Established 1914

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

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends opening ceremony of Sewing Machine Factory (Annexe) in Kyaukse

The factory producing all 57 parts from only 22 at opening in 2003

Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects production of machine parts at Sewing Machine Factory (Annexe) in Kyaukse. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Sept — The Sewing Machine Factory (Annexe) under Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 was commissioned at the factory in Kyaukse yesterday morning, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, officials of the SPDC Office and ministries concerned, officials of the Indian Embassy, employees and local people.

Managing Director U Aye Mauk of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries and Chairman of Kyaukse District PDC Lt-Col Tin Ohn formally opened the Sewing Machine Factory (Annexe).

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that the sewing machine factory manufactures sewing machines and its parts. The factory is going to produce all parts of the sewing machine, and the people can use quality sewing machines and spare parts conveniently.

He added that the factory was established on 27 January 2003. Since its birth, the factory had been manufacturing 22 items out of 57 kinds of parts of the sewing machines. Afterwards, technicians of the factory took innovative measures to produce five more kinds of the lower structure of the sewing machine. With a view to manufacturing all parts of the machine, machinery and equipment were installed at the factory in 2004-05 financial year.

In 2005-06, the factory began to produce all 57 items of parts for the whole sewing machine to save foreign exchange and manufacture import-substitute sewing machines and parts. (See page 8)

In 2005-06 financial year, the factory began to produce all 57 items of parts for the whole sewing machine to save foreign exchange and manufacture import-substitute sewing machines and parts.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
National Convention, an august forum to decide future of State

The Tatmadaw government has laid down the seven-step Road Map to transform the nation into a discipline-flourishing democratic one. In implementing the Road Map, the convening of the National Convention is of utmost importance and the constitution that will be in conformity with democracy to be practised in future is essential. Moreover, the emergence of the constitution is the duty of all citizens. Therefore, every effort has to be made for the emergence the constitution.

The National Convention has been reconvened for three times since May 2004. It will be reconvened in the second week of October 2006 for the fourth time. Detailed basic principles on communications between the Hluttaws, the Tatmadaw sector and fundamental rights and responsibilities of citizens discussed at the previous National Convention are to be laid down at the forthcoming sessions. The National Convention delegates will continue to discuss the headings of the respective chapters out of the 104 basic principles already laid down.

At the National Convention, there are eight delegate groups representing people from all walks of life. Above all, the number of the delegates of national races representing divisions, districts and townships is the largest. The other invited persons group includes national race leaders who have already returned to the legal fold. That is why the National Convention is none other than an august forum which will discuss and decide the future of the State with the participation of more than 1,000 delegates.

The government is implementing the policies laid down and it is making concerted efforts for fulfilling the basic requirements for the emergence of a democratic state such as the state security, peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order, strong economy, development of human resources including the tasks of turn out intellectuals and intelligentsia. Ob-
China ready to develop strategic partnership with ASEAN

BEIJING, 2 Sept — China is ready to develop a strategic partnership based on peace and prosperity with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), said Li Changchun, a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC), here on Thursday.

Li, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks during a meeting Thursday night with ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong, who was here attending the “ASEAN Cultural Week”, an event marking the beginning of the 8th Asia Arts Festival held in China.

Established in 1998, the Asia Arts Festivals received a total of 121 art groups from 22 Asian countries in its previous sessions. The theme of this year’s festival is “Learn from each other, develop in harmony.”

Li said China is ready to develop the partnership on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence and the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation signed in 1976.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the dialogue mechanism between China and the ASEAN. Li said China and the ASEAN are “good neighbours”, “good partners” and “good friends”.

China hopes to further promote bilateral cooperation not only in trade and economy, but also in social, cultural, political and security fields, said Li. —MNA/Xinhua

14 Britons killed in Afghanistan

LONDON, 2 Sept—Fourteen British service personnel have died after their aircraft crashed in Afghanistan, the MoD has said.

Twelve RAF personnel, a Royal Marine and an Army soldier were on board the RAF Nimrod MR2 which came down in the southern province of Kandahar.

The reconnaissance jet belonged to the NATO-led force battling the Taliban.

Officials said the crash appeared an accident. Tony Blair said it would “distress the whole country” but the MoD has said the pilot’s body has not been found.

The crash brings the death toll of UK forces personnel in Afghanistan to 36 since the start of operations in November 2001.

Pentagon says conditions for civil war exist in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 2 Sept — The core conflict in Iraq has changed from a battle against guerrillas to an increasingly bloody fight between Shiites and Sunni Muslims, creating conditions that could lead to civil war, the Pentagon said in a report on Friday.

The congressionally mandated report provided a sober assessment of Iraq over the past three months, saying overall attacks rose 24 per cent to 792 per week and Iraqi casualties soared by 51 per cent to nearly 120 per day.

Fighting between minority Sunnis, who controlled Iraq under former president Saddam Hussein, and the majority Shi’ites, who are asserting themselves after decades of oppression, now defines the conflict, it stated.

The release of this fifth in a series of quarterly Pentagon assessments comes as President George W Bush strives to bolster sagging US public support ahead of mid-term elections while Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Vice-President Dick Cheney assail war critics as defeatists.

“Conditions that could lead to civil war exist in Iraq,” the report stated, saying sectarian violence was spreading north, outside of the Baghdad area into Diyala Province and oil-rich Kirkuk.

Home alone, and back again, for sleeping beauty

SOFIA, 2 Sept—A sleeping teenager flew home to Bulgaria and then back to Malta after aircrew apparently failed to notice she was still on the plane.

Maria Ilieva, 17, was travelling alone and fell asleep on an Air Malta plane taking her overnight from Valletta to Sofia. Unfortunately she had returned to Malta by the time she woke up, the girl’s family said on Friday.

“Air Malta officials said the airplane was not a place for sleeping. But I have not seen any signs saying ‘No sleeping’, I have only seen signs saying ‘No smoking’,” the girl’s mother, Nadezhda Vulnova, told Reuters.

Maria was finally reunited with her family on Thursday, almost four days after her sleepover. She had to pay 200 euros (256 US dollars) for the second flight home.

The family said they had filed a complaint against the airline and asked for a refund. Air Malta was not immediately available for comment.

A visitor looks at exhibits at the Gruenes Gewoelbe (Green Vault) at the Royal Palace in the eastern German city of Dresden on 1 Sept, 2006. —INTERNET

A woman from Singapore creates embroidered vamp at the Art Exhibition of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Beijing, capital of China, on 31 Aug, 2006. —Xinhua

Cuban leader Fidel Castro(R) appears in new video broadcast chatting in his sickbed with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in Havana on 1 Sept, 2006. —Xinhua
France, 2 Sept — Police on Friday night arrested a man who allegedly threatened a woman and her three children with a knife. The man was later found to have a history of violent behaviour.

In his first visit to Angola on Thursday, the Venezuelan leader witnessed the signing of a bilateral oil cooperation accord between his country and the world’s fifth largest oil exporter, and one of Africa’s fastest growing producers.

The accord, signed by the respective oil ministers, foresees co-operation in all aspects of the oil and gas industry, including possible joint production and refining projects, according to a copy of the text sent to Reuters. The text said the accord could be implemented through the respective national state oil companies, PDVSA of Venezuela and Sonangol of Angola.

He added the accord would allow Venezuela’s state oil company PDVSA to work for the first time in Africa, where US and European oil companies have dominated for years.

In a speech at the presidential palace in Luanda, Chavez, a fire-brand anti-American populist, said the strengthening of ties with Angola was part of his strategy to boost South-South cooperation and counterbalance US influence in the world.

“It’s absolutely a lie that the destiny of the world has to be signed off by Washington. The world belongs to all of us, there isn’t a policeman of the world who has to hold our hands,” Chavez said, elaborating on one of his favourite themes.

Dutch pilot killed in “F-16” crash in Afghanistan

KABUL, 2 Sept — A Dutch F-16 fighter plane of ISAF crashed on Thursday in Afghanistan, killing the pilot, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a statement.

The Netherlands confirmed the aircraft is a Dutch F-16, it said, adding the location of the crash site is being withheld for security reasons.

The plane crashed at around 7:00 am (0230 GMT) after a distress call but no reported enemy action, the statement said, adding the pilot was found dead at the crash site.

A rescue and recovery operation, jointly carried out by ISAF and the US-led coalition forces, was launched almost immediately and continues.

World’s biggest solar electric plant opens in Germany

BERLIN, 2 Sept — The world’s biggest solar electric power plant went into service in southern Germany on Friday, local reports said.

More than 1,400 movable solar modules will collect the sun’s rays and provide electricity for around 3,500 households, said Deutsche Presse-Agentur in a report Friday.

Solon AG, the solar company, has invested 70 million euros in the project, which took 15 months to complete.

Located on a 77-hectare field near the town of Arnstein in the state of Bavaria, the plant will have an output of 12 megawatts when fully operational.

Germany invested 3.7 billion euros in solar energy last year as part of its drive for renewable energy along with wind power and biomass.

Solar energy accounts for less than 1 per cent of the country’s energy needs, but the figure is expected to exceed 5 per cent by 2020, according to the German Solar Energy Association BSW.
Skype announced on 31 Aug, 2006 a new cordless phone that allows its users make calls without the need for a computer, according to media reports. —INTERNET

**Vietnam to develop bio-fuel**

HANOI, 2 Sept— Vietnam is compiling a scheme on intensifying bio-fuel production and application to serve its transport industry, ensure energy security and better protect environment from now to 2020, according to Industry Ministry on Friday.

Under the scheme drafted mainly by the Science and Technology Department under the Industry Ministry, Vietnam will, from 2006 to 2010, raise public awareness about bio-fuel, access foreign advanced bio-fuel-related technologies, build infrastructure for distributing the fuel in some localities, and produce 30 million litres of ethanol and 20 million litres of bio-diesel on a trial basis. In the 2011-2015, the country will develop facilities to produce and distribute bio-fuel, apply gene and related technologies in turning out more materials needed for the production like cassava, sugarcane, potato, soybean, peanut and pineapple, and master some technologies necessary to bio-fuel production.

In 2020, Vietnam will master all advanced technologies necessary to the production so that it can make five billion litres of ethanol and 500 million litres of bio-diesel each year.

To this end, the Vietnamese Government should fully or partly cover expenses regarding research and development, manpower training and technology transfer, and encourage experts to engage in bio-fuel production, the department said.

According to estimation of local transport experts, Vietnam will, between 2002 and 2010, see annual rise of 13-17 per cent in the number of road transport means. Specifically, estimated annual growths in the number of cars, buses and trucks are 13-18 per cent, 16-22 per cent and 13-14 per cent, respectively. —MNA/Xinhua

**Five killed in car crash in N Malaysia**

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 Sept — An outing in a rented car for six youths ended tragically when five of them were killed in a crash in northern Malaysia, local media reported Friday.

The accident occurred Thursday morning when the vehicle they were travelling collided with a stage bus on a trunk road near Taiping, Perak State.

Except for Zulkiflie who died upon arrival at a local hospital, all the rest died on the spot, said police spokesman.

The only survivor of the crash, Ali Lokman Yahya, 19, has been warded at the Taiping Hospital. —MNA/Xinhua

**Britain to test US long grain rice cargoes for GMOs**

LONDON, 2 Sept— All US long grain rice shipments into Britain will be tested for an unauthorized strain of genetically modified (GMO) rice, the British Food Standards Agency said on Friday.

“The Agency is taking this action to ensure that future supplies of rice are GM free,” the FSA said in a statement.

“All imports of rice are being held at ports until they can be certified free of GM.”

Last week the EU tightened requirements on US long-grain rice imports to prove the absence of a GMO strain known as LL Rice 601 marketed by Germany’s Bayer AG and produced in the United States.

The EU decision followed the discovery by US authorities of trace amounts of LL Rice 601, engineered to resist a herbicide, in long-grain samples that were targeted for commercial use — the first time this had happened. —MNA/Reuters

**India appoints new foreign secretary**

NEW DELHI, 2 Sept— India appointed Shiv Shankar Menon as the new foreign secretary, the Ministry of External Affairs said Thursday.

Shiv Shankar Menon, now India’s High Commissioner to Pakistan, will be the next foreign secretary of India, the ministry said in a Press release. He will take office from the 1 October, 2006.

Shyam Saran, the present Foreign Secretary, will be the special envoy for the negotiations relating to the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement, the release said.

Menon has served as envoy to countries like China, Japan, Sri Lanka, Israel and Austria.

He graduated with master degree in history from Delhi University and can speak several foreign languages, including Chinese and German.

Foreign secretary is secondary to the foreign minister in India’s Foreign Ministry. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has been holding the portfolio of foreign minister since Natwar Singh quitted the post in November last year. —MNA/Xinhua

The World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) and biologists announced on 1 Sept, 2006 they have found indications of the birth of four Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon National Park, in Indonesia’s Banten Province, raising hopes for the survival of what many consider the rarest large mammal in the world. —XINHUA

Soldiers from the Kazakh guard-of-honour parade during Moscow city day celebration in Victory Park on 2 Sept, 2006. —INTERNET

Models present a creation by Indian designer JJ Valaya at a fashion show on the third day of India fashion week in New Delhi on 1 Sept, 2006. —INTERNET
Annan denounces Israel’s use of cluster bombs

AMMAN, 2 Sept— The United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan denounced here on Thursday during a news conference the Israel’s use of cluster bombs during the war between Israel and Lebanese Hizbollah guerrillas.

After his talks with Jordan’s King Abdullah II, Annan said that “those kinds of weapons should not be used in civilian and populated areas”.

Jan Egeland, the UN emergency relief coordinator, has earlier accused Israel of immoral use of deadly cluster bombs during Lebanon conflict.

According to Jan Egeland, UN mine experts have identified more than 350 cluster bomb strike locations in Lebanon. He says the sites are contaminated with more than 100,000 unexploded bomblets.

However, international law bans the use of such weapons in civilian areas. During the Press conference, Annan also called for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, noting that “we need to implement the Resolutions 1701 and to capitalize on building relations between Israel and Lebanon”.

Hurricane “John” lashes Mexico’s Los Cabos resort

LOS CABOS (Mexico), 2 Sept — Hurricane John slammed into the Baja California Peninsula on Friday, forcing thousands of tourists and residents into a posh beach resort into shelters to escape high winds, angry seas and lashing rain. Rescue teams on the Baja California Peninsula were worried about the storm’s sluggish pace as it drifted near the Los Cabos resort because it increased the chances that John could wreak havoc.

Vacationers, most of them from the United States, dropped plans to golf on courses designed by Jack Nicklaus, swim or go boating. Five-star beachside hotels set up shelters in conference rooms where tourists laid out mattresses and stocked up on food. Narciso Agundez, governor of Baja California Sur State, said he was surprised at how long John was staying in the area. Slow-moving hurricanes cause more damage because they dump more rain and winds blow longer.

John was downgraded to a Category 2 storm but still brought winds of nearly 110 miles per hour (175 kilometres per hour).

Annexed to the 2006 International Conference Centre, Changchun, capital city of northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 2 Sept, 2006. The second China Jilin Northeast Asia Investment and Trade Expo (CNATE), a large-scale international trade fair, opened in Changchun on Saturday and will last until 6 Sept.—XINHUA

15 killed in northwest China flash floods

LANZHOU, 2 Sept — Fifteen people have been killed in flash floods this week in northwest China’s Gansu Province, the provincial flood control and drought relief office said on Friday.

A heavy rainstorm that lasted about two hours hit Luqiu County, Ganman Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture and triggered a flash flood at 11 pm on Wednesday in the pasturing area. The flood swept away 13 children and old people who were sleeping in tents in Maozi Village of Shuangcha Township. A downpour also triggered a flash flood in Zhuoni County of the same prefecture on Thursday, killing two people. Local officials have rushed to flood-hit areas for rescue and relief. Typhoon-triggered floods have caused over 1,000 deaths and huge economic losses in southern and eastern coastal regions in China this summer. —MNA/Xinhua

A Toyota hybrid car is displayed at the Changchun International Conference Centre, Changchun, capital city of northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 2 Sept, 2006. The second China Jilin Northeast Asia Investment and Trade Expo (CNATE), a large-scale international trade fair, opened in Changchun on Saturday and will last until 6 Sept.—XINHUA

Five dead, four missing in coal mine gas blast in central China

CHANGSHA, 2 Sept — Five miners died and four are missing after a coal mine gas blast in central China’s Hunan Province on Thursday. The explosion occurred at about 10:00 am at Lianyi Coal Mine in Lianyuan City when 20 miners were working underground, said Xie Guangxiang, director of the provincial work safety bureau. Nine miners managed to escape and two were rescued, he said.

Production has been stopped at the pits. Initial investigations showed the mine owner brought in the miners to repair tunnels without measuring the gas density and their electric tools triggered the explosion.

Mexican fire fighters try to tow a car in Los Cabos beach in Mexico’s state of Baja California as Hurricane John approaches the area, on 1 Sept, 2006.—XINHUA

Iran says IAEA shows US charges are baseless

TEHERAN, 2 Sept — Iran is not fully satisfied with a report by the UN watchdog on its nuclear programme but the International Atomic Energy Agency has shown US accusations about its plans are baseless, an Iranian official said on Thursday.

An IAEA report said Iran had failed to stop uranium enrichment by Thursday’s deadline set by the UN Security Council, which will meet to discuss possible sanctions.

“Generally, although this report has not fully satisfied us, it shows that America’s propaganda and politically motivated claims over Iran’s nuclear programme are baseless and based on American officials’ hallucinations,” deputy head of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization, Mohammad Saeedi, told the official news agency IRNA.

A local worker makes his way with a boat to clear up oil slick in a small fishermen port in Beirut on 2 Sept, 2006. The Lebanese coast has been badly hit by an oil spill caused by Israel’s bombing of a power plant last month during its war with Hizbollah guerrillas. —INTERNET
China publishes agricultural technology books for farmers

BEIJING, 3 Sept — China’s Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and China Agricultural Scientech Press have published the first volume of books in a series to teach farmers practical agricultural technology.

The building The New Countryside series consists of 120 installments with 40 included in the first volume. They offer expertise on breeding, planting, processing, the control of plant diseases and insect pests, as well as other practical agricultural technologies.

The publications are aimed at three different readerships: farmers, officials and scholars.

“I really need two of the books on greenhouses and pig-raising, and I must read them,” said a farmer who attended the launch ceremony.

Zheng Guoan, MOST’s vice secretary-general, said the series was part of the national science and technology promotion initiative to increase agricultural yield, enhance rural living standards and improve the rural environment.

“These books are just one way to promote the development of the rural areas,” said Wu Yuanbin, a MOST official in charge of rural affairs. “We’ll also build websites and make a TV programme.”

MNA/Xinhua

Fireworks illuminate the sky over an ancient castle during an annual concert in the small Belarussian town of Mir, some 100 km (62 miles) west of Minsk, on 1 Sept, 2006. — INTERNET

Italian troops arrive in Lebanon

BEIRUT, 3 Sept — An advance force of the 1,000-strong Italian contingent landed in Lebanon on Saturday morning to reinforce the United Nations’ mission monitoring a truce between Israel and Hezbollah, said reports reaching here from Tyr. According to the reports, 135 blue-helmeted soldiers arrived at around 0430 GMT on the shores of Lebanon’s southern coastal city in helicopters and rubber dinghies from Italian aircraft carrier Garibaldi.

The Italian force was greeted by troops from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said the reports, adding the rest of the 1,000 troops are expected to arrive later on Saturday.

Italy aims to deploy about 2,450 ground soldiers in two phases over four months, creating the largest contingent in the expanded UNIFIL to deploy along the Israeli-Lebanese border after a 34-day-long fighting between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas.

MNA/Xinhua

Women weep during the ceremony to remember more than 330 people who died in Russia’s worst terrorist attack, in the gymnasium of Beslan’s School No 1, southern Russia, on 1 Sept, 2006. — INTERNET

China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-highway expected to be in service in 2008

BEIJING, 3 Sept — A Central Asia highway corridor linking China, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan is expected to be in service by the end of 2008, said an official from the Chinese Ministry of Finance on Friday.

Ju Kuilin, deputy-director of the International Department of the Ministry of Finance, said the highway’s China section has been finished, with the other sections outside China progressing smoothly.

According to Ju, the highway is an important part of economic co-operation under the framework of Central Asia Regional Economic Co-operation (CAREC), which has attracted financial support from international financial agencies including the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Ju said he was “very optimistic” about the future of the highway, which will become a new silk road linking China with Central Asia.

According to Ju, the Chinese Government has invested 60 million yuan (7.5 million US dollars) in the Kyrgyzstan construction of the highway, and the 17-kilometre section within Kyrgyzstan built by China has also been finished.

With a total length of 937 kilometres, the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan highway starts from Kashi (Kaxgar) in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, northwest China, and extends through Kyrgyzstan to Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

MNA/Xinhua

1,500 suffer illness in Nepal’s flood-hit areas

KATHMANDU, 3 Sept — A person died and another 1,500 people are suffering from diarrhoea, fever, eye infection and other ailments in the flood-affected area in west Nepal, local Kantipur F M radio reported here on Saturday.

“A 60-year-old person died of diarrhoea at flood-hit Rajpur area of Bardiya District some 400 kilometres west of capital Kathmandu,” the privately run radio reported, quoting Ram Shakkar Dweep, chief of the district health office. “Some 1,500 people have become sick till Friday evening,” Dweep informed.

“The infection is not only limited to flood-affected villages but also in the camps where the displaced have been kept,” he said.

Flood victims at Mahamadpur Village of Bardiya District brought vehicular movement to a complete halt for an hour on Friday in protest against the delay in providing relief materials.

Meanwhile, Mathew Kahane, UN resident chief in Nepal, said Friday that the flood-victims were in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

“The flood victims should be provided food, abode, clothes, drinking water and medicines immediately,” Kahane told reporter in west Nepal after visiting the flood and landslide-hit areas.

MNA/Xinhua
NAY PYI TAW, 3 Sept — A ceremony to open the Fourth Year National Immunization Days took place at Nanmyint Tower Hall in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division this morning with an address by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw.

It was also attended by Daw Khin Pyone Win, wife of the commander, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, heads of department, the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, resident representatives of WHO and UNICEF, officials under the Ministry of Health, the chairperson of Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and members, those from NGOs and social organizations.

In his address, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw said that the national immunization days was carried out to stamp out the incidence of polio in Myanmar; that Myanmar has been able to stand among ASEAN nations as a country free from polio; that this year also, on the grounds of the finding of vaccine derived polio virus (VDPV) in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, the Fourth Year National Immunization Days will be held in 80 townships in the 100-mile radius of PyinOoLwin Township. Afterwards, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint made a speech on the occasion.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and wife, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and guests viewed round the booths on healthcare services such as giving polio vaccine to children.

Later, the guests proceeded to New PyinOoLwin Hospital (200-bed), No 1 Military Hospital and No 22 Basic Education Primary School where they gave oral polio vaccine to children under 5.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends opening ceremony … (from page 1)

foreign exchange and manufacture import-substitute sewing machines and parts.

In conclusion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint thanked those who contributed to manufacturing of machine parts and urged the employees to discharge their duties conscientiously for the durability of the factory.

A local resident expressed gratitude for construction of the Sewing Machine Factory (Annex).

Factory Manager U Than Oo presented K 100,000 to Daw Mya Thaung Wai who won the 1st Ladies Award in the Asian Cross Country Rally held on 6 August recalled her experiences.

Chairperson of MWEA Thiri Thudhamma Excellent Performance in Social Field (First Class) Daw Khin Myint Myint extended greetings.

Next MWEA presented K 100,000 to Daw Mya Thaung Wai and Daw Khin Myint Myint awarded K 100,000, executives of MWEA K 100,000, Daw Cho Cho Lwin of Sein Yadana Gold Shop, jewellery worth K 1 million, Daw Aye Aye Mu of Phone Han Gyaw Gold Shop one tical of goldware, Daw Aye Aye Nyunt of KSS CO Ltd K 100,000, MWEA members who visited Malaysia K 100,000, Daw Aye Aye Than of Aung Nadi General Service CoFEC 100, Construction Group K 50,000, Daw Chaw Su Myat K 30,000 and Daw Marlar of Royal Rose Co Ltd K 30,000 to the 1st Ladies Award winner Daw Mya Thaung Wai. — MNA

MWEA holds get-together

YANGON, 3 Sept — The get-together of members of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs’ Association was held at its office on Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Dagon Township this morning.

Members Daw Pwint Phyu Ei and Daw Yin Lè Win recounted their experiences on research methodology and proposal writing course at Khon Kaen University of Mekong Institute of Thailand.

Next, Dr Khin Aye Aye of Myanmar Business Coalition on AIDS gave lectures on human resources and HIV. Likewise, Executive Daw Mya Thaung Wai who won the 1st Ladies Award in the Asian Cross Country Rally held on 6 August recalled her experiences.

Daw Khin Pyone Win, wife of the commander gives polio vaccine to a child.— HEALTH

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw feeds polio vaccine to a child. — HEATH

MWEA Chairperson Daw Khin Myint Myint presents award to Daw Mya Thaung Wai, winner of Asian Cross Country Rally. — MNA
Families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air),…. (from page 16)

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and party accepted cash donations from wellwishers and gave certificates of honour to them.

Lt-Col Maung Kyaw of Mingaladon Air Base supplicated on the purpose of the donations. Today’s donations in Thakayta and Dawbon Townships totaled 608 bags of rice, 375 viss of edible oil, 2,656 viss of iodized salt, 2,656 bars of soap, 531 tubes of toothpaste, 1,105 bottles of traditional medicine, 531 viss of gram and K 45,505,000.

MNA

Lt-Col Myo Naing of Yangon Command and military officers donate provisions to a nun. — MNA

Industry-1 Minister inspects site for cement plant, factories in Kyaukse

YANGON, 3 Sept — A ceremony to open Mr Dentist Dental Clinic was held at the Ballroom of Summit Parkview Hotel here this afternoon.

Manager Dr Min Yaung of Mr Dentist Dental Clinic opened the clinic and Chief Editor U Hein Latt of Popular Journal gave a speech. Manager Dr Min Yaung replied to the questions raised by journalists. Experienced dentists will attend to the patients with the use of modern medical equipments. The clinic opens at rooms 245-246 on the second floor of Summit Parkview Hotel from 10 am to 7.30 pm daily. Anybody may dial 095006692 for emergency service and may dial 211888 (Ext: 245) for further information.

MNA

Building of Pre-Primary School opened in Hlaingbwe Township

YANGON, 3 Sept — A ceremony to open the new building of Pre-Primary School was held at Affiliated Base Education High School in Kwambiri Village of Hlaingbwe Township on 26 August.

Kayin State Education Officer U An Ku, Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Lwin Min and Township Education Officer Daw Nwe Dizeenda formally opened the new building. Outstanding students unveiled the education stone plaque.

Next, the ceremony to present prizes to outstanding students for 2005-06 academic year and the annual meeting of Parents-Teachers Association followed. Col Tin Maung Nyunt of the local station, Kayin national U Saw Kyar Inn and officials gave speeches.

Headmistress Daw Nwe Treasurer expressed gratitude. After the annual meeting of the Parents-Teachers Association, officials presented prizes to the outstanding students.

MNA

MWF hosts dinner in honour of PRC Wushu demonstration team

YANGON, 2 Sept — Myanmar Wushu Federation hosted a dinner in honour of the athletes of Wushu Federation of the People’s Republic of China at Trade Hotel yesterday.

Present at the dinner were Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials of the ministry, Chairperson of Central Working Committee of Myanmar Women Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and members, President and executives of MWF, Charge d’Affaires as of the People’s Republic of China Mr Yu Boren, Cultural Attaché Mr Wang Ruiping and embassy staff, leader and members of Chinese Wushu demonstration team and guests.

Firstly, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint extended greetings and President of MWF made an address on the occasion. Leader of Wushu demonstration Miss Yan Li Sheng expressed thanks.

President of MWF and Leader of PRC Wushu demonstration team exchanged gifts and the dinner was hosted to those present.

MNA
Brazil unveils new technology to curb logging

SAO PAULO, (Brazil), 3 Sept — Brazil’s Environment Minister on Friday unveiled an electronic registry for the transport and storage of all forestry products, which she said would help in the battle against illegal logging in the Amazon rainforest.

“Our goal is to stop all illegal logging,” Minister Marina Silva told reporters at a conference in Sao Paulo. “This system is more transparent and more efficient.”

Brazilians have widely criticized for failing to stop illegal logging in the Amazon, the world’s largest tropical rainforest. Environmental groups say the paper documents previously required to transport timber and other forestry products were too easy to falsify.

Greenpeace showed just how easy it was last year when it bought 30 tonnes of illegally harvested timber in the Amazon and delivered it to police in Sao Paulo, more than 1,600 miles (2,600 kilometres) to the south.

Silva said the new electronic system will reduce fraud because all forestry products travelling on Brazil’s roads must be registered in a central database with the Environment Ministry and the Environmental Protection Agency, known as Ibama.

However, several workers at Ibama have been implicated in illegal logging operations. One illegal logging ring uncovered last year in Mato Grosso, on the southern border of the Amazon, involved dozens of Ibama workers.

Another illegal ring involving 24 Ibama employees was uncovered in Rio de Janeiro this week.

Indonesia says targets $100m for bird flu fight

JAKARTA, 3 Sept — Indonesia hopes to secure about $100 million US dollars to fight bird flu next year, the Vice-President said on Friday, after criticism the country is not doing enough to control the disease.

Indonesia has the world’s highest death toll from bird flu and scientists and even the World Bank have called on the government to step up the fight to control a disease that is endemic in almost all provinces.

Experts said public ignorance, along with official ineptitude and lack of money, are hampering efforts to stamp out the disease in the densely populated country of 220 million people.

“Lacking the certainty from the World Bank and they asked for certainty from our budget. So, both of us ascertained to gather at least 100 million US dollars for next year,” Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla said on Friday.

It was not immediately clear whether this meant the government’s financial commitment in the budget to fight the bird flu virus would be raised.

The World Bank has been urging Jakarta to increase its budget after it earmarked $46.5 million US dollars to fight bird flu in 2007, down from $73.7 million US dollars slated for this year.

According to government data, together with donor contributions, Indonesia plans to spend about $93 million US dollars this year in fighting bird flu.

“...
Saturnino Gonzalez, a waiter, holds a tray with glasses on it while cycling on the spot to encourage the riders during stage eight of the Tour of Spain cycling race between Ponferrada and Lugo on 2 Sept., 2006.

Spain plans to send 1,100 troops to Lebanon

MADRID, 3 Sept — Spain plans to send 1,100 troops to Lebanon as part of a UN peacekeeping force, the Spanish Government said on Friday.

Once the move has been approved by Parliament, the troops will join a UN-authorized force of a total 15,000 troops deployed in southern Lebanon to support a truce that ended the 34-day war between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas.

“This move chimes with Spain’s interest in reinforcing the EU’s role in the region,” a government statement said.

“Spain ... is convinced that this will help create a climate conducive to the resolution of the conflicts in the Middle East and the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians,” it added.

Spanish soldiers are involved in peacekeeping efforts around the globe. One of its biggest operations is in Afghanistan, with 680 troops serving as part of a United Nations mission.

MNA/Reuters

Futures trading volume in China up by 39% in August

BEIJING, 3 Sept — China’s futures trading volume in August was 1.67 trillion yuan (208 billion US dollars), up 39 per cent over the same month last year and down 6.7 per cent over July, according to the China Futures Association.

The total transaction volume for the first eight months was 13.55 trillion yuan, an increase of 54.55 per cent over the same period last year.

The Shanghai Futures Exchange (SHFE), one of China’s three futures trading markets, reported in Futures trading volume in China up by 39% in August.

August transactions worth 1.08 trillion yuan, 62 per cent up from August 2005 and accounting for 65 per cent of the country’s total futures transaction volume.

China has three futures exchanges: the Shanghai Futures Exchange (SHFE), the Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange (ZCE), and the Dalian Commodity Exchange (DCE). Both the ZCE and DCE trade agricultural products while the SHFE provides futures contracts on other commodities such as copper, aluminum and rubber.

MNA/Xinhua

British police arrest 16 in anti-terrorism raids

LONDON, 3 Sept — British police said on Saturday they had arrested 16 men in two separate anti-terrorism operations just three weeks after uncovering a suspected plot to bring down US-bound airliners over the Atlantic.

Fourteen of the men were held in London in an operation that a police source said focused on suspected “training, recruitment and encouraging others to take part in terrorist activities.” Anti-terrorist police in Manchester arrested two men early on Saturday and were carrying out three searches but this was not linked to the London arrests, police there said.

The BBC said 12 of the London arrests were made at or near a Chinese restaurant in south London that police in riot gear raided on Friday night, questioning diners for hours and taking some away in handcuffs. The BBC said the probe may be linked to alleged “training camps” in Britain, saying there had been reports of militants getting together for adventure training as a means to develop closer ties.

The arrests came soon after the head of London police’s anti-terrorist branch, Peter Clarke, said in an interview that police were keeping tabs on thousands of British Muslims who they suspect may be involved in or support terrorism — higher than previous official estimates.

MNA/Reuters
Donate blood

China, Peru pledge to beef up mily ties

BEIJING, 2 Sept—A senior Chinese military leader on Friday pledged to further expand China-Peru military exchanges and cooperation.

Liang Guanglie, member of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks when meeting with Felipe Conde, commanding general of the Peruvian Armed Forces.

The two Armed Forces have kept frequent high-level exchange visits and friendly cooperation in recent years, Liang told Conde, who arrived in Beijing on Thursday.

China will make joint efforts with Peru to strengthen exchanges between the two Air Forces, and gradually expand to various fields and levels, said Liang, who is also Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA).

Liang also spoke highly of the bilateral relations, saying the two countries have shared a deepening political trust since the establishment of diplomatic ties 35 years ago.

The two sides have made substantial progress in many fields.

Liang expressed his appreciation for Peru’s adherence to the one-China policy.—MNA/Xinhua

EU says not to impose early sanctions on Iran

Helsinki, 2 Sept—The European Union (EU) said Friday on its official website that it will not seek to impose sanctions on Iran at present for Teheran’s defiance not to suspend its uranium enrichment activities.

Diplomacy remains the first choice for the EU to resolve the disputed Iranian nuclear issue, Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja, whose country holds the current EU presidency, said at an informal meeting of EU foreign ministers in Lappeenranta, southern Finland.

This is not the time or place for the international community to hit Iran with sanctions, he said.

If Iran seeks negotiations, “then we have to see what the conditions are,” Tuomioja said. “We are still, all of us, wanting to engage Iran seriously.”

A UN Security Council dead-line for Iran to suspend all activities related to uranium enrichment passed on Thursday without compliance from Teheran.—MNA/Xinhua

Eleven Australians to stand trial on terrorism charges

SYDNEY, 2 Sept—Eleven of 13 men accused of planning a terrorist attack in Australia were ordered by a court on Friday to stand trial on charges of belonging to a terrorist group.

Most of the men, including a Muslim cleric, were arrested during raids by more than 45 police on houses in Sydney and Melbourne last November as part of Australia’s largest ever counter-terrorism operation.

Several of those ordered to stand trial are also charged with funding or providing support to a terrorist organization, Australian media reported. Muslim cleric Abdul Nacer Benbrika, also known as Abu Bakr, was also charged with directing the activities of the alleged terrorist cell and of recruiting for the group.—MNA/Reuters
China develops its own digital TV standard

BEIJING, 2 Sept — The Standardization Administration of China (SAC) has announced China will adopt a terrestrial digital TV broadcast standard by integrating two domestically developed systems.

The standard, coded GB 20600-2006, will become the mandatory broadcast signal for Chinese broadcasters on 1 August, 2007. The standard is a combination of two broadcast standards developed by Tsinghua University and Shanghai Jiaotong University.

SAC called for the development of digital broadcasting standards in 2001 and the standard developed by the two universities were short-listed. Terrestrial digital TV transmission can deliver television signals to fixed television sets and mobile televisions found on some city buses.

The existing digital TV broadcast that is now in trial operation in some Chinese cities will adopt the national standard by next year. Digital TV offers sharper pictures and better sound.

Its compressed signal uses a narrower band of the broadcast spectrum, allowing for more channels to be carried at better quality. China has launched vehicular mobile TV broadcast in more than 30 cities and some 10 cities, including Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, adopted a Europe-based standard, which the new standard will replace.

Terrestrial digital television is designed to replace the existing analog system through which the majority of viewers in China watch television. China is the world’s biggest television market, with more than 400 million TV sets in domestic households.

The national standard of mobile TV for portable terminals, such as cell phones and PDA’s, has not yet been finalized.

Cambodia approves monogamy legislation

Prnom Penh, 2 Sept — Cambodia’s National Assembly on Friday approved a new law on monogamy which means a man and woman could be sentenced in prison for having extramarital affairs.

Of the 69 lawmakers attended the assembly session, 64 voted for the law and five against, while most of the royalist FUNCINPEC Party lawmakers walked out of the session before the vote.

Under the law, Cambodian citizens must have only one husband or wife, and adultery committed by a man or woman, while still officially married, could face up a prison sentence from six months to a year and a fine of one million riel (about 244 US dollars).

The law, aimed at criminalizing adulterous extramarital affairs, caused heated debate in the National Assembly Thursday, with members fiercely divided over the bill’s potential effects on society, according to local newspapers.

Ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) lawmakers said the legislation would promote Cambodian morality.

CPP lawmaker Som Kimsour insisted that “the law will protect our Khmer society’s dignity, and promote mutual respect between one husband and wife”.

Japan’s Princess Kiko to give birth on Wednesday

TOKYO, 2 Sept — Japan’s Princess Kiko, pregnant with a possible heir to the Chrysanthemum throne, is to give birth on Wednesday, an official at the Imperial Household Agency said on Friday.

Kiko, 39, the wife of the Emperor’s younger son, Akishino, is to undergo a Caesarean operation when the child arrives. The birth will come six months after Kiko’s pregnancy was announced.

If the child is a boy, the birth will avert a succession crisis caused by the fact that no male has been born into Japan’s royal family since 1965. Crown Prince Naruhito, the Emperor’s eldest son, has one daughter, four-year-old Aiko, who cannot ascendants.

Plans to revise the 1947 imperial succession law to give women equal rights to inherit the throne were halted when Kiko’s pregnancy was announced. Kiko has two daughters.

Japan’s tabloids have said the child is already known to be a boy, but there has been no official announcement of the baby’s sex.
Germany get slice of luck to edge out Ireland

STUTTGART (Germany), 3 Sept—A deflected strike from Lukas Podolski earned Germany a 1-0 win over Ireland in their first qualifying match in almost three years on Saturday. Germany were given a series of nervous moments by their Euro 2008 qualifying Group D opener but clinched victory with a large slice of luck. Miroslav Klose won a handball and Jonny Evans cleared the ball up and Podolski’s low drive hit the unlucky Robbie Keane and sneaked inside Shay Given’s left-hand post.

The goal was greeted with roars of relief around the Gottlieb-Daimler-Stadion, the scene of Germany’s victory over Portugal in the third-place match at the World Cup, their last under former coach Juergen Klinsmann. Germany, who took their place atop a blue sportscar.

About 60,000 spectators had gathered to celebrate the Azzurri’s first competitive outing since they beat France on penalties in the World Cup final on July 9 in Berlin. Flashbulbs, kliegs and a deafening cheer greeted the arrival of Italy’s World Cup heroes when they ran on to the pitch to start their warm-up an hour before kickoff.

The team’s Naples-born captain, Fabio Cannavaro, was applauded every time he approached the stands and the World Cup trophy was taken on a lap of honour atop a blue sports car.

But the atmosphere almost spluttered out in the face of the visitors’ determination to show they had no intention of acting as the world champions’ whipping boys. MNA/Reuters

Netherlands scrape 1-0 win over lowly Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG, 3 Sept—Central defender Joris Mathijssen’s 17th minute goal gave Nether-
lands a 1-0 win over Lux-
embourg in their Euro 2008 Group G qualifier on Saturday.

The home side, who won their last competitive match 11 years ago, gave a good account of themselves against a Dutch side that played poorly and failed to fire on all cylinders.

“This was a mockery,” angry Netherlands coach Marco Van Basten told reporters after his team’s narrow win against opponents who they were expected to beat easily.

“The first half we tried to solve it by playing football but that didn’t work out. The second half we played the English way with the long ball and that also failed.”

“Everyone played below his level. In fact we should be pleased with this result when we played so badly.”

Netherlands started with a revamped midfield featuring Stijn Schaars and Theo Janssen but failed to establish any rhythm in the opening period to break down Luxembourg’s packed defence. Indeed, it was the hosts who created the first danger when Aurelien Joachim picked up the ball after a sloppy moment in the Dutch defence but his shot went wide.

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

Kilimanjaro, Tanzania (MNA/Reuters)

FRANCE CRUSH GEORGIA 3-0 IN TBILISI

TBILISI, 3 Sept—World Cup-runners up France began the post-Zinedine Zidane era in impressive fashion by crushing Georgia 3-0 in their opening Euro 2008 qualifier on Saturday.

Playing their first official match without their inspirational playmaker who retired after the World Cup final in July, the French struck twice in the first 15 minutes to silence a capacity 55,000-strong home crowd.

Florent Malouda opened the scoring after seven minutes when he surprised Georgia keeper Grigol Chan-turia with a 20-metre drive and Louis Saha doubled the lead with another low blast after a neat feed from Thierry Henry eight minutes later. The visitors made it 3-0 less than a minute after the break to put the Group B encounter beyond doubt. Henry was credited with the goal which was inadvertently directed into his own net by Georgia full-back Malkhaz Asatiani.

The Georgians, under their new German manager Klaus Toppmöller, were looking for an upset after thrashing Faroe Islands 6-0 in their opener two weeks ago.

But their game plan quickly turned sour as the French took control of the match, played in hot and humid conditions. Georgia, missing captain Kaka Kaladze and fellow fullback Levani Tsikhidzhi through injury, appealed for a penalty midway through the first half when Shota Arveladze went down after a challenge from William Gallas but it was waved away by Dutch referee Jan Wegereef.

England’s Jermain Defoe celebrates during their Euro 2008 Group E qualifying soccer match against Andorra at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 2 Sept, 2006. MNA/Reuters

Italy held 1-1 by Lithuania

NAPLES (Italy), 3 Sept—World champions Italy made a stuttering start to their Euro 2008 qualifying campaign when they were held to a shock 1-1 draw by Lithuania in Group B on Saturday.

First-half goals by Lithuania striker Tomas Danilevicius and Italy’s Filippo Inzaghi cancelled each other out and put a dampener on the party atmosphere inside the San Paolo stadium.

About 60,000 spectators had gathered to celebrate the Azzurri’s first competitive outing since they beat France on penalties in the World Cup final on July 9 in Berlin. Flashbulbs, kliegs and a deafening cheer greeted the arrival of Italy’s World Cup heroes when they ran on to the pitch to start their warm-up an hour before kickoff.

The team’s Naples-born captain, Fabio Cannavaro, was applauded every time he approached the stands and the World Cup trophy was taken on a lap of honour atop a blue sports car.

But the atmosphere almost spluttered out in the face of the visitors’ determination to show they had no intention of acting as the world champions’ whipping boys.

Litmanen double hands Beenhakker a shock Poland defeat

BYDGOSZCZ (Poland), 3 Sept—Goals from Mika Vaeryryn and 35-year-old Jari Litmanen handed Poland’s Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker a shock 3-1 loss on his competitive debut in a Euro 2008 qualifier against Finland on Saturday.

The first non-Pole to coach the national team, the ex-Real Madrid and Ajax man watched as schoolboy errors from Arkadiusz Glowacki and Liverpool keeper Jerzy Dudek handed the Finns a second-half lead they never looked like losing.

Glowacki was also sent off for the foul that gave Litmanen his and the Finns’ second from the penalty spot, taking the wind out of a Polish side hoping to qualify for European Championship finals for the first time.

A pack of riders compete during stage seven of the Tour of Spain cycling race between Leon and Alto del Morredero on 1 Sept, 2006. MNA/Reuters

GEORGE VILLIERS LEADS THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Offering of gold foils to Shwezigone Pagoda commences

YANGON, 1 Sept — The offering of gold foils to the Shwezigone Pagoda in NyaungU in Mandalay Division, has been launched recently.

Giant panda fossil found in C China

ZHENGZHOU, 3 Sept — Scientists announced on Friday they have found a giant panda fossil in central China, the first to be discovered so far north suggesting that aoms ago the bear may have roamed as far north as Beijing.

The fossilized tooth

Approximately, the cost of gold foils is K 165 million. So far, well-wishers have made donations of over K 27 million to the funds of the pagoda. Those wishing to donate gold foils may contact Secretary of NyaungU District Peace and Development Council (Ph: 061-60261). Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees (Ph: 061-608255) and U Soe Win (Singu Soe Win), Office Complex in Insein Township (Ph: 01-640487, 640489). A two-square inch gold plate costs K 16,000, a 12-square inch gold foil, K 7,000, and a nine-square inch gold foil K 5,000.

WEATHER

Sunday, 3 September, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST; During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thandwe (3.47) inches, Mawlaik (2.29) inches, Hakha (1.89) inches, Pyay (1.85) inches, Zaingtu (1.81) inches, Hinthada (1.49) inches, and Mandalay (0.19) inch. Maximum temperature on 2-9-2006 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 3-9-2006 was 75°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 3-9-2006 was (92%). Total sunshine hours on 2-9-2006 was (2.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 3-9-2006 were (0.20) inch at Mingaladon, (0.23) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.83) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (81.50) inches at Mingaladon, (93.46) inches at Kaba-Aye and (97.56) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from Southwest at (10:15) hours MST on 2-9-2006.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area over east central Bay has moved to North Bay of Bengal and still persists. Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and strong in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 4-9-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan and Kayah States and upper Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Kachin State and Bago Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State and Yangon Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltic, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of general decrease of rain in upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 4-9-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 4-9-2006: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 4-9-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), wellwishers offer provisions to monasteries and nunneries in Sangyoung, Thakayta, Dawbon

YANGON, 3 Sept — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony to donate provisions of Tatmadaw families and wellwishers to 15 monasteries and one nunnery held at Thantithukha Dhamma-yon of Koedatgyi Pagoda in Sangyoung Township this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe offered robes and provisions to members of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Wailwuun Monastery Presiding Nayaka Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Aggavamsa.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and senior military officers presented offerings to members of monasteries and nunneries in the township.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, senior military officers and departmental heads accepted donations in cash and kind from wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

Lt-Col Myo Naing of Yangon Command Headquarters, Cmdr Myint Swe of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command and Lt-Col Swe Lin of Mingaladon Air Base donated provisions of Tatmadaw families to the Sayadaw. Likewise, other wellwishers offered cash and kind to the funds of the monasteries and the nunnery.

A similar ceremony was held to donate cash and kind to 26 monasteries and two nunneries in Thakayta and Dawbon Townships this afternoon.

At Zina Manaung Pagoda in Thakayta Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe offered robes and provisions to Presiding Nayaka of Sasana Alinyaung Monastery Bhaddanta Jotika.

The commander, the vice-mayor and senior military officers donated alms to members of the Sangha.

On behalf of Tatmadaw families, Lt-Col Myo Naing of Yangon Command Headquarters, Cmdr Myint Swe of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command and Lt-Col Maung Maung Kyaw of Mingaladon Air Base offered provisions of Tatmadaw families to the Sayadaw.

Afterwards, wellwishers also presented donations to the Sayadaw.

(See page 9)

Special express train service begins 4 Sept

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Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather Forecast for (4-9-2006)

Special express train begins its Yangon-Mandalay service on 4 September 2006, leaving Yangon at 5 pm and Mandalay at 4.15 pm every day, with Pyinmana as the only stopover.