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.

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

Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order

Myanmar’s relentless efforts on narcotic drug elimination have once again been ignored by the United States

Myanmar striving to eliminate narcotic drugs in active cooperation with UN agencies, other like-minded countries under international counter narcotic agreements

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strive for better rural health care services

Now is the time when the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are making concerted efforts for the emergence of a modern and developed nation as well as for improvement of the living standard of the entire nation and people. In this regard, priority is being given to development of border areas that lagged behind in development in the past. In the same way, the 24 special development zones and the five rural development tasks have been laid down and are being implemented to bring about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation.

In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, systematic measures are being taken for ensuring better transport in rural regions, availability of water for drinking and agricultural purpose, uplift of education standard of rural dwellers, enhancement of health care services and economic development.

Emphasis is being placed on improvement of health care services in rural regions where 70 per cent of Myanmar’s population reside. Accordingly, health staff are actively taking part in the drive after the emergence of more hospitals, dispensaries and rural health care centres.

A ceremony to open new Namsalat Station Hospital in Hsenwi Township, Shan State (North), was held on 18 September morning, attended by officials of the Ministry of Health, State Senior General Than Shwe, systematic improvement of health care services in rural regions, and the Tatmadaw are exerting harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation.

The emergence of the health facility will contribute much to enhancement of health care services in Namsalat as well as 62 other villages that are adjacent to the village.

Nowadays, the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are exerting harmonious efforts for regional development. The Ministry of Health and other related ministries are exerting integrated and coordinated efforts for acquisition of potable water in rural regions where water is scarce.

With the assistance of WHO, UNICEF and FAO, the drive for development of health and education sectors is meeting with success.

At a time when efforts are being made for fitness and longevity of the people through uplift of health standard, it is incumbent upon all the health staff, local people and social organizations to try harder for providing better health care services in rural regions.

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 24 Sept—The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Her Excellency Mrs Pearl Nomvume Magaqa as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to the Union of Myanmar in succession to Her Excellency Mrs Buyisiwe Maqeen Pheto.

Mrs Pearl Nomvume Magaqa was born on 4 June 1957. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Transkei in 1978 and obtained Master of Arts degree from Sofia University, Bulgaria in 1988. She started her career at the Capital Radio in 1978. From 1988 to 1991, she served as a member of African National Congress (ANC) in Zambia and Zimbabwe. From 1991 to 1993, she was with South African Airways and she worked at the Daimler Chrysler South Africa (Pte) Ltd from 1999 to 2000. In May 2004, she was appointed as Chief Director in the Office of the Minister of Transport. In 2005, she was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Mrs Pearl Nomvume Magaqa will be concurrently accredited to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.—MNA

USDA Secretary-General Receives Ambassadors and Chargés d’Affaires of Foreign Missions in Myanmar

Chairman meets Indian Ambassador

YANGON, 23 Sept. — Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Thun Nyun received Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra at his office this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were members of CSSTB U Nyunt Swe, U Aung Myint and U Hla Myint Oo, Director-General U Hla Kyi of Civil Service Selection and Training Department and Director-General Col Kyaw Zan Hla of Civil Service Affairs Department.—MNA

Beauty of Union as seen today

Those who accept are satisfied
Those who help are happy
Love and goodwill
A sight that pleases you

This kind of news
Overwhelms Myanmar

Daily, incessantly
We hear, we see
All and all citizens who are Unanimously rejoice for success.

* Loving kindness, goodwill, happiness at Success of others
All three intertwined
And based on all this
Our magnificent Union Always a wondrous sight
O, how good it is.
India, Russia, China to hold Business Conference next year

NEW YORK, 22 Sept— India, Russia and China have agreed to hold a trilateral Business Conference next year to consider ways and means of strengthening and expanding cooperation in various areas among the three countries.

The proposal for the conference was presented by External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh on Tuesday at their annual trilateral meeting held and was enthusiastically embraced by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

The ministers, who discussed a wide range of trilateral and international issues as also United Nations reforms, decided to convene their next session in New Delhi and favoured holding of business conference to coincide with the trilateral meeting. The dates for the meeting would be decided through mutual consultations.

Singh identified energy as a “significant area” of cooperation among them and his Chinese and Russian counterparts welcomed the Indian initiative to convene a round table conference of North and Central Asian oil suppliers and principal buyers in New Delhi on 25 November.

Such a forum, Li and Lavrov agreed, would provide an opportunity to explore cooperation in this vital sector on both trilateral basis and in the larger region of Central and North Asia.

They said that their ministers in charge of oil and natural gas would participate in the round table, considering the importance of the discussions and exchange of ideas at the event.

Two drug traffickers sentenced to death in Vietnam

HANOI, 22 Sept — A Vietnamese court has given death penalties to two women for trafficking and possessing drug, the local newspaper Labour reported on Wednesday.

The People’s Court of northern Phu Tho Province on Tuesday also handed down life sentences to three local people and sentences of 2-20 years to seven others.

The 12 people, including nine women, were convicted of trafficking nearly 2.3 kilos of heroin in the capital city of Hanoi and the northern provinces of Son La, Phu Tho and Ha Tay.

Two drug traffickers sentenced to death in Vietnam

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept—Today/Gallup poll released on Thursday indicated fewer than half of Americans believe the United States will win the Iraq war, and 55 percent of those surveyed said it should speed up withdrawal plans.

Only 21 percent said the United States definitely would win the war in Iraq. Another 22 percent said they thought the United States probably would win. Twenty percent of respondents said the United States was capable of winning in Iraq — but probably would not. And 34 percent said they considered the war unwinnable.

The survey of 818 adults was conducted Friday through Sunday and had a sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The results followed others this week that found only 32 percent of those interviewed supported President Bush’s handling of the war, 63 percent supported a full or partial withdrawal and 54 percent favored cutting spending on the war and even by the Liberal Democrat spokesman, Sir Menzies Campbell.

They told you Britain must invade Iraq because of its weapons of mass destruction. They were wrong. Now they say British troops must stay in Iraq because otherwise it will collapse into chaos.”

This second lie is infecting everyone, Jenkins said.

An Iraqi soldier and policemen watch a demonstration against a British raid which freed two undercover soldiers in the southern city of Basra on 21 September, 2005. —INTERNET

Int’l Machinery, Electronic Expo to open in Wuhan

WUHAN, 22 Sept— The Sixth China International Machinery and Electronic Products Expo is scheduled to be held on 23 September in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, local government announced on Wednesday.

The four-day expo will display equipment, accessories, top-grade machinery and electronic products and projects for investment at 1,546 booths, which cover a total floor space of 3,000 square metres. By then, more than 2,000 business people from over 40 countries, including representatives from 62 of the global top 500, are expected to take part in the expo.

The expo aims to build a platform to attract overseas investment to China’s central and western regions, boost the pace of opening up and promote multinational purchasing, the organizing committee said.

Britain paper criticizes government over chaos in Iraq

LONDON, 22 Sept—Don’t be fooled a second time! While most of the media in London are talking about the conflicting reports and “unrest” tensions following the arrest of two British soldiers and the “barbaric” destruction of prison by British troops to rescue them in Basra, the Guardian published on Wednesday an article reminding the world not to be fooled again by the British Government in its Iraqi policy.

In a comment entitled “To say we must stay in Iraq to save it from chaos is a lie”, Simon Jenkins said: “They told you Britain must invade Iraq because of its weapons of mass destruction. They were wrong. Now they say British troops must stay in Iraq because otherwise it will collapse into chaos.”

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This second lie is infecting everyone, Jenkins said.

It is spouted by Labour and Tory opponents of the war and even by the Liberal Democrat spokesman, Sir Menzies Campbell. Its axiom is that Western soldiers are so competent that, wherever they go, only good can result. It is their duty not to leave Iraq until order is established, infrastructure rebuilt and democracy entrenched.

Note the word “until”, the commentator reminds us. It hides a bloodstained half century of Western self-delusion and arrogance. The White man’s burden is still alive and well in the skies over Baghdad.

Soldiers and civilians may die by the hundred. Money may be squandered by the million. But Tony Blair tells us that only Western values enforced by the barrel of a gun can save the hapless Musulman from his own worst enemy, himself.

The first lie at least had tactical logic. The Rumsfeld doctrine was to travel light, hit hard and get out.

Instead the invasion came with tanks of glue. Decisions were taken with British compliance, to make Iraq an experiment in “ground zero” nation-building. All sensible advice was ignored on the assumption that whatever America and Britain did would seem better than Saddam, and better than our doing nothing, it said.

An Iraqi soldier and policemen watch a demonstration against a British raid which freed two undercover soldiers in the southern city of Basra on 21 September, 2005. —INTERNET

Visitors walk past a billboard promoting ‘Aviation Expo China 2005’ in Beijing on 22 September, 2005. Aviation Expo, which features more than 170 exhibitors from 21 countries and region, will run till 24 September. —INTERNET

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Russia denounces Security Council move on Iran

Moscow, 22 Sept—Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov denounced as “counter-productive” moves by the United States and the European Union to report Iran’s nuclear programme to the UN Security Council, RIA Novaosti news agency said.

The European Union unveiled a resolution on Tuesday calling on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to report the programme to the UN Security Council, which can impose sanctions against Iran.

“While Iran is cooperating with the IAEA, while it is not enriching uranium and observing a moratorium, while IAEA inspectors are working in the country, it would be counter-productive to report this question to the UN Security Council,” Lavrov was quoted on Wednesday as saying in a speech to Stanford University.

“I will lead to an unnecessary politicizing of the situation. Iran is not violating its obligations and its actions do not threaten the non-proliferation regime,” he said in a speech at Stanford University.

Russia, which has built a one-billion-US dollar nuclear reactor for Iran and sees it as a key ally in the Middle East, is a permanent member of the Council and can use its veto to block any move against Iran.

Russia has long warned against using force to stop Tehran’s nuclear programme and called for diplomatic ways to settle disagreements.

Iran, which denies wanting nuclear weapons, has angered the EU by resuming uranium processing work at a plant in Isfahan — a move which led EU officials to threaten the Council referral.

Opposition leader says British troops part of the Iraq problem

London, 22 Sept—Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy is set to deliver a hard-hitting speech warning that the presence of British troops in Iraq is now “part of the problem” and calling for plans for their departure.

Kennedy also accuses Prime Minister Tony Blair of being “in denial” about the fact that most Iraqis now view British and US soldiers as occupiers, not liberators, according to an advance copy of the speech.

Kennedy, attempting to counter accusations of weak leadership, takes a tough stance on both Iraq and anti-terror legislation, according to details of his keynote speech to his Liberal Democrat party’s annual conference in Blackpool on Thursday.

On Iraq, he accuses the Prime Minister of allowing his “pride” and his “blind support” for US President George Bush to stand in the way of a solution involving the phased withdrawal of British troops, according to details provided by Britain’s domestic Press Association. In an attack on Blair’s efforts to neutralize criticism of his conduct over Iraq, Kennedy charges:

“However hard this government tries, it cannot move on.

“You cannot move on when the Prime Minister remains in denial. You can’t move on when people are dying every day. And you cannot move on when our British troops are still there in the firing line. The government must confront the fact that the presence of British and American troops in Iraq are a part of the problem.

Annan says lack of disarmament progress threatens multilateralism

United Nations, 23 Sept — The failure of the non-proliferation treaty review and the lack of results and progress on disarmament are weakening the system of legal norms and pose a threat to world peace and multilateralism, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Wednesday in a report to the General Assembly.

Therefore it is urgent for states “to renew their commitments to treaty principles on non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the right of states to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes”, he said in a report regarding the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament.

This is particularly important because the July 2005 Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear weapons failed to achieve consensus beforehand, he concluded.

China announces policies for foreign banks to enter west region

Chengdu, 22 Sept—China’s banking regulator has worked out new policies to encourage foreign banks to enter the country’s vast western regions, saying they can directly set up branches instead of offices first in the regions.

Xu Feng, director of the Banking Supervision Department III with the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC), made the remarks while speaking to a delegation of foreign bank representatives during an inspection tour in Chengdu, southwest China’s Sichuan Province on Tuesday.

“Foreign banks may directly apply for the establishment of operational branches in western China, without the need of opening representative offices there first,” Xu said. According to relevant existing regulations in China, a foreign bank is required to keep a representative office in a Chinese city for two years before it is permitted to open an operational branch there.

Hurricanes decrease support for Iraq War

Washington, 22 Sept—Hurricane Katrina and its wrenching aftermath have turned public attention and already-dwindling support away from President Bush’s Iraq policy.

That was before Hurricane Rita took aim at Texas Wednesday. The devastating storms are increasing the course in Iraq appears to be shrinking, although war opponents are nowhere close to having enough votes in Congress to cut off or trim funds.

As many Americans brace for a winter of soaring home heating prices resulting in part from hurricane damage to oil and natural gas supplies, a rising number of Republican conservatives worry about the federal hurricane tab — estimated at $200 billion or more when Katrina was the only factor.

Changi Airport’s passenger volume up 7% in August

Singapore, 22 Sept — Singapore Changi Airport hosted 2.78 million passengers in August of 2005, an increase of 7 per cent over the same period of last year.

According to a statement by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) on Wednesday, passenger traffic totalled 21.12 million in the first eight months of this year, up 7.3 per cent from a year ago.

The airport’s cargo traffic also rose by 3.4 per cent to 152,000 tons in August, which brought its total cargo volume for the first eight months to 1.18 million tons, expanding 1.9 per cent as compared with last year.

Annexing the champions

Iraqi policemen search a car at a checkpoint in the southern Iraqi city of Basra recently. Local authorities in southern Iraq said they would have no dealings with British forces who stormed a Basra jail to release two of their men, even as Baghdad and London sought to downplay the incident.
South India flood situation grim, toll reaches 50

NEW DELHI, 22 Sept—The flood situation in Andhra Pradesh in south India worsened on Wednesday with reports of about 50 people killed, thousands evacuated and hundreds of villages inundated as major rivers overflow their banks, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

While the death toll has climbed to 50 as heavy rains battered the coastal regions for the last three days, many thousands have been evacuated and many more are waiting for help in submerged villages, officials said.

With floods in two major rivers and heavy rains continuing, authorities fear that the situation might worsen further.

With most parts of the state receiving heavy rainfall, there were huge inflows into the Krishna River and its tributaries. If the Krishna is flowing near the danger mark, East and West Godavari districts have been inundated. Water levels at Dowleswarum Barrage at Rajahmundry Town crossed danger mark Tuesday night. And more than 2.2 million cusecs of water has been let into the sea submerging 50 villages downstream.

Water has entered several localities in Vijayawada City and inundated National Highway 9, which connects the main towns of Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam to Chennai and Kolkata. Thousands of vehicles have been stranded on the highway.

The situation is no different in Guntur District where more than 50 villages have been inundated. Authorities are using boats to rescue people while two helicopters of the Indian Air Force have also been pressed into service.

India’s oil firm acquires stakes in Cuban offshore blocks

NEW DELHI, 22 Sept—ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the overseas arm of India’s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has made its maiden foray in Cuba, as it acquired 30 per cent stake in five offshore blocks in Cuba in partnership with Spain’s Repsol-YPF recently. According to a statement issued Tuesday, “OVL entered into an agreement September 15 with Repsol-YPF of Spain to acquire 30 per cent participating interest in the deep water exploration blocks 25-29, 36 and part of block 35 in the Republic of Cuba.” The acquisition (of stake) will be completed after formalization of the contract by the Cuban Government, the statement added. Besides OVL’s 30 per cent stake in the blocks, Repsol-YPF with 40 per cent stake is the operator and the third partner is Norway’s Norsk Hydro with remaining 30 per cent stake.— MNA/Xinhua

Siemens’ global downsizing not to affect recruitment in China

BEIJING, 22 Sept — Facing large-scale job-cutting, German industrial conglomerate Siemens AG said its plan would not affect the China branch.

China is not involved in the plan, said sources with Siemens China on a telephone interview with Xinhua here Wednesday. The company’s decision to recruit 5,000 people in China made earlier this year would not change, said the sources.

Siemens’ business in China maintains strong momentum of growth and the global adjustment would not affect the company’s development in China, the sources said.

Media reports said earlier that Siemens planned to cut jobs in the company worldwide, with 2,838 of the jobs from Siemens Business Services (SBS) and 797 jobs from fixed and mobile network business.

The SBS system belongs to interior service in China and no jobs would be cut from there, said sources with Siemens China. In a bid to meet the demand of its development in China, Siemens planned to recruit 5,000 employees in the country in 2005. Meanwhile, it announced further investment of 10 billion yuan in the market earlier this year.

As one of the world’s largest electric and electronic companies, Siemens set up its first office in China in 1904. At the end of September last year, Siemens’ investment in China reached 8.5 billion yuan.— MNA/Xinhua

Ten people killed in Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, 22 Sept—Gunmen killed 10 people and wounded five others in several attacks Thursday in central Iraq, police said.

In Baghdad, gunmen dressed as Iraqi police and driving Iraqi police vehicles stormed the home of Mohsin Agash — the owner of a tile-making factory in Mada’in, police said.

The attackers killed Agash, two of his sons and his daughter-in-law. Another of his sons was kidnapped, according to police.

In the capital’s New Baghdad neighborhood, gunmen opened fire on a Nissan pickup truck that was carrying six security guards for the Ministry of Displacement and Migration. Four of the guards were killed in the attack and two others were wounded, police said.

In another drive-by shooting Thursday, gunmen killed an engineer in the southern Baghdad neighborhood of al-Dora, police said.

About 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of the city, gunmen killed Baquba Police Col Fadel Mahmoud in a drive-by shooting Thursday as he was traveling to work, according to police. His driver was wounded.

Also in Baquba, two Iraqi police officers were wounded when their convoy came under rocket attack on the city’s western outskirts Thursday, police said.

US chopper make emergency landing in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Sept — A US military helicopter made an emergency landing caused by mechanical problems south of Mosul on Wednesday, the US military said.

"An AH-64 Apache helicopter conducted a precautionary landing due to mechanical failure approximately 50 kilometres south of Mosul," the military said in a statement. The brief statement did not clarify whether there was any casualty among the crew of the helicopter, but said the incident is currently under investigation.— MNA/Xinhua

Over 6,000 missing

Bangladeshi fishermen return

DHAKA, 23 Sept—Over 6,000 fishermen, who went missing in the Bay of Bengal along with 600 trawlers during sea storm on Saturday night, returned to the southern coastal district of Patuakhali Wednesday.

The Independent Thursday quoted trawler owners as saying that 16 fishermen on board 10 boats were feared dead. In the southeastern Cox’s Bazar, some 200 fishermen were still missing with 20 trawlers in the district and its offshore islands since the Saturday’s sudden storm in the deep of the bay.

Local fishermen suspected that many of the missing fishermen might be driven away to the Indian coast during the 20-hour storm in the sea.

In Patuakhali, it was reported that most of the fishermen of the missing trawlers were rescued from the Indian Digha coast.— MNA/Xinhua

Engineers fix the cable supplying power to one of Manila’s three Light Rail Transport systems after the canvas of a huge advertising billboard was blown over onto an electric line at Quezon city, suburban Manila, on 22 September, 2005. —INTERNET
Almost 400 found alive in south Asia storm

HYDERABAD (India), 23 Sept—Nearly 400 people who had been listed as missing in a storm off the southern coast of India were found alive after they took shelter on rooftops, trucks and buses, officials said on Thursday. But there were still scores missing, and survivors in neighbouring Bangladesh, which was also hit by the storm in the Bay of Bengal on Monday, spoke of bodies floating in the sea.

At least 66 people have been killed so far, authorities in the Indian State of Andhra Pradesh said. After the storm brought heavy rains, strong winds and flooding in the coastal villages. An Andhra Pradesh government official said flood waters had since re-ceded, allowing rescuers to reach the remote villages. “We have been able to move into villages and rescue people listed as missing,” state official Nabin Mitul said. A fisherman who survived the storm in low-lying Bangladesh said many others were not so lucky. “I was lucky to come back. While returning to shore I saw several wrecked boats and bodies floating on the rough sea,” Idris Ali told reporters late on Wednesday in Barguna, a coastal district about 156 miles south of the capital, Dhaka.

“But we are not sure how many have died. MNA/Reuters

Russia rejects new EU atomic draft on Iran

VIENNA, 23 Sept—Russia has rejected a new EU draft resolution on Iran that drops the threat of an immediate report to the UN Security Council over fears Tehran is developing atomic weapons, an EU diplomat said on Thursday.

“The Russians don’t like it. They say it’s a move in the right direction but not far enough,” the European Union diplomat told Reuters on condition of anonymity on the sidelines of a week-long IAEA board meeting. “The Russian ambassador made it very clear that the new draft was not acceptable.”

He said the Russians objected to the fact that even though the new draft does not call for an immediate Security Council referral, a report to the Council would be inevitable if the resolution is approved.

The Security Council, the United Nations’ highest body, can impose economic sanctions. Of the 35 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board members, Russia, China and at least a dozen others oppose the EU and US effort to haul Iran before the Security Council for breaching international nuclear obligations.

EU diplomats say Russia’s support is crucial in getting consensus on an IAEA resolution. The EU had removed the demand for an immediate Council report from the text in the hope getting the backing of Russia and other opponents. The diplomat said there was no co-reaction from China yet, though he expected Beijing’s view would be similar to Moscow’s. Russia’s Atomic Energy Agency, Alexan-der Rumyantsev, sounded more positive on the draft resolution. However, the Russian Foreign Ministry, not Rumyantsev’s agency, gives instructions to its ambassador and negoti-ating team in Vienna.

MNA/Reuters

Gunmen kill senior official in southern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 Sept—Gunmen assassinated a senior official in the Iraqi Interior Ministry in southern Baghdad on Friday, police said.

“Captain Ra’ad Khalaf Hammon, head of the legal advisor office in the Interior Ministry, was shot dead as he was travelling with his two brothers on the highway in Dora district,” a source from the ministry told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Unknown armed men opened fire at Hammon’s car, killing him and one of his brothers and injuring his third, the source said.

In separate incident, another employee in the ministry was gunned down by a group of armed men in Mansur district, the source said. A group of gunmen, opened fire at Ashraf Jalal Rahman, an employee in the ministry’s secretariat office, as he was driving his car in the dangerous area in western Baghdad, where dozens of diplomats and government employees kid-napped or killed.

MNA/Xinhua

Passenger plane trying to make emergency landing in LA

LOS ANGELES, 23 Sept—A passenger Airbox A/20 jet with problem in its landing gear is circling over the Long Beach Airport near Los Angeles Wednesday afternoon to try to make an emergency landing, CNN reported.

The front wheels of the Flight 292 of Jet Blue Airways from Burbank to New York turned sideways and was unable to retract. No other details were immediately available. — MNA/Xinhua

Bomb blast kills one in Lahore

LAHORE (Pakistan), 23 Sept—A bomb blast in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore killed one man and wounded eight people on Thursday, police said.

The bomb was fitted to a bicycle parked near the Minar-e-Pakistan (Tower of Pakistan) monument in the city. SSP Operations Aamir Zulfiquar said. “It is not immediately clear who is responsible or what message the terrorists wanted to give,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization closes meeting

Vientiane, 23 Sept—The 26th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIP0) wrapped up here Thursday after the delega-tion’s leaders inking a joint commu-nique, appealing for closer regional co-operation. The 26th AIP0 General Assembly has become a turning point in meeting the objectives and principles of ASEAN Community. We believe that the active involvement of the parliaments and a close collaboration between the legis-lative and executive bodies in the process of formulating the ASEAN Charter will advance into a new chapter,” Samane Vignakhet, President of AIP0 and Presi-dent of the Lao National Assembly, said in his closing remarks.

He said delegates to the four-day assem-bly, held in Laos for the first time, had frank and constructive discussions.

MNA/Xinhua
The holding of the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions began in 1993, and now preparations are under way to organize the 13th national-level Competitions on a grander scale than those in the previous years. The holding of the national-level Competitions annually is an important step to preserve and safeguard Myanmar traditional culture. This year, the Competitions will be held under the seven lofty objectives.

The objective “To vitalize patriotism and nationalism” comes first in this year’s Competitions, which is like the previous ones, will help vitalize patriotism and nationalism of the entire people, especially the youths. All along the thousand-year old history and till now, Myanmars have been the people always upholding their own culture and performing arts, while keeping patriotism and nationalism ever alive and dynamic in their hearts.

“To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage” follows as the second objective, expressing the task of enhancing the national prestige and integrity as a virtue, every country and race will have to value and establish. It is still a national duty for the present-day Myanmars to cherish and preserve and safeguard the cultural heritage, handed down to them by their ancestors in its original form.

As Myanmar performing arts with its own style and standard is the dignity and reputation of the people, the third objective states “To preserve and safeguard genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts”. At the Competitions, today’s Myanmar people will have the opportunity to enjoy and study the traditional cultural performing arts, the artists of successive eras in this particular field have preserved.

The fourth objective is “To preserve Myanmar national character”. The present era sees the gradual penetration of the western culture and living styles that are also gaining ground in the nation, especially among the younger generation. The current trend calls for the preservation and safeguarding of the genuine Myanmar culture, performing arts and fine arts as a task to be carried out without fail. We hope that the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are the answer to the call.

Spiritual development of youths is of vital importance for the nation in this age, for, correct spiritual development among them will lead to improving their thoughts, ideas and visions. In this regard, the Competitions are to be organized in accordance with the fifth objective — To nurture spiritual development of the youths.

The need to deter western culture from entering the nation together with the tide of global current of the age has always remained important for all of us. Hence, with the aim of helping guard the nation against domination of western culture, the sixth objective — To prevent influence of alien culture — is laid down.

And for the Competitions to serve as an engine effectively reinforcing the united strength of the Union in the long run, the organizers have laid down the seventh objective “To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit”.

In fact, national races of Myanmar are the people who stand tall with dignity among the global countries because they have preserved and safeguarded their own cultural heritage as a national task since yore. The ancient dynasties including the Bagan, the Sagaing, the Pyu, the Irawaddy and the Konbaung all saw the preservation and safeguarding of traditions and culture as the priority task. Today, we are also carrying out the task.

And with this article I hail the Competitions held annually with the objectives — To vitalize patriotism and nationalism; To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage; To perpetrate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts; To preserve Myanmar national character; To nurture spiritual development of the youths; To prevent influence of alien culture; And To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit.

(Translation: TMT)

C-in-C (Air)’s Shield Track and Field competition held
YANGON, 23 Sept — The opening ceremony of the 46th Commander-in-Chief (Air)’s Shield Track and Field competition 2005 took place at Aung San Stadium this morning. On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), Brig-Gen Ye Chit Pe of Mingaladon Station opened the competition.

Among the spectators were Mingaladon Air Base Commander Brig-Gen Zin Yaw, senior military officers and others.

Brig-Gen Ye Chit Pe presented the championship shield to the winning team. — MNA

Facilities of water supply inspected in Salingyi, Yinmabin, Pale Townships
YANGON, 23 Sept — Director-General U Myo Myint of the Department of Development Affairs made a field trip to Salingyi, Yinmabin and Pale townships of Sagaing Division on 20 September morning.

In Salingyi, the director-general inspected water supply facilities and laying of water pipelines to supply water to urban areas. On arrival in Yinmabin, the director-general oversaw tasks for supply of water pumped from the artesian well at Ward 8.

The director-general and officials proceeded to Pale. There they looked into water tanks and lakes, and preparations for supplying water for the local people. — MNA

UMFCCI delegation leaves for Thailand
YANGON, 23 Sept — A delegation led by Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung yesterday morning left here by air for Thailand to attend the first ACMECS Joint Business Council to be held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Vice-presidents of the UMFCCI and CEC members will attend the meeting and discuss matters on the agriculture, trade, industry, HRD and tourism sectors. — MNA

World Heart Day
World Heart Day
“Healthy Weight and Healthy Shape”
Guest of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye…

(from page 1)
Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Magway Division PDC Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials.

The guests, accompanied by the commander and party, first visited Armanda Pagoda where they paid homage and offered flowers, light and water to the pagoda. Next they made cash donations to the funds of the pagoda. The supreme commander signed the visitors’ book. General Chaisit Shinawatra and party also paid obeisance to the Thabbyinnyu Pagoda and Shwezigon Pagoda.

Afterwards, they viewed scenic beauties of Bagan Archeological Zone from Bagan-Nanmyint Tower. At 7 pm, the Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces and party left Bagan-NyaungU Airport for Thailand by special aircraft.

They were seen off by Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials.

MNA

Struggle to eliminate narcotic drugs will continue with own available resources

(from page 1)
US-DEA and UNODC respectively, Myanmar has been jointly conducting opium yield surveys with the US government since 1993 and altogether 10 surveys have been carried out up to 2004. According to the joint assessment conducted by Myanmar and US-DEA, 34% in poppy cultivation and the potential production of 292 metric tons or 39% in opium production had declined in 2004 as compared with 2003. Similarly, Myanmar and the UNODC joint team assessed that 29% in poppy cultivation has also declined, which was equivalent to 54% in opium production decline in 2004 as compared with 2003.

Myanmar believes that it alone cannot combat the drug menace and needs international support and cooperation. Myanmar therefore is striving to eliminate narcotic drugs realizing as a national task, in active cooperation with UN agencies, ASEAN member countries, neighbour countries and the other countries interested in Myanmar.


Since Myanmar was elected as a member to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) for 4 years (1st January 2004-31st December 2007) at the ECOSOC meeting in 2003, she takes responsibilities and cooperates with CND as a member of the commission. These facts are an eloquent testimony of Myanmar’s serious and steadfast efforts to eliminate the scourge of narcotic drugs in active cooperation with UN agencies and other like-minded countries under international counter narcotic agreements.

However slanderous the negative and unconstructive campaign against Myanmar and even if no assistance is forthcoming, our struggle to eliminate narcotic drugs, which threatens humankind, will continue with our own available resources. We are confident that the goal will definitely be achieved. — MNA

Ongoing Yangon Airport Extension Project inspected

Yangon International Airport Extension Project.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected the Yangon International Airport Extension Project. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Sept — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, together with Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, and Deputy Ministers for Construction U Tin Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, inspected the Yangon International Airport Extension Project this morning.

Deputy Director-General of the Civil Aviation Department U Tin Naing Tun reported on progress in renovating the arrival lounge and constructing annexes; and Project Engineer U Kyaw Swe of Asia World Co, on progress in laying concrete, digging drains and constructing parking lot, and schedules for wiring and building an octane tank. The ministers gave instructions on implementation of the projects. They inspected the project site and tasks for installation of boarding bridges.

On completion, the 340’ x 140’ airport will be an 800’ x 200’ two-and-a-half storey one with four boarding bridges and a 600’ x 600’ apron. — MNA

Trainees of Journalism Course visit MRTV

YANGON, 23 Sept — Led by course-in-charge U Swe Thant Ko, the trainees of Journalism Course No 1/2005 organized by the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information, visited MRTV on Paya Road this morning.

They were welcomed by Deputy Director (Administration) of MRTV U Maung Pe and officials.

The trainees viewed the entertainment of Myanmar Radio Music Troupe at Studio-D, tapping for radio play at Studio-C and MRTV programmes transmission at Studio-1.

At Studio-A hall, the deputy director explained the salient points of MRTV.

Next, leader of trainees U Than Oo expressed gratitude on behalf of the trainees.

MNA

SWRR Minister receives Chinese, Indian Ambassadors

YANGON, 23 Sept — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa received Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China Mr Li Jinjun, who has completed his tour of duty here, at 10 am and Indian ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra at 11 am at the Ministry today.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Khin Maung, Officer on Special Duty of the Ministry Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaung, Directors-General of the Departments under the Ministry and officials.

MNA

Yangon Mayor receives Bangladeshi Ambassador

YANGON, 23 Sept — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin received Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr M Kharruzzaman at the City Hall this evening.

Present at the call were Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials.

MNA

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MNA
Irrigation facilities inspected in Mandalay, Magway Divisions

YANGON, 23 Sept — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected flow of water into Kyetmauktaung Dam in Kyaukpadaung Township on 17 September.

Officials reported on cultivation of 6,823 acres of monsoon paddy and supply of water from Kyaukdaga and Taungyay Dams to Kyetmauktaung Dam.

The minister oversaw irrigation facilities of Kyetmauktaung Dam, the channel of Taungyay Dam and flow of water into regulating dam-5 which is 1,380 feet long and 38 feet high.

Next, the minister inspected paddy fields, channel and regulating dam-4 measuring 1,355 feet long and 50 feet high. He also looked into regulating dam-3 and dam-4.

In Natmauk, the minister looked into functions and buildings of Kyaukdaga Dam.

Later, he met with local authorities and employees of Construction-7 of Irrigation Department, and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Meeting of Central Committee for Organizing Mid-Year Gems Emporium held

YANGON, 23 Sept — The Central Committee for Organizing Mid-Year Gems Emporium to be held in October 2005 held the first meeting at Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, here, at 4 pm today.

Chairman of the Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint delivered an address.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman of the Central Committee Deputy Minister U Myint Thein, Vice-Chairman Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and members, Secretary Managing Director U Thein Swe of Myanma Gems Enterprise, departmental heads, and officials of sub-committees.

Jade, Gems and Pearl Sub-committees reported on sales of jewellery items at the Special Gems Sales held in June and July 2005, and lots of jewellery to be sold at the Mid-year Gems Emporium to be held in October 2005. Officials of Administration, Security and Information Sub-committees took part in the discussions.

Later, the meeting approved to hold the Mid-Year Gems Emporium from 5 to 14 October. Chairman Deputy Minister U Myint Thein, Secretary Managing Director U Thein Swe and officials gave suggestions to earn foreign exchange at the emporium.

After fulfilling the requirements, the minister gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint addresses the first meeting of Central Committee for Organizing Mid-Year Gems Emporium to be held in October 2005. — MNA

Mines Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

YANGON, 23 Sept — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint received Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China Mr Li Jinjun, who has completed his tour of duty here, at the ministry this evening.

Deputy Minister U Myint Thein and officials were present at the call. — MNA

Agreement on education cooperation between Myanmar Maritime University of the Ministry of Transport and Korea Marine Limited was signed on 23 September. MMU Rector U Thein Tun and Representative Director Mr Bok Ki Hong exchange documents. — MNA

TRANSPORT

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo oversees the channel between Taungyay Dam and Kyetmauktaung Dam in Yuankpadaung township. — A & I

Ministerbrig-Gen Ohn Myint addresses the first meeting of Central Committee for Organizing Mid-Year Gems Emporium to be held in October 2005 — MNA
Culture Minister meets Indian ambassador

YANGON, 23 Sept — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung received Indian Ambassador Mr Bhalakumar Mitra at the ministry this morning.

Present on the occasion were Director-General Mr Tin Latt Min and Minister of Culture Daw Than Than Nwe.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Bo Kyi and officials of the ministry.

The visiting delegation members visited the University of Culture (Yangon) and the Yangon Film School.

Patron of Rakhine State WAO Daw Win Win Nu views the specialist surgeons giving medical treatment to patients in Myaungbwe village, Rakhine state.— MNA

Donations of wellwishers handed over to MWAF

President of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe accepts gifts presented by Culture Ministry through Daw Khin Khin Lay.— MNA

MWA holds talks on cultivating patriotism and nationalism

Yangon, 23 Sept — Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation gave educational talks to women at the Central Medical Store Depot under the Ministry of Labour this morning.

Present on the occasion were President of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint, Head of Organizational Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, Head of Administration Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, and 45 school-bags worth K200,000, donated by Director of Shwe-byai-phyu Daw Tin Latt Min.

MWA members dealt with rural development tasks being carried out in Myaungbwe Village.

MCWA members dealt with rural development projects being implemented under the five rural development tasks by the Government. Myaungbwe Village is witnessing development.

MWA
Minister for Information receives Myanmar Affairs Researcher Professor Robert H Taylor at the Ministry. — MNA

Deputy Head of Rakhine State Health Department Dr Moe Swe, Medical Superintendent of the General Hospital Dr Zaw Win and specialists giving treatment to local people in Apaukwa village in Kyauktaw township. — MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Myanmar Affairs Researcher Professor Robert H Taylor at the Ministry. — MNA

State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Win Win Nu presented sports equipment and clothes, and Rakhine State Police Force Commander Police Col Win Kyi, 100 bags of cement for Apaukwa Village BEHS to officials. Townselder U Shwe Tun Maung expressed gratitude. He said that Apaukwa Village, not being a border area, has been relying on waterway for many years because of transport difficulty. As a result of better transportation in the time of the Government of the State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command. The committee organized the operation Council, remarkable progress has been made in economic and social sectors of the village. On behalf of the village Power Supply U Ba Sein said that the Power Supply Committee was formed according to the instructions of the Chair.

The CEC member Minister for Transport donated K 5 million and 100 dozens of exercise books for the building of Basic Education High School under construction in Apaukwa Village, 44 dozens of exercise books and 20 bags of rice for Paritita Monastery of the village and journals and magazines for the village librarian to officials.

Likewise, Patron of Rakhine State Women’s Affairs Organization Chairperson of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council, remark- able progress has been made in economic and social sectors of the village. On behalf of the village Power Supply U Ba Sein said that the Power Supply Committee was formed according to the instructions of the Chair.

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Asia-Pacific faces silent epidemic of child deaths

NOUMEA (New Caledonia), 22 Sept — In a “silent epidemic” some 3,000 children under five die every day in the Asia-Pacific Region from preventable diseases, according to a report on child health released on Wednesday.

Babies who die in the first month due to infections and birth complications account for 40 percent of the deaths.

INVITATION TO TENDER
(TENDER NO. 16(T) MPE/ HSD
(10/ ) 2005-2006)

Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of (6,000 x 10%) Metric Tons High Speed Diesel Oil (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%).

Tender closing Date: (6-10-2005) at (12:00) noon. Tender Documents and detailed information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, (23), Min Ye-Kyaw-Zaw Road, Yangon, during office hours commencing (23-9-2005) on payment of one hundred (100) FEC per set.

4. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender documents officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director,
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

Australia strengthens airport security after review

CANBERRA, 22 Sept — Australia will spend 200 million Australian dollars (154 million US dollars) to boost security at its main airports after a review described airport policing as “inadequate and dysfunctional”.

The review by Briton Sir John Wheeler, who assessed security at Britian’s airports in 2002, said “silos and insularity” within Australia’s airport security establishment had thrown up weaknesses that could be exploited by criminals and terrorists.

He said the country’s airport security systems were typically uncoordinated because of turf wars between the different agencies involved.

Conflict between the federal and the six state governments over resources.

“There is no mechanism to draw together and assess regularly the threat of crime and criminality at major airports,” Wheeler wrote in his report, which was released by Australian Prime Minister John Howard on Wednesday.

Wheeler said clearer roles for the security agencies and a bit of fine tuning would improve policing.

“However, further major gains will require a changed culture of cooperation, sharing and openness to new technologies and methods across federal, state and private sectors,” he said.

Australia, a staunch US ally with troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, has steadily beefed up security and anti-terrorism laws since the 11 Septem-

Belgian officials call for close Belgian-Chinese economic ties

GENT (Belgium), 22 Sept — China is playing an increasingly important role in the world and Belgian entrepreneurs should try harder to make friends with Chinese and explore the Chinese market, Belgian officials said at a business forum here on Tuesday.

Belgium-China economic exchanges have increased steadily over the past decade and bilateral cooperation is now important for both countries, said Fietje Moerman, State Secretary for Economic, Enterprise, Science, Innovation and foreign trade of Flanders, one of Belgium’s three regions and the strongest one in terms of economy.

Moerman made the comment at the China Business Forum in Gent, capital of the Flanders Province. The forum was held on the sidelines of an international exposition, which was invited China as the guest country this year.

East Flanders Governor Andre Denys joined Moerman in calling on more Belgian entrepreneurs to do business in China, saying that Belgian businesses should abandon their conservative thinking, if any, to reach out to their Chinese counterparts.

Chinese ambassa-

MNA/Inthu

MNA/Inthu

MNA/Inthu

MNA/Inthu

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MNA/Inthu

MNA/Inthu
Report says global warming could spark conflict

CANBERRA, 23 Sept — Rising world temperatures could cause a significant increase in disease across Asia and Pacific Island nations, leading to conflict and leaving hundreds of millions of people displaced, a new report said on Thursday.

Global warming by the year 2100 could also lead to more droughts, floods and typhoons, and increase the incidence of malaria, dengue fever and cholera, the report into the health impact of rising temperatures found.

Compiled by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and the Australian Conservation Foundation, the country’s leading medical and environment groups, the study predicts average temperatures will rise by between one degree Celsius (1.8 Fahrenheit) and six degrees by 2100.

“We’re not just talking about a longer summer or a shorter ski season,” AMA president Mukesh Haikerwal told reporters.

“Climate change will damage our health. People will get sick as a direct result. People will die in larger numbers as our earth, our world, our home, heats up.”

In Australia, Haikerwal said up to 15,000 people could die each year due to heat stress by 2100, up from about 1,000 a year at present, while dengue fever and other mosquito-borne diseases could spread as far south as Sydney.

Dengue fever in Australia is currently confined to the country’s tropical and sparsely populated far north.

Internationally, higher world temperatures would increase the incidence of violent storms and droughts, and could lead to crop failures which could cause political and social upheaval.

“As stresses increase there is likely to be a shift towards authoritarian governments,” the report said.

“At the worst case, large scale state failure and major conflict may generate hundreds of millions of displaced people in the Asia-Pacific region, a widespread collapse of law, and numerous abuses of human rights.”

The report said crop yields were likely to increase in parts of Northern Asia, but would decrease in countries in Southern Asia, where the incidence of floods, droughts, forest fires and tropical cyclones would all increase. "The mantra of space exploration has been the search for a habitable world which may support human life in other star systems. The Voyager spacecraft, now venturing into the unknown world beyond our solar system, has collected abundant data about the outer threshold of the solar system," scientists reported on Thursday.

Four papers based on the spacecraft’s findings were published in the 23 September issue of the journal Science to depict new features of the solar system’s boundary. And these findings provide surprise, scientists said.

Voyager 1, launched on 5 September, 1977 by US space agency NASA, was designed to investigate planets and possible life in other star systems. The spacecraft and its twin, Voyager 2, are two man-made celestial bodies most distant away from Earth.

The termination shock surrounds the entire solar system, and its location changes based on changes in properties of the solar wind.

As predicted, Voyager 1 found the intensity of low-energy particles increased abruptly at the termination shock, two papers in the Science journal said. But contrary to earlier predictions, the spacecraft found high-energy particles did not accelerate.

This finding from the termination shock fulfils the mantra of space exploration", according to Len Fisk, a professor of space science at the University of Michigan.

The report saidArrival of elders evaceues, 20 dead

HOUStON, 23 Sept — A bus carrying elderly evacuees burst into flames outside Dallas before dawn on Friday, killing at least 20 people and closing a primary escape route for Hurricane Rita, local television station WFAA reported.

“It burst into flames with black smoke com- ing from the bus, and then we saw the fire,” witness Ashley Donald told Houston television station KRIV.

The Dallas television station, citing the Dallas County Sheriff’s Department, said the bus was carrying 45 senior citizens from Bellaire, a southwest Houston enclave. Some of the passengers used oxygen tanks, but it was unknown whether they contributed to the fire.

It said at least 20 people were killed. The Bellaire police department could not immediately confirm the bus came from a local nursing home.

Snow leopards march to outnumber their China population

Last(Jammu and Kashmir),22 Sept — Swiftly disappearing from rest of the bewitching Indian woodlands along with endangered tiger population, snow leopard has finally won the battle for his survival in its Ladakh bastion with its population touching a record 400.

The endangered snow leopard population is increasing at a rapid pace here unlike other habitats in the rest of country. It has won the battle for its survival,” chief wildlife warden of Jammu and Kashmir C M Seth told PTI.

“IT is increasing very fast. And if the trend con- continues, India will leave China, Russia, Nepal and Bhutan behind in the population of snow leopard in India,” he said.

As per Jammu and Kashmir wildlife department survey and killing of Kaytel reports of 2005, the leopard population increased to 400 this year from 230 to 250 in 2004.

The wildlife figures show that there is an increase in snow leopard population by 35 percent in the state, which is an achievement for the department, wildlife officials said.
Woodgate scores own goal, sent off on debut

MADRID, 23 Sept — England defender Jonathan Woodgate made a miserable first full appearance for Real Madrid on Thursday, scoring an own goal and being sent off against Athletic Bilbao at the Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid, on 22 September, 2005. — INTERNET

Woodgate was finally given his marching orders midway through the second half after being harshly booked for fouling Etxeberria as the two challenged for the ball.

Injury to Ivan Helguera and a suspension for Sergio Ramos had opened the way for Woodgate to make his debut in the centre of the Real defence more than a year after joining from Newcastle United for close to 20 million euros (24.3 million US dollars).

The former Leeds United player had not started a competitive match since tearing a thigh muscle in a Premier League game against Chelsea on 25 April last year.

He had been due to make his debut for Real last October but suffered a recurrence of the injury in a training game.

Woodgate made a brief appearance for Real in the final five minutes of a pre-season match in August and has been training with the first team since.

Rogers wins third successive time trial gold

MADRID, 23 Sept — Michael Rogers of Australia made cycling history on Thursday by winning the men’s elite time trial for the third time in a row when he powered his way to the gold medal in the world championship in Madrid.

The 25-year-old, who won his first title in Hamilton in 2003 after the original winner David Millar was stripped of gold for doping, blasted his way round the 44.1-km course in 53 minutes 34.49 seconds to smash the time set by home favourite Jose Ivan Gutierrez by some 24 seconds.

Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland claimed the bronze medal. “I’m going to have a big party tonight,” said Rogers. “I didn’t go easy on the first lap, but I really pushed it on the second.”

“It is a really hard course. It was very hard on the climbs and in the second part there was a lot of uphill.”

Asked about the possibility of going for a fourth title, Rogers replied: “Maybe, I’m still only 25 and so I’ve got a lot of time ahead.”

Atletico Nacional snatch late draw in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 23 Sept — Colombians Atletico Nacional scored an injury-time goal to snatch a 3-3 draw against Mexico’s America in the Copa Sudamericana on Wednesday night.

America, who extended their unbeaten run to 26 games, staged the second round, first leg match in Los Angeles as they served the first of a three-match home ban in competitions organized by the South American Football Confederation (CSF).

The ban was imposed following a crowd riot and brawl at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City after America were knocked out of the Libertadores Cup by Brazil’s Sao Caetano in May last year.

Atletico led 2-1 at halftime after America defender Ricardo Rojas headed a cross into his own net in the second minute and veteran striker Victor Aristazabal scrambled another five minutes before the break.

In between, former Argentine striker Claudio Lopez pounced on a poor clearance to equalize.

Argentine midfielder Christian Gimenez scored twice in the second half to put America 3-2 ahead before Hector Hurtado levelled in the 93rd minute for Atletico Nacional. — MNA/Reuters

Sharapova stutters into China Open quarterfinals

BEIJING, 23 Sept — Top seed Maria Sharapova produced a stuttering 6-0, 5-7, 6-2 victory over Israel’s Shahar Peer on Thursday to reach the China Open quarterfinals. The Russian teenager closed out a flawless first set with a vicious forehand down the line after 28 minutes but was punished for some sloppy play in the second.

The world number one was broken three times as the 48th-ranked Peer levelled the second-round match in Beijing.

But Sharapova quickly recovered her composure and the 18-year-old comfortably took the deciding set to win her first competitive match since reaching the US Open semifinals.

Sharapova, who has won four of her 10 career titles in Asia, will play Japan’s Shinobu Asagoe in the last eight. Asagoe overpowered American Jill Craybas 6-2, 6-4 on an outside court.

Wimbledon champion Venus Williams, the number three seed, takes on Spain’s Nuria Llagostera Vives in Thursday’s evening session.

Both Williams and Sharapova received first-round byes. Venus’ younger sister Serena Williams was stunned 6-2, 7-6 by China’s Sun Tiantian on Wednesday. — MNA/Reuters
Liver transplant possible without transfusion

NEW YORK, 23 Sept—Surgeons in California have succeeded in routinely transplanting livers without using blood transfusions in the recipients.

“If we can do liver transplantation, which is one of the most difficult surgeries in the abdomen to do without blood transfusion, then we can pretty much do almost any surgery in the abdomen without blood transfusions,” Dr Singh Gagandeep told Reuters Health.

In the Journal of the American College of Surgeons, Gagandeep and his colleagues at the University of Southern California University Hospital in Los Angeles describe the strategies they used to treat 24 adult Jehovah’s Witness patients, whose religion forbids the use of blood transfusions.

The 19 patients who received transplants from living donors were treated with drugs and supplements to build up their red blood cells. A shut was used in seven patients to check upper gastrointestinal bleeding to decrease pressure. Then when you take them to the operating room, meticulous surgical technique has to be there, but over and above that there are things you can do that can curtail blood loss,” Gagandeep said.

One measure is to salvage blood lost during surgery and to re-infuse it. Another is to maintain normal fluid levels in the circulation, he explained, “so the patient doesn’t go into shock.”

Other strategies include monitoring coagulation components in the blood and treating patients with drugs as needed. Finally, the surgeon noted, blood monitoring to assess the patients’ progress after surgery should be used “judiciously.” All the patients survived except for two who had severe kidney dysfunction.

In addition to the liver transplant recipients, Gagandeep said, they have conducted 81 procedures to remove a portion of the liver from donors “in which we used only one unit of blood in one patient, so we have gotten it down to an art form”.

“We should look at blood conservation not as an art but as a science,” he added: “No matter how safe we make blood donation, there will always be the risk of disease transmission.”

WEATHER

Friday, 23 September, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, southwest monsoon has withdrawn from the Deltas areas and has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kayin and Mon States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hpa-an 4.02 inches, Mawlamyine 3.98 inches, Tachilek 2.64 inches, Myitkyina 1.69 inches, Ye (1.30) inches, Thayawady and Kyakkkhame (1.10) inches each.

Maximum temperature on 22-9-2005 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 23-9-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity on 23-9-2005 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 22-9-2005 was (2.9) hours approx. Rainfalls on 23-9-2005 were (0.04) inch at Merguiadal, Nil at Kaba Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (18.60) inches at Mawlamyine, (90.47) inches at Kaba Aye and (95.67) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba Aye) was (6) mph from West at (14:55) hours MST on 22-9-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the North and Central Bay and monsoon is feeble elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 24-9-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Tanintharyi Division, Mon and Kayin States, scattered in Kachin and Rakhine States, Bago, Yangon and Ayeawady Divisions, isolated in upper Sagaing Division, Chin, Shan and Kayah States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%. State of the sea: Seas will be slight off and along Rakhein Coast and moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Outlook for sub-seasonal two days: Thundery activities in the southern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-9-2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%. Forecast for Mandalay and Sagaing and Ayeawady divisions for 24-9-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 40%.

Weather outlook for last weekend of September 2005: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Yangon Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay Division.

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Prime Minister sends message of congratulation to Japanese PM

YANGON, 24 Sept — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, General Soe Win, has sent a message of congratulation to His Excellency Mr Junichiro Koizumi, re-elected as Prime Minister of Japan. — MNA

As the three plans are being implemented with added momentum, unprecedented development can be witnessed in the nation. Significant progress has been achieved in urban areas as well as rural regions.

Regional development undertakings discussed

YANGON, 23 Sept — The Government has laid down three development plans — the border areas development plan, the 24 special region development plan, and the plan for five rural development tasks — for cent per cent development of the regions throughout the Union.

As the three plans are being implemented with added momentum, unprecedented development can be witnessed in the nation. Significant progress has been achieved in urban areas as well as rural regions.

At present, five rural development tasks are being undertaken in accord with the guidance of the Head of State with a view to narrowing the gap between urban and rural regions. Hence, rural areas in Rakhine State have made greater progress in political, economic and social aspects.

To inspect accomplishments of five rural development tasks in the rural areas of Rakhine State, Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association in-charge of Rakhine State and also Minister for Transport, arrived at Apaukwa Village in Kyauktaw Township on 19 September.

Rural library opened in Myaungbwe Village, MraukU Township

YANGON, 23 Sept — CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe in-charge of Rakhine State USDA supervised implementation of the five rural development tasks in Myaungbwe Village, MraukU Township on 20 September.

The CEC member addressed the ceremony to present cash donations, stationery, and sports gear for the school through the principal. The wife of the commander also presented cash donations, stationery, and sports equipment; and 14 wellwishers, cash donations through the township education officer.

Next, the minister inspected the multimedia teaching centre of the school. He visited specialists giving medical treatments to patients and comforted them. He also inspected the 16-bed hospital and donated K 1 million to the facility.

 Afterwards, the minister attended the opening ceremony of a library. Officials presented K 100,000 and publications, and Patron of Rakhine State Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Win Nu publica-tions for the library.

On a visit to Sasana Mandaing Monastery in Myaungbwe Village, the minister offered Waso robes to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanda.

In conjunction with the cash donations presenting ceremony, Deputy Head of Rakhine State Health Department Dr Moe Swe, Medical Superintendent of the General Hospital Dr Zaw Win, specialists and physi-cians gave free medical check up and treatments.

INSIDE

All along the thousand-year old history and till now, Myanmars have been the people always upholding their own culture and performing arts, while keeping patriotism and nationalism ever alive and dynamic in their hearts.

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