Senior General Than Shwe welcomes General Thura Shwe Mann and delegation on return from Bangladesh

YANGON, 26 Sept — The Myanmar Delegation led by member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence arrived back here by special aircraft this evening after paying a goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. They were welcomed 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 (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council 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 the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

Senior General Than Shwe sends congratulatory message to Governor General of Canada

YANGON, 27 Sept — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a congratulatory message to the Right Honourable Ms Michaelle Jean, on the occasion of her appointment as the 27th Governor General of Canada. — MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe welcomes General Thura Shwe Mann at Yangon International Airport on his return from Bangladesh. — MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back General Thura Shwe Mann at Yangon International Airport on his return from Bangladesh. — MNA

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

Tuesday, 27 September, 2005

**Give priority to public health for national development**

The State Peace and Development Council is implementing the national health policy by fulfilling the requirements for the health sector in accordance with one of the four social objectives — uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation. Therefore, the number of healthy and well-nourished children, mothers and would-be mothers in the nation is on the increase.

The Ministry of Health is also implementing the projects for eradication of malnutrition and for emergence of healthy lifestyle among the people and for control of diseases such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. On 17 September, nutrition development contest of mothers and children and health talks were held at the city hall in Kengtung, Shan State (East).

Majority of the national people live in rural areas. Therefore, special priority has been given to health care services especially in the rural areas. To make sure that rural people in states and divisions are well nourished, ferrous tablets were given to pregnant women and vitamin A pills and other vitamin tablets to children who are between six months and five years old since the year 2000, children have been given vitamin A pills together with oral vaccination against polio and measles.

Child mortality rate in 1990 was 130 out of 1,000 infants who were born alive and, in 2003, that rate was reduced to 66.6 in every 1,000 infants born alive. The Ministry of Health is taking measures to reduce the child mortality rate by two-thirds in 2015.

In 2003, half of the health projects were successfully carried out due to concerted efforts of health staff and the public. We would like to call on the health staff and the people to continue working in concert for health of children and expectant mothers, for only with healthy children and mothers will it be possible to turn out intellectuals and intelligentia who can contribute to the constant development of the nation.

**Minister for Foreign Affairs arrives back**

**Yangon, 26 Sept**

— Head of the Myanmar Delegation and Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win arrived here by air yesterday evening after attending the High-Level Plenary Meeting and the General Debate of the Sixtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York.

The minister was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Acting Resident Coordinator to UN Mr. Tang Zhengping, Directors-General and responsible officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.


The minister also attended the Informal Meeting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers, the second ASEAN-UN Summit, the High-Level Plenary and Round Table Discussions, Asia Cooperation Dialogue, the Non-Aligned Movement Heads of Delegation, the Group of 77 Annual Meeting of the Foreign Ministers and the Meeting of the International Committee for the Development of Lumbini.


**Maubin District USDA holds annual general meeting**

**Yangon, 26 Sept**

— Central Executive Committee Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt yesterday attended the annual general meeting of Maubin District USDA and called on USDA members to participate in implementation of nation-building tasks joining hands with social organizations and people.

In his address made at the meeting, he also urged USDA members to assess the district USDA’s tasks carried out last year.

During the discussion of the meeting, the minister and officials presented prizes to outstanding members of Maubin District USDA who passed the matriculation examination with distinctions.

During the second session, the meeting passed two resolutions and confirmed one approval.

Afterwards, the minister went to Takauk Village in Maubin and Hsuganan Village in Kyakktaw Township and viewed free medical treatment given to local residents.

As part of the measures for development in rural areas, mobile medical teams provided free medical treatment to local residents at Takauk Village in Maubin Township and Hsuganan Village in Kyakktaw Township.

Two medical teams gave medical treatment to a total of 120 locals in Takauk Village and 142 in Hsuganan Village respectively.

At the ceremonies, social organizations also distributed exercise books and pencils to local students in two villages. During his tour of Maubin district, the minister met with members of Kyakktaw Township USDA and urged them to participate in regional development tasks.

**CEC member Minister Col Thein Nyunt delivers an address at the annual general meeting of Maubin District USDA. — MNA**
Russian Parl't leader praises closer Sino-Russian eco ties

Dalian, 25 Sept—Sergei Mironov, Speaker of the Russian Federation Council, said on Saturday in this coastal city of northeast China's Liaoning Province that economic and trade ties between the two countries have been "further strengthened".

At the invitation of Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), Mironov kicked off his three-day official good-will visit to China by touring Dalian as his first leg.

Addressing the Sino-Russian Forum of Regional Economic and Trade Cooperation, Mironov said the trade volume between the two countries topped 20 billion US dollars in 2004 and it is expected to grow "at a fairly high pace" this year.

While welcoming Russian and Chinese entrepreneurs to beef up their in-depth cooperation, Mironov expressed the hope that the governments of the two countries should cooperate well with regard to immigration policy, border trade, taxation, environmental protection and education.

Both parliaments should "play a still more active role" in promoting regional trade, he said.

Mironov and his entourage, who have come to China on a return visit to top legislator Wu Bangguo's trip to Russia last year, are expected to meet with Chinese President Hu Jintao, and Premier Wen Jiabao during their two-day stay in Beijing.

MNA/Xinhua

Blair admits Iraq guerilla war worse than anticipated

London, 25 Sept — Prime Minister Tony Blair has admitted that the guerilla war in Iraq was more ferocious than he had anticipated, but insisted British troops would remain until the job of nation building was done.

"I didn't expect quite the same sort of ferocity from every single element in the Middle East that came in and was doing their best to disrupt the political process," Blair said Sunday when asked by BBC television if he had expected the task to be so difficult. However, Blair said he would have taken the same decision now as before to join the US-led invasion to overthrow Saddam Hussein because the future of Iraq was "crucial for our own security and for world."

Blair did not confirm a report in the Observer newspaper that Britain and the United States would present a document to the Iraqi parliament next month for British troops to begin withdrawing as early as May.

"I have not heard that," Blair said.

He said the report may just be referring to long-held discussions between the US-led coalition and Iraqi government about the level of multinational troop contributions as Iraq's own security capability grows.

"The timescale (for withdrawal) is when the job is done," Blair said.

Internet

Iraq violence leaves at least 29 dead

Baghdad, 26 Sept — A wave of new violence in Iraq, including a suicide bombing and a deadly armed robbery, left 29 people dead and scores wounded on Sunday. Four bodies were also found.

Unknown gunmen killed two security guards as they were on their way to deposit money at the Al-Rashed bank in the western Baghdad neighbourhood of Mansoor, stealing $850,000 from two Ministry of Finance cars, Baghdad emergency police said.

Nine others were wounded in the incident about 1:30 pm on Sunday, in which the gunmen opened fire on the guards from five cars, authorities said.

It was only the latest occurrence in a violent day. Earlier, 10 Iraqi militiamen were killed early Sunday in clashes with US forces in the Sadr City section of Baghdad, Iraqi police sources told CNN.

The clashes apparently broke out between 2 and 4 a.m. Sunday (6 and 8 pm Saturday) between US troops and the Mehdi Army over detention of a number of the organization's members, authorities said.

As of 4 am, US forces retreated, police said, and calm was restored.

A spokesman for the US military brigade in charge of Sadr City said it was investigating reports of clashes between 1914 US military members killed in Iraq since beginning of the war

Washington, 25 Sept — As of Sunday, 25 Sept, 2005, at least 1,914 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, 1,776 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
Annan asks 11 countries to sign and ratify CTBT

NEW YORK, 25 Sept — Citing heightened global anxiety over nuclear weapons, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Friday urged 11 countries, including India, Pakistan and the United States to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Expressing alarm that countries whose ratification is essential for the treaty to enter into force had still not acted, Annan said the longer the pact is delayed, the greater the risk that some- one, somewhere, will test nuclear weapons.

"The treaty was opened for signature nine years ago," he told the fourth conference on facilitating its entry into force.

"But after nine years, the treaty is still not in force. We should all be gravely concerned about that."

It would be a major setback back to the cause of non-proliferation and disarmament if someone tests nuclear weapons, he said, noting that although the vast majority of the States — 176 in all — have signed it and 125 have ratified it, 11 of the 44 who must ratify the treaty for it to enter into force still had not done so.

States who have not done so are India, China, Colombia, North Korea, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, United States and Vietnam.

Kenya warns foreign envoys to stop reckless utterances

NAIROBI, 25 Sept — Kenyan Foreign Minister Chirau Ali Mwakwere on Friday warned foreign envoys not to pronounce themselves casually on important government policies.

In a statement, Mwakwere asked foreign envoys with evidence on corruption or any allegation to submit such information to the anti-corruption authorities for swift investigation.

"The government does not expect foreign envoys to pronounce themselves important government policies casually and with contempt," Mwakwere said.

"It has been repeatedly stated that any allegations or evidence of corruption should be submitted to the anti-corruption agencies, which will subject the investigative process in observance of the rules of natural justice and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty," he said.

The minister was reacting to Press reports attributed to German Ambassador to Kenya Bernd Braun that the government lacked commitment in the fight against corruption.

"We have yet to see concrete reforms and commitment in the fight against corruption," Braun said. "They are going for small fish and we want to be big names. I have yet to see the big names being taken to court," the German envoy said.

Gunmen loot large amount of money in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 Sept—Unidentified gunmen attacked a Finance Ministry minibus in western Baghdad on Sunday, looting a large amount of money and wounding seven security guards, police said.

"Armed men in two vehicles ambushed a Finance Ministry minibus carrying a large amount of money near Abu Jaafar al-Mansur Square in Mansur district in Western Baghdad," Captain Ahmed Abdullah told Xinhua.

The attackers clashed with the seven guards aboard the minibus, wounding all of the guards, and then drove the minibus, he added. It was not clear how much money was looted.

US troops clash with Iraqi Shiite militiamen east of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 Sept—US troops clashed on Sunday with militiamen from Mehdi Army led by Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in the Sadr City, east of Baghdad, a source from the Interior Ministry told Xinhua.

"The clash has lasted about one hour and a half so far, but no other details are available now," the source added.

Earlier reports said that "US forces stormed the eastern part of Sadr City at about 2:00 am on Sunday (2200 GMT Saturday) to arrest Mehdi army leaders, prompting fierce clashes with Mehdi militiamen."

The clashes left at least eight militiamen dead and the US troops withdrew without arresting any of Mehdi leaders, an Interior Ministry source said.

A US military spokesman confirmed the incident, saying there was no casualty among the US soldiers.

In 2004, two major clashes erupted between Sadr's Mehdi militia and US forces, backed by Iraqi government troops, in the holy Shiite city of Najaf, some 160 km south of Baghdad.
Iran rejects IAEA resolution

TEHERAN, 25 Sept — Iran said on Saturday that a resolution adopted by the UN nuclear watchdog accusing Teheran of violating international nuclear safeguards was unacceptable.

“The resolution is unacceptable and illegal. The Europeans even failed to get a consensus on it,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi was quoted as saying by the student news agency ISNA.

“It is very unusual for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to vote on a decision, so the adoption by vote this time showed that there is no consensus against Iran’s peaceful nuclear programme,” Asefi added.

The spokesman added that Teheran would provide its reaction to the resolution after studying it in detail.

Asefi’s comments came hours after the 35-member IAEA Board of Governors adopted a draft resolution presented by the European Union on Iran’s nuclear case by a vote of 22 to 1 with 12 abstentions.

The resolution fell short of calling for immediate referral of Iran’s case to the UN Security Council, but accused Iran of breaching international nuclear safeguards and committing suspicious nuclear activities, which had “given rise to questions that are within the competence of the Security Council”.

Iran’s top delegate to the IAEA Javad Vaeidi said in Vienna so on after the adoption that the failure of the EU’s attempt to get a consensus showed that it was confronted with “the world resistance”.

“The United States and Britain also failed to send Iran nuclear dossier to the UN Security Council, and they will be defeated in stopping nuclear fuel cycle by Iran,” Vaeidi said.

US Army soldiers make abuse claims in Iraq, Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 24 Sept — A US Army captain and two sergeants recounted in a Human Rights Watch report on Friday how Iraqi inmates near Fallujah were beaten with a baseball bat, stacked clothes in pyramids, deprived of food and water and put in painful positions until they fainted.

“The United States and Britain also failed to send Iran nuclear dossier to the UN Security Council, and they will be defeated in stopping nuclear fuel cycle by Iran,” Vaeidi said.

“We would give them blows to the head, chest, legs, and stomach, pull them down, kick dirt on them. This happened every day,” said one sergeant in a statement in the report.

“A US Army captain and two sergeants recounted in a Human Rights Watch report on Friday how Iraqi inmates near Fallujah were beaten with a baseball bat, stacked clothes in pyramids, deprived of food and water and put in painful positions until they fainted.

“The United States and Britain also failed to send Iran nuclear dossier to the UN Security Council, and they will be defeated in stopping nuclear fuel cycle by Iran,” Vaeidi said.

We heard rumours of (prisoners) dying so we were careful,” MNA/Reuters

“Saola” nearing Japan with heavy rain

TOKYO, 25 Sept — A typhoon, packing winds of up to 90 miles per hour, was approaching Japan and expected to dump heavy rain in the Tokyo area on Sunday, the Meteorological Agency said on Saturday.

Typhoon Saola was about 240 miles south of Hachijo Island in the Pacific Ocean, or about 560 miles south of Tokyo, at noon (0300 GMT) on Saturday, the agency said.

The storm was moving north towards Japan’s main island of Honshu at 5.3 mph, it said.

Tropical storm “Damrey” affects Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 25 Sept — Tropical storm Damrey affected Hong Kong with strong wind and heavy rain on Saturday.

According to Hong Kong Observatory, the centre of severe tropical storm Damrey was estimated to be about 290 kilometres south-southeast of Hong Kong, near 19.8 degrees north and 114.9 degrees east.

Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No 3 is in force, although the storm is expected to skirt Hong Kong.

Two US troops hurt in Afghan roadside blast

KABUL, 25 Sept — Two US soldiers were wounded by a roadside bomb in the Afghan south, while there were conflicting reports on the whereabouts of a Taleban commander earlier believed to have been surrounded, officials said on Saturday.

The Taleban failed to disrupt legislative elections last Sunday when voting was largely peaceful across the country but more than a dozen people have been killed in attacks since then.

The US military said the two soldiers were wounded when their vehicle was struck by a bomb while they were on patrol northwest of the southern city of Kandahar on Friday.

Eight insurgents fired on the patrol after the blast and three of them were later captured, the US military said in a statement. The two wounded men were in stable condition.

Further north, in Urguzan Province, Governor Jan Mohammad Khan said a Taleban commander, Mullah Dadullah, who was believed to be surrounded by US and Afghan Government forces was now thought to have escaped into neighbouring Helmand Province.

“We have contradictory information about Dadullah. Some people say he has escaped towards Helmand,” Khan said.

The US military said at least 10 insurgents and an Afghan Government soldier had been killed in the fighting in Urguzan that began on Thursday.

US air support, including attack helicopters, had been involved against insurgents who used heavy machineguns, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, a US spokesman said. The fighting was the heaviest since the elections.— MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

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Wu Yi meets Brunei Crown Prince

SULAIMAN (Brunei), 26 Sept—Visiting Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi on Saturday met, on separate occasions, with Brunei Crown Prince Haji Al Muhtadee Billah and Brunei Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah.

The two sides expressed willingness to work together to promote their friendly cooperative relationship as good neighbours. Wu said that China and Brunei have been friendly neighbours since ancient times and bilateral relations have been developing smoothly since the two countries established diplomatic ties.

Wu spoke highly of the contributions made by Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and other Brunei royal family members to promoting bilateral ties. Muhtadee Billah said that Brunei cherishes its traditional friendship with China and is committed to developing a friendly relationship with China.

On another occasion, Brunei Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Mohamed Bolkiah said that Brunei is willing to further expand economic and trade cooperation with China, including boosting bilateral trade value to one billion US dollars by 2010.

Wu arrived here Friday on an official visit to Brunei and is scheduled to leave for home Sunday. She is on a three-nation trip, which has already taken her to Singapore and Thailand.—MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi motorbike suicide bomber kills 6

BAGHDAD, 26 Sept — A suicide bomber on a motorbike killed himself and six other people when his motorbike exploded on Sunday in the mainly Shiite city of Musayyib, south of Baghdad, police said.

Nineteen people were wounded in the blast. The killings followed a day of violence across Iraq where the Shiite- and Kurdish-led government and its US backers are facing a Sunni Arab insurgency, with daily bombings and shootings reported.

Earlier on Sunday a suicide car bomber attacked an elite Iraqi police unit in Baghdad, killing 13 commandos.

Ten were also wounded, police said. That bomb followed clashes overnight between US troops and Shiite militiamen loyal to cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in the eastern Baghdad district of Sadr City.

South of the capital, in Hillah, a bomber on a bicycle blew himself up in a crowded vegetable market, killing four people, including a woman and a child, and wounding 48, police said.—MNA/Xinhua

Two Pakistan road accidents kill 39, injure 150

HYDERABAD (Pakistan), 26 Sept—At least 39 people were killed and more than 150 injured in two road accidents within hours of each other on the same stretch of highway in Pakistan’s southern Sindh Province, officials said on Sunday.

In the first accident, 32 people were killed on Saturday night when a bus carrying pilgrims returning from a shrine in Sehwan collided with another carrying medical college students to the same shrine, said Attaiullah Chando, a local police officer.

Sehwan, nearly 300 kilometres (200 miles) northwest of Karachi, houses the shrine of a famous Sufi saint, Lal Shahbaz Qalandar, and thousands visited the site in the past few days for an annual ritual.

Some 120 people were also injured in the accident, which occurred on the Indus Highway, nearly 280 kilometres (180 miles) from Karachi, Chando said.

In a later pre-dawn accident, seven people were killed and 43 injured when two buses caught fire after colliding 220 kilometres (140 miles) from Karachi, police and relief officials said.—MNA/Reuters

FM says Russia to remain great power 15 years on

MOSCOW, 26 Sept — In the next 15 years, Russia will remain a great power and its status on the international arena will continue to rise, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Saturday.

In an interview published in the latest issue of Majjordoom magazine, Lavrov said a priority in Russia’s foreign policy is to ensure socio-economic development of the country, improve the people’s wellbeing and create favourable conditions for the security of borders and for the businesses operating abroad.

Asked what countries will be on the list of big powers 15 years later. He said China, India, the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region, the Association of South-East Asian Nations member states, and most of Latin American nations will likely be successful in their development.

Lavrov said Russia’s potential is "comparable to the prospects that are opening to other countries". Lavrov also stressed the importance of the economic component in modern diplomacy.—MNA/Xinhua

Afghan Army captures two suspected militants

KABUL, 26 Sept—Troops of Afghan National Army (ANA) made captive two suspected Taleban operatives in southern Zabul Province on Saturday, Defence Ministry spokesman said on Sunday.

"Troops of ANA in a clean up operation conducted in Khak-e-Afghan district yesterday captured two enemy fighters," Zahir Azimi told newsmen at a press conference in Defence Ministry compound.

A large number of arms and ammunitions including four assault Kalashnikov rifles were also seized from their possessions, he added. Zabul, a hotbed of Taleban over the past four years has been the scene of increasing clashes between militants and US-backed Afghan troops over the past several months.

A US military helicopter was also crashed in Zabul Sunday killing all five on board.—MNA/Xinhua

Irrigation projects to be funded

ALMATY (Kazakhstan), 26 Sept—Kazakhstan will implement a number of irrigation projects worth US$100m in the next three years, the chairman of Kazakhstan’s state irrigation company, Kazagro, said on Saturday.

The projects are planned in the country’s south, where the irrigation system is underdeveloped, said Adil Dzenzibekov, chairman of Kazagro.

He said 27 irrigation projects worth US$103m were planned for the country’s southern regions.

"We will implement 24 of them by the end of this year," he said.—MNA/Reuters

Iraqi judge seeks arrest of British soldiers

BASRA, 26 Sept — An Iraqi judge has issued arrest warrants for two British soldiers freed after a British raid in Basra, an Iraqi lawyer said on Saturday, and thousands rallied in the southern city in support of a new Constitution.

Judge Raghib Hassan issued the warrants on Thursday, accusing the men of killing an Iraqi policeman and wounding another, carrying unlicensed weapons and holding false identification, Kassim al-Sabti, the head of the lawyers’ syndicate in Basra told Reuters.

Britain’s Ministry of Defence said the warrants had no legal basis.—MNA/Xinhua

Five US soldiers were killed when a military helicopter, similar to the one pictured here, crashed in strife-torn southeastern Afghanistan, but there were no signs it was brought down by hostile fire, the US military said.—INTERNET
Goodwill of State and ardent efforts of people of Ayeyawady Division

Moe Htet Myint (Delta Region)

The Ayeyawady River that rises and flows 1,055 miles in Myanmar is a reliable water resource of the nation. Before emptying into the sea, the river turns itself into many branches at its mouth. The Ayeyawady Delta, the heart of Ayeyawady Division, serves as the engine for national development.

During his inspection tour of Pathein, the capital of the Division, on 7 June 2003, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that Ayeyawady Division was the most reliable one in all aspects among the states and divisions in the nation. It achieves success in the agriculture and livestock breeding sectors, and its paddy sown acreage is over one-fourth of that of the entire nation.

He said that blessed with the most fertile soil, the region has prospects for boosting agricultural production. It is endowed with natural lakes and adjacent to the sea, and has favourable conditions for developing its livestock breeding sector through fresh water and sea fish and prawn farming.

Ayeyawady Division plays an important role in the economic sector of the nation. It is therefore required to fully harness the natural resources of the region so as to further contribute towards national development, he said.

Apart from 1,300 miles of roads in total, the division has been served with a good number of river-crossing bridges, that was just a dream in the past. Now, almost all the townships in the division are easily accessible by road. Pathein-Monywa Highway, the longest and widest of its kind except Yangon-Mandalay Highway in the nation, has helped ensure equitable development of the townships on the eastern and western sections of the division.

As part of the drive for its all-round development, the division is doing its utmost for meeting the target of 3.6 million acres of monsoon paddy and 1.7 million acres of summer paddy, and for extended cultivation of all suitable crops including the ten major crops.

In addition to the dams, the Government has built many sluice gates for prevention of sea water from entering some parts of the farmland of the division. On completion of the river water pumping projects in the region, it will be able to extend its influence over a large portion of the region.

In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, the region is making arrangements for putting 100,000 acres under rubber by 2007-2008.

The division contributes towards over half of summer paddy acreage and over one-fourth of monsoon paddy acreage of the nation, effectively helping to meet the target of the nation’s paddy output of 1,200 million baskets.

It is making progress in the tourism industry with the emergence of Chaungtha and Ngwe Hsaung beach resorts.

The Government has designated Pathein, Hinthada and Maubin regions in the division as special development regions and facilitated them with educational institutions and hospitals to bring about human resources.

Kyangin Cement Plant in the division is running at full capacity to meet the target of 360,000 tons of cement for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. The plant gets raw material limestone from Htonkyauktaung, from which about 90 million tons can be exploited. Since 1975-76, about 10.2 million tons of limestone has been mined from the deposit. The reserve limestone deposit of Natmeetaung, two miles south from Kyangin Htonkyauktaung, can produce 11 million tons of limestone.

Now, sizeable oil and gas deposits have been discovered in Ayeyawady Division and seismic surveys are being conducted in Kyaukseikyuk region covering Nyaungdon, Maubin and Delwaye Townships, and Zabargyisan region in Kungyangon Township.

Thanks to the harmonious combination of the Government’s genuine goodwill to the people and ardent efforts of local people, Ayeyawady Division has enjoyed fruitful results of rapid development, while standing as the granary of the State.

Translation: MS
(Manya Amin, Kyemon: 26-9-2005)

Minister for Forestry receives Indian Ambassador

Brig-Gen Thein Aung meeting with Indian Ambassador

Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra at his office on Thirmingalar Lane, Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road this morning.
Managing-Director of Myanmar Timber Enterprise U Win Tun, Director-General of Forest Department U Soe Win Hlaing, Deputy Director-General U Aye Myint Maung were present at the call.—MNA

Director-General inspects development tasks in Sagaing Division

YANGON, 26 Sept—Director-General of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Myo Myint, accompanied by officials concerned, on 19 September inspected work being carried out for beautifying and greening the town and water supply in townships, Sagaing Division.

At the office of the Township Development Affairs Committee in Sagaing, the director-general heard reports presented by officials on steps being taken for beautifying and greening the town and attended to the needs.

At the office of Myitkyina Township DAC, the director-general met with staff and stressed the importance for beautifying and greening the town. Next, he looked into the nursery of the committee and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at ChaungU, the director-general viewed the nursery of the Township DAC. After that, he met with staff at the office of the Township DAC and gave instructions on beautifying and greening tasks.

In Monywa, the director-general looked into the nursery, staff quarters and measures for water supply and fulfilled the requirements.—MNA

Entertainments on 1-2 October at National Theatre

YANGON, 26 Sept—As a gesture of hail ing the 13th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions, entertainments including dances and dramas will be performed at National Theatre on 1-2 October. Artists, actors and vocalists will participate in the entertainment.

Vocalists of Myanmar Music Association will also entertain with songs. The organizing committee of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions and Ministry of Culture organized the entertainments. Tickets are available at the National Theatre.—MNA
USDA Secretary-General inspects regional development tasks in Thazi Township

YANGON, 26 Sept — Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo on 24 September paid homage to Sayadaw U Tiloka of Hmankyaueng in Magyipinpu Village, Meiktila Township and presented offertories.

Next, the Secretary-General met departmental officials, USDA members and local people and gave instructions on regional development tasks. He next made cash donations for renovation of the BEPS in the village.

After that, the Secretary-General and party paid homage to Lawkayannaing Pagoda already renovated.

At the BEPS in Kontaung Village, Thazi Township, the minister presented exercise books for students to the headmistress of the school.

Afterwards, the Secretary-General inspected Kontaung Dam renovated by local people, USDA members and staff of the Irrigation Department and water inflow of the dam.

Next, he met with local people and USDA members at the village and stressed the need for them to engage in regional development tasks as well as agriculture and water supply tasks. Later, Chairman of Thazi Township Peace and Development Council U Aye Lu expressed thanks for renovation of the dam, saying that with the emergence of the new dam extended cultivation of monsoon paddy as well as greening tasks can fully be undertaken.

After giving instructions on regional development tasks, the Secretary-General urged local authorities, departmental officials, USDA members and local people to make strenuous efforts for development of education, health, transport and economic sectors in rural regions and fulfilled the requirements.

Education Minister addresses fourth administration board meeting of SEAMEO CHAT

YANGON, 26 Sept — The opening ceremony of the fourth administration board meeting of SEAMEO CHAT took place at the meeting hall of the seameo Regional Centre for History and Tradition here this morning with an address by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt, the directors-general of the department under the ministry, the chairman of Myanmar Examinations Board, the rectors, members of administration board of ASEAN nations, the ambassadors of foreign missions in Myanmar, the director of SEAMEO CHAT, officials and others.

Minister Dr Chan Nyein made an opening address.

Next, Director Dr Edilberto C de Jesus of SEAMEO Secretariat explained matters on administration of SEAMEO CHAT and the ceremony ended. The meeting continues tomorrow.

--MNA

Thaketa Township Blood Donors’ Association’s signboard unveiled

CEC member of USDA Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung addresses annual general meeting of Thaketa Township USDA.—FORESTRY

YANGON, 26 Sept — Signboard of Thaketa Township Blood Donors’ Association was unveiled this morning in the presence of Union Solidarity and Development Association CEC member Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

At the ceremony, Secretary of Yangon East District USDA U Zaw Aung and a blood donor who has donated blood 113 times unveiled the signboard.

Afterwards, CEC member attended the annual general meeting of Thaketa Township USDA.

At the ceremony, the CEC member and officials presented prizes to outstanding USDA members and blood donors. CEC Member Brig-Gen Thein Aung and wellwishers also contributed K 25,000 to the fund of the township USDA through an official.

--MNA

Millionaire Sale Promotion 2005 concludes

YANGON, 26 Sept — The closing ceremony of Millionaire Sale Promotion 2005, co-sponsored by Han Myanmar Import & Export Trading and Falcon Lubricants Co in conjunction with a get-together took place at Traders Hotel here yesterday evening. It was attended by the officials of companies concerned, sales agents and guests.

Managing Director U Thein Naing of Han Myanmar Import & Export Trading delivered an address and presented prizes to best selling agents at the promotion. The best selling agents were also given lucky draws. After holding lucky draws programmes for the Millionaire prize, Manager of Han Myanmar Import & Export Trading U San Htay expressed thanks and the ceremony concluded.

--MNA

Managing Director U Thein Naing presents a prize to a best selling agent.

--MNA
General Thura Shwe Mann calls on...
(frompage 16)
At the meeting, they frankly discussed matters on strengthening of friendship between the two armies and bilateral cooperation.

After the meeting, General Thura Shwe Mann and Lt-Gen Moeen U Ahmed exchanged souvenirs.

Afterwards, General Thura Shwe Mann signed for a documentary photo to-gether with Lt-Gen Moeen U Ahmed, PSC and party.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party went to Armed Forces Division in Dhaka where they were welcomed by Principal Staff Officer Maj-Gen Aim Mustafa Reza Noor, ndc and officials.

At Armed Forces Division, Maj-Gen Aim Mustafa Reza Noor, ndc extended greetings and briefed General Thura Shwe Mann and party on Bangladeshi Army.

General Thura Shwe Mann exchanged souvenirs with Maj-Gen Aim Mustafa Reza Noor, ndc and signed in the visitors’ book.

On 24 September morning, General Thura Shwe Mann laid a wreath at the memorial to fallen heroes in Dhaka.

In the afternoon, General Thura Shwe Mann and party went to Postogola harbour and went sightseeing of Buri Ganga River in a water craft. Afterwards, General Thura Shwe Mann and party visited Bashundhara City Tower in Dhaka.

In the evening, General Thura Shwe Mann and party met with Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Thein Myint and satt of Myanmar Embassy at the ambassador’s residence.

Minister U Soe Tha at Yangon International Airport on his departure for Laos.—MNA

YANGON, 26 Sept — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha yesterday evening flew to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic to participate in the 37th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting.

The meeting is scheduled on 26-30 September in Vientiane.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyin, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chanthy Bodhisane and officials saw off Minister U Soe Tha at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw addressing the opening ceremony of office applications computer course.—MNA

Minister U Soe Tha seen at Yangon International Airport on his departure for Laos.—MNA

President of Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation Daw Mi Mi Khin addressing the coordination meeting for organizing the 7th State and Division Myanmar Traditional Boxing Competition (Novice) at the hall of Aung San Stadium (Grand Stand) on 25 September.—NLM

Sports Minister hands over sports gear to CICS (Upper Myanmar)

YANGON, 26 Sept — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint on 23 September went to Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in Zibngyi, Mandalay Division, and donated sports gear worth K 300,000 to the institute through the rector of the institute.

On 24 September, Central Executive Committee Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended Wetlet Township USDA’s annual general meeting for 2005 held at the office of the township USDA.

At the meeting, the minister awarded the outstanding USDA township USDA members who passed the matriculation examination for 2005 academic year and won prizes at Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions.

After the meeting, the minister went to No 1 Basic Education Post Primary School in Wetlet and inspected construction of the new school building. The building is 90 feet long and 30 feet wide. The government allocated K 5.8 million for the construction of the building and local people also contributed K 2 million to the construction fund. The minister provided 200 bags of cement for the construction and donated exercise books and sports gear to the school.

During his tour of Wetlet Township, USDA CEC Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint met with members and organizers of Wetlet Township USDA. After hearing reports at the meeting, the minister fulfilled the requirements. Afterwards, the minister watched the final match of Wetlet Township USDA’s Trophy soccer championship on 24 September and awarded the trophy and presented cash award to Shweponga Village Team who became champion team.

MNA

CPT Ministry conducts courses

YANGON, 26 Sept — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thwin Zaw this morning attended the opening ceremony of office applications computer course (windows), office applications advanced course, microwave communications course & the course on data communication held at the Telegraphs and Postal Training School of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

The minister made an opening speech on the occasion. The courses are being attended by 76 trainees.—MNA
International forum on social security convenes in Beijing

BEIJING, 26 Sept — The 1st International Forum on Social Security convened here on Saturday. More than 200 scholars from China, Japan and South Korea attended the forum.

Han Qide, vice-chairman of the China’s National People’s Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, sent a congratulatory message to the forum, saying that China has initiated reform on social security system for more than 20 years and has achieved remarkable achievements in this field. The country is now probing a new social security model to meet the demands of social development and socialist market economy.

He said the improvement of the medical security system should be taken as the work priority. Currently, the medical insurance system in urban areas only covered some citizens, while many citizens could not afford the medical fee. To offer adequate medical services to every citizen has turned to be one of the urgent tasks for the country’s economic and social development.

Zhang Meiyong, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), made a keynote speech at the opening ceremony. She said the fact that a majority of Chinese did not enjoy adequate social security demonstrated that China’s social security system lagged far behind the economic and social development and China had much work to do to fulfil the goal of letting every citizen enjoy social security in the first two decades of the new century.

She said the government should build up a unified social aid system for both urban citizens and rural residents so as to let them equally enjoy social welfare. Efforts should also be made to ensure the aged, disabled, women and children enjoy more social welfare.

More than 200 scholars will discuss such topics as endowment insurance, medical security and social security at the two-day forum, which was sponsored by the Social Security Research Centre of China under the Renmin University of China.

Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay presents cash and exercise books to a student at the ceremony to present stipend organized by Bahan Township MCWA Yangon West District on 26-9-2003. — MNA

SAS in Iraq reportedly monitoring infiltration from Iran

LONDON, 26 Sept — The two British special forces soldiers dramatically freed in an attack on an Iraqi police station this week were part of a team monitoring militant infiltration from Iran, the Sunday Times said.

Citing an unnamed source, the newspaper said special forces troops had been based near the southern city of Basra for weeks tracking the suppliers of armour-piercing roadside bombs believed to have come over the nearby border with Iran. “Since the increase in attacks against UK forces two months ago, a 24-strong SAS team has been working out of Basra to provide a safety net to stop the bombers getting into the city from Iran,” the source was cited as saying. “The aim is to identify routes used by guerrillas and either capture or kill them.

The two Special Air Service (SAS) troopers were operating undercover when they were approached by Iraqi police, and fired on the police before being arrested.

Under Iraqi law the police are supposed to immediately hand over British troops they arrest to the local police commander refused, according to Britain’s Ministry of Defence. British forces surrounded the police station, but negotiations for the men’s release stalled and a mob with petrol bombs attacked and set fire to British armoured vehicles.

It later emerged that the two had been handed over to local militia members. As armoured vehicles bulldozed their way into the police station, soldiers freed the two men from a nearby house.

The incident soured relations between British officials — who have suffered 95 deaths in their southern Iraqi area of operations — and the local Iraqi authorities.

Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay presents cash and exercise books to a student at the ceremony to present stipend organized by Bahan Township MCWA Yangon West District on 26-9-2003. — MNA

Emerging powers demand greater sway over fund bank

WASHINGTON, 26 Sept — Fast-growing Asian nations on Saturday demanded more power in global financial institutions, but whether their calls would be the catalyst for real change was unclear despite backing from major powers.

The debate over control of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, weighted in favour of industrial powers, took on new momentum as US Treasury Secretary John Snow acknowledged the structure of the IMF should better reflect the current global economic reality.

But Snow offered no concrete solutions to an issue that is a source of growing tension within the IMF and a dominant theme at the semi-annual meetings of the World Bank and IMF, which began in Washington on Saturday.

IMF chief Rodrigo Rato has pushed the issue to the forefront of proposed reforms for the global lender, but has acknowledged he has limited influence over what is essentially a decision for politicians.

The quota system, which dictates how much clout a member country has in the lender’s decisions, is reviewed at least every five years, with the next review due by January 2008.

Ultimately, it is a political decision made by the IMF executive board, made up of representatives of the Fund’s largest contributors — who speak for groups of smaller countries — that decides how the pie is divided.

Analysts and IMF officials have long argued that European countries should merge into a single chair that would raise Europe’s voting power.

The IMF’s major shareholders — the United States and major European powers — have long controlled decisions in the Fund and determined who leads it. Changes to the quota allocations would mean they have less sway.

An senior official with the Group of 24 developing countries said Asia was frustrated with the fact that representation in the institutions does not adequately reflect their expanding share of the global economy.

“The process is just starting but clearly no one is prepared to make the first move,” said the official.

“The Asian economies are not going to wait around for very much longer and will start moving away from the Fund.”

IMF officials said Asian countries, including Thailand and Malaysia, were pushing hard for some signal from richer nations of change by the IMF and World Bank fall meetings held in Singapore late next year.

Han Duck-soo, South Korea’s Finance Minister said the current distribution of IMF quotas “represents another form of unsustainable global imbalance”.

In unusually candid remarks, Japan’s Finance Minister said the current distribution of IMF quotas “did not adequately reflect their expanding share of the global economy”.

Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay presents cash and exercise books to a student at the ceremony to present stipend organized by Bahan Township MCWA Yangon West District on 26-9-2003. — MNA

Three killed in tyre factory blaze in Canada

OTTAWA, 26 Sept — Three people were killed on Sunday in a tyre factory fire that caused about 1 million Canadian dollars (about 800,000 US dollars) in damages near Montreal, second largest city of Canada.

The blaze occurred in L’Annunciation, about 150 kilometres northwest of Montreal, reports reaching here said. An estimated 4,000 tyres which were stored in one building were totally destroyed. But fire officials were able to limit the blaze to that building and a nearby warehouse with 2,500 tyres was spared, police said.

The cause of the fire is yet to determine.

Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay presents cash and exercise books to a student at the ceremony to present stipend organized by Bahan Township MCWA Yangon West District on 26-9-2003. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 27 September, 2005
World Bank sees opportunity in South Asia to reduce poverty

WASHINGTON, 26 Sept — With increasing foreign exchange reserves and stable macroeconomic policies, South Asia, including India and Sri Lanka, is poised for "substantial progress" in human development, the World Bank has said.

The Bank said in its latest annual report that "South Asia has the opportunity to reduce poverty significantly in the coming decades," and a new Country Assistance Strategy for India was discussed by it in fiscal 2005.

"The strategy underscores equity and inclusion by signalling a shift in emphasis towards lagging regions, such as Orissa, one of the country’s (India) poorest states," the report said.

At the same time, it notes that South Asia still faces "enormous challenges". Of the region’s 1.4 billion people, 599 million live on less than one dollar a day — about half the world’s poor.

"Human deprivation is severe, particularly for disadvantaged populations and children. The rate of illiteracy, at 44 per cent, is the highest in the world, and the region accounts for one-third of all maternal deaths," it said.

The report points out that dialogue among members of the SAARC is providing new opportunities for economic integration, together with new challenges.

Infrastructure needs to be developed within and between countries and a private sector that can respond to new demands must be fostered. A strong component of the Bank’s strategy, it notes, is its analytic and advisory work in India, it completed a study on persistent malnutrition.

The Bank approved a 400-million-loan to support India’s rural roads programme and a 620-million-US-dollar loan to improve part of the National Highway system in the northern state, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar State in the east.

It also approved a 120-million-US-dollar loan to the country to support the development of small and medium enterprises and a further 110 million US dollars for the southern state Tamil Nadu to support development of its health system. It also extended a 125-million-US-dollar loan to support development in another eastern state Orissa.

MNA/PTI

Israel mounts new strike, warns Gaza militants

Gaza, 26 Sept — Israel launched a new airstrike in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, warning Palestinian militants it would deliver a crushing response if they did not stop rocket attacks on the Jewish state.

The worst surge of violence since Israel’s pullout from Gaza on 12 September after 38 years of occupation put pressure on a shaky ceasefire and on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as he tried to keep off a rightist leadership challenge over the withdrawal.

Israel killed two Hamas militants on Saturday in its first airstrikes in the Gaza Strip since the pullout. Palestinian witnesses said 20 civilians were wounded in the air strikes.

Israeli ministers later held an emergency session and decided to resume targeted assassinations of Palestinian militants, said a source who took part in the meeting but declined to be identified.

"The response will be crushing and unequivocal," Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said in a warning to Palestinian militants if they did not halt the rocket attacks.

In the latest airstrike, an Israeli helicopter fired two missiles in the northern Gaza Strip early on Sunday. There were no immediate reports of any casualties.

An Israeli military source said the missiles targeted buildings used by militants.

On Saturday, Israeli forces massed near the border with Gaza but ministers decided to hold off launching a ground offensive.

A senior Army commander, Major-General Israel Ziv, told Reuters the operation to stop the rocket attacks would go on for as long as required and would be stepped up if necessary.

"We intend to put intense pressure on Hamas," he said.

The Army said about 40 rockets had been fired into Israel since Friday. Militants said the rocket attacks were in retaliation for a blast that killed 15 people at a Hamas rally.

Israel denied responsibility for Friday’s blast and the Palestinian Authority said it appeared to have been an accident caused by Hamas members carrying explosives.

MNA/Reuters

Males, youths victimized more than others in US

WASHINGTON, 26 Sept — In reports of violent crime in the United States in 2004, males, youths and those of more than one race were victimized at higher rates than others, the Justice Department said on Sunday.

There were 24 million violent crimes and property crimes in 2004, about the same rate as the previous year, according to an annual study by the government’s Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Guns were used in 6 per cent of all robberies, assaults, rapes and other nonlethal crimes, according to the report. That was down from 11 per cent a decade earlier.

But guns were used in 71 per cent of murders committed in 2003, the most recent year with comprehensive data.

The highest victimization rate — the number of victims of violent crime for every 1,000 people 12 and older — was for people of two or more races, with a level of 51.6 per thousand.

Blacks had a higher victimization rate, 26 per thousand, than Whites, at 21 per thousand.

In terms of age, youths aged 12 to 15 had a victimization rate of 49.7, the next highest rate for an age category was 45.9 for those aged 16 to 19.

The lowest rate, 2.1, was for those 65 and older.

Males had a victimization rate of 25, compared with 18.1 for females, the study showed.

The report said 49 per cent of murder victims in 2003 were Black, the same rate as Whites. Murder statistics were not available for 2004.

According to Census Bureau figures, Blacks made up 12.1 per cent of the population in 2000.

Violent crimes against victims earning 50,000 US dollars to 74,999 US dollars shot up 13.3 per cent, while those earning 7,500 US dollars to 14,999 US dollars, experienced a 1.7 per cent rise in such crimes.

The crime rate for all other income groups fell, the survey said.

The report said the violent crime rate fell 57 per cent and the property crime rate fell by 50 per cent from 1993 through 2004.

The nonprofit Justice Policy Institute said the statistics underscored the need to shift the emphasis away from "overzealous spending on incarceration" to "what states and localities are doing to reduce incarceration, reduce crime and build communities."

MNA/Reuters

Car bomb explodes in Spain after ETA warning

MADRID, 26 Sept — A car bomb exploded in an industrial park in central Spain on Saturday night following a warning in the name of armed Basque separatist group ETA, local media reports said.

Officials could not immediately be reached for comment, but Spanish news agency Europa Press reported there were no injuries.

The explosion followed a warning call in the name of ETA to the Basque highway agency — a method often used by the outlawed group to warn of bombs.

If confirmed it would be the first ETA bombing since late July and would dash growing peace hopes in Spain.

ETA did not stage its usual August bombing campaign at holiday resorts this year, leading to news reports that a truce could be imminent.

The explosion was near the small town of Berrocalejo de Aragona, a few miles east of the historic walled city of Avila, which lies to the west of Madrid.

Media reports said there was a police academy in the area, which was sealed off by police after the explosion.

ETA has killed nearly 850 people since 1968 in a bombing and shooting campaign for an independent Basque state in northern Spain and southwestern France.

Spain, the United States and the European Union consider it a terrorist organization.

The group has been weakened in recent years by a sustained police crackdown that has led to hundreds of arrests in France and Spain.

MNA/Reuters

Polish 18-month-old runs over family members in car

WARSAW, 26 Sept — An 18-month-old child started the family car and ran over three family members in a southern Polish village on Saturday, police said.

"The child somehow started the car, whose keys had been left in the ignition, and it began reversing," police spokesman Adam Fachmczuk said.

The child’s mother, who tried to stop the car, and her four-year-old daughter, got run over by the vehicle which pinned the grandmother against the wall of a barn.

The four-year-old, who suffered the most serious injuries, was rushed to hospital together with her mother and grandfather who were also hurt, Fachmczuk said.

MNA/Reuters

Residents wait to return home just outside the causeway leading to Galveston, Texas, on 24 September, 2005 after Hurricane Rita passed. Galveston was not seriously damaged. — BLOOMBERG
“Damrey”, biggest typhoon in 30 years hits Hainan Island

BEIJING, 26 Sept — The strongest typhoon to hit China’s southern tropical island of Hainan since 1973 swamped two villages on Monday after forcing the evacuation of thousands, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The 18th typhoon of the year threatened China hit land before dawn on Nanning City in the east of the island often referred to as China’s Hawaii, the official Xinhua news agency quoted Hainan meteorological officials as saying. — MNA/Reuters

Large fire burns in Galveston as “Rita” looms

GALVESTON (Texas), 25 Sept — A large fire broke out in downtown Galveston on Friday night, engulfing three buildings and sending flames shooting into the sky as the first winds from Hurricane Rita began whipping the coastal island.

Fire crews attempted to fight the blaze on the eastern side of the city, which had been mostly evacuated in anticipation of the storm. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

Winds of 60 to 70 miles per hour pushed the flames across roofs of nearby buildings and sent sparks swirling down on firefighters, forcing them to stay well back.

One of the buildings appeared to have burned nearly to the ground and the difficult conditions for firefighters were expected to get worse.

“We’re expecting winds of 100 miles an hour in 20 to 25 minutes. I recommend you to get shelter,” one Galveston police officer told a Reuters reporter at the scene.

The fire was located about one block away from the city’s historic Strand District.

Electricity was knocked out across the island, which was nearly erased in a 1900 hurricane that killed 8,000 people. — MNA/Reuters

INVITATION TO TENDER

(TENDER NO. 17(T) MPE/ LPG (1/ 2005-2006)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of Mixed LPG (CLP) 5,000 Metric Tons.

2. Tender closing Date: (6-10-2005) at (12:00) noon.

3. Tender Documents and detail information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min-ye-Kyaw-Zwa Road, Yangon, during office hours commencing (27-9-2005) on payment of one hundred (100) FEC per set.

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

Managing Director,
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Turkish soldier killed, five injured in land mine blast

ANKARA, 25 Sept — One Turkish soldier was killed and five others were wounded in a land mine blast on a road in southeastern Turkey on Friday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The landmine, planted on the Surit-Erush road by the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK), exploded while a military convoy was passing through the Surit Province.

Private Zeki Yanal Gulsener died in the blast while five injured soldiers were hospitalized, said the report.

Meanwhile, two disposal experts were injured on Friday while defusing a time bomb planted by PKK militants near a check point of gendarmerie headquarters in Kulp Town of Diyarbakir Province, local governor’s office reported.

Anatolia also reported that Turkish security forces and police on Friday also killed a PKK member in a clash in Guppinar Town of Van Province.

The PKK, has intensified landmine and remote-controlled bomb attacks in Turkey over the past few months.

Some 37,000 people have been killed since the rebel group took up arms against the government for an independent Kurdish state in southeastern Turkey in 1984.

Bomb blast wounds 40 outside Belarus cafe

MINSK, 25 Sept — A bomb blast, thought to be the work of a criminal gang, wounded 40 people outside a cafe in a town northeast of the Belarusian capital Minsk, officials said on Friday.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, accused in the West of systematically curbing human rights during 12 years in office, vowed additional measures to ensure the security of his 10 million citizens. — MNA/Reuters

Colombian rebels accept Venezuela’s peace talk offer

BOLIVIA (Colombia), 25 Sept — Colombia’s second biggest Marxist rebel group has accepted Venezuela’s offer to facilitate talks aimed at ending its war against the state, the group said in a statement received by reporters on Friday.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez offered earlier this month to host talks between the 5,000-strong National Liberation Army, known by its Spanish initials ELN, and the Colombian Government on Venezuelan territory.

“The ELN gratefully accepts the offer of the government and the people of Venezuela, understanding that it is with the solidarity among the peoples and nations of the world that we can build a different future for humanity,” said the statement.

dated 16 September and signed by the ELN central command.

There was no immediate reaction from the Colombian Government regarding holding the talks in Venezuela but they have shown an interest in negotiating with the ELN.

The ELN, which funds itself by kidnapping for ransom and regularly attacks oil pipelines and electrical power installations, has minimal popular support according to polls. — MNA/Reuters

DONATE BLOOD

Donation drive for blood component in the 4th Aniyanthi Sports and Social Service Camp of the BURMA ARMY

BLOOD COLLECTION CENTER

REOPENED:

Donation Drive

25-27 Sept 2005

Myanmar Army

MNA/Reuters
Death toll due to rains in southern India mounts to 75

NEW DELHI, 25 Sept— The flood situation in India’s Andhra Pradesh State deteriorated further Friday as the heavy rains triggered by cyclonic storms inundated more areas of the state, and the death toll mounting to 75, Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reported from capital city Hyderabad.

According to IANS, the water level of Krishna and Godavari, the two principal rivers of the state, rose further leading to flooding of more villages.

The unabated rains have also hampered the ongoing rescue and relief operations by the disaster management authorities, the IANS said.

To add to the woes, a cyclonic storm hit the coast of Andhra Pradesh, triggering heavy rains and flash floods in the Godavari and Krishna rivers and their tributaries, hundreds of villages in 10 districts still remain isolated.

According to official figures, 200,000 people were rendered homeless and were housed in 473 relief camps; thousands more remain marooned in several towns and villages. Breaches in tanks and canals have only added to the woes of villages, many of them located in remote tribal belt.

In addition, the government has so far lost business worth four billion US dollars due to the rains and floods.

The worst floods in decades have destroyed crops over 300,000 acres of land in the most fertile and prosperous coastal region. More than 20,000 houses were damaged in rains and floods.

As the flood waters have washed away railway tracks at several places, train services too remain suspended for the fourth consecutive day. The South Central Railway has cancelled 31 trains, majority of them between state capital Hyderabad and coastal region.

— MNA/Xinhua

British watchdog pledges faster review of cancer drugs

LONDON, 25 Sept— Britain’s cost-effectiveness watchdog promised on Friday to speed up the review of new cancer drugs following criticism that it was dragging its feet and depriving patients of access to life-saving therapies.

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE), which assesses whether drugs should be used on the state health service in England and Wales, said the new system would mean guidance could be issued shortly after a drug was launched.

At the moment, it can take two years or more for NICE to deliver its verdict on a new cancer therapy — a delay which has angered both patients and manufacturers.

— MNA/Reuters

Encephalitis toll in India’s Uttar Pradesh crosses 900

NEW DELHI, 25 Sept— The Japanese Encephalitis toll in India’s Uttar Pradesh Saturday crossed 900, according to Indian official sources.

The encephalitis virus has affected 4,200 people so far, with 90 per cent of them children, an official spokesman said.

“With 21 deaths over the past 24 hours, the overall toll crossed 900 on Saturday afternoon,” he said.

Even as there was a marginal fall in the number of victims over the past few days, the killer virus continued to pose a serious threat in several parts of the poverty-ridden eastern Uttar Pradesh.

In Gorakhpur alone, the disease has killed about 600 children and 69 adults since the outbreak of the disease July 29.

— MNA/Xinhua

Britain’s health trusts face cash shortage

LONDON, 25 Sept— Many National Health Service Trusts in England face funding shortfalls which could prompt a cut in patient services, a British Medical Association survey said on Saturday.

The BMA, which represents three quarters of Britain’s doctors, sent questionnaires to 530 medical questionnaires who work in the country’s 172 hospital and 303 primary care trusts.

Of the 120 who responded, three quarters of their respondents said their trusts faced a cash shortage with estimated shortfalls ranging from 200,000 pounds to 25 million pounds.

More than a third of respondents (37.6 per cent) said their trusts intended to reduce services as a result of the cash shortage including such measures as bed closures, staff redundancies and ward closures.

“It is hard to understand why at a time the government has invested unprecedented funding in the health service, that Trusts may have to lay off staff and close wards,” said the head of the BMA’s Consultants’ Committee Paul Miller.

— MNA/Reuters

Two migrants drown off Morocco, 18 missing

RABAT, 25 Sept— At least two African illegal migrants drowned when their swanky boat capsized off Morocco’s southern Atlantic coast on their way to the Spanish Canary Islands, local media reported on Friday.

The state news agency MAP said 18 other migrants were missing. It added two bodies and pieces of a wrecked boat washed up off Bir Anzaran, small coastal village near Dakhla about 900 miles southwest of Rabat.

The Coast Guard arrested four survivors who said they and the others were sailing to the Canary Islands when their boat sank in bad weather.

Thousands of people from Morocco, sub-Saharan Africa and even Asia attempt each year to sneak illegally into Europe from Moroccan shores in search of a better life. Hundreds die in the attempt.— MNA/Reuters

Thailand’s ban on cigarette displays kicks off

BANGKOK, 25 Sept— Thai Public Health Minister’s ban on cigarette displays at points of sales is being enforced from Saturday and shop owners face a maximum fine of 200,000 baht (5,000 US dollars) if they display tobacco products or make them visible to the eye, the state-run Thai News Agency reported on Saturday.

About 500,000 cigarette retailers and wholesale-sellers nationwide have been ordered not to display cigarette at points of sale and the new ban, imposed under the 1992 Tobacco Control Act, allows shopkeepers to place a label which reads “Cigarettes for sale here” in Thai.

Officials from the Public Health Ministry and related agencies having a concern in the matter will inspect shops selling cigarettes throughout the country.

Penalties are in three stages: first-time violators will be warned verbally, while a second-or repeat violation or otherwise non-compliant behaviour will result in a written warning.

A maximum fine of 200,000 (5,000 US dollars) can be imposed for a third violation.Dr. Narong Sahametapat, Deputy Director-General of the ministry’s Disease Control Department, said the ban would help reduce the number of youths who want to start the habit.

— MNA/Xinhua
Primera Liga match reports

**Madrid.** 26 Sept— Brief reports of matches played in the Primera Liga on Saturday:

- **Espanyol 1 Villarreal 2**
  - Villarreal finally claimed their first win of the season and moved off the bottom with this win over the Catalans.
  - Manuel Pellegrini’s side were slow to warm to the task but gradually found their rhythm and took the lead a minute before halftime when midfielder Josicio snapped home on the turn after a corner.

- **Barcelona 4 Deportivo Coruna 1**
  - The league leaders now have 15 points from five matches, five ahead of second-placed Fiorentina and the Catalans, who play Inter Milan and Lazio respectively on Sunday.

- **Rеal Zaragoza 1 Deportivo Coruna 1**
  - सी त्वाईयङ्ग खेल सुनिक भर्ति ने चालित अगर श्रेष्ठीकाल में पीएनिओ आईमार की आंत में पूरीत एक बेस्टिर में स्कोर की।

- **Real Sociedad 1 Atletico Madrid 0**
  - With Parma closing down quickly in midfield the visitors struggled to get back on terms, but a minute before halftime midfielder Mauro Camoranesi curled a fierce 25-metre drive into the top corner of Cristiano Lupatelli’s net.

- **Real Madrid 2 Real Betis 1**
  - After receiving a neat back-heel pass from McCarthy. McCarthy scored his first goal of the season to help Porto into the league.

- **Lyon 2-0 Besiktas**
  - Having been taken in handcuffs to federal police headquarters in Sao Paulo, given his 16-million-pound transfer fee by his former club, he accepted bribes from an illegal Internet gambling ring to fix matches, according to the spokesman.

Olympiakos, Panathinaikos both win

**Athens, 26 Sept— Olympiakos Piraeus warmed up for their date at the Bernabeu against Real Madrid on Wednesday with a comfortable 2-0 win over Akratitos on Saturday. It extends their lead at the top of the table to five points and maintains their 100-per-cent winning record.**

- **Real Madrid 1 Deportivo Coruna 1**
  - Two young motorbike racers speed their way from the start line after a green light in a quarter mile drag races at a racing venue in central Pathum Thani Province, on 25 Sept, 2005.—INTERNET

- **Real Madrid 2-0 Real Betis**
  - Espanyol striker Luis Garcia equalised on the hour along with Paulo Jose Danelon, after which McCarthy was also suspended by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), along with Paulo Jose Danelon, after allegations which were published by the weekly news magazine Veja.

Juventus maintain winning start at Parma

**Rome, 26 Sept— A late goal by Patrick Vieira earned Juventus a 2-1 win over Parma to maintain their 100-per-cent winning start to the Serie A season on Saturday. The league leaders now have 15 points from five matches, five ahead of second-placed Fiorentina and striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic.**

- **Juventus 2-1 Parma**
  - With Parma closing down quickly in midfield the visitors struggled to get back on terms, but a minute before halftime midfielder Mauro Camoranesi curled a fierce 25-metre drive into the top corner of Cristiano Lupatelli’s net.

- **Parma 1-2 Juventus**
  - Leonardo won’s scoring run in his side after the break, sending on midfielders Pavel Nedved and Emerson and striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic. They tightened their grip on the prime but were let down by their finishing

Brazillian referee arrested over alleged match-fixing

**Rio de Janeiro, 26 Sept— A Brazilian referee was arrested on Saturday over allegations that he was involved in a match-fixing scheme which affected games in this year’s national championship, a police spokesman said. Edilson Pereira de Carvalho, also a FIFA referee, was arrested by federal police in his hometown Jacarei in the state of Sao Paulo following allegations he accepted bribes from an illegal Internet gambling ring to fix matches, the spokesman added.**

- **Brazilian referee arrested over alleged match-fixing**
  - Grundy strengthened his grip on the prime but were let down by their finishing

All smiles as confident Owen strikes again for Newcastle

**London, 26 Sept— England striker Michael Owen made another re-payment on his 16-million-pound transfer fee by steering Newcastle United to a 1-0 win over Manchester City on Saturday.**

- **Manchester United 1-0 City on Saturday.**
  - Owen was taken in handcuffs to federal police headquarters in Sao Paulo, given his 16-million-pound transfer fee by his former club, he accepted bribes from an illegal Internet gambling ring to fix matches, according to the spokesman.

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Tsunami aid hits record $11b

London, 26 September — Nine months after the Indian Ocean tsunami donors have raised more than 11 billion US dollars in what the United Nations says is an unprecedented response, but most are still neglecting other emergencies.

“It is the most generous and most immediately funded international emergency relief effort ever. In terms of volume and speed it was fantastic,” UN emergency coordinator Jan Egeland told Reuters in an interview.

“Donors are honouring their promises and the money not yet paid up was, by and large, always pledged for longer-term reconstruction, which will take years.”

The tsunami left more than 232,000 people dead or missing and hundreds of thousands homeless when it slammed into 13 countries on 26 December.

Dozens of governments, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank have now paid or approved 5.7 billion US dollars — 80 per cent of the 7.1 billion US dollars they promised, according to Reuters research. The public donated a similar amount.

“In previous natural disasters, like Hurricane Mitch or the Bam earthquake, it was not the case that we had this degree of paying up. In both, less than half of what was pledged was received,” Egeland said from his office in New York.

“When the media attention wanes after a few weeks, people do tend to forget what they said very generously in those first few days and they end up giving much less.”

Egeland said donors had already met almost 90 per cent of the United Nation’s own 1.28-billion-US-dollar appeal for emergency funds.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Monday, 27 September, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin, Chin and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Yangon Division and isolated heavyfall in Mandalay Division. The note-worthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yangon (Mingladon) (4.45) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (3.70) inches, Meiktila (2.24) inches, Kawthoung (2.20) inches, Yangon (Central) (2.17) inches, Anmyethin (1.97) inches and Yamenthin (0.55) inch.

Maximum temperature on 25-9-2005 was 90.0°F. Minimum temperature on 26-9-2005 was 66.0°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 26-9-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 25-9-2005 was (2.9) hours approx. Rainfalls on 26-9-2005 were (4.45) inches at Mingladon, (3.70) inches at Kaba-Aye and (2.17) inches at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (92.05) inches at Mingladon, (94.25) inches at Kaba-Aye and (98.43) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from Northwest at (18.45) hours MST on 25-9-2005.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in the North and Central Bay and monsoon is moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Special feature: According to the observation at (06:30) hours MST today the severe tropical storm “DAMREY” in South China Sea moved into the Gulf of Tonking and centred about (280) miles southeast of Hanoi, Vietnam. It is forecast to intensify further and move westward and cross the coast within next (24) hours commencing noon today.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-9-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Rakhine, Shan and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of thundery condition in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-9-2005: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-9-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 40%.
In addition to the dams, the Government has built many sluice gates for prevention of sea water from entering some parts of the farmland of the division. On completion of the river water pumping projects in the region, it will be able to extend its own acreage considerably.

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**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

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**General Thura Shwe Mann calls on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, meets Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh**

YANGON, 26 Sept — At the invitation of Chief of the Army Staff of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Lt-Gen Moeen U Ahmed, PSC, Member of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and goodwill delegation comprising SPDC Member Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence and high-ranking officials visited Bangladesh from 24 to 26 September.

General Thura Shwe Mann and delegation left Yangon by Tatmadaw special aircraft at 8.30 am on 24 September for Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The delegation arrived at Kurmitola Air Base in Dhaka at 10.15 am local time, and was welcomed there by Lt-Gen Moeen U Ahmed, Principal Staff Officer Maj-Gen AIM Mustafa Reza Noor, NDC, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Sina IBN Jamali, AWC, PSC, and officials, Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Thein Myint, Military Attaché Col Han Tint and staff of the Embassy and Military Attaché’s Office.

General Thura Shwe Mann and delegation proceeded to Kurmitola Guest House. Accompanied by Maj-Gen Sina IBN Jamali, Col Han Tint and officials, General Thura Shwe Mann and delegation arrived at Defence Services Hall where they were welcomed by Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Abu Roshde Rokoumdawla, PSC and officials.

General Thura Shwe Mann took the salute of the Guard of Honour. He planted a friendship tree in front of the hall.

General Thura Shwe Mann and delegation members arrived at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel where they put up.

Yesterday, General Thura Shwe Mann called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Office of Ministers at 8.15 am yesterday.

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