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 tranquility, 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

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**YANGON, 24 Sept —**
A Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence left here by special flight at 8.30 am today to pay a goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, 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, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon International Airport and other officials.

Senior General Than Shwe, 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, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon International Airport and other officials.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence was accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon International Airport and other officials.

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**Senior General Than Shwe sees off General Thura Shwe Mann on his departure for goodwill visit to Bangladesh**

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**Senior General Than Shwe sees off General Thura Shwe Mann and party at the airport. — MNA**
PERSPECTIVES
Sunday, 25 September, 2005

For total eradication of narcotic drugs

Like other countries, Myanmar has been doing her utmost in the fight against drugs that pose a threat to the entire mankind.

Myanmar has taken the initiative in addressing the drug problem by launching the 15-year Drug Elimination Plan in 1999-2000 with three five-year phases. The first five-year phase met with success. According to a report of UNODC, poppy cultivation in Myanmar declined 13 percent in 2002, 24 per cent in 2003 and 29 per cent in 2004.

The Opium Yield Survey conducted annually in collaboration with the US has also shown a drastic decline of 88 per cent in poppy production in 2004 when compared to 1996 levels. Poppy cultivation also declined 81 per cent for the same period.

The seized drugs are destroyed yearly at a ceremony in Yangon starting from 1990 and it has now reached the 19th time. In the same way, seized drugs and dried poppy bulbs were destroyed in other cities as well as in border areas and it has now reached the 34th time.

The decline in poppy cultivation and production can be attributed to the commitment of the government in the fight against drugs and the active participation of local authorities, national race leaders and local people in the drive. The implementation of the five rural development tasks and the 24 special development zones to improve the living standard of the national races was also a crucial contributing factor.

For successful realization of the second 5-year phase, systematic steps are being taken for ensuring international cooperation and participation of the entire national people.

Learning from the success and challenges encountered during the first 5-year phase, the entire national people are to do their bit with nationalistic spirit for successful realization of the second 5-year phase.

As part of the 15-year Drug Elimination Plan, the New Destiny Project has been introduced since April 2002, and remarkable progress has been made in this regard.

In the meantime, Myanmar is taking effective measures in the fight against stimulants that emerged as a new drug threat. Precursor chemicals for stimulant production are not produced in Myanmar, but they are smuggled in from neighbouring countries.

As neighbouring countries as well as those in the region are contributing their shares in Myanmar’s fight against drugs, it is incumbent upon the entire national people to actively take part in the drive.

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Urban development tasks inspected in Pakokku District

YANGON, 24 Sept — Director-General U Myo Myint of Department of Development Affairs supervised water supply tasks and beautifying of urban areas in townships of Pakokku District on 20 September.

In Yezagyo, the director-general and party inspected water tank, pump station and laying of water pipeline and gave necessary instructions.

On 21 September morning, they oversaw sinking of the tubewell with the use of machine of Department of Development Affairs, construction of the water tank and laying of pipeline in Ward 11 in Pakokku. Next, they inspected beautifying tasks in the urban area.

In Myaing, the director-general heard reports on sinking of 6-inch tubewell and water supply tasks, beautifying tasks in the urban area and upgrading of urban roads presented by Deputy Director (Engineer) U Khant Zaw and officials.

They proceeded to Seikpyu and looked into water supply facilities, keeping the urban pleasant and upgrading of the roads in the town. — MNA

Minister for Information receives Thai guests

YANGON, 24 Sept — Regional Manager Mr Nathapong of Shin Satellite Public Co Ltd of Thailand paid a courtesy call on Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan at the latter’s office on 22 September evening.

Director for Asia and Pacific Region Mr Matthew Oh of New Skies Satellite of Singapore paid a courtesy call on Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan on 23 September afternoon.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises and the head of office.

Visiting Korean artistes meet Myanmar journalists, artistes

YANGON, 24 Sept — Visiting Korean artistes met with Myanmar journalists at the hall of Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road, here, at 11 am today.

First, the Korean artistes extended greetings. Next, they answered the queries raised by the journalists, and expressed gratitude for arrangements for the goodwill visit.

In the afternoon, the Korean and Myanmar artistes cordially exchanged views on matters related to motion pictures and music at Traders Hotel.

Visiting Korean artistes meet local journalists at Myanmar Radio and Television. — MNA
China, Russia hold military consultations in Moscow

Moscow, 23 Sept — China and Russia held the ninth round of military consultations in Moscow on Wednesday and Thursday, and exchanging views on regional security situation, terrorism combat and peace-keeping operations.

During the two-day meeting, Xiong Guangkai, deputy chief of General Staff of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army, discussed with his Russian counterpart Alexandr Skvortsov a variety of international issues of mutual concern and ways of boosting the relations between the two Armed Forces.

Yury Baluyevsky, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, met with Xiong and told him the consultations are important in enhancing mutual understanding, broadening consensus and improving cooperation between the two Armed Forces.

Xiong, for his part, said the two sides reached broad consensus in security situation both worldwide and within the region. He pledged to make joint efforts with the Russian side to further strengthen friendly cooperation between the two Armed Forces.

Brazil to ask WTO to impose trade sanctions on US

BRASILIA, 23 Sept — Brazil will ask the World Trade Organization (WTO) to impose sanctions on the United States due to its failure in meeting a trade resolution, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

A WTO resolution in March asked the US Government to eliminate subsidies on cotton producers and exporters, saying they caused a grave damage to Brazil because of their negative effect on the international price of cotton.

The resolution said the US authorities should take appropriate measures in six months to withdraw the subsidies.

The deadline came on Wednesday, but the United States had failed to take any measure to meet the resolution. According to the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, three programmes subsidizing the US cotton sector are still in effect.

The US assistance programmes "isolate the US producer from market signs and lead to the artificial production of surplus, which, instead of being placed in the world market, produce a downfall of pricing or prevent prices to go up as much as they should," said the Foreign Ministry.

Therefore, the ministry said, Brazil will request authorization from the WTO within the next 30 days to adopt "countermeasures" in the case.

Indonesia to merge state-owned mining firms

JAKARTA, 23 Sept — The Indonesian Government will merge state-owned mining firms PT Aneka Tambang, PT Batubara Bukitama and PT Timah in a bid to improve the performance of the companies, State Minister for State Enterprises Soegiarto said here Thursday.

The minister made the statement during a meeting with the House of Representatives’ Commission VI on trade and industry.

Soegiarto said the merger was part of the government’s plan to revitalize 159 state-owned companies as most of them made little contribution to the Treasury.

He said that the plan to merge the mining firms will be discussed later with other economic ministers.

"As the three companies are listed on the Jakarta Stock Exchange, the mergers must be made through shareholders’ meetings," Sugiharto who was quoted by the state Antara news service as saying. —MNA/Xinhua

Saudi Foreign Minister doubts US policy in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept — The Bush administration, fencing with Saudi Arabia on Iraq, says US policy is working to bring the Iraqi people together politically for the benefit of a united country.

"What they deserve is our support," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said Friday while urging Arab countries to give Iraq the diplomatic and political backing it seeks.

Saudi Arabia’s foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, told The Associated Press on Thursday that the Bush administration did not heed some Saudi warnings on occupying Iraq and that he didn’t believe a new constitution and elections would solve Iraq’s problems.

"Perhaps what they are saying is going to happen," Saud said. "I wish it would happen, but I don’t think that a constitution by itself will resolve the issues, or an election by itself will solve the difficult problems." Saud cautioned that US policies in Iraq risk dividing the country into three separate parts: Kurdish, Sunni and Shia.

"We have not seen a move inside Iraq that would satisfy us that the national unity of Iraq, and therefore the territorial unity of Iraq, will be assured," he said.

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq fighting

BAGHDAD, 23 Sept — Heavy fighting surged Friday in the Euphrates River city of Ramadi, police and hospital officials said, and the US military reported the deaths of two more soldiers among the militant stronghold, scene of nearly one-quarter of 29 American deaths this month.

In Baghdad, a suicide bomber on a public minibus set off an explosives belt as the vehicle approached a busy terminal Friday, killing at least five people and wounding eight, police said.

Also in the capital, gunmen killed a member of the commission charged with ensuring former members of Saddam Hussein’s Baathist regime are banned from the Iraqi government, police said. Thirteen commission members have been killed since it was created two years ago.

The US military declined to say if it was conducting a large offensive against Ramadi, but police and residents have reported heavy fighting there during the past week. Seven service members have died in or near the city since 1 Sept.

"There are 30 to 40 battalion-level operations going on across Iraq on any given day," said Lt Col Steven A. Boylan, a US military spokesman in Baghdad. "What you are seeing is the pattern of operations that we have been conducting almost every day here."

1,912 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept — As of Friday, 23 Sept, 2005, at least 1,912 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,488 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,771 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,375 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. — Internet

Iraqis gather around the remains of an US army armored vehicle destroyed by a road side bomb near Ramadi, Iraq, on 23 September, 2005. — Internet
China calls for talks on Iran nuclear issue

BEIJING, 23 Sept— China Thursday called for the early resumption of talks between Iran and the European Union (EU) to solve the Iran nuclear issue within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"The urgency at present is to resume negotiations between Iran and the EU at an early date," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang.

"The negotiations will help the two sides bridge their differences and finally secure a solution acceptable to all sides," said Qin at a regular news briefing.

Qin urged the parties concerned to take a long-term vision, exercise restraint and continue diplomatic negotiations and settle the nuclear issue within the framework of the IAEA.

"This is conducive to the regional peace and stability and to maintaining the mechanism of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)," said Qin.

Qin said "there is still room for resolving the Iran nuclear issue through dialogue", urging parties concerned to show flexibility and make efforts for an early resolution of the nuclear issue.

"China will work with the international community to play a constructive role in solving the nuclear issue at an early date," Qin added.

The EU on Tuesday circulated a draft resolution to the 35 members of the IAEA Board of Governors. The draft would refer Iran to the United Nations Security Council. But the EU has backed away from its demand on Thursday.

Iran resumed uranium conversion work in August, after rejecting the EU offer to give up its nuclear activities in return for economic and technical incentives. Iran insists that it would never give up legal rights to produce nuclear fuel for fully peaceful purposes. The United States and the EU suspect Iran of developing nuclear weapons under cover of a civilian nuclear programme, a charge rejected by Tehran.

- MNA/Xinhua

India, Sri Lanka set for more trade with new pact

COLOMBO, 23 Sept— India and Sri Lanka are working on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement to prop their bilateral trade beyond its present 1.73-billion-US-dollar level, India's High Commissioner here said.

Indian exports to Sri Lanka were to the tune of 1.3 billion dollars last year while imports from the island nation were valued at 382 million dollars, High Commissioner Nirupama Rao said.

"The five years of the free trade agreement have been a matter of pride for both countries," she said.

Rao said, while opening, jointly with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse a "Made-in-India" trade exhibition here.

"We have miles to go before we can rest", Rao said. Official figures show that the trade gap between the two countries has been narrowing since the free trade agreement.

Prime Minister Rajapakse said he wanted closer cooperation with India and suggested his country should follow closely New Delhi's economic model.

"As time goes on we will buy more from India," the Premier said.

MNA/PTI

Singapore launches nat'l standard for busi. continuity

SINGAPORE, 23 Sept— A national standard on Business Continuity Management was launched by Singapore's Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board (SPRING Singapore) on Thursday.

According to Channel NewsAsia report, this set of technical reference makes clear the requirements for a company to stay resilient in case of a major business disruption so as to recover and continue operations.

Inclusive of the best practices by business continuity management organizations in the United States, Britain and Australia, the standard is expected to help create a safe, secure and reliable business environment in the city state.

The International Organization for Standardization for Standardization (ISO) will develop an international standard in this regard based on the Singapore set, the report said.

Singapore is the first country in the world that adopts a national standard for business continuity.

MNA/Xinhua

Floods kill six Romanians on Black Sea shore

BUCHAREST, 23 Sept— At least six people died in floods which hit southeastern Romania on Thursday damaging hundreds of homes and disrupting traffic on the Black Sea shore towards Bulgaria, state agency Rompres reported.

Torrential rains have swept across the Balkans for most of the summer, killing dozens of people in Romania and its neighbour Bulgaria and causing hundreds of millions of euros in damage to houses, road bridges and crops.

Rompres said the victims drowned in the swollen waters close to the Black Sea towns of Constanta and Tulcea.

Private television Realitatea TV showed images from Costinesti where a national guard unit was rescuing children and elderly people from their collapsing homes.

Local police said a main road was closed linking Romania's biggest Black Sea port of Constanta with the Bulgarian port of Varna.

Meteorologists say more rain was expected over the next few days.

MNA/Reuters

US confirms three State Department contractors killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept— The US State Department said on Thursday that three Blackwater contractors working with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security were killed in bombing attacks in Mosul in northern Iraq on 19 September.

"We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of these men. They were valued members of the State Department family and of our Diplomatic Security team in Baghdad," the State Department said in a statement.

The three private American security guards were killed when their convoy was hit by a suicide car bomb in Mosul.

Overall, more than 1,900 US service members have been killed in Iraq since the Iraq war in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

Spain announces troops withdrawal from Afghanistan

MADRID, 23 Sept— Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero announced Wednesday that all the 500 Spanish troops on humanitarian mission in Afghanistan will be brought home by 12 October.

Addressing the Parliament, Rodriguez Zapatero said the withdrawal began on 21 September because the troops have accomplished their mission including protecting the 18 September parliamentary elections from disruption in the Asian country.

Mourning the death of 17 Spanish soldiers killed in a helicopter crash in August in Afghanistan, Rodriguez Zapatero said they sacrificed their lives for the UN mission.

He also said the Spanish troops have accomplished 40 UN peacekeeping missions, with a total of 2.678 Spanish peacekeepers now in Afghanistan, the Balkans and Haiti.

Spain joined the UN peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan in May 2002.

MNA/Xinhua
Iran hails EU nuclear climbdown as a victory

TEHERAN, 23 Sept— Iran hailed on Thursday as a “significant victory” the European Union’s climbdown from its demand that the UN’s nuclear watchdog report the Islamic state to the UN Security Council.

Mohammad Saeedi, deputy head of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization, said opposition from China, Russia, India and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) stopped the EU sending Teheran to the UN’s highest body for possible sanctions.

“The EU’s withdrawal was a significant victory for Iran,” Saeedi, also a member of Iran’s nuclear negotiating team, told Reuters from Vienna.

The EU has dropped the demand from a revised draft resolution after nearly 15 of the 35 members of the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) governing board, including China and Russia, opposed the EU draft resolution.

Iranian negotiator Javad Vaeedi said Iran’s strong diplomacy pushed the EU to drop its Security Council push.

“Our firm stance, China and Russia’s backing and also a lack of legal basis caused the EU’s withdrawal,” the official IRNA news agency quoted Vaeedi as telling reporters in Vienna.

“As also, as they were not sure about the outcome of the Security Council, they reviewed their draft,” said Vaeedi, Supreme National Security Council’s deputy in charge of international affairs.

Vaeedi warned the EU against including a so-called “trigger mechanism” in the new draft resolution that would set the stage for a referral to the Security Council if Iran resumed activities linked to uranium enrichment or was found to be hiding any more sites from the IAEA.

“If America and the EU include such mechanism in the IAEA’s resolution, ending snap inspections will be part of our strong reaction,” he said, referring to Iran’s current implementation of a protocol giving UN inspectors greater access to atomic sites.

China builds special funds for large heritage sites protection

BEIJING, 23 Sept — China’s top heritage watchdog said that the government will put aside 250 million yuan ($30.86 million US dollars) annually for preserving large heritage sites as from this year.

“We encourage people residing near the large heritage sites to develop economy while protecting heritage sites,” Friday’s People’s Daily quoted Shan Jixiang, director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, as saying.

China now has 30 state-listed cultural heritage sites with each having a size of more than 50,000 square kilometres.

They are scattered in 107 cities and counties across China. The Daming Palace ruins, in northeastern part Xi’an City, which served as capital of a dozen of ancient dynasties in Shaanxi Province, is a typical example of large cultural ruins. The well-preserved cultural site contains lots of archaeological objects, said Shan Jixiang, after a recent inspection to the site.

The government of Xi’an has earmarked 20 million yuan (2.4 million US dollars) in planting trees and dismantling illegal installations adjacent to the ruins. Shan admitted protection of these cultural sites is confronted with many difficulties. Flood, mudflow, landslide and other natural disasters pose a threat to the cultural sites.

“But, the biggest threats are not from environmental or ecological deterioration, but from human activities such as construction of roads and water control projects and operation of rural industries near the cultural sites,” said Zhou Xianfeng, a heritage official with Northwest China’s Shaanxi Province.

Vietnam sees high consumer price index in nine months

HANOI, 23 Sept — Vietnam’s consumer price index (CPI) is estimated to rise to 6.8 per cent in the first 9 months of this year, according to the General Statistics Office Thursday.

The hike is mainly attributed to soaring prices of petroleum products, which raised September’s prices of transport and postal services, construction materials and education services by 3.8 per cent, 1.7 per cent and 1.3 per cent, respectively.

To deal with the situation, the country is focusing on intensifying state management on prices, enhancing goods circulation, eliminating the monopoly of some services and essential commodities, and improving competitiveness of local enterprises.

London bomb suspect leaves Rome prison

ROME, 23 Sept — One of the suspected bombers in the 21 July attacks on London’s transport system left Rome’s Rebibbia prison on Thursday morning ahead of his extradition to Britain, according to a Reuters cameraman outside the jail.

Ethiopian-born Hamdi Issac is expected to be driven straight to a Rome Airport and flown back to Britain later this morning.

US soldier killed in bomb attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 Sept — A roadside bomb exploded near a US military convoy in southern Baghdad on Wednesday, killing a soldier and wounding six others, the military said in a statement on Thursday.

The bomb blast took place at 10:30 p.m. (1830 GMT) in Dora District, the statement said.

The name of the killed soldier was being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement added.

More than 1,900 US soldiers have been killed since the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

Man who shot at UAE envoy in Syria acted alone

ABU DHABI, 23 Sept — A gunman who opened fire on a car carrying the Charge d’Affaires of the United Arab Emirates in Syria was acting alone with no political motivation, the UAE’s official WAM news agency reported.

The UAE diplomat was unhurt in the incident outside the UAE Embassy in Damascus on Monday.

Syrian police later arrested the gunman and a source said he was a former UAE resident who was angry for being expelled from the Gulf state.

Russian State Duma passes 2006 federal budget

MOSCOW, 23 Sept — The Russian State Duma, or the Lower House of Parliament, passed the draft 2006 federal budget Thursday which envisages a budget surplus of 27.7 billion US dollars.

The Duma voted 331-95 in favour of the budget in the first reading, with one abstention, according to the Interfax news agency.

Under the budget, revenues are expected to amount to 5.046 trillion rubles (180.2 billion dollars) and spending is expected to total 4.270 trillion rubles (152.5 billion dollars), thus producing a budget surplus of 776 billion roubles (27.7 billion dollars).

The budget was drafted on the estimated GDP growth of 5.8 per cent and an inflation rate of 7.0-8.5 per cent. Foreign debt is expected to see a drop of 167.8 billion roubles (6.0 billion US dollars) while internal debt will grow by 206.0 billion roubles (7.4 billion US dollars).

Yury Vasilyev, head of the Duma Budget and Tax Committee, told the Duma session that the estimated increase of the federal budget surplus over 2005 worries lawmakers.

“Ashima deputies have pointed to the inaccuracy of the key indicators many times,” Vasilyev said, adding that the inflation rate will likely exceed the forecast figure.
Indian Govt to expand H5N1 surveillance to pets

JAKARTA, 23 Sept— The Indonesian Government unveiled here on Thursday a plan to expand H5N1 avian influenza virus surveillance beyond birds and pigs to other species.

Mathur Riady, director-general of livestock production at the Ministry of Agriculture, said that the surveillance would include domestic animals such as cats. “It’s not impossible H5N1 will also infect rodents,” he quoted by the web site of Jakarta Post as saying. The government warned on Wednesday that the outbreak of bird flu could become an epidemic.

Four Indonesians are confirmed to have died since July from the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of bird flu. Nine other patients suspected of bird flu are now being treated at the Sulianti Saroso Infectious Diseases Hospital in Jakarta. The authorities are still waiting for their test results.—MNA/Xinhua

Sony to cut 10,000 jobs in turnaround plan

TOKYO, 23 Sept— Struggling electronics and entertainment conglomerate Sony Corp. said on Thursday it would cut about 7 per cent of its global workforce as part of a new restructuring plan, and it slashed its full-year outlook.

The inventor of the Trinitron TV and Walkman is struggling to catch up with rivals Matsushita Electric Industrial and Sharp Corp in flat televisions and Apple Computer’s iPod player in the portable music industry.

Sony said it would book 210 billion yen (1.89 billion US dollars) in restructuring charges as it streamlined its operations, and it aimed to achieve a group operating profit margin of 5 per cent in the 2007/08 business year.

The company said it now expected to post a

tail sector are estimated at between 400 million US dollars and 500 million US dollars over the next two to three years, and over four billion US dollars by the end of 2010, it added.

The study said the fast growing middle class population, the rise in women work force and consumerism over the decade were the major forces in driving demand in the retail sector.

MNA/Xinhua

British tobacco firm Gallaher buys into Canary Islands

LONDON, 23 Sept— British tobacco firm Gallaher Group Plc said on Thursday it had agreed to buy Cita Tabacos de Canarias for 85 million euros (104 million US dollars) cash.

Gallaher said it would also assume 20 million euros of debt. Cita makes, distributes and sells cigarettes and cigars in the Canary Islands, Spanish Peninsula and Portugal.

MNA/Reuters

Study says India to have 358 shopping malls by 2007

NEW DELHI, 23 Sept — The retail business in India is set to witness healthy growth in the years ahead with the number of shopping malls in Asia’s third largest economy rising to a staggering 358 by the end of 2007, says a study by Images fashion magazine.

The country has some 100 malls now, with the National Capital Region (NCR) and Mumbai accounting for maximum numbers of the gleaming shopping centres, says the study.

Based on a complete list of shopping centre developments taking place across the country, the projection for listed developments by 2007 is 358, the study, which was made public recently, quoted an expert as saying. According to Images, there are a total of 96 operational malls in India. The number will rise to 158 malls by the end of the current year.

Droves of middle-class Indians have broken off their love of traditional stand-alone Indian stores that have no air conditioning, organized parking and other public amenities. Malls throughout the country are getting bigger as they are now being positioned as a one-stop-shop for shopping, entertainment, leisure and eating-out needs rather than a place only for shopping for fashion products.

Organized retailing is projected to grow at the rate of 25-30 per cent per annum to touch eight billion US dollars by 2005 and 24 billion US dollars by 2010, said the Images study.

Investments in the re-
World Heart Day, an annual event, is being commemorated for the second year in Myanmar by the Cardiovascular Diseases Project of the World Health Organization, under the auspices of Ministry of Health. This year, it falls on the 25th of September and is dedicated to the theme—“Healthy Weight, Healthy Shape”. Globally, more than 1 billion people are overweight, at least 300 million of whom are obese. Incidence is on the rise and it knows no borders; it touches both developed and developing countries, and is increasingly prevalent in children. Energy-dense foods, high in saturated fats and sugars, combined with lack of physical activity are generally responsible for this trend: 60% of the world population does not meet the recommended 30 minutes of daily physical activity. Obesity and overweight have adverse effects on blood pressure, cholesterol, triglycerides and insulin resistance, all of which are risk factors for cardiovascular disease and stroke, which claim 17 million lives worldwide annually.

Aim and Objectives of WHD 2005

World Heart day is the World Heart Federation’s most important advocacy event and a major driving force for encouraging global heart disease prevention. The annual event aims to increase public awareness of the threat of heart disease and stroke and the importance of a healthy lifestyle by promoting preventive measures, so that children, adolescents and adults all over the world can live longer, healthier lives, with a better and longer life.

Under the slogan “A Heart for Life”, WHD is run by the World Heart Federation’s member organizations of 186 medical societies and heart charities, in 100 countries. Activities include heart health checks, walks, runs, jump rope, fitness sessions, public talks, stage shows, scientific forums, exhibitions and sports tournaments.

The WHO, UNESCO and the Sport 2005, the UN’s International Year of Sport and Physical Education are actively supporting this year’s WHD, which will focus on the importance of having a “Healthy Weight, Healthy Shape”, since maintaining a healthy weight and body shape dramatically reduces the risk of heart disease and stroke. Being overweight or obese, particularly if weight is carried around the abdomen, is a leading risk factor for heart disease and stroke, reducing the likely age of a first heart attack by between 4 and 8 years. A worldwide epidemic of overweight and obesity, a decrease in physical activity and increased tobacco consumption, are a forewarning of the rapidly growing epidemic of heart disease and stroke. Since 1990, more people have died from coronary heart disease than from any other cause.

Your health is at risk not only by the amount of body fat you have, but also by where the fat is located. You have an apple shape if you tend to gain weight mostly in the waist (stomach) area. Pear-shaped figures tend to gain weight around the hips and buttocks. Apple shapes have an increased risk of heart disease—so they need to take extra care to maintain a healthy weight.

**Measure your waist, measure your risk**

Measure your waist just above your navel. If you are over 94 cm (37 inches) for a man and over 89 cm (32 inches) for a woman, you are considered at risk. 102 cm (40 inches) for a man and 88 cm (35 inches) for a woman means you are at even higher risk.

**Body Mass Index**

The BMI is an indicator of your level of health relative to your height and weight. BMI = Weight (kilograms) / Height (metres)^2

**Compare your BMI to the chart below to determine your level of risk**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>BMI (kg/m2)</th>
<th>Risk level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underweight</td>
<td>&lt;18.5</td>
<td>Low (but risk of other health problems increase)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal range</td>
<td>18.5-24.9</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight</td>
<td>25.0-29.9</td>
<td>Mildly increased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese</td>
<td>&gt;30</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class I</td>
<td>30.0-34.9</td>
<td>High moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class II</td>
<td>35.0-39.9</td>
<td>High severe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class III</td>
<td>&gt;40</td>
<td>High very severe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How to have a healthy weight, healthy shape**

**Energy balance**

Being overweight is due to more calories being consumed than used. We need to live our lives in “energy balance”. If you need to lose weight, your calorie intake must be less than the calories you burn. Regular exercise and eating a balanced diet will help you to stay fit and burn more calories. Avoid fat foods that offer unrealisitc results and encourage eating (or not eating) specific foods. Remember, if you lose weight gradually, you are more likely to keep it off.

**Healthy eating**

- Adopt a balanced diet including plenty of fruits and vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free products (however take calories into account), unsaturated soft margarines and oils (such as sunflower, corn, rape-seed, olive), lean meat, fish and pulses.
- Restrict salt and sugar intake
- Eat breakfast and make sure to have at least 3 meals per day
- Use healthier cooking methods such as steaming, boiling, grilling and baking instead of deep fat-frying and adding extra fat and develop healthy cooking skills within your family
- Avoid buying sweets and junk food

**Excess weight is a risk**

Extra weight means that the heart has to work harder to supply blood to the body. It significantly increases your risk of heart disease and stroke. In children, excess weight means they are three to five times more likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke before they reach 65.

Excess weight also increases your likelihood of developing other problems which contribute to the risk of heart disease and stroke.

High blood pressure: An overweight person has a 2-6 times greater risk of developing high blood pressure.

High blood cholesterol: Your level of cholesterol is affected by the amount of saturated fats eaten everyday. If you are overweight, you are at greater risk.

Diabetes Type 2: 80% of people with diabetes is overweight.

Stop smoking and avoid smoky environments

New studies show that major health benefits come in as little as 6 weeks.

The objective of celebrating the World Heart Day this year is therefore, to make the Myanmar public aware of the hazards of obesity, the benefits of healthy living (cessation of smoking, healthy diet, regular exercise) and the means to achieve and maintain a “Healthy Weight and Shape”.

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**World Heart Day, 2005**

**Prof Khin May San**

“Healthy Weight and Healthy Shape”
A & I Minister inspects multi-purpose dam projects in Pyu

Yangon, 24 Sept—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo inspected the Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project in Pyinmana Township, Mandalay Division, on 18 September.

Director of Construction-5 of the Irrigation Department U Victor gave accounts on the flowing of water into the dam, water storage of 560,000 acre feet, and letting out surplus water. Paunglaung Division Weir, Chaungmange Dam, and Madan Dam under construction in Lewe Township. Director General U Kyaw San Win gave a supplementary report.

The minister viewed the main embankment, inflow of water, spillway, and maintenance tasks.

Next, he inspected thriving paddy fields around Lewe Township. He attended monsoon paddy transplanting contest at township level at Padaukchaung Village, and presented cash prizes to the winning teams.

On arrival at Pyu Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project in Pyu Township, Bago Division, he heard reports by officials on earth work for the main embankment, construction of diversion tunnel, and arrangements for speedy completion of the construction tasks. He provided assistance for timely completion and inspected the building of the tunnel.

On completion, the concrete tunnel will be 2,477 ft in length and 4 metre in diameter. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe...

(from page 1)

Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, Chair- man of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj- Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, senior military officers and officials. — MNA

Multimedia classroom opened at Kyauktada BEHS

Yangon, 24 Sept — Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein attended the ceremony to open the multimedia classroom at Basic Education High School in Kyauktada Township this morning.

First, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min formally opened the centre. The mayor unveiled the signboard of the centre.

They viewed the multimedia teaching centre and performance of the students.

Headmistress Daw Khin San Win reported on matters related to the centre and Vice-Chairperson of School Board of Trustees Daw Tin Tin Than on the purpose of the donation ceremony of teaching aids.

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YANGON, 24 Sept — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo received Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and Nepalese Ambassador Lt-Gen (Rtd) Victory SJB Rana at the ministry yesterday evening separately. Present on the occasion were Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Director-General U Myat Ko of General Administration Department, Deputy Director-General U Maung Win, Police Col Kham Aung and Head of Office U Kyaw San.

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo receives Ambassador of India Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra.— HOME AFFAIRS

YANGON, 24 Sept — USDA CEC member Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended the annual meeting of Myaungmya District USDA at Myaungmya BEHS yesterday morning.

The CEC member gave a speech. Next, he presented gifts to five six-distinction winning students who passed the matriculation examination for 2004-05 academic year. Officials also presented gifts to other outstanding students. Col Thein Nyunt accepted cash donations for the District USDA from wellwishers and gave away certificates of honour to them. The Annual Meeting 2005 of Myaungmya District USDA followed.

Afterwards, the CEC member minister proceeded to Yekyi. At the hall of the Township USDA, he met with the secretary, executives and organizers, and heard their reports. Next, he attended to their needs.

In Kyonpyaw, the CEC member also met with the secretary, executives and organizers of Kyonpyaw Township USDA at the township association office. Likewise, the CEC member called on Hinthada District USDA U Nyunt Hlaing and executives, and secretaries of Kyangin, Ingapu, Myanaung, Laymyethna Township USDAs.

YANGON, 24 Sept — USDA CEC member Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivered an address at the meeting on development of Ingapu Township at the Township PDC Office yesterday.

The CEC member attended the Ingapu Township USDA Annual Meeting 2005 at the city hall in Ingapu.

In Mezaligon, he heard reports on construction of Bo Aung Kyaw Hall by local people and attended to the needs. — MNA


MNA
USDA CEC members, Deputy Health Minister inspect development in all aspects of Kwammoedein Village of Kayan Township

Emergency and Out-patient Department commissioned at Kayan Township Hospital

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presents cash donations for Phyo Myitta Health Care Association in Kayan township to Yangon South District USDA Secretary U Lwin Oo. (YCDC)

Health Dr Mya Oo, CEC member in-charge of Yangon Division Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and party supervised regional development tasks being carried out under the leadership of Kayan Township USDA, Yangon South District, yesterday morning.

While in Kayan, they attended the ceremony to open emergency and Out-patient Department built by wellwisher U Than Tun formally opened the building. They inspected the one-storey emergency and Out-patient Department measuring 36 feet by 20 feet built at a cost of K 6.5 million.

Next, they viewed sanitation tasks, spraying pesticide and weeding tasks being carried out at the hospital by members of USDA, social organizations, nurses and hospital staff, totalling 300. They inspected units of the hospital and functions of medical store, and gave instructions to Medical Superintendent Dr Myint Swe and departmental officials.

At the office of the department, the ceremony to hand over the emergency and Out-patient Department to the Ministry of Health was held. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the ceremony to set up the funds for organizing Phyo Myitta Health Care Association was held. The CEC member Mayor gave a speech. At the ceremony, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and wellwisher U Than Tun formally opened the building.

Similarly, the mayor, the vice-mayor and the deputy minister accepted K 2.87 million donated by 23 wellwishers including K 210,000 for the association by departmental members concerned in Kayan Township; K 200,000 by Shwe Chinthay bus owners association; and K 100,000 each by donors.

They inspected the one-storey emergency and Out-patient Department commissioned at Kayan Township Hospital by members of USDA, social organizations, nurses and hospital staff, totalling 300. They inspected units of the hospital and functions of medical store, and gave instructions to Medical Superintendent Dr Myint Swe and departmental officials.

At the office of the department, the ceremony to hand over the emergency and Out-patient Department to the Ministry of Health was held. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the ceremony to set up the funds for organizing Phyo Myitta Health Care Association was held. The CEC member Mayor gave a speech. At the ceremony, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presented K 3 million to Kawhmu Township, K 500,000 to Kungyangon Township and K 1.1 million to Kayan Township through Yangon South District USDA Secretary U Lwin Oo.

Under the arrangement, a medical team comprising ear, nose and throat specialist Dr Khin Maung Than, Ophthalmologist Dr Kan Nyunt, Paediatrician Dr Ye Myint Kyaw, Physiotherapist Dr Christopher, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist Dr Khan Lay Kywe, Surgical specialist Dr Ye Lwin, Physician Dr Daw Khin Thein and physicians, specialists, Medical Superintendent Dr Myint Soe of Kayan Township Hospital and staff, Head of Yangon South District Traditional Medicine Department Daw Nyo Nyo and traditional medicine practitioners together with members of USDA and social organizations made a field trip to Nyaung-binkwin, Kyonmay, Wunlaywa, Ba-gantauang, Pandaw-gyaung, Shwe-bosu, Kayinsu, Swe-daw-kwin, Thetkei, Letpadan and 12 wards in Kayan.

The physicians gave medical treatment to 296 patients; the surgical team 24 patients, the obstetrician and gynaecologist team 23 patients, the paediatrician team 77 patients, the ophthalmologist team 184 persons, the ear, nose and throat specialist team 74 patients, the physiotherapy team 72 patients, the dentist team 18 persons, the traditional medicine practitioners team 86 persons and the nutrition team 42 persons, totalling 847. (See page 11)
USDA CEC members, Deputy Health …

Yangon Division WAO Daw San Myint the ac-
tivities of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs
Organization to local peo-
1,323 people are residing
in the village. Monsoon
paddy are thriving on 430
acres of farmland. The
local people have the taste
of economic growth not
only from monsoon
paddy cultivation but also
from horticultural and
livestock breeding farms.
Furthermore, the
village is being supplied
power by a generator with
30 HP. At present, local
people enjoy local and
international TV pro-
game programmes through satel-
tile receivers. In addition,
the village has improved
with the library, a dispens-
sary and telecommunica-
tion.

Due to concerted

efforts of USDA and de-
partments concerned in
harmoniously carrying out five rural develop-
ment tasks, remarkable
progress has been made
in economic, social,
health and transport sec-
tors of the village. MNA

YANGON, 24 Sept—
Myanmar Women’s Af-
fairs Federation General
Secretary Prof Dr Daw
Khin Mar Tun met with
National Director Mr
Roger Walker of World
Vision Myanmar and
party at the MWAF of-

ce, here, on 22 Septem-
ber afternoon.

They discussed ac-
tivities of the Federation,
tasks of education, health
and uplift of women’s life.
Also present at the
meeting were Joint Gen-
eral Secretary Daw Khin
Htar May and Secretariat
Member Dr Daw Thet
Thet Zin. — MNA

Cordially greets nurses in Kwammoedein Village of Kayan Township.

The area of
Kwammoedein Village of
Kayan Township is 2
square-miles. A total of

Mr Roger Walker of World Vision Myanmar and party at the MWAF of-

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eral Secretary Daw Khin
Htar May and Secretariat
Member Dr Daw Thet
Thet Zin. — MNA

Annual charity gala dinner of Summit Parkview Hotel held

Yangon, 24 Sept —
The annual charity gala dinner
of Summit Parkview Hotel was held at the Grand Ball
Room of the hotel yesterday.
Present were guests and of-
ficials of companies,
tour operators, entrepreneurs and persons from the
media.

General Manager Mr Alex Wang explained the
purpose of the dinner and arrangements for donations
of cash to social organizations.

The audience were entertained with songs and
dances and there was a lucky draw for the guests.

Summit Parkview Hotel presented cash to
Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association
last year. This year the hotel will present K 2.5
million fetched from the sale of the tickets for the
dinner to MMCWA. — MNA

General Manager Mr Alex Wang of Summit Parkview Hotel speaking at Charity Gala Dinner.

Objectives of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— To vitalize patriotism and nationalism;
— To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage;
— To perpetuate 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.

MWAF General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun of MWAF receives National Director Mr Roger Walker and party of World Vision Myanmar. — MWAF

CEC member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin cordially greets nurses in Kwammoedein Village of Kayan Township. — MNA

CEC member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and officials view health activities in Kwammoedein Village of Kayan Township. — MNA

CEC member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and officials view health activities in Kwammoedein Village of Kayan Township. — MNA

In providing health care services to the rural people, Executive of Yangon Division USDA U Aung Myint explained the public welfare tasks, Deputy Director-General U Aye Myint of No 3 De-
partment of Basic Educa-
tion the educational func-
tions, Joint-Secretary of
Yangon Division Mater-
nal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Dr Nwe Ni Ohn the tasks of MMCWA, Head of Yangon South District Health Department Dr U Zaw Win the functions of the Ministry of Health, Leader of Girl/Adult Working Group of

Village USDA Organizer U Saw Hlaing handed over 2,100 membership applications to Yangon Division USDA execu-
tive U Aung Myint.

Likewise, USDA members carried out spraying of pesticide at the village library, the rural dispensary, the
Dhammayon and BEMS and their environs.

CEC members the
mayor and the vice-
mayor, and the deputy
director minister donated 72 doz-
ens of exercise books
worth K 100,000 to Head-
mistress Daw Than Yi
and students of
Kwammoedein BEMS.

The area of
Kwammoedein Village of
Kayan Township is 2
square-miles. A total of

...
Typhoon “Saola” nearing Japan, may skim capital

TOKYO, 23 Sep — A typhoon bearing down on Japan could approach the Tokyo region at the weekend, the country’s Meteorological Agency said on Thursday.

Typhoon Saola was 240 kilometres (149 miles) southeast of the tiny southern island of Chichijima at 6:00 pm (0900 GMT), buffeting the area with winds of up to 126 kilometres an hour, the agency said.

The storm is expected to gather strength as it moves northwest at 30 kilometres (19 miles) an hour towards Japan’s main islands.

The agency said Saola will swing to the northeast, but added it could pass over seas just to the east of the capital, bringing strong winds and heavy rain to the area on Saturday or Sunday.

An average of two to three typhoons make landfall on Japan’s main islands each year. Earlier this month, Typhoon Nabi left more than 20 people dead and missing when torrential rain triggered landslides in western Japan. Japan’s Meteorological Agency was aware that other agencies were forecasting a different path for the storm that would take it directly across western Japan, an official said.

“We consult forecasts from various countries, but our conclusion is that the storm will stay in the sea east of Japan,” the official said. — MNA/Xinhua

Hong Kong issues tropical storm signal

HONG KONG, 23 Sept — Hong Kong on Thursday issued standby signal No 1 although tropical storm Damrey is still some distance from Hong Kong.

The Home Affairs Department warned people to take early precautions against the tropical storm.

The storm was estimated to be about 670 kilometres east-southeast of Hong Kong at 4 pm and maximum sustained winds at its centre are about 85 kilometres per hour.

Damrey is already affecting Hong Kong with hazy. And isolated showerers are expected this evening. — MNA/Xinhua

Close contact could see humans spread bird flu

JAKARTA, 23 Sept — The growing number of people with bird flu-like symptoms in Indonesia does not mean the outbreak is becoming worse, and there is no sign the virus can be passed easily among people, top UN health experts said on Thursday.

Alarm has spread in populous Indonesia after four people died and with now 10 are under observation in the capital.

But there is no evidence the H5N1 virus has mutated into a form that could trigger a pandemic, said Thid Georg Petersen, the World Health Organization’s Indonesia representative.

Nevertheless, he pointed to the possibility of transmission through very close contact with an infected person.

“I think very close contact with a sick person might infect that caretaker. That is why in hospitals we need to take all precautions ... That would be in a way a human-to-human transmission, but that demands close, close contact,” he said.

“Anyone someone coughs and you get it ... that would be much more what we would call transmission from human to human.”

Petersen said the case of a father and his two daughters who died in the Tangerang suburb of Jakarta in July might have involved “within-family transmission”.

Thailand had reported a probable case of human-to-human transmission in September 2004, when a 26-year-old woman died of bird flu after “prolonged face-to-face exposure” with her daughter, who was hospitalized with the virus. — MNA/Reuters

Natural disasters claim 24 lives in Vietnam

HANOI, 23 Sept — Natural disasters, mainly floods, storms and lightnings have killed 24 people and injured nine others in Vietnam’s Mekong Delta region since the flooding season starting in mid-August.

Among localities being hit by the disasters, An Giang Province is the worst affected with 11 fatalities, vice-head of the Central Steering Committee on Flood and Storm Prevention, Do Ngoc Thien, told Xinhua on Thursday.

The disasters have also damaged nearly 2,000 houses and inundated over 1,800 hectares of rice and subsidiary crops in the period, he added.

In a move to prevent natural disasters and minimize their effects, Vietnam this year is building 37 reservoirs and dams in the central region and tightening management over mangrove forests and sand dunes.

It was reported that last year, natural disasters killed 232 people and left 38 missing, injured 187 others, destroyed 4,200 houses and 3,000 hectares of rice, and killed over 2,000 cattle and 170,000 poultry in Vietnam, causing a property loss of over 900 billion Vietnamese dong (some 57 million US dollars).

Nguyen Van Trung, 13, takes his lunch while playing internet games at an internet cafe in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 23 September, 2005. A 24-year-old Vietnamese man in Ho Chi Minh City was hospitalized in serious condition after playing online games all day, a doctor said on Friday. — Internet

AVIC I forecasts China’s aviation market to grow at high speed

BEIJING, 23 Sept — China Aviation Industry Corporation I (AVIC I) Thursday issued its forecast for China’s aviation market from 2005 to 2024, putting the annual growth rate at 8.4 per cent.

According to the forecast, along with the continuous growth of the economy, the fast growth of tourism and Chinese foreign trade, and deepening of civil aviation reform, the future air transport market will also increase at a high speed. It forecasted that from 2005 to 2024, passenger turnover would increase by 8.4 per cent annually, and would reach 890.2 billion person-kilometres in the year 2024. Cargo/post turnover would increase even more by 11 per cent annually and reach 57.9 billion ton-kilometres.

The rapid growth of Chinese air transportation market has brought a great demand for aircraft. It is forecasted that in 2024, China will have 3,165 civil aircraft, including 1,896 large passenger planes, 821 regional planes, and 448 freighters. The regional aircraft fleet under 100 seats will increase to 754 units.

Taking into consideration the market demand required by the increasing transport volume and the retirement of existing aircraft, 2,541 aircraft will be needed for replacement of existing fleet in the next 20 years. Among those are 77 units of 400 seaters, 250 units of 300 seaters, 338 units of 200 seaters, 802 units of 150 seaters, 276 units of 110 seaters and 798 units of regional aircraft.

Promoted by the rapid GDP growth, higher level of consumption, and air deregulation in China, China’s air traffic grows at a much faster speed than the average level of the world and the position of the industry has been improved within the global transportation system.

The total turnover for 2004 and passenger turnover and the cargo/post turnover have risen respectively to the world’s third ranking, at a growth rate of 35 per cent, 41 per cent and 24 per cent as compared with the previous year.

The market demand for regional aircraft, including 1,896 passenger craft, 2,541 aircraft will be needed for replacement of existing fleet in the next 20 years. Among those are 77 units of 400 seaters, 250 units of 300 seaters, 338 units of 200 seaters, 802 units of 150 seaters, 276 units of 110 seaters and 798 units of regional aircraft.

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MNA/Xinhua

Holiday makers face with a giant shark as they wait for people come down the inflatable “Jaws” slide at an amusement park in Yokohama, southwest of Tokyo, on 23 September, 2005, Autumn Equinox Day, a national holiday. — Internet
Elite universities accept fewer state school pupils

LONDON, 23 Sept — The number of state school pupils entering Britain’s universities has dropped, with some of the lowest figures coming from elite colleges like Oxford and Cambridge, according to data published on Thursday.

The percentage of young entrants to full-time degree courses in 2003 who had attended state schools was 86.8 per cent, down from 87.2 the year before.

The figures resulted in a series of damning headlines about the government’s education policy with the Times declaring “State schools in crisis.”

Oxford, the percentage of state school students was 53.8 per cent, down from 55.4 per cent the year before, while University College London and Imperial College also fell well short of the government’s 75-per-cent target for the proportion of state school students they should be taking.

At Cambridge, the state school intake slipped to 56.9 per cent in 2003 from 57.6 previously, according to the figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

But both Oxford and Cambridge criticized the criteria used to set the benchmarks and Oxford said the proportion of state school pupils it had admitted rose in 2004.

Oxford said applications from the state sector had risen by 40 per cent over the past five years but admitted there was still room for improvement.

“We will continue to try to achieve a higher proportion of maintained (state) sector students by increasing applications from the maintained sector,” the university said in a statement.

“We will not be exercising any positive discrimination at this stage.”

Cambridge said the government’s benchmark for entry was “unrealistic” for the stiff qualification requirements of universities such as it and Oxford.

The two universities have so many good applicants they are forced every year to turn down around 10,000 students with three or more A grades at A-level.

Harry Potter trumps all at US best seller awards

NEW YORK, 23 Sept — JK Rowling’s latest book Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince sold more than twice as many copies in the United States in its first two weeks as any other author’s book in a whole year.

The latest in Rowling’s series about a boy wizard won the Best Seller Award for the top-selling book in America in the year to 1 August, even though it only went on sale on 16 July.

It tallied 6,397,000 copies was more than double the nearest challenger, DanBrown’s The Da Vinci Code, which sold 2,261,000, according to Nielsen BookScan, the sponsor of the awards, which were presented on Thursday in New York.

Organizers said the awards, which were presented for the first time this year, are the first to be based entirely on consumer sales.

“Now politics, no judges’ panels. They are very simply a true celebration of consumer choice,” said Jerome Kramer, editor of The Book Standard, which presented the awards.

Awards were presented in 100 categories, from the mainstream to the more esoteric such as Romance: Time Travel, Self Help: Sexual Instruction and Mystery and Detective: Women Sleuths.

In the main categories, The Da Vinci Code won the award for adult fiction and Brown’s previous novel Angels & Demons was the best-selling mass market paperback.

Jon Stewart and the writers of The Daily Show won the adult non-fiction award for their spoof text book “Americas (The Book),” which sold 1,544,000 copies.

Among the other winners were Rick Warren’s The Purpose-Driven Life in the adult religion category with sales of 1,329,000 copies, and Khaled Hosseini’s The Kite Runner which was the best-selling debut novel.

Floods in India’s Andhra Pradesh kill 63

NEW DELHI, 23 Sept — Even as the number of deaths due to heavy cyclonic rains and subsequent floods in India’s Andhra Pradesh rose to 63 on Thursday, water level in the two rivers of the state again began to rise again, Press Trust of India (PTI) reported from capital city Hyderabad.

According to PTI, even before the people in 10 districts of the state could get some respite from the rains and floods of the last four days, water levels began to rise in the two rivers threatening to submerge several towns and villages.

The government estimates have put the death toll to 63. The rains have also caused the state treasury losses to the tune of 18 billion rupees (about four billion US dollar).

Though reports Wednesday said the Godavari and Krishna rivers had begun to recede, the situation turned worse as heavy rains lashed neighbouring Maha-rashtra State.

Copious rains in the state were bringing huge inflows into Krishna, causing problems to Nizamabad and Karimnagar districts of Telangana.

The weather department had predicted heavy rains in the telangana region of the state in the next 24 hours. However, work is on in full swing to restore road, rail and air traffic, disrupted due to the incessant rains, from coastal areas.

While railway authorities succeeded in repairing some damaged tracks in Warangal District, the roads and buildings department faces a huge challenge in restoring traffic on Hyderabad-Vijayawada road.

The floods have washed away a vast stretch of the national highway near Vijayawada.
Nuno Gomes double leads champions
Benfica to victory

LISBON, 24 Sept— Nuno Gomes hit two goals to guide Portuguese Premier League champions Benfica to a 3-1 win at Penafiel on Friday.

Benfica’s second successive league victory pushed them up to seventh in the table with seven points from five games. Porto, Braga and Nacional Madeira lead the way on 10 points.

The visitors went ahead when striker Gomes scored following a goalmouth scramble in the fifth minute. Captain Simao Sabrosa doubled the lead seven minutes later with a shot on the rebound after his 20-metre free kick hit the defensive wall.

Penafiel pulled a goal back with nine minutes left when midfielder Marco Ferreira headed in a cross from Pedro Araujo. But Gomes, who scored a hat-trick against Uniao Leiria last Sunday, put the result beyond doubt with a powerful shot in the 84th minute.

Benfica’s win will boost their confidence ahead of Tuesday’s Champions League game at Manchester United.

Indonesian Open Badminton tourney

JAKARTA, 24 Sept— Unseeded duo Lee Wan Wah/Choong Tan Fook of Malaysia continued to produce unpredicted wins in the six-star Indonesia Open Badminton Tournament and advanced to the semifinals by beating higher-ranking teammates here Friday. Their impressive play has begun since the opening day when they outplayed famous pair Flandy Limpele/Eng Hian of Indonesia.

After losing in the first game to the Indonesians, Lee/Choong miraculously came back from 8-14 to win the second game 17-15 despite discouraging shouting from the home crowd.

Having lost the precious match point, Flandy/Eng could not do much to overcome the Malaysians and surrendered 10-11 in the deciding game.

Lee and Choong, whose combined age is 59 years, again upset local spectators by outplaying famous pair Flandy Limpele/Eng Hian of Indonesia.

Wenger worried about Henry’s future with Arsenal

LONDON, 24 Sept— Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger claimed on Friday that he is unsure if Thierry Henry will stay at Arsenal next season due to new FIFA rules regarding player contracts.

"I can’t say Henry will be at Arsenal next season," said the Arsenal boss. "Under the new FIFA rules, a player can move without permission of any club."

"But I must say we’re still in September. Our desire and motivation to keep Thierry is one hundred per cent strong."

Under the new FIFA rules the 28-year-old Henry who has two years left to run on his current contract, could theoretically pay off his final year’s salary to move next summer.

Wenger has given Henry, who has been repeatedly linked with a move to Barcelona, a deadline of the end of the year to sort out his future.

Wenger added: "How many times have Barcelona won the European Cup? Once. Moving there doesn’t give you any guarantees at all. They’re a massive club but have won it just once."

"We want Thierry to be here and are very ambitious. We want to win the European Cup like Barcelona and Juventus want it."

"The only thing I can say is that I have always shown faith in Thierry."

"We have not spoken or opened any negotiations because we respect the fact that he has other worries due to injury, but we are confident we will get to an agreement with him." — MNA/Xinhua

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

7 Ship’s holding device
8 PG Wodehouse character
10 Help forward
11 Article of bric-a-brac
12 Surfeit
13 Ardent
17 Past
18 Nothing
22 Inmate
23 Miser
24 Wandering
25 Acrimonious

DOWN

1 Rush about wildly
2 Tentacled sea-creature
3 Punctuation mark
4 Planet
5 Turn side
6 University in Birmingham
9 Less than complete
13 Four-pronged spear
15 Meals
16 Miracles
19 Frequently
20 French river
21 Once more

New Mexico State’s quarterback Joey Vincent (4) passes in the first half on 29 Sept, 2005, against California in Las Cruces, NM. — INTERNET

China Open WTA tennis tournament

BEIJING, 24 Sept— Chinese teenage duo Sun Shengnan and Liu Wanting earned their chance of reaching the semifinals at the China Open WTA Tennis Tournament but failed to make it against Spaniardur Maria Vento-Kabchi from Venezuela here on Friday.

Liu and Sun, pairing with each other for less than a half year, lost 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 in one hour and 57 minutes to the 118-ranked Vento-Kabchi and MNA/Xinhua

"We had no thoughts during the match," said Sun.

Sun Shengnan, the former Junior double champion of Australian Open in 2004 pairing with Chan Yung Jan from Taiwan, served in the fifth game of the third set, but the slow and inexperienced Liu performed a terrible net play to give up the decisive game before losing the deciding point with being broken thrice.

"We’ve been too slow in returning and made too much errors. My racket went out for the ball, but my paces could not keep up with it, and that made the errors," said the depressed Liu.

"I don’t think Liu played terrible, but I hope she can become more active when playing close to the net," commented Sun. — MNA/Xinhua

Germany’s Anna-Lena Groenefeld returns the ball during her semifinal match against Poland’s Marta Domachowska at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing on 24 Sept. 2005. Groenefeld won 7-5, 6-3 to advance to the final. — INTERNET

Nieves to be out for six weeks

LONDON, 24 Sept— Manchester United defender will sit out the next six weeks as the England man has been sent for a groin operation.

Neville had been making good progress from the injury he picked up against Debrecon in UEFA Champions League qualifying in August, but has suffered a setback which has necessitated the need for surgery.

"Gary went in for an operation last night and his loss is a big blow for the lad and for us," United manager Sir Alex Ferguson said on Friday.

"We feel it’s better to get the situation sorted now and have him back for the rest of the season."

Injuries are starting to bite at Old Trafford, with Gabriel Heinze and Roy Keane long-term absentees, and the loss of experienced defender Neville in what is a key stage of the season will be a major set-back for Ferguson.
Two more Singaporeans die of dengue

SINGAPORE, 23 Sept — Two more Singaporeans, a 55-year-old woman and a 61-year-old man, died of dengue in August and September respectively, Channel News Asia reported as of 17 Septem- ber. The daily number of cases has almost kept above 100 since early Sep- tember, which registered 136 between 3:00 pm on Wednesday and 3:00 pm on Thursday. To tackle the serious dengue situation in the city state, an Inter-Ministerial Committee was formed on 9 September, while an extra 30 million Singapore dollars (about 18 million US dollars) have been al- located by the government.

Government agencies were partnering communi- ties to carry out search- and-destroy campaigns over the recent weekends to ‘carpet-comb’ possible mosquito breeding places nationwide.

Singaporeans are also urged to perform a ten- minute, five-step routine check everyday to free their homes from mosqui- toes.

A total of 9,459 dengue cases were re- ported for the whole of last year in Singapore.

Mr Big (Pre-Primary School)

Ravi Raj Bharadwaja @ Ko Tu Tu beloved son of late Sri VV Bharadwaja & Daw Khin Mya Oo of No 76, 123rd Street, MTNT, nephew of Miss V L Bharadwaja, beloved brother of Rishi Bharadwaja @ U Than Htut (Fisher Scientific UK/Triplex Trading Co Ltd)-Daw Aye Aye Myint, Ruhindra Nat Bharadwaja, Daw Mewa Bharadwaja (SES Health Care) -U Win Lwin (Dawn Light Co Ltd), Daw Neela Bharadwaja (BEC), passed away peacefully on 13-05-05 hrs. Cremation will take place at Yewya Hindu Cemetery on 25-9-05.

The cottage will leave the above address at 14.00 hrs 2 pm.

Bereaved family

In memory of late Daw Kyi Kyi, a daughter of Row Manager U Ba Ohn-Daw Di of Myingyan and daughter-in-law of Railway Station Superintendent U Kauk Phyuak.

Daw Neye Sein of Meiktila, husband U Ko Lay presents K 100.000 to Secretary Maj Aung Than (Rtd) of Adminis- tration Board of Hainingzong Home for the Aged. — it

Flood Bulletin

Issued at 12.30 hr MST on 24-9-2005

According to (06:30) hr MST observation to- day, the water level of Sittoung River at Madak in (107) cm. It may fall below danger level (107) cm during the next (24) hour commencing noon today.

Weather report

Sat., 24 September, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeawaddy and Tanintharyi Divisions and widespread in the remain- ing areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin and Mon States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Ye (5.7) inches, Thanbyuzayik (3.0) inches, Hkamti (1.9) inches, Thaton (1.72) inches, Hpa-an (1.61) inches, and Mawlamyne (1.53) inches.

Maximum temperature on 23-9-2005 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 24-9-2005 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 24-9-2005 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 23-9-2005 was (6.9) hours approx. Rainfalls on 24-9-2005 were nil at Mingladon, (0.08) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.59) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2005 were (87.60) inches at Mingladon, (90.55) inches at Kaba-Aye and (96.26) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from West at (17.15) hours MST on 23-9-2005.

Bay influence: 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 25-9-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Di- visions, rain or thunderstorms will be isolated in Chin, Shan and Kayah States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Yangon, Ayeawaddy and Tanintharyi Divisions, widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Thundery ac- tivities in the southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-9-2005: Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-9-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder- storms. Degree of certainty is 45%.

Sunday, 25 September

Tune in today:

9:00 am: Documentary - How to prepare your love; National Personal

9:20 am: Musical - Hanging onto your love; National News

10:00 am: Mental programme; National News

11:00 am: Musical programme; National News

11:20 am: Musical programme; National News

11:30 am: Round up of the week's International

5:15 pm: National military

6:00 pm: Dance of national races

5:30 pm: Nat. News

12:00 am: National News; National News

12:20 pm: Festival - National News

12:30 pm: Festival - National News

1:00 pm: Festival - National News

2:00 pm: National News

2:20 pm: Musical programme; National News

2:35 pm: National News

3:00 pm: News; National News

3:15 pm: News; National News

3:30 pm: News; National News

4:00 pm: News; National News

6:00 pm: News; National News

6:15 pm: News; National News

6:30 pm: News; National News

6:45 pm: National News; National News

7:00 pm: News; National News

7:15 pm: News; National News

7:30 pm: News; National News

7:45 pm: News; National News

8:00 pm: News; National News

8:15 pm: News; National News

8:30 pm: News; National News

9:00 pm: News; National News

9:15 pm: News; National News

9:30 pm: News; National News

9:45 pm: News; National News

10:00 pm: PEL

Po Po (a) Ma Khin May Kyaw 14 years

Grade-9 (B) BEHS -22, Mandalay

Granddaughter of U Kyaw Hlaing and Daw Khin Than of Yomentawung Ward, Maha Aungmye Township, Mandalay; niece of Brig-Gen Tun Tun (Myanmar Military Attaché to Russian Federation) and Daw Khin Thaung Nwe, Sergeant Clerk Zaw Myint (Lashio) and Daw San Win, U Aung Than (Secretary, Singu Township Peace and Development Council) and Daw Nwe Nwe (Staff Officer, Planning Department), U Ye Myint and Daw Moh Moh (Industry-1 Win Thuzar), U Tun Thein and Daw Thet Thet (BEHS 25); beloved daughter of U Naing Naing (Assistant Factory Manager, Industry-1) and Daw Mar Mar Win of Mandalay passed away at 2.10 pm on 23-9-2005. Funeral was held at 1 pm on 24-9-2005 at Kyangyan Christian Cemetery.

Bereaved family

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Sustained endeavours to be exerted for success in convening National Convention, very first phase for transforming nation into democratic one

National Convention Convening Commission holds meeting 5/2005

Although internal and external destructive elements are hindering the convention, all the difficulties and problems will be overcome due to the genuine goodwill of the Government and enthusiastic participation of the people.

Li-Gen Kyaw Win and wife attend farewell party of Chinese Ambassador

Li-Gen Kyaw Win being greeted Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun. — MNA

YANGON, 24 Sept — The National Convention Convening Commission held its meeting No 5/2005 at Kyaikkasan Ground here this afternoon.

It was attended by NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Vice-Chairman Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members.

Joint-Secretary (2) Director-General of the Pyuthan Office U Myint Thein acted as MC.

The chairman in his speech said that with respect to the resumption of the National Convention at the end of 2005, the Commission has held meetings to deal with matters for the NC. Now, it has discussed most of the necessary measures.

Since the previous convention, the delegates have submitted proposals on division of executive and legislative powers to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution and gone over them. So, measures will have to be taken for laying down detailed basic principles at the forthcoming National Convention. He said that he has already disclosed on the last day of the previous NC that matters relating to these sectors such as adopting basic detailed principles and the remaining chapters will be discussed at the session of NC to be reconvened.

Now, the functions of the NC have made progress to an extent. Nevertheless, certain elements inside and outside the nation and foreign broadcasting stations are manufacturing slanderous fabrications against the NC.

Although they are doing so to disrupt the convention, the Government has declared the drive for transition to democracy, and sustained endeavours are thus to be exerted for achievement in convening the National Convention, part of the State’s seven-point Road Map, as it is of crucial importance as well as the very first phase for transforming the nation into a democratic one.

Although internal and external destructive elements are hindering the convention, all the difficulties and problems will be overcome due to the genuine goodwill of the Government and enthusiastic participation of the people.

It is believed that the ultimate desire of the public — building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation — can be translated into reality soon. In conclusion, he exhorted the NCCC, Work Committee and Management Committee to try their utmost to successfully complete the NC that will resume at the end of this year.

Members of the Commission held a general round of discussions regarding steps to achieve success in convening the NC and to adopt detailed basic principles at the forthcoming convention to be included in framing of the State Constitution.

The chairman assessed the discussions and delivered concluding remarks.

MNA

Li-Gen Kyaw Win and wife attend farewell party of Chinese Ambassador

YANGON, 24 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, and wife Daw San San Yi arrived at a hotel where they were welcomed by Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun.

Next, the Chinese Ambassador extended greetings, and hosted dinner to Li-Gen Kyaw Win and wife San San Yi and guests. — MNA