, Managing-Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe, patrons of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Federation, president, and chairman of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association (Mandalay) and CEC members.

After inspecting the preparations for the sale centre, Brig-Gen Ohn Myint gave instructions to the officials. Afterwards, he viewed around the sale centre at the ground floor.

Starting today, the sale centre sells 1 tical of gold for K 300,000. Arrangements are being made to sell gold coins of different weights as well as ready-made jade and jewellery at the sale centre.

The sale centre will be opening at a ceremony on 21 September 2005.

**Hole-in-one**

YANGON, 20 Sept — U Tun Tun of Honma Golf scored an ace from 130 yards at the 2nd hole during the Pony Golf Course on 12-9-2005 while playing with golf ball Twin Marks (1) Honma using club 53. The partners at the time were U Yan Nang, U Sai Sang Leang, U Kyaw Swa Lin and U Zaw Min.

**All this needs to be known**

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

**Road construction discussed**

YANGON, 20 Sept — Director-General U Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs addressed the meeting to build district-to-district roads in Mandalay Division.

The Director of Mandalay Division DAD reported on progress of work and officials on work being carried out in the respective sectors.

The meeting came to a close with concluding remarks by the director-general.
UK forces storm Iraq jail to free undercover soldiers

BAGHDAD, 20 Sept—British forces using tanks have broken down the walls of the central jail in the southern city of Basra to free two Britons.

The captives were allegedly undercover commandos, who had been arrested on charges of shooting two Iraqi policemen.

Witnesses said about 150 Iraqi prisoners fled the jail as well. Iraqi police detained the two British soldiers in the Basra following a shooting incident, a British military spokesman and police sources said.

Britain, however, denied reports late on Monday that its troops had stormed the prison to free two soldiers, saying the pair were released after negotiations.

British Defence Secretary John Reid said in a statement that the two men, who have not been named, were back with British forces. "I can confirm that the two British service personnel detained earlier today by the IPS (Iraq Police Service), have now been released and are back with British forces," he said.

"The situation in Basra is currently calmer after a day of disturbances. At this stage it is not possible to be certain why these disturbances began."

Earlier during the day, British forces surrounded a police station in the centre of Basra after Iraqi police refused to release the two men.

The British forces were themselves surrounded by demonstrators who threw stones and British soldiers fired warning shots, he said.

Demonstrators then set fire to two British tanks. British soldiers jumped from the tanks and withdrew without returning fire. It was not immediately known if there were any injuries.

One Basra policeman said the two men who were detained were undercover soldiers, wearing Arab costume, who allegedly fired at a police patrol before being forced to stop.

ASEAN Inter-Parlt Organization General Assembly opens in Laos

VIETNAM, 19 Sept—The 26th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) kicked off here on Monday with the participation of over 300 delegates, igniting main discussions about regional political, economic and social issues.

Also scheduled to hold dialogues with parliamentarians from nine observers, namely Australia, Canada, China, the European Parliament, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Russia and South Korea. The dialogues are expected to mention various matters, including international security, trade liberalization, preventive measures for natural disasters, educational cooperation, and technology transfer.

Full activities of the 26th AIPO General Assembly are to last from 18-23 September. The assembly will adopt a joint communique and more than 10 resolutions on Thursday.

Nam/Chienu
Indonesia closes zoo, two children suspected of bird flu

JAKARTA, 19 Sept—Two children have been hospitalized in Indonesia with suspected bird flu and a zoo in Jakarta has been closed after tests showed some exotic birds had the virus, the Health Minister said on Monday.

The highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of the virus has killed four Indonesians, including one woman who died in Jakarta a week ago. The virus has killed 64 people in four Asian countries since late 2003 and has also spread to Russia and Europe.

"Until now, three children are being treated in a hospital ... two are suspected of having the symptoms of bird flu based on the lab tests. The other one is still under observation," Minister Siti Fadillah Supari told the local El Shinta radio.

Indonesia sends blood tests from all suspected bird flu cases to Hong Kong for confirmation. Supari said officials had also found traces of bird flu in a number of exotic birds at Jakarta’s Ragunan Zoo, which lies in the south of the teeming capital.

"For the time being, the (Jakarta) regional office has decided to close down Ragunan for 21 days," Supari said.

The Jakarta Post newspaper quoted Agriculture Minister Anton Apriantomo as saying that 19 birds in the zoo had the virus. Over the weekend, tens of thousands of people visited the zoo, which is popular with low-income Indonesians. The government would kill those birds at the zoo which had tested positive for the virus, Supari said.

Health officials last week said that bird flu had killed a 37-year-old woman who lived near a chicken farm in south Jakarta, and that another person who had close contact with her was also suspected of having the virus.—MNA/Reuters

Four US soldiers killed in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 Sept — Four US soldiers were killed in western Iraq on Monday, raising the number of Americans who have died in Iraq to 1,903, the US military said Tuesday.

The four soldiers were attached to 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, said the military, adding that they were killed in two separate bomb attacks on Monday in the restive city of Ramadi, 115 km west of Baghdad.

Guerrillas frequently target US soldiers by planting roadside bombs.

MNA/Xinhua

Bomb blast hits fuel train in southern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 19 Sept—A bomb blast set a train carrying fuel on fire in Dora District in southern Baghdad on Sunday, police said.

"Two containers carrying gas oil were set on fire by a bomb blast which took place near the Athorien market in Dora neighbourhood," police officer Ahmed Abdullah told Xinhua.

"Firefighters are trying to cool the nearby containers to prevent fire spread," he said. There were no casualties in the incident, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi Minister says $1bn plundered in Iraq

LONDON, 19 Sept—Large-scale corruption in Iraq’s ministries, particularly the Defence Ministry, has led to one of the biggest thefts in history with more than $1 billion going missing, Iraq’s Finance Minister said in an interview.

"Huge amounts of money have disappeared. In return we got nothing but scraps of metal," Finance Minister Ali Allawi told British newspaper The Independent in a report published on Monday. "It is possibly one of the largest thefts in history."

Corruption, both in the bidding for and the awarding of contracts, and in the administration of public offices, is one of the most frequent accusations made by Iraqis against their government and foreign firms operating in the country.

"If you compare the amount that was allegedly stolen of about $1 billion compared with the budget of the Ministry of Defence, it is nearly 100 percent of the ministry’s (procurement) budget that has gone (missing)," Allawi said.

Most of the questionable contracts are said to have been signed under the previous government, headed by Iyad Allawi, which served from 28 June, 2004 until late February this year.

The former defence minister, Hazim Shaalan, is now living as a private citizen in Jordan. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Allawi, the Finance Minister, was also quoted by the newspaper as saying $500-$600 million had vanished from the electricity, transport, interior and other ministries.

The newspaper reported that the total amount missing from all the ministries could be as much as $2 billion.

Internet

Landmine explosion kills one in east Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 Sept—One soldier was killed and five others wounded when their vehicle ran over a landmine in Afghanistan’s eastern province of Nooristan on Sunday morning, Deputy Defence Minister Yusuf Nooristani told Xinhua.

The soldiers were carrying ballot boxes to a polling station when their four-wheel drive ran over a planted mine and destroyed, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Protesters draw link between Katrina and Iraq war

NEW YORK, 19 Sept—President George W Bush’s faltering performance after Hurricane Katrina, like his decision to invade Iraq, show his priorities are at odds with actions needed to keep Americans safe, anti-war protesters said on Monday.

"One of the bogus reasons that George Bush gives for this invasion (and) occupation of Iraq is to make America safer — and Katrina exposed that clearly he has made America more vulnerable through his policies in Iraq," anti-war activist and bereaved mother Cindy Sheehan told a morning news conference.

US troops fighting an unexpectedly stubborn insurgency in Iraq should come home to help face domestic challenges like the unprecedented humanitarian relief and recovery effort on the Gulf Coast, said the activists, who will stage a march on Washington this weekend.

When Sheehan later spoke in Manhattan’s Union Square to a group of about 200 anti-war protesters, New York police broke up the rally and arrested a man over a dispute about whether their permit allowed amplified sound.

Morgann Phillips, spokeswoman for the Bring Them Home Now Tour, which has been stopping in towns across America on its way to the march in Washington, said the arrest was the first since the group began its campaign earlier this summer.

Leaders of the coalition organizing the 24-26 September protest in Washington include Sheehan, who gained international fame by camping out for weeks outside Bush’s ranch in Crawford, Texas.

The anti-war group United for Peace and Justice, spearheading the march on Washington, said National Guard troops and materiel deployed in Iraq were needed to respond to the tragedy in and around New Orleans.

Internet

Iraqi firefighters try to put out the flames on a train transporting fuel on the southern outskirts of Baghdad on 18 September, 2005. —INTERNET

A grey-tree duck (Anas giberifrons), bottom, stands in a cage with European flamingos (Phoenicopterus ruber roseus) at Ragunan Zoo in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 19 September, 2005. —INTERNET

NASA/Reuters

Flamingos (Phoenicopeterus ruber roseus) at Ragunan Zoo in Jakarta, Indonesia. —INTERNET

NASA/Reuters
Iranian President turns nuclear charges against US

UNITED NATIONS, 19 Sept — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Saturday his country had the inalienable right to produce nuclear fuel and accused the United States of violating global nuclear treaties.

In an unyielding speech that sought to turn the tables on Western powers which suspect Teheran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons, he offered other countries joint ventures in Iran’s uranium enrichment programme.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to engage in a serious partnership with private and public sectors of other countries in the implementation of uranium enrichment programme in Iran,” Ahmadinejad told the UN General Assembly in an eagerly-awaited speech.

The hardline President said nuclear fuel supply contracts with other countries were unreliable and unenforceable in international law, so Iran could not depend on other countries. Russia has contracted to supply fuel for Iran’s sole newly completed reactor.

Ahmadinejad accused Washington and other Western nuclear powers of double standards, recalling that they had been silent when former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein used chemical weapons against Iran in the 1980s Gulf War.

“Ironically, those who have actually used nuclear weapons, continue to produce, stockpile and extensively test such weapons ... and have armed the Zionist occupation regime with weapons of mass destruction,” he said in a reference to the United States, the only country to have used an atomic bomb, and Israel.

“They are not only refusing to remedy their past deeds but in clear breach of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, are trying to prevent other countries from acquiring the technology to produce peaceful nuclear energy,” Ahmadinejad said.

“Today, the most serious challenge is that the culprits are arrogating to themselves the role of the prosecutor.”

He demanded the creation of a UN committee to press for universal nuclear disarmament and investigate who had supplied Israel with nuclear weapons.

Ahmadinejad also urged that the International Atomic Energy Agency report on violations of countries’ right under the NPT to access to peaceful nuclear technology.

“Those hegemonic powers... have misrepresented Iran’s healthy and fully safeguarded technological endeavours in the nuclear field as pursuit of nuclear weapons,” he said.

15 Iraqi border guards abducted in northern Iraq

TIKRIT (Iraq), 19 Sept—Fifteen Iraqi border guards were abducted by a group of gunmen in a restive area north of Baghdad, police said on Sunday.

“We can confirm that 16 border guards from the division of the western border were missing the day before yesterday as they were heading to Baghdad from Tikrit,” a source from the Joint Coordination Centre told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The source said that one of the guards managed to escape from his captors and informed the Iraqi authorities of the incident.

According to the guard, a group of gunmen aboard two vehicles hijacked a bus carrying the border guards near Samarra, some 120 kilometres north of Baghdad, where he managed to run away by jumping from the bus in one of turns.

Guerrillas frequently attack and kidnap Iraqi security forces to cripple the Shiite-dominated government formed in late April.

India opposes taking Iran case to UN security body

NEW DELHI, 20 Sept — India, facing US pressure to take a tougher line on Iran’s nuclear ambitions, said on Monday it did not want the issue to be reported to the UN Security Council, as sought by Washington.

“Everybody would like to avoid a confrontation,” Foreign Minister Natwar Singh told NDTV television news.

“Everybody would like to avoid a contentious debate in the Security Council,” Singh, who visited Iran earlier this month, said in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting.

He said New Delhi wanted a compromise so that the issue could be sorted out within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Washington, backed by France, Germany and Britain, wants to refer Iran to the Security Council for possible sanctions as it suspects Teheran is covertly building atomic weapons.

The issue will come to a head at an IAEA meeting later on Monday.

Putin says date should be set for Iraq pullout

MOSCOW, 19 Sept — The United States and its allies should name a deadline for pulling their troops out of Iraq, Russia’s President Vladimir Putin said in an interview published by the Kremlin on Sunday.

Putin said the pullout should take place within one or two years, but added that the exact timetable depended on the security situation in Iraq.

“It would be the right thing to do if we precisely set out this timetable,” Putin said in an interview with US network Fox News, a transcript of which was published on the official web site.

“That would provide some discipline for everybody and force them to move towards the objective they set,” he said.

“I think we should be talking about one year and a bit, or two years, something like that. I repeat, it should depend on the situation in Iraq,” said Putin, who has been in New York attending a United Nations summit.

Moscow criticized the US and its allies for invading Iraq.

But it has since expressed support for efforts to restore stability and crack down on violence by militants.
Recently, I made a field trip by air to the arid zone to study the water supply projects being implemented to supply clean water for the rural folks. After drawing the itinerary for the trip together with local officials, we information group members first studied the supply of water from the tube-well sink by the Development Affairs Department in Paunglaung Model Village, Pakokku Township. The 3-inch diameter and 240-foot-deep tube-well could pump 1,700 gallons an hour. We interviewed U Nyunt Aung, Chairman of the Village Peace and Development Council and villagers. They said that in the past, local people had to use water from the muddy lake near the village. In the years of droughts and in summer, they had to fetch water from the lake near Kyee Village, one and a half miles from their village. When the lake near Kyee Village was dry, they had to get water from Shwetantirri River Water Pumping Station that pumped water from Ayeyawady River, about three miles from their village.

With great pleasure, a local senior citizen Grandpa Kyaw recounted how villagers wished for the sinking of a tube-well to be successful when they watched the sinking, and how much they rejoiced to see the tube-well that started to flow clean fresh water. We shared happinesses of the villages responding to our questions.

The next day, we proceeded to Pauk by car along Pakokku-Pauk Road. When we got beyond Pakokku, the van we were taking stuck in the sand in the dry Kan Hla Creek. Many male villagers holding mattocks and spades came out to help us move the car. That was an adorable tradition of Myanmar nationals.

Later, we passed by Kamna Village that was lively with a row of shops and stalls due to the existence of Yangon-Mandalay highway bus stop. We learnt that beans and pulses and betel thrive well in that village and water can be obtained from the shallow wells there. And it is called the oasis of the arid region. The driver said that the arid zone would get through scarcity of water and see many oases soon. Along the road were lush and green forests thanks to the greening project for Tetma Mountain. After the mountain, we noticed recently-inaugurated Pauk Bridge (Yaaypya) and Pauk Bridge (Ohndaw) across Yaw Creek.

Then, we arrived at Pauk. The region has three creeks but they are full of sand and cannot hold rain water at all. A water supply project was under way to supply locals with sufficient safe water. When we left Pauk for Kyaukhtu, I was captivated by the natural beauty of the gloomy Pantaung mountain range.

The next day, we went to Mintharkya Village in Myaing Township. At that time, a test-running tube-well just started to pump water, completely drawing the attention of many villagers. Children were taking a bath happily under the splashing water pumped from the tube-well.

Before long, all the villages in Pakokku, Pauk, Yesagyo, Seikphyu and Myaing townships in Pakokku District will be able to enjoy sufficient clean water. So far, 967 out of 1,209 villages in the district have access to sufficient supply of clean water.

In the near future, the project will thoroughly cover the entire district as the Water Supply Project for the entire Pakokku District is being implemented with momentum by the Magway Division Development Affairs Committee under the close supervision of the Development Affairs Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

From the trip, we gained a lot of experiences and knowledge, and witnessed the enthusiastic performance of service personnel of the Development Affairs Department in the interests of local residents, and joy and happinesses of the villagers in Pakokku District due to the sufficient water supply. So, we were completely filled with joy, sharing happinesses and delights of local people during the trip.

Translation: MS

Myanmar Alin, Kyemon: 20-9-05

Workshop on “Growing Integration of the Greater Mekong Sub-regional ASEAN States in Asian Region” held

YANGON, 20 Sept — Workshop on the Growing Integration of the Greater Mekong Sub-regional ASEAN States in Asian Region organized by the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies-MISIS at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs kicked off here today with an opening address by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu.

At the opening ceremony held at Traders Hotel, Secretary of MISIS Ambassador U Nyunt Tin, Dr Colin Durkop of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and Professor Robert H Taylor of London School of Economics also delivered addresses.

Professors, Scholars and researchers from China, Germany, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, UNESCO, Kemin, the senior officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ministries concerned presented the papers.

The panel discussions of the workshop continue tomorrow. — MNA

Member of USDA (Central) Panel of Patrons, Secretary-Member tour Kachin State

YANGON, 20 Sept — Member of the Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, together with Secretariat-Member of USDA Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and for Housing and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, on 18 September attended a ceremony to unveil a signboard bearing “True Patriotism” organized by Kachin State USDA in Myitkyina.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw pressed the button to unveil the signboard.

After the ceremony, the commander, the minister and party visited Wuntho Monastery in Myitkyina and paid obeisance and presented offerings to State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadajja Bhaddanta Silavamsa and sayadaws of the monasteries in the state.

Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw met with official churches at the Baptist Church in Tatkon Ward, Myitkyina, and accepted 1,200 membership applications of USDA.

At the meeting, the commander and the minister donated bags of dried fish to the churches and made cash donations. They also made arrangements for renovation of four basic education primary schools in Tatkon Ward.

They also donated bags of dried fish and cash to Catholic Church in Myitkyina. During their tour around Myitkyina, the commander and the minister held a meeting with local farmers at the Town Hall in Myitkyina and attended to the needs for growing cold season crops. — MNA
Lt-Gen Maung Bo urges local people, departmental personnel to step up regional development tasks

YANGON, 20 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Command-Member of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Chairman of Kayin State PDC Col Khan Kyu, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and the ministries concerned, departmental officials at state level and local authorities went on an inspection tour of Kayin in Kayin State via Mawlamyine of Mon State on 17th September. After inspecting regional development tasks, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party held a meeting with service personnel and local people and members of social organizations and had a discussion about regional development tasks.

First, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party looked into road repair nearby Kada Police Check Point in Kada Village, Mon State. On arriving at Chauhn-hna-Khwa Village in Kyai in Kayin via Mawlamyine, they were welcomed by members of Township Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade and locals.

After cordially greets the people, Lt-Gen Maung Bo stressed the need for boosting cultivation of crops and extending business for the development of socio-economy of local people and cultivating Union Sprit. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo viewed growing of monsoon paddy in Chauhn-hna-Khwa Village and saw size of rice paddy and standing tall among the inhabitants, etc. Afterwards, the managers of District and Division Monitoring and Evaluation Service gave supplementary reports.

Following the meeting with local peasants, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on cultivation of 1 million acres of monsoon paddy and 24,000 acres of summer paddy and keeping records of growing rubber in the region. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with local peasants and instructed them to boost cultivation of paddy and other crops and to purchase and use farm equipment in installments.

Upon arrival at Mareekalat Village in Kyai-in-Seikyi Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party viewed a collective cultivation of monsoon paddy during 2005-2006. The township manager of Myanmar Agricultural Service reported to them on completion of 69871 acres of monsoon paddy cultivation out of 72924 as targeted accounting for 88 per cent during 2005-2006, arrangements to be made for cultivation of remaining 1184 acres of post-monsoon paddy, completion of 13763 acres of rubber growing and arrangements to be made for extension of paddy and rubber cultivation. In connection with the reports, Col Khin Kyu gave supplementary reports.

At the briefing hall, plantation in-charge Major Zaw Win Naing briefed them on establishment of nursery, completion of the hospital’s medical ing of rubber on manageable scale and gathering of rubber seeds. Regarding the health, care service established with local people in health and social fields. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented clothing and personal goods to families in the local battalion and so did Command-Member Maj-Gen Soe Naing. On arrival at Kya-in-Seikyi Township 25-bed People’s Hospital, Head of Township Health Department Dr Maung Maung Lwin and staff conducted Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party around the facilities of the hospital. Next, he presented cash assistance to the patients who were undergoing treatment in the hospital and K 500,000 to Dr Maung Maung Lwin for medical funds. Lt-Gen Maung Bo then gave instructions on measures to be taken for health care services with goodwill.

At Zami hall of Kayi-in-Seikyi Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people. During the meeting, the chairman of Township PDC reported to them background history of the township, completion of monsoon paddy and post monsoon paddy and rubber. Among the development regions and was implementing five rural development tasks for equitable development across the nation. He urged those present to constantly participate in development tasks hand in hand with the Government, Tatmadaw and the local people.

After that, Deputy Director-General of Basic Education Department U Tun Kyi presented exercise books for the students in Kya-in-Seikyi provided by the Ministry of Education, South-East Command and Kayin State PDC to Township Education Officer making plans to delay developments in the nation. All the people in the nation are to pay special attention to danger of internal and external destructive elements. Local people are to cooperate in safeguarding the State-owned buildings in Mon State and to inform any suspicious things or persons in their environs to authorities concerned. Local authorities are to pay special attention to regional security. After the meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted those present and spent the night in Mawlamyine. — MNA
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosts dinner in honour of Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces

YANGON, 20 Sept — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chaisit Shinawatra and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha here at 6.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, SPDC members Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Quartermaster General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chief of Military Affairs Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and Military Attache Col Prissapa Suvanatat.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha. The dinner was also attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, SPDC members Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Quartermaster General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chief of Military Affairs Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and Military Attache Col Prissapa Suvanatat.

(See page 9)
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hosts dinner in honour of Thai Supreme Commander General Chaisit Shinawatra and party. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted members of the welcoming party. The Thai Supreme Commander and party proceeded to No 1 Tatmadaw State House. — MNA

Thai delegation visit Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 20 Sept — Thai goodwill delegation led by Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chaisit Shinawatra, accompanied by Maj-Gen Aye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, this afternoon visited Shwedagon Pagoda. Members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees welcomed the delegation at the pagoda. General Chaisit Shinawatra signed in the visitors’ book and made cash donation. Next, the delegation paid homage to jade Buddha image at the pagoda. — MNA

Ministry of Culture donates books to MMCWA

Daw Khin Khin Lay, wife of Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, presents the donation to MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win. — MNA

YANGON, 20 Sept — Ministry of Culture donated the novels of Writer Ma Mar Mar (Archaeology) to Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association. At a book donation ceremony held at MMCWA building in South Okkalapa Township this afternoon, Daw Khin Khin Lay, wife of the minister for culture, handed over novels to President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win. — MNA

USDA Secretary-General meets ambassadors

YANGON, 20 Sept — Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo met with ambassadors and charge d’affaires of ASEAN countries, People’s Republic of China, Japan and Korea at USDA Headquarters in Bahan Township today. Also present were Secretariat Member of USDA U Thaung, Central Executive Committee Member U Soe Tha and secretaries of Bago Division (West) and Ayeyawady Division USdas.

At the meeting, U Htay Oo briefed on objectives and programmes of USDA, five rural development tasks and participation of USDA in social welfare programmes in rural areas. He also replied queries raised by those present. — MNA

USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo poses for a documentary photo together with ambassadors and charge d’affaires of ASEAN countries, the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. — MNA
Maung Bo unveiled the media classrooms.

A ceremony to open the multimedia classrooms of Kawkhame Basic Education High School in Mawlamyine Township was held at the school on 18 September morning with an address by members of the State Peace and Development Council and the Ministry of Defence. Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the school, the headmistress, and teachers, members of the school board of trustees, social organizations, students and others.

First, headmistress U Cho Gyi formally opened the multimedia classrooms. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo unveiled the signboard of the facility. After that, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected multimedia classrooms and learning aids for the school's students and gave necessary instructions.

This was followed by the opening ceremony. First, the headmistress and chairman of the school board of trustees reported on efforts made for the emergence of the facility. Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented teaching and learning aids for the school to the headmistress.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing presented K 200,000 for the school to the headmistress. Next, the headmistress accepted the donations—K 600,000 by the presiding Sayadaw of Phaunt Kyaut' Tatk, K 1 million by U Soe Naing and family of Pha- auk Kyaungtaik, and K 100,000 by Zabutun Goldsmith.

After that, the Deputy Director-General of the Basic Education Department reported on measures being taken for development of the education sector. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing reported to Lt-Gen Maung Bo on the pass rate of matriculation in Mon State and that of the Kawkhame BEHS and work being carried out for development of the education sector of Mon State.

In his address, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that nowadays, relentless efforts are being made for producing human resources capable of building a nation that can keep abreast of the world community as well as for development of the education sector.

The State Peace and Development Council is taking systematic steps for uplifting education standard of the entire nation and for producing highly qualified human resources.

In this connection, teaching and learning based on electronic computer science is of utmost importance for development of human resources. Under the education promotion programme, the national education promotion special 4-year project is being implemented while efforts are being made for upgrading of curriculum of the basic education sector. In the meantime, steps are being taken for the constant emergence of highly qualified human resources. In the knowledge age in which science and technology is advancing, the nations with high technology have the edge on others. Teaching and learning aids are introduced in the education sector to be able to learn the advancing science and technology.

At a time when every nation is in the process of educational reform, the government is placing emphasis on promoting education standard and emergence of an education system of international standard. Teachers play a leading role in this process, and that is why they are to try harder to know current developments in the world.

He stressed the need for local authorities, well-wishers, parents as well as social organizations to participate in successful realization of the national education promotion programmes. In conclusion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo called upon officials concerned and the people to take part in creating new and modern nations—K 400,000 by the family of Pha-auk Kyaungtaik and K 100,000 by U Thein Than, Daw Soe Soe of Pha-aak Village and K 100,000 by U Thein Than, Daw Soe Soe of Pha-aak Village and K 100,000 by the State Peace and Development Council.

Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party had a documentary photo taken together with the headmistress, teachers and students and greeted those present on the occasion.

Entries invited for 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative colour photo contest

YANGON, 20 Sept—The work committee for organizing the 61st Armed Forces Day Anniversary (2006) commemorative colour photo contest is making arrangements for conducting a colour photo contest.

The contest is divided into two categories with the titles “Building of Modern All-round Developed Nation”, and “Charming National Culture”. Every contestant may send four entries for each category. The entries must be print ones with the size of 10” x 12” or above. As those who have won first, second and third prizes are grouped separately, those who have not won prizes can get more chance for winning prizes. If an entry wins prize in the contest, its negative is to be submitted. Slide films are not valid. Separate sheets stat- ing respective data and captions are to be attached to the entries. If there is a model in the photo, his or her permission is a must. Every entry needs testi- mony that they have never been inserted in any publications and are not prize-winning works. Handsome prizes including consolation prizes will be presented to the winners of each category.

The first, second and third prize winners of each category will have to receive prizes in Yangon on the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Ceremonies to be held on 27 March 2006. And consolation prizes will be presented to the winners at the ceremonies to be held in commemoration of the 61st Armed Forces Day Anniversary (2006) at respective commands and light infantry divisions.

Entries are to be sent to Secretary of the work committee U Than Tun (Deputy Director of the Information and Public Relations Department) at No 22-24 on Pansodan Street, Yangon, by 14 Feb- ruary 2006. — MNA

In the knowledge age in which science and technology is advancing, the nations with high technology have the edge on others. Teaching and learning aids are introduced in the education sector to be able to learn the advancing science and technology.

Li-Gen Maung Bo inspecting the study of the students in the multimedia classrooms of Kawkhame BEHS in Mawlamyine Township. — MNA

Li-Gen Maung Bo addressing the inauguration of the multimedia teaching centre of Kawkhame BEHS in Mawlamyine Township. — MNA
Government implementing three projects for all-round development in every sector

YANGON, 20 Sept — Member of Central Executive Committee of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe arrived in Kengtung, Shan State (East) to inspect rural development tasks being carried out in accord with the five rural development tasks.

The government hand in hand with the people and the Tatmadaw made endeavours for national and regional development projects were realized due to the cooperation of the people and is implementing them as the national goal. It also fulfilling requirements with the national outlook.

The Ministry of Health is undertaking the tasks for eradication of malnutrition and for emergence of healthy lifestyle among the people and for control of diseases such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension and heart which are related to over nutrition.

On 17 September, nutrition development contest of mother and children was held at the city hall in Kengtung.

Present were Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, region in-charge of Shan State (East) and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe.

Also present were local people from ten townships, town elders, mothers and children, members of NGO. Altogether 282 persons took part in the contest. Doctors checked the monthly body weights, completion of vaccination, personal hygiene of mothers, free from disease and breastfeeding.

Next, officials concerned presented prizes to 35 children. A talk on health knowledge was held. It was attended by 1,200 local people from Kengtung Township and nearby villages.

Head of Township Health Department Dr Tin Swe Aye gave a talk on spread of HIV/AIDS. Additional Head of Shan State Health Department Dr Myint Aung on outbreak of TB, ways to avoid diseases and launch of DOTS nationwide, Dr Sai Naw Ngin on malaria, danger and control of mosquito and Dr Tin Swe Aye on nutrition, giving vitamin A pill to children and eating nutritious food and cooperation with rural people.

Dr Tin Swe Aye said beginning 2000 vitamin A pills were given to children with the monthly body weights, completion of vaccination, personal hygiene of mothers, free from disease and breastfeeding.

There are now strong and healthy children and mothers and would-be-mothers in Kengtung region because of the measures undertaken.

Better foundations on high education standard, turning out intellectual and intelligentsia are needed for emergence of a democratic state. Basic education schools were opened in border areas for the children to gain wide knowledge and correct thought.

The sounds of learning lessons by the children can be heard in Kengtung area. School enrollment rate of Shan State (East) is 95.98%.

There are now strong and healthy children and mothers and would-be-mothers in Kengtung region because of the measures undertaken.

MNA
Chinese President calls for more trade with Canada

Vancouver (British Columbia), 19 Sept—Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday stressed China’s desire for increased trade with Canada on a visit to Vancouver, one of North America’s most Asian-oriented cities and the last major stop on his North American trip.

Hu and Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin said the visit showed China and Canada could work more closely on a variety of issues, although they earlier acknowledged they were unable to bridge differences over human rights.

“We have elevated our relationship to a strategic partnership,” Martin told a luncheon in Vancouver, where more than 25 per cent of the city’s population list a Chinese language dialect as their mother tongue.

Hu and Martin announced earlier the countries want to lift bilateral trade to US$30 billion by 2010. China’s statistics put the trade level at $15.5 billion US dollars in 2004, although Canada cites a higher figure.

Hu was originally scheduled to also visit the White House during this North American tour, but the event was postponed as US officials scrambled to deal with Hurricane Katrina.

Hu has invited US President George W Bush to visit China in November after the APEC summit in South Korea to boost outflows of natural resources and Asian imports.

“We should seize the opportunity,” Hu said.

French soldier killed in Afghan blast

Paris, 19 Sept—One French soldier was killed and another seriously wounded by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan on the eve of legislative elections, the French Defence Ministry said on Sunday.

The two special forces soldiers were working in operation Hercules with the US military in the north of the country to safeguard Sunday’s election.

It was the first French soldier to be killed in action in Afghanistan.

Some 200 French soldiers have been in Afghanistan since 2003 and there have been several casualties. “There was a convoy of vehicles that included French soldiers which went from voting station to voting station to try and prevent expected attacks on these stations,” French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie told Europe 1 Radio.

“It was on the road between two polling stations that there was a roadside controlled explosive device which had probably been hidden under the sand only shortly before the passage and which, because it was night, could not be seen,” she added—MNA/Reuters

Musharraf, Singh keeping confidentiality

New York, 19 Sept—Observing that India’s Prime Minister Mamouhan Singh has, like himself, shown sincerity in addressing outstanding issues between India and Pakistan, President Pervez Musharraf has said the two leaders were keeping confidentiality to ensure that extremists do not derail the peace process.

India and Pakistan have demonstrated commitment to continue the peace process toward solving amicably the long-standing Jammu and Kashmir issue, Musharraf, who was here to attend the UN General Assembly session, told an interview to Time magazine.

He said both Singh and himself had shown sincerity in addressing the outstanding issues but they are keeping it confidential so that extremists might not derail the peace process.

The two leaders had a marathon dinner meeting on Wednesday in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations summit on the occasion of the world body’s 60th birth anniversary, as part of their ongoing dialogue to resolve various issues facing the two nations.

Later they expressed their determination to continue the dialogue, conceding that the Jammu and Kashmir issue would require patience for resolution. Musharraf said that the two countries have made considerable progress on Siachen and on the issue of delimitation of boundary in Sir Creek. Referring to terrorism, the Pakistani President expressed his determination to put it down with force but said religious extremism needs to be dealt with by changing hearts and minds of the people.

However, he said, extremists comprise only a fringe minority and most Pakistanis are moderates who understand and support his policies and consider them to be in the national interest—MNA/PIT
Nokia talking to service providers for handset co-branding

HELSENSKI, 19 Sept — Talks are on between world’s largest mobile phone maker Nokia and Indian mobile service providers, including Reliance, for co-branding of handsets.

Nokia, which has been vary of co-branding handsets with service providers, had announced at 3GSM World Congress mobile phone trade fair in Cannes in February that it was willing to go in for co-branding.

“We are talking to major players in the operator community, including Reliance, for co-branding of handsets,” Heikki Norta, Senior Vice-President (Marketing) Mobile Phones at Nokia, said.

He said while negotiating on co-branding, talks normally focus on how the operator’s name would appear on handsets, how it is manifested in packaging and points of sale, and how the handset functions. All these points are being negotiated in the Reliance deal,” Norta said.

He said the success enjoyed by Nokia in India has been due to the fact that the company has understood differences.

“Going forward we will have interface on mobile phone in 10 Indian languages,” Norta said.

He said though the mobile phone manufacturing plant coming up in Chennai would cater to the Indian market to start with and would be capable of manufacturing all models of handsets, Nokia said by 2010, mobile phones around the world would go up to three billion and would cross two billion mark by end of 2005.

He said there was consolidation happening in the mobile phone market globally with market share of top three players going up at the cost of smaller players, who are gradually losing the market.

“In Asia there was, however, a room for improvement as we are not in the leadership position in all the markets. For that we are making significant investment in people and marketing,” Norta added.

Of the total spend on marketing by all the mobile providers, Nokia takes the leadership position with a share of 46 per cent followed by Samsung at 18 per cent.

Even in a market like India, where Nokia is a leader by a large margin, the company’s share of marketing spend is 48 per cent, he said.

HK Disneyland theme park expansion planned

HONG KONG, 19 Sept — Hong Kong Disneyland will be expanded by adding new attractions and improving services each year, Commissioner for Tourism Eva Cheng said on Saturday.

Speaking on a radio talk show Saturday, Cheng said that, according to the agreement between the government and the Walt Disney Company, the theme park project’s phase one site covers 126 hectares of land on Penny’s Bay. The park itself now has an area of 70 hectares.

She said similar to Disneyland parks in Tokyo and the US, HK Disneyland build new facilities each year, and the theme park will help promote family tourism.

On service quality, Cheng noted improvement is being made to suit the local culture. Transport and crowd control measures are also in place to ensure the theme park’s smooth operation.

She expected the number of Chinese Mainland visitors coming to Hong Kong will reach the peak in early October, with most of them to stay in the city for three days.

With the opening of the Tung Chung cable car and Hong Kong Wetland Park next year, Cheng said the city’s tourism facilities will be more diversified.

The first weekend (Saturday and Sunday) after the formal opening of Hong Kong Disneyland witnesses the theme park open half an hour earlier than the schedule to greet the hundreds of passengers.

Frenchman, son scoop $93m lottery jackpot

PARIS, 19 Sept — A jobless 55-year-old Frenchman and one of his seven children shared a prize of 75.88 million euros (92.80 million US dollars) on Saturday after selecting combinations of the family’s ages in the multi-national Euro Millions lottery.

The French lottery firm said the winning ticket in Friday’s draw was bought in “Cafe de l’Arrivee” — the Arrival Pub — at Franconville-la-Garenne in Val d’Oise, not far from Paris.

French television showed one of the winners, his son with his grandfather, watching the draw on Saturday to celebrate and talk to reporters.

The record jackpot in the lottery was 115.4 million euros won in July in Ireland.

This week’s winning numbers were 12, 13, 19, 21 and 38 on the main board, plus 3 and 9 on the “Lucky Star” section.

S African film wins biggest award at Toronto Film Festival

OTTAWA, 19 Sept — “Tsotsi”, a film co-produced by Britain and South Africa that traces six days in the life of a ruthless gang leader, on Saturday won the People’s Choice Award at the 30th annual Toronto International Film Festival.

The film by Gavin Hood and based on the novel by Athol Fugard, was selected by audiences as their favourite of 335 films from 52 countries screened over 10 days at the festival.

The Discovery Award, voted on by international media, went to Australian Sarah Watt’s “Look Both Ways”, while the FIPRESCI Prize, chosen by an international jury of film critics, went to South Korean Kang Yi-kwan’s “Sa-Kwa”.

The Toronto-City Award for best Canadian feature went to Jean-Marc Vallée’s “C R A Z Y”, a cinematic homage to the pop culture-saturated middle class of the 1970s.

Two first-timers shared the City Award for best Canadian First Feature: Louise Archambault’s “Família” and Michael Mabbott’s “The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico”.

The Bravo/FACT Short Cuts Canada Award was awarded to the 14-minute “Big Girl” by Renika Jeyapalan, with an honourable mention going to Andrea Dorfman’s “There’s a Flower In My Pedal”.

Starting in 1976 as “the festival of festivals” which aimed to screen best films screened by other film fests, the Toronto International Film Festival has become the key North American event in the film industry, and widely perceived to be second only to the Cannes Film Festival.

Researchers discover how malaria parasite disperses from RBCs

WASHINGTON, 19 Sept — In a significant research finding that could pave the way for better approaches in treating malaria, scientists at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) have determined the sequence in which the malaria parasite disperses from red blood cells.

“This discovery provides the groundwork for possible new approaches in treating malaria,” Director of NICHD Duane Alexander said.

The malaria parasite is growing resistant to the drugs used to treat it, and new knowledge is essential for developing strategies to protect against the disease,” he said.

The study which supplants earlier theories on how the malaria parasite spreads from the red blood cells it infects, appears in the 20 September issue of Current Biology.

French television showed one of the winners, his son with his grandfather, watching the draw on Saturday to celebrate and talk to reporters.

Tourist evacuation ordered in Florida Keys

MIAMI, 19 Sept — Tropical Storm Rita, the 17th tropical storm of the busy Atlantic hurricane season, formed near the Bahamas on Sunday and prompted an evacuation order for tourists in the lower Florida Keys.

Forecasters said Rita could be a hurricane by Tuesday, when it was expected to be in the Florida Straits between the Keys and Cuba.

Miami, southeast Florida, the Keys, Cuba and the Turks and Caicos were all under storm alerts.

At 5 pm EDT (2100 GMT), the centre of Rita was about 355 miles east-southeast of Nassau, the Bahamian capital, the US National Hurricane Center said. It was moving to the west at about 10 miles per hour on a path that could take it into the Gulf of Mexico by Tuesday or Wednesday.

Rita had sustained winds of 40 miles per hour.

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Campbell at double for Arsenal

LONDON, 20 Sept— Defender Sol Campbell celebrated his first Premier League game of the season in style by heading both goals as Arsenal beat Everton 2-0 at Highbury on Monday.

Campbell, wearing the captain’s armband in the absence of injured striker Thierry Henry, scored his copycat goals in the 11th and 30th minutes — both times from free kicks curled in by Spanish forward Jose Antonio Reyes. Arsenal, who memorably won this fixture 7-0 at the end of last season, coasted through the second half and were only denied a third when a Fredrik Ljungberg effort crashed against the crossbar. The victory will have steadied Arsenal’s nerves after two defeats and two wins in their previous league games and only a stoppage-time win over tiny Swiss club Thun in their Champions League opener last week.

For Everton, it was only the latest setback in a season which has started in unrelenting misery after David Moyes’s side finished a highly impressive fourth last term.

Kicked out of the Champions League qualifiers and almost certainly heading out of the UEFA Cup after being hammered 5-1 last week in the first leg of their first round tie at Dinamo Bucharest, they are second from bottom in the Premier League with three points from five games.

Campbell, who made his season debut against Thun after a prolonged spell on the sidelines, could not have dreamed of such a rewarding opening half hour.

Reyes curled over a free kick from the right and the burly central defender got to the ball before Nigel Martyn, leaving the Everton keeper with no chance.

The release from a year dogged by injury which had cost him his England place and raised speculation that his top-flight career might be over was etched over Campbell’s face as he celebrated. Arsenal soon settled into their passing rhythm and Dutch winger Robin van Persie missed his chance to make it 2-0 with a shot on the break which cannoned off the post.

Robert Pires, injured by a crunching tackle from Phil Neville, was replaced by Belarusan midfielder Al- exander Hleb two minutes later — just before Campbell added his second goal.

Reyes, this time shaping up on the left side, sent his free kick straight into the danger zone and Campbell again steered his header past a stranded Martyn. Everton struggled to gain possession in both halves and offered little real threat in front of goal, though striker Marcus Bent warmed Jens Lehmann’s gloves at the break.

At the other end, Martyn needed a sharp save to stop Van Persie’s first-time shot from a Hleb cut-back but the bigger applause was saved for Reyes for kicking the deeply unpopular Neville — for which the Spaniard was booked.

Ronaldinho wins players’ award

LONDON, 20 Sept— Barcelona’s gifted Brazilian midfielder Ronaldinho was elected the first FIFPro World Player of the Year on Monday from a poll of 38,000 professional players in 40 countries.

The members of the players’ world association also voted in a secret ballot to choose the 2004-05 season’s best team from a shortlist of 55 top names.

“It’s a great honour to receive another one of these big prizes and this one is extra special because it’s voted for by my fellow players,” said Ronaldinho, who was voted FIFA’s Player of the Year in December.

FIFPro president Gordon Taylor said: “There are no greater football critics than the players themselves. “To be recognized by your fellow professionals from across the world is a unique honour.

While we respect the many other football awards that are handed out I think it is special to see these results, the very first ballot among the world’s players.”

Featuring alongside Ronaldinho in midfield in the world team are Real Madrid’s Albert Luque and his French compatriot Claude Makelele and his Chelsea teammate Frank Lampard of England.

Rijkaard commits to Barcelona until 2009

MADRID, 20 Sept— Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard has signed a contract extension that will keep him at the club until June 2009, the Spanish champions said on Monday.

The former Dutch international midfielder had been negotiating an improved deal for several months.

Rijkaard, 42, signed a four-year contract with Bar-celona in 2003 and led the Primera Liga team to second place in his first campaign in charge.

Last season Barcelona won their first league title for six years and in August they beat Real Betis to lift the Spanish Supercup.

Mourinho hints at possible interest in England job

LONDON, 20 Sept— Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has hinted he may be interested in coaching England in the future, even though he believes the job is more suited to an Englishman.

“It’s true that part of me feels like an Englishman now,” Mourinho, who comes from Portugal, said in an interview with Time Out magazine.

“If I stay here for the next five years, the length of my contract, I will feel even more English.

With six years of living London and England I will have something of England and the people in my heart so I could do it (the England job) in a professional way and also with my heart.

“I still think (though) it’s really for an English person.” — MNA/Reuters

Deschamps steps down as Monaco coach

MONACO, 20 Sept— Didier Deschamps re-signed as Monaco coach on Monday after a poor run of form that has left the club 15th in Ligue 1 and out of the Champions League.

“Ending my collaboration with the club appears to me to be the best decision given the current situation,” said Deschamps, who was jeered by Monaco fans in an embar- rassing 2-0 home defeat by Stade Rennes on Sunday.

“I’m leaving a club I dedicated myself to with energy and passion. Those four years will remain engraved in my memory as one of the richest experi-

Nacional defeat Sporting to go joint top in Portugal

LISBON, 20 Sept— Nacional Madeira moved joint top of the Portuguese Premier League with a 2-1 home win over Sporting on Monday.

The Madeira Island side have 10 points from four games, the same total as leaders Porto and second-placed Braga who have a superior goal difference.

Sporting, who are fourth on nine points, suffered their first league defeat of the season despite opening the scoring when Brazilian striker Deivid drove in an unstoppable shot.

Nacional equalized after 64 minutes when Brazilian Alexandre Goulart headed in a free kick by Miguelito.

Striker Andre Pinto sealed victory for Nacional with a shot from inside the box in the 78th minute.

In Monday’s other match, sixth-placed Belenenses coasted through the second half and were only denied a third when a Fredrik Ljungberg effort crashed against the crossbar. The victory will have steadied Arsenal’s nerves after two defeats and two wins in their previous league games and only a stoppage-time win over tiny Swiss club Thun in their Champions League opener last week.

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“I still think (though) it’s really for an English person.” — MNA/Reuters
Beijingers munch 15,000 tons of mooncakes at Mid-Autumn Festival

BEIJING, 20 Sept — The people of Beijing munched through 15,000 tons of mooncakes — more than one kilo (2.21 pounds) per person — and bought one tenth of all the round cakes sold nationwide for this year’s Mid-Autumn Festival, Xinhua News agency said on Monday.

The traditional, heavy pastries, symbols of the moon and common gifts for family, friends and business associates, have become a huge business in China with elaborate, lavishly packaged sets of just a few cakes commanding sky-high prices.

Around this year’s mooncake season, when families get together for dinner and to observe the largest full moon of the year, mooncake sales in the Chinese capital alone hit nearly one billion yuan (123.9 million US dollars), Xinhua said.

For all their popularity, mooncakes are subjects of annual controversy over their climbing prices, the waste generated by their excessive packaging and unsavory marketers grudging the previous year’s cakes for use in new batches.

Earlier this year, the central government launched a crackdown on over-the-top mooncake packages containing such lavish gifts as solid gold Buddha statues and sometimes offered as bribes to government officials. But the controversies have not left a bad taste in China’s mouth about the pastries, which come filled with salted duck egg yolk, lotus seed paste and even chocolate or ice cream. China’s 10,000 mooncake makers baked off 200,000 tons of mooncakes last year, Zhu Nianlin from the Chinese Association of Bakery and Confectionery Industry was quoted as saying by Xinhua.

MNA/Reuters

Australian police find ecstasy tablets hidden in furniture

CANBERRA, 20 Sept — Australian authorities have discovered around 115,000 ecstasy tablets with a street value of 4.7 million Australian dollars (3.6 million US dollars) hidden in furniture in a shipping container sent from Belgium.

Justice Minister Chris Ellison said authorities X-rayed the container after an anonymous tip-off.

‘On closer inspection the container held furniture. Customs officers drilled a small hole in the furniture and a quantity of powder was extracted. The powder later tested positive to illegal narcotics,’ Ellison said in a statement.

He said three men had been charged with various offences in relation to the haul and, if convicted, faced a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Tuesday, 20 September, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in the whole country with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State, Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated heavyfalls in Mon State, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thandwe (6.98) inches, Myeik (4.84) inches, Kayak Kha Me (4.53) inches, Dawei (4.49) inches, Kawthong (4.33) inches, Yey (4.13) inches, Shwegym (4.02) inches, Gwa (3.82) inches, Khayyan (3.78) inches, Hkami (3.42) inches, Kalay (3.35) inches, Thienzayat (3.19) inches, Tharawady and Myinnu (2.52) inches each, Sagain (2.44) inches, Monywa (2.29) inches, Mandalay (2.13) inches and Shwebo (1.03) inches.

Maximum temperature on 19-9-2005 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 20-9-2005 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 20-9-2005 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 19-9-2005 was (2.0) hours approx. Rainfalls on 20-9-2005 were (1.26) inches at Mingaladon, (1.69) inches at Kaba-Aye and (1.07) inches at the central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (83.66) inches at Mingaladon, (87.44) inches at Kaba-Aye and (93.35) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from West at (17:40) hours MST on 19-9-2005.

Bay inference: The depression over Northwest Bay has crossed the Andra Pradesh Coast of India. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is moderate to strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 21-9-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Shan, Kayah States and lower Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Chin, Rakhine and Mon States and upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-9-2005: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-9-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.
YANGON, 21 Sept—At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, a Thai delegation led by Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Chaisit Shinawatra arrived here by air this afternoon, to pay a goodwill visit Myanmar. The Thai Supreme Commander and party were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, SPDC Member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chief of Military Affairs Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe, se-

A test-running tube-well just started to pump water, completely drawing the attention of many villagers. Children were taking a bath happily under the splashing water pumped from the tube-well.

(See page 9)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Thai Supreme Commander General Chaisit Shinawatra inspect the Guard of Honour. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Thai Supreme Commander General Chaisit Shinawatra take the salute of the Guard of Honour. — MNA