Established 1914

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four political objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* National reconsolidation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four social objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nation now has rich education environment that opens door for every person

International Literacy Day marked in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Sept — Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the International Literacy Day 2006 at the Ministry of Education here at 9 am today.

Also present on the occasion were the ministers, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the deputy ministers, members of Myanmar Education Committee, diplomats of foreign missions to the Union of Myanmar, resident representatives of UN agencies, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, directors-general and rectors of departments and boards under the Ministry of Education, principals of Education Colleges, chairmen of social organizations, township education officers in Nay Pyi Taw, school heads, prize winners and guests.

Eighth standard students Ma Yin Lè Oo and Ma Aye Thuza Maung of Pyinmana BEHS No 2 acted as MCs. Students of Nay Pyi Taw BEHS No 6 sang the song entitled ‘Our Strength’.

MEC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address. He said that today, the government is in the process of implementing national education promotion projects with the high aim of creating a lifelong learning society, in which basic literacy skills for every citizen and reading power enhancement are the pivotal sector.

At a time when the people are building their own country with their own strength for the emergence of peaceful, modern and developed nation, a requirement arises to keep advanced sciences and technologies in all sectors in the right direction and to produce qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia in every field of knowledge that will effectively accelerate national development. In addition, every citizen should have at least basic education.

Due to the yearly promotion of the formal education and the non-formal education in harmony, learning is no longer within the bounds of the classroom, but reaching the area beyond the classroom where learning opportunities for communal, regional and national development are flourishing.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Myanmar Railways to fulfil transportation requirements

The government has been putting into action many transportation projects to ensure smooth and secure transport, to further enhance friendship and national solidarity among national races, and to make commodity flows smooth and swift.

It has also placed emphasis on better transport between two commercial cities — Yangon and Mandalay — while it is expanding railway link between Nay Pyi Taw, the centre of the nation, and other parts of the nation. The Yangon-Mandalay special express train launched its maiden trip on 4 September this year.

Mandalay is the junction of Sagaing-Myitkyina railroad, Shan State (North) railroad, Madaya railroad, Myingyan-Bagan railroad and Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon railroad. It is also the junction of two most passenger-packed railroad sections — Yangon-Mandalay section and Mandalay-Myitkyina section. In addition, vegetables and rice needed for Mandalay and salt and the most of meat and fish from Mon State are transported by train.

Yangon, the commercial hub of the nation, is the transit for the goods produced in the lower Myanmar to be transported to various parts of the nation as well as the centre where railroads of Rakhine State, Taninthayi Division, Mon State, Ayeyawady Division, Kayin State and Bago Division meet.

The Ministry of Rail Transportation is fulfilling the requirements of transportation of passengers and loads such as construction of more railroads, launching more train schedules and running express freight trains and express greens trains for controlling commodity prices.

The Myanma Railways is now running 222 passenger trains and 24 wagon trains and operating 185 circular train schedules across the nation. It is believed that the Myanma Railways will continue to fulfil all the requirements of transportation of passengers and commodities.

Tailoring Courses open in Myawady, Kawkareik

YANGON, 8 Sept — The Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs opened the Basic Tailoring Course No 28 and the Advanced Course No 15 on 4 September at the hall of Women’s Vocational Training School in Myawady, Kayin State.

Brig-Gen Myint Naung of Thingan Nyinaung station made an opening speech, and Principal Daw Nyo Nyo Myint explained the purpose of opening the courses.

Chairman of Myawady District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Maw Maw presented a water cooler to the training school through the principal.

The principal expressed thanks, and the trainees from Myawady and Kawkareik districts are attending the 14-week course. — MNA

Dagon Myothit (South) Township USDA holds annual general meeting

YANGON, 8 Sept — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko delivered an address at the annual general meeting of Dagon Myothit (South) Township USDA this morning.

The CEC member accepted 120 membership applications from No 5 Agricultural Equipment Factory.

Next, the CEC member and officials accepted cash donations from wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them. The CEC member and officials awarded prizes to outstanding students of the township.

At the annual general meeting, Secretary of Township USDA U Zaw Oo presided over the meeting and spoke on the occasion. Afterwards, the report of the executive committee was submitted to the meeting, and the participants took part in the discussions. Later, the meeting chairman gave the concluding remarks. — MNA

Farmers to improve biosecurity, farming knowledge

YANGON, 8 Sept — As part of an effort to prevent and control avian influenza, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and UNICEF jointly organized the Training Course on Biosecurity and Good Farming Practice for Poultry Farmers here today.

The opening ceremony of the training course was attended by officials of WHO, FAO, UNICEF and veterinarians from Mandalay, Sagaing, Yangon and Bago Divisions.

Dr Kanarat Harintharanon and Dr Pranee Panichabhongse of Department of Livestock Development of Thailand and Deputy Director-General of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Than Daing will give lectures at the training on biosecurity and use of disinfectant to control the spread of bird flu. — MNA
South African agency welcomes space coop with Russia

CAPE TOWN, 7 Sept—The agreement between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his South African counterpart Thabo Mbeki to cooperate for a space development programme was hailed by local space agency on Wednesday as a step to give a vital momentum to the country's space initiatives.

Bart Cilliers, CEO of SunSpace and Information Systems, said, “The agreement between the two countries will facilitate liaison for the launch of locally manufactured satellites.”

SunSpace is the South African manufacturer of satellite systems and an affiliate company to Stellenbosch University.

The company develops and supplies micro-satellites for remote-sensing and telecommunications services. SunSpace has, among others, been commissioned to build Sumbandilasat, the satellite over which was part of the high-level discussions on Tuesday.

The South African Government announced last October that 26 million rand was to be spent on the development of Sumbandilasat.

Ex-Iranian President says US action in Mideast backfiring

WASHINGTON, 7 Sept—Former Iranian president Mohammad Khatami warned that US military action in the Middle East had backfired, producing greater terrorism, imperiling the future of Iraq and damaging America’s long-term interests, the Washington Post reported on Wednesday.

The danger of even greater instability in the region will ultimately prevent the United States from launching military strikes against Iran over disputes about its nuclear intentions, Khatami said in a wide-ranging interview in New York on Tuesday.

Although an attack on Iran would create “great damage”, “prudence and wisdom” are likely to prevail because of the incalculable “detriment and damage” it would cause to both the region and the United States, Khatami said.

“America will not make the mistake of attacking Iran,” Khatami said, adding “Iran is not Iraq.”

In an interview with the USA Today on Monday, Khatami urged the US and Washington to resolve the dispute over Iran’s nuclear programme through negotiations and also rejected the idea of imposing sanctions on Iran.

Khatami, who now heads a group called the International Centre for Dialogue Among Civilizations, is on a private visit to the United States and is scheduled to make a speech on dialogue among civilizations at Washington’s National Cathedral on Thursday.

The US State Department said that during his stay in the United States, there were no plans for the government officials to meet with him.

British MP nominated by Fiji for UNSG

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Sept—A British parliamentarian with a Sri Lankan passport has been nominated by Fiji as a candidate for UN Secretary-General, according to letters obtained on Wednesday.

The candidate, Niranjan Deva-Aditya, 58, who also goes by the name of Nirj Deva, represents a British Conservative Party constituency in southeast England and is a member of the European Parliament.

He has dual citizenship in his native Sri Lanka, which has nominated another candidate, Jayantha Dhanapala, to succeed Secretary-General Kofi Annan, whose 10 years in office expire at the end of this year.

Fiji’s Foreign Minister Kaliopate Tavola first wrote the nomination letter on 18 July but did not release it until Monday, saying it was prudent that the council “firstly undertakes its deliberation to reduce the field of candidates”.

Fastest supercomputer to be built

LONDON, 7 Sept—Computer giant IBM will build the world’s most powerful supercomputer at a US government laboratory.

The machine, codenamed Roadrunner, could be four times more potent than the current fastest machine, BlueGene/L, also built by IBM.

The new computer is a “hybrid” design, using both conventional supercomputer processors and the new “cell” chip designed for Sony’s PlayStation 3.

Roadrunner will be installed at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico.

The laboratory is owned by the US Department of Energy (DOE).

Eventually the machine could be used for a programme that ensures the US nuclear weapons stockpile remains safe and reliable, the DOE said in a statement.

Using supercomputers to simulate how nuclear materials age negates arguments for the resumption of underground nuclear testing.

The new machine will be able to achieve “petaflop speeds,” said IBM. One petaflop is the equivalent of 1,000 trillion calculations per second.

Running at peak speed, it will be able to crunch through 1.6 thousand trillion calculations per second.

Using supercomputers to simulate how nuclear materials age negates arguments for the resumption of underground nuclear testing.

Currently, BlueGene/L is the most powerful computer in the world. —INTERNET

An exhibitor demonstrates the technique of woven-paper painting during a tour merchandise exhibition held in Quanzhou, southeast China’s Fujian Province, on 6 Sept, 2006. —XINHUA

Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi speaks at the Symposium for Multinational Corporations during the 10th China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT) in Xiamen, a coastal city in southeast China’s Fujian Province, on 7 Sept, 2006. —XINHUA

An actor dressed as a German soldier shows the use of the Enigma machine in Bletchley Park Museum in Bletchley, central England, on 6 Sept, 2006. INTERNET

INTERNET
India mine blast ‘traps dozens’

LONDON, 7 Sept—Officials in India’s eastern state of Jharkhand say work to rescue more than 50 miners trapped inside a coal mine is being hampered by poisonous gases. The miners were trapped after an explosion at the Bhatdith colliery which is run by the state-owned company Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

Authorities say the chances of the men surviving are slim. Jharkhand, which has India’s largest coal deposits, has suffered a number of mining accidents in recent years. This is an unprecedented situation and the chances of their survival are zero.

The BBC’s Salman Ravi in the Jharkhand state capital, Ranchi, says only five miners who were working at the upper levels of the 460m-deep (1,500-foot) mine in western Jharia region have emerged after an explosion rocked the mine on Wednesday.

“The explosion was so powerful that I was thrown off my feet and I saw a trolley loaded with coal get ripped apart and break up,” said Nunu Lal, a miner who managed to come out. — Internet

Iraqi speaker’s nephew abducted in northern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 7 Sept—A nephew of Iraqi Parliament Speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani was kidnapped on Wednesday night in northern Baghdad, a police source told Xinhua. The abduction occurred at about 10:30 pm (1830 GMT) when the car of Ahmad, al-Mashhadani’s nephew, was intercepted by unidentified gunmen in a district north of Baghdad, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The gunmen kidnapped Ahmad and left the scene immediately, the source said.

Iraqi Parliament reopened its second legislative term on Tuesday after a month-long recession amid mounting sectarian violence. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia makes all efforts to take seat in UNSC

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 9 September, 2006

JAKARTA, 7 Sept—Indonesia is making all efforts in an attempt to become a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), according to local media Wednesday.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda said his office sent special envoy letters to almost all members of the UN since early this year as part of the effort to win a seat in the Council. “We have lobbied most UN members during the first half of the year ... and have secured commitments of support from many countries,” the minister was quoted by The Jakarta Post newspaper as saying.

Indonesia was confident of election to the UNSC to further enhance its position in international politics, he said.

The UNSC election will take place during a UN meeting on 16 October this year.

Hassan said Indonesia’s chances of taking a seat in the Council next month increased following South Korea’s recent withdrawal from the race.

The only other contender for the seat, which is reserved for an Asian nation, is Nepal. — MNA/Xinhua

Indian speaker’s nephew abducted

CHENGDU, 7 Sept—The abduction of a nephew of the Speaker of the National People’s Congress of China, after their meeting in Valparaiso, central Chile, on 6 Sept, 2006.—Xinhua

57 pupils poisoned by diarrhoea-causing bacteria in S-W China

CHENGDU, 7 Sept—Medical experts have confirmed that 57 pupils of a primary school who were sent to hospital after eating lunch at their school on the first day of the new semester in southwest China, were suffering from food poisoning caused by a diarrhoea-causing bacteria.

Health authorities in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, announced on Wednesday that clinical diagnoses show that 33 others have symptoms of food poisoning.

Experts say they found shigella bacteria in the food. The 33 pupils will undergo lab tests.

As of 6 pm Tuesday, 606 pupils, including the 57 confirmed cases and the 33 clinical cases, had undergone medical checks at the local hospital. At press time, 516 pupils were still under medical observation, said Liu Jun, deputy director of the Chengdu Health Bureau. — MNA/Xinhua

Ex-Illinois governor gets 78-month prison sentence

CHICAGO, 7 Sept—Former Illinois governor George Ryan, promoted as a Nobel Peace Prize candidate for his vigorous opposition to capital punishment, was sentenced to 6 1/2 years in prison on Wednesday for corrupt dealings while in office.

The 72-year-old Ryan, his voice cracking, told the court before sentencing: “I realize ... the people of Illinois have lost faith in their government. And for that I am very sorry. I let them down.”

But he did not admit guilt beyond saying, “there are failures I regret. I should have been more vigilant, should have been more watchful,” calling his sentencing “the saddest day of my life”.

On 18 April, after a nearly six-month trial, a jury convicted Ryan and friend and lobbyist Larry Warner of 18 counts of racketeering, conspiracy, fraud and other offenses involving favouritism and kickbacks for state contracts and property leases that enriched Ryan and his friends. — MNA/Reuters

Citizens view a healthy diet pyramid at the Center for Disease Prevention and Health Care of Canglang District in Suzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 6 Sept, 2006.—Xinhua

Men stands behind a cow artwork displayed as part of an art festival entitled ‘Cow Parade Tokyo’ in Marunouchi business district in Tokyo on 7 Sept, 2006.—Internet
Bolivian leader pays surprise visit to Fidel Castro

HAVANA, 7 Sept—Bolivian President Evo Morales made a surprise half-day visit to Cuba on Wednesday to visit convalescing Cuban leader Fidel Castro, Cuban television said.

Morales spent two hours with Castro, who is recovering from emergency surgery to stop intestinal bleeding which forced him to cede power temporarily to his younger brother on 31 July.

He is the second leader to visit the bed-ridden Castro. Venezuela’s left-wing President Hugo Chavez, Castro’s closest ally, has visited him three times.

Morales, an indigenous leader who rose from Bolivia’s coca farmers movement to the presidency, lunched with Raul Castro and met with Bolivians studying medicine in Cuba before departing for La Paz on Wednesday evening.

Morales said he would be back in Havana next week for the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement of 116 developing nations.

It is not certain whether Fidel Castro will be able to host the summit, but he said on Tuesday he would receive visiting dignitaries in private. Cuba expects some 50 heads of state or governments to attend.

Iran criticizes Bush’s call for “a different choice”

TEHERAN, 7 Sept—Iran on Wednesday criticized US President George W Bush’s latest remarks urging the Iranian leadership to “make a different choice” in its nuclear issue.

In a statement sent to Xinhua, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said that the United States “tries to create a negative atmosphere against us in order to achieve its illegitimate goals”.

“The repetitive and baseless remarks of Mr. Bush have no other purpose but to divert the world’s consciousness from the facts concerning Iran’s peaceful nuclear programme and put his allies under pressure,” he added.

On Tuesday, in a speech on the war against terrorism, Bush vowed not to allow Iran to get nuclear weapons and urged the Iranian leadership to “make a different choice”.

“I am not going to allow this to happen. And no future American President can allow it, either,” the US President said. “Their choice is increasingly isolating the great Iranian nation from the international community. It is time for Iran’s leader to make a different choice,” Bush said— MNA/Xinhua

Labour MPs resign to protest against Blair’s reign

LONDON, 7 Sept—Seven Labour members of Parliament quit their government posts on Wednesday in protest against Tony Blair’s refusal to set a timetable for his departure as both Labour leader and British prime minister.

Tom Watson quit as a Defence Minister and was followed by six Parliamentary Private Secretaries including Khalid Mahmood, Wayne David, Ian Lucas, Mark Tami, Chris Mole and David Wright, Sky news reported.

They said it was not “in the interest of either the party or the country” for Blair to remain in office.

Four of the group said in a joint statement that Blair had “not ended the uncertainty over when he intends to leave office, which is damaging the government and the party.”

“I share the view of the overwhelming majority of the party and the country that the only way the party and the government can renew itself in office is urgently to renew its leadership,” Watson wrote in his resignation letter.

He was also among a group of MPs who had earlier signed a confidential letter to Blair urging him to name a date for his departure.

The Sun newspaper on Wednesday published a front-page story screaming that Blair will resign on 31 May as party leader and depart as Prime Minister on 26 July next year. There has been no official comment from Downing Street.

Miss Venezuela beauty pageant contestant Maryury Suarez from the state of Anzoategui makes herself up after a body expression lesson in Caracas on 5 Sept, 2006.

INTERNET

Israel begins lifting blockade on Lebanon

JERUSALEM, 8 Sept — A spokesman for Israeli Foreign Ministry on Thursday said that Israeli Army began lifting the blockade on Lebanon at 6:00 pm (1500 GMT).

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev told media that the Army began lifting the air blockade shortly after 6:00 pm, but failed to give the time for completion.

Meanwhile, Miri Eisen, spokeswoman for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, also confirmed the end of aerial blockade on Lebanon, but said that the planned end to a siege on sea ports has been postponed for 48 hours.

“What starts at 6:00 pm is a gradual process, it could take hours or a day (to complete),” Eisen was quoted by Israeli media as saying.

On Wednesday, Israeli Government announced that Israel to lift its naval and aerial blockade on Lebanon on Thursday evening.

Israeli Prime Minister’s Office also said in a statement that international forces would take control of Lebanese seaports and airports as soon as Israel lift its blockade on Thursday evening.— MNA/Xinhua

A recent undated X-Ray shows a cell phone in a Salvadoran prisoner’s lower intestine. Four men, all members of the Mara Salvatrucha street gang, were caught with cell phones, a charger, and spare chips which they had inserted so far up their rectums that they reached their intestines, according to authorities at Zacatecoluca prison, 65 km (40 miles) from San Salvador, on 7 Sept, 2006.—INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Saturday, 9 September, 2006  5
Nation now has rich education environment that opens door...

The nation now has rich education environment that opens the door for every person thanks to the government’s efforts for progress of every citizen’s access to basic education and public education qualification corresponding to ensuring equal opportunities in choosing and pursuing various branches of knowledge and subjects in accord with the needs.

Due to the yearly promotion of the formal education and the non-formal education in harmony, learning is no longer within the bounds of the classroom, but reaching the area beyond the classroom where learning opportunities for communal, regional and national development are flourishing.

Mass movement school administration campaign of the formal education sector for cent per cent enrolment of all school age children and for all students to complete basic education, the national school enrolment rate in 2006-2007 academic year is 97.84 per cent, up from 91 in 1999-2000.

In addition to the nation’s support for children to finish primary school education, it has opened 6,003 post primary schools in encouraging students to complete their middle school education. Multimedia rooms have been opened in 1,671 schools, and the number of e-learning centres has increased to 734.

Multimedia rooms have been opened in 1,671 schools, and the number of e-learning centres has increased to 734. Due to the yearly promotion of the formal education and the non-formal education in harmony, learning is no longer within the bounds of the classroom, but reaching the area beyond the classroom where learning opportunities for communal, regional and national development are flourishing.

As a result, adult literacy rate increased from 83 per cent in 1996 to 94.1 per cent in 2005 and then 94.35 per cent in 2006. So far, 896 community learning centres have been established, and constant learning programmes are being carried out to promote reading, earn more money and improve the quality of life. Therefore, not only the socio-economic life of the people but also the health, social and economic sectors of the respective regions have improved significantly. Like other countries of the world that are focusing on eliminating poverty and diseases, ensuring literacy and improving the socio-economy of their peoples, Myanmar is also implementing rural development tasks as a special project. The five rural development tasks, laid down by the Head of State himself, are: uplift of the

Like other countries of the world that are focusing on eliminating poverty and diseases, ensuring literacy and improving the socio-economy of their peoples, Myanmar is also implementing rural development tasks as a special project.
Nation now has rich education …

(from page 6)

health of rural people, improvement of the economy of rural people, improvement of the transport sector, supply of safe drinking water and uplift of education standard. Implementing the rural development tasks also involve the improvement of the education sectors such as ensuring enrollment of school-age children, completion of primary education, continued pursuit of middle and high school education, creating education opportunities for over-school-age children, improving the reading speed of new literates and earning more income. These are indeed a fundamental factor and play a very crucial role.

The Secretary-1 said the improvement of the people’s literacy, knowledge, health, and social ethics will surely facilitate the development of their socio-economic life as well as their regions. That is why the entire mass of people are urged to actively participate in the literacy movements so as to improve the education and socio-economic of the people and catch up with the international community in international literacy movements.

Mr. Tang Zhenping, Acting Resident Coordinator of the UN, read the message in commemoration of the International Literacy Day sent by UN Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan. General Secretary of Myanmar UNESCO National Commission Dr. Khan Zaw, Rector of Yangon Institute of Education, read the message sent by the UNESCO Director-General.

School girls of Pyinnama BEHS No. 1 sang the song entitled “Zartiman.” Next, MEC Chairman Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein presented certificates of honour to first, second and third prize winners — seventh standard student Ma Su Hlaing Tun of Tansway BEHS No. 4, sixth standard student Maung Aung Thura of Aungmyithazan BEHS No. 1 and seventh standard student Ma Thida Htwwe of Pathein BEHS No. 2 respectively in the basic education middle school level poster contest.

He also awarded certificates of honour to first, second and third prize winners to eighth standard student Maung Kyaw Khaing Htet of Pathein BEHS No. 1, ninth standard student Maung Than Aung Phyo of Myeik BEHS No. 2 and ninth standard student Ma Thida Htwwe of Mudon BEHS No. 2 respectively in the basic education high school level essay contest. The Secretary-1 also gave certificates of honour to first, second and third prize winners to second year student Ma Hnin Oo Yi of YIE; second year student Ma Su Sandi Win of UDNR of Sagaing; and second year student Ma Nay Nwe Hlaing of Dovrei Education College respectively in the Institute of Education/Education College level essay contest.

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein presented certificates of honour to first, second and third prize winners to Assistant Lecturer Dr. Than Win (Maung Than Win YU) of Myanmar Defence Department of YU, Nurse Officer Lt. Daw Tin Zar Maw (Mya Chu Ei) of Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed), and U Kyaw Tun (Aphyaukmyay Maung Swe Mon) of Zalun respectively in the professional level article contest.

Next, the documentary video was presented to the audience. Students of Nay Pyi Taw BEHS No. 5 sang the song entitled “Education for All.”

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 greeted diplomats led by Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Madame Phoebe A Gomez, resident representatives of UN agencies, prize winners and guests.

Later, the Secretary-1 and party together with guests viewed the booths and posters to mark the International Literacy Day 2006, prize winning essays, articles and posters displayed at the hall of the Ministry of Education.

---

MMCWA (Central) Vice-President donates delivery room equipment, medicines in Thazi

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Sept — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) donated delivery room equipment and medicines to the delivery room of Thazi Township MCWA yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and party, local authorities, members of Division and District MCW Supervisory Committees and well-wishers.

Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint gave a speech and presented delivery room equipment and medicines to Township MCWA Chairperson Daw Tin Nu. Secretary of MMCWA (Central) Daw Wai Wai Tha also donated K 50,000 to the pre-primary school of the township association to the Township Chairperson.

At the town hall, the Vice-President and party explained the aim and goal of the association, and future tasks. At the delivery room, they presented cash assistance and refreshments to the expectant mothers.

CEC members of the association presented cash to the fund of the township association and MMCWA (Central) Secretary Daw Wai Wai Tha, cash to the evening school.

While in Thazi Township, they presented toys to children at the pre-primary school, and Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint of MMCWA (Central) hands over medicines and medical equipment to Chairperson of Thazi Township MCWA Daw Tin Nu.
The US Ambassador to UN John Bolton submitted a letter to the UN Security Council on 4 September 2006, saying that as Myanmar’s situation reached the level of posing a threat to international peace and security, a senior official of UN Secretariat should explain Myanmar’s conditions for the matter to be discussed formally at the UNSC.

However, the obvious thing is that the demand of the US ambassador is nothing more than a repeated political ploy to apply pressure on Myanmar while ignoring all the objective developments and changes taking place in the country. For more than a decade the successive US Administrations have been trying to dominate Myanmar politically, economically and socially. Beginning late September 1988, the US government has downgraded the country’s political, economic and social relations with Myanmar with the intention of Americanizing her and installing a puppet government, with democracy and human rights as fine excuses.

A thorough study of the matter reveals that the group that called itself NCGUB led by expatriate Sein Win and Pyithit Nyunt Wai (a Maung Maung initiated the attempts to present Myanmar affairs to the UNSC. Sein Win and Pyithit Nyunt Wai fled Myanmar, and they in collusion with terrorist organizations outside Myanmar have been constantly perpetrating destructive acts inside the country. Some expatriates settled down in America; they started to use the country as the base for NCGUB; and in 2003 they issued a paper suggesting that the UNSC deal with Myanmar issue. The paper faded away as there was no one who accepted the suggestion.

The US issued the Proclamation 6925 signed by President Bush on 28 July 2003 to further intensify its lopsided sanctions against Myanmar. The Act prohibits issuance of US visas for all senior officials of the Tatmadaw government. The Clinton-signed Executive Order 13047 issued on 20 March 1997 forbids US citizens and companies from investing in Myanmar, while the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 signed by President Bush on 28 July 2003 forbids remittance and money transfers to Myanmar government. The Clinton-signed Executive Order 13047 of 2003 forbids US Congress bars all exports from Myanmar. The main player of the American accusations against Myanmar are US Congressmen Mitch McConnell and his associates. The US Congressmen Mitch McConnell, Dana Rohrabcher, Dianne Feinstein and Tom Lantos wrongly believe the one-sided accusations of the expatriate traitors living in their constituencies as true, so they are trying to table the motions demanding the imposition of lopsided sanctions against Myanmar.

Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who is the Senate Majority Whip, handled the matters of putting sanctions on Myanmar as his own case. In reality, Myanmar is enjoying peace more than ever before, and there is nothing to compare her situation with the world nations including those of the Middle East facing conflicts, wars, starvation or epidemic. In the time of democratic transition and economic transformation, Myanmar will face difficulties as usual. However, anyone who studies Myanmar will see the energetic efforts of the Myanmar government and the people to overcome those hardships and her peace and stability much better than some other nations like her. The real problems do not lie in Myanmar; they are the consequences of outside pressure and lopsided sanctions. It is a heart-rending fact that the US government has been making decision in favour of some influential Congressmen to handle Myanmar affairs as they wish for just winning their support in drawing policies and bills on political, defence and economic sectors.

US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Eric John in his report to the international relations committee of the Congress said that beginning October 2005, the US government was making arrangements to present Myanmar agenda to the UNSC based on the paper compiled by Havel and Tutu to heighten its attack on Myanmar. The US organized its allies in the UNSC through pressure and assistance to decide the matter through votes at the Security Council.

On the other hand, there were still some US members that wished to act according to the UN Charter and had the view that Myanmar’s situation did not pose a threat to the regional stability. Under US pressure, UN Under-Secretary-General Mr Gambari had to explain Myanmar affairs at the Security Council in accord with the majority agreement. Because of Mr Gambari’s constructive report, American faces others’ displeasure instead of getting what it wanted.

At a Congress hearing on Myanmar held on 7 February 2006, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hay expressed belief that the UNSC would continue to give priority to the issue of Myanmar in its discussions; and that all the participants would have to think about the future plans of the agenda. His statements reiterated the fact that the US had not given up its hope to make Myanmar affairs an international issue.

At the invitation of Foreign Affairs Minister of Myanmar, UN Under-Secretary-General Mr Gambari visited the country from 18 to 20 May this year. Thanks to the efforts made by the Myanmar government Mr Gambari declared his visit successful and the opening of a new area of UN-Myanmar cooperation.

Because of the pressure of the American envoy, Mr Gambari made an official trip to the UN visit on 30 May 2006. His clarification was constructive. The wish of the US government was not fulfilled again because Mr Gambari told the meeting that his visit was successful.

Myanmar’s neighbouring countries as well as the countries of Non-Aligned Movement welcomed the success of his visit. The 116-member NAM sent letters to all UNSC member nations, saying that Myanmar was not a threat at all to international peace and security; and that presenting Myanmar affairs at the Security Council was against the Article 24. NAM stood correctly by Myanmar.

Neighbouring countries, ASEAN nations, Asian nations and NAM countries, understanding Myanmar’s history, internal situation and gradual development and the public stance, are cooperating with and standing by Myanmar. Even Australia and some European nations have changed their attitude on Myanmar and cooperating with and supporting her. Hence, the US changed its tactics using the International Labour Organization and the Human Rights Commission/Council as tools in taking action against Myanmar at the UN meetings.

As the main aim of the US government is to depose the existing Myanmar government and install a puppet administration in accord with its wish, it is certain that the US accusations are not based on precise and accurate facts and data. It will use the false data and facts sent to it by outlawed anti-government organizations abroad, self-seekers under the name of refugees, and insurgents and underground elements inside the nation.

As the main aim of the US government is to depose the existing Myanmar government and install a puppet administration in accord with its wish, it is certain that the US accusations are not based on precise and accurate facts and data. It will use the false data and facts sent to it by outlawed anti-government organizations abroad, self-seekers under the name of refugees, and insurgents and underground elements inside the nation.
**Outbreaks of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria**

In its drive to implement the national health care plan, the Myanmar government is focusing on HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria through preventive measures, educative talks and effective medical treatments. In the process, it is working together with international organizations and international NGOs to explain how Global Fund that provided assistance for the fight against the three diseases left the nation. After reaching the agreement to grant an assistance of 98 million US dollars to implement the tasks in Myanmar for five years, Global Fund presented US$ 6.9 million to fight TB on 1 January 2005, US$ 19 million to fight HIV/AIDS on 13 June 2005, and US$ 9.4 million to fight malaria on 1 March 2005. In spending the cash assistance on the plans, the UNDP played a major role, and the Ministry of Health served as chairman of the Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM). On 18 August 2005, the experts from Global Fund terminated unilaterally the plans under the pretext that they could not make field tours of project areas. According to the announcements of the UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS and UNICEF, their reasons were found illogical and lame. Their decision also failed to win the support of the international community. So, the plan has been replaced with other projects.

It was clear that Global Fund had to yield to the political pressure of the US that contributed most to the funds. Meanwhile, the new UNFOLD and the WHO, UNAIDS and UNICEF insisted on resorting to political tricks by manufacturing invented stories locally and globally, saying that the government had failed to provide care for AIDS patients, and so they had to give a hand, and they also attempted to exploit politically the AIDS patients, and called some political parties inside the nation including the National League for Democracy (NLD) and National League for Democracy - Democratic Change (NLD-DC) to call themselves ‘88 generation instead of lending a constructive hand to the government in building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state, are trying to earn money through short cut by applying destructive means of the 1988 unrest.

International assistance through them to fight the three diseases. However, in practice, the Ministry of Health had already launched the tasks on self-reliant basis in cooperation with the people in the fight against the three diseases before receiving the international assistance. So, those who want to contribute towards the plans will have to honour the agreements and rules and regulations, through which Myanmar is cooperating with international organizations and international NGOs in the drive. According to the statistics issued by the WHO, the outbreak of the three diseases was on the decrease, less than that of its neighbours. Hence, it was merely an exaggeration that prevalence of the three diseases spread to neighbouring countries.

And Myanmar’s HIV/AIDS outbreak was just 1.3 per cent according to the figures issued by UNAIDS, and 1.2 per cent by UNICEF in 2005. In spending the cash assistance on the plans, the government has arranged tours many times for the regions where poppy was grown in the past. During the trips, clarifications were made with compelling evidence for their knowledge concerning which groups grow poppy, and produce and smuggle narcotic drugs. Besides, diplomats of embassies of West bloc countries to Myanmar, and officials of UN agencies have made study tours of border areas several times. Therefore, such organizations and officials have realized that totally flagrant is the accusation that Myanmar’s narcotics problem poses a threat to regional security.

**Narcotic drugs**

It has been known to the international community including the UN and the US that the Myanmar government is implementing the 15-year drug elimination plan. In this context, Myanmar is not working alone, but in cooperation with neighbours through bilateral agreements along with the UN, other nations such as the US and the Russian Federation, and international organizations. According to the survey jointly conducted with the US, it had been recognized that Myanmar’s poppy cultivation fell drastically. Diplomats of international organizations and foreign news agencies have been invited many times to the ceremonies to witness Myanmar’s achievement in its drug elimination drive. And the government has arranged tours many times for them to study the regions where poppy was grown in the past. During the trips, clarifications were made with compelling evidence for their knowledge concerning which groups grow poppy, and produce and smuggle narcotic drugs. Besides, diplomats of embassies of West bloc countries to Myanmar, and officials of UN agencies have made study tours of border areas several times. Therefore, such organizations and officials have realized that totally flagrant is the accusation that Myanmar’s narcotics problem poses a threat to regional security.

**Outbreaks of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria**

In its drive to implement the national health care plan, the Myanmar government is focusing on HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria through preventive measures, educative talks and effective medical treatments. In the process, it is working together with international organizations and international NGOs to explain how the Global Fund that provided assistance for the fight against the three diseases left the nation. After reaching the agreement to grant an assistance of 98 million US dollars to implement the tasks in Myanmar for five years, Global Fund presented US$ 6.9 million to fight TB on 1 January 2005, US$ 19 million to fight HIV/AIDS on 13 June 2005, and US$ 9.4 million to fight malaria on 1 March 2005. In spending the cash assistance on the plans, the UNDP played a major role, and the Ministry of Health served as chairman of the Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM). On 18 August 2005, the experts from Global Fund terminated unilaterally the plans under the pretext that they could not make field tours of project areas. According to the announcements of the UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS and UNICEF, their reasons were found illogical and lame. Their decision also failed to win the support of the international community. So, the plan has been replaced with other projects.

It was clear that Global Fund had to yield to the political pressure of the US that contributed most to the funds. Meanwhile, the new UNFOLD and the WHO, UNAIDS and UNICEF insisted on resorting to political tricks by manufacturing invented stories locally and globally, saying that the government had failed to provide care for AIDS patients, and so they had to give a hand, and they also attempted to exploit politically the AIDS patients, and called for

**Some political parties inside the nation including the National League for Democracy (NLD) and National League for Democracy - Democratic Change (NLD-DC) called themselves ‘88 generation instead of lending a constructive hand to the government in building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state, are trying to earn money through short cut by applying destructive means of the 1988 unrest.**
Myanmar will soon be able to...

(from page16)

Ministry of Health is placing emphasis on enriching the nutrient of the people. The activities of the Nutrition Week were launched with the aim of increasing public awareness of iodine deficiency. As of 2002, Nutrition Promotion Week has also been organized across the country. Besides, measures will be taken this year to test quality of iodized salt, to feed Vitamin-A tablets to children, to distribute folic acid tablets to women and to raise awareness of feeding nutritionally balanced food to children aged under five. Myanmar could manage sustainable achievement in iodine deficiency elimination activities due to Nutrition Promotion Week campaign.

In addition, preventive measures against obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease will be taken in Myanmar.

In conclusion, Lt-Gen Thein Sein thanked Ministry of Mines, UNICEF, WHO and NGOs who joined hands with Ministry of Health to improve nutrition of mothers and children in Myanmar.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein and party viewed documentary photos on Nutrition Promotion Week. Iodine Deficiency Week, Vitamin-A tablets feeding activities, measures on preventions against anemia and production of iodized salt by Ministry of Mines. Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein and officials of social organizations later gave Vitamin-A tablets and presented gifts to children.

---

President-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein observes sample of iodized salt at the ceremony to mark the Nutrition Promotion Week.---MNA

---

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein addresses the ceremony to mark the Nutrition Promotion Week.---MNA

---

President Daw Khin Khin Win of MMCWA presents gift to a child.---MNA

---

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein and officials of social organizations later gave Vitamin-A tablets and presented gifts to children.
Nay Pyi Taw Command puts nearly 500,000 fingerlings into dam

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Sept — Nay Pyi Taw Command puts nearly 500,000 fingerlings including 40,000 prawns into Yezin Dam here today.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, officials, members of Pyinmana district and township Women’s Affairs Organizations and Maternal and Child Welfare Associations put fingerlings into the dam. As part of an effort to supply meat and fish sufficiently to the region, Nay Pyi Taw Command targets to breed 1 million fish in the dam. — MNA

Vice-President of MMCWA tours Kangyidaunt Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Sept — Vice-President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Aye Aye and responsible persons, together with Chairperson of Ayeayawady Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, wife of the commander, Daw Than Thaw Nwe, met with MCWA members, social organization members and local people at the hall of Kangyidaunt Township Hospital, MCWSC and WAO. — MNA

ASEAN+3 meeting focuses on environmental cooperation

YANGON, 8 Sept — The 3rd ASEAN+3 Senior Officials Meeting on Environment was held at the Sedona Hotel, Mandalay, today.

Chairman of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) Mr Hj Mohd Said extended greetings and the senior officials of China, Japan and Republic of Korea made opening remarks.

At the meeting, participants discussed potential areas of environmental cooperation between ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Japan, ASEAN-Korea and the meeting concluded in the afternoon. — MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for Finland

YANGON, 8 Sept — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win left Nay Pyi Taw this morning by air to attend the 6th Asia-Europe Summit Meeting (ASEM 6) to be held in Helsinki, Finland, from 10 to 11 September 2006.

Minister U Nyan Win was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Maung Maung and the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The minister was accompanied by Assistant Director U Win Zeya Tun of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After attending the 6th Asia-Europe Summit Meeting Minister U Nyan Win will attend the 14th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement from 11 to 16 September 2006 to be held in Havana, Cuba. The minister will also attend the 61st United Nations General Assembly in New York. An advance team including U Nyan Lynn, Director-General of the Political Department, Adviser U Aung Than and Deputy Director U Soe Lynn Han of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs left for the Senior Officials’ Meeting to be held in Helsinki on 8 September 2006 to prepare for the (ASEM 6). — MNA

H&T Minister receives foreign ambassadors

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Sept — Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing received Philippine Ambassador Mme Phoebe A Gomez, Laotian Ambassador Mr Chanthavy Bodhisane, Malaysian Ambassador Mr Shaharuddin bin Mohd Som, Bruneian Ambas-sador Pehin Datu Inderasugara Brig-Gen (B) Dato Hj Mohd Yusuf bin Abu Bakar and Deputy Director Brig-Gen Aye Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General U Hay Aung of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and departmental officials. — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Iran test flies warplane it remodelled

TEHERAN, 7 Sept—Iran has remodelled one of the warplanes in its fleet and successfully test flown the aircraft, state-run media reported on Wednesday.

The reports did not specify which plane had been remodelled but pictures on state television of the redesigned plane indicated it was based on a US-built F-5.

Iran still uses planes, such as the F-5, supplied by the United States to the government of the former shah of Iran, a close US ally. Mohammad Reza Shah was toppled in the 1979 Islamic Revolution, after which Washington severed ties with Iran.

The remodelled plane is called the Saqeqh, or Thunderbolt. Iran has a home-built missile in its arsenal with the same name.

“For the first time, the Saqeqh fighter plane carried out a mission to bomb virtual enemy targets on Wednesday in northwest of Iran,” Ataollah Salehi, commander-in-chief of Iran’s regular Army, told the official IRNA news agency.

He said Iran had not received outside help to modify the plane.

The television pictures on Wednesday showed the Saqeqh flying alongside an F-5. The main difference appeared to be that the Saqeqh had two tail fins as opposed to the single fin on the F-5.— MNA/Reuters

China, Uruguay agree to strengthen military exchanges

BUENOS, 7 Sept—China will make joint efforts with Uruguay in stepping up military exchanges and cooperation, said a senior Chinese military officer here Tuesday.

Chief of the General Staff of Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Liang Guangjie made the remarks when meeting with Alejo Diaz, general commander of Uruguayan Army, and Heber Fernandez, general commander of Uruguayan Navy. “We are happy to see the good momentum and bright prospect of the development of bilateral military relations in recent years,” Liang said.

“We hope to push forward the friendly relations between the two Armed Forces,” Liang added. MNA/Xinhua

PM says Pakistan-China relationship promotes regional stability

ISLAMABAD, 7 Sept—Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Wednesday said that the all-weathered strategic relationship between Pakistan and China is a source of strength and stability for the region.

The Prime Minister was talking to Jia Zhuanglong, Vice-Minister Commission of Science and Technology and Industry of National Defence (COSTIND) of China, who called on him along with a delegation here at the PM House.

Aziz expressed satisfaction over the progress on JF-17 Thunder aircraft and F-22 Frigate project. He said Pakistan will start receiving the JF-17 Thunder aircraft during the first quarter of next year.

The Prime Minister said that the strategic partnership between Pakistan and China is based on principles, trust and shared perceptions. Both Pakistan and China are working for peace in the region and progress and prosperity of their people, he added.

He said there is also a great potential of cooperation between Pakistan and China in the field of energy as the ports of Karachi and Gwadar provide the shortest link to western China for import of oil and gas.

Jin said that China-Pakistan relations are multifaceted, deep rooted and time-tested and there is great scope for further cooperation between the two countries.

He said he held useful discussions with Pakistani authorities during his stay in Pakistan, which will lead to further strengthening of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of defence, security and science and technology. MNA/Xinhua

Blair looks set to give departure timetable

LONDON, 7 Sept—British Prime Minister Tony Blair looked set to bow to intense pressure from disgruntled loyalists on Thursday and lay out a timetable for his departure within a year.

With Labour Party colleagues running scared about Blair’s growing unpopularity, a junior minister and seven government aides resigned on Wednesday after calling on him to step aside.

Media speculation was wilder to land three rovers from disgruntled loyalists on Thursday and lay out a timetable for his departure within a year.

Tony Blair looked set to cower to demands from rebels and outline his departure plans in much more detail.

But Blair officials refused to confirm the next move by the embattled premier after a day of intense political drama underlined the fragility of his leadership.

His popularity has tumbled in opinion polls after government scandals over sleaze and mismanagement were compounded by controversy over the wars in Iraq and Lebanon.

“What he will be remembered for is his stance on foreign policy and he will be remembered negatively for that and really, really, pains him,” said Colin Hay, Professor of Political Analysis at the University of Birmingham.

“I think sadly that desire to be remembered positively in history has been the key determinant of him holding on to power this long,” he added.

Finance Minister Gordon Brown is widely expected to take over from Blair, who led the bickering Labour Party out of the political wilderness to land three consecutive election wins.—MNA/Reuters
**World’s tallest wooden Pagoda greets 950th birthday**

KYINGXIAN, (Shanxi), 7 Sept — Sakyamuni Pagoda, believed to be the world’s tallest wooden structure, celebrated its 950th anniversary on Tuesday amid concerns from architects that it is tilting.

The streets in front of the Fogong Temple, where the pagoda is housed, were swamped with 30,000 people and draped in red flags, silk banners, pumpkin-shaped lanterns and coloured balloons.

Among the attendees were more than 200 monks and Buddhists who travelled all the way from Taiwan for the celebration held in Yinyuan County in northern Shanxi Province.

Built in 1056 and located some 380 kilometres from Beijing, the nine-storey Buddhist pagoda is a superb example of ancient China’s building and carpentry techniques. However, there is an obvious tilt between the first and second floors and cracking of the interior wooden columns, according to Chai Zejun, a specialist in ancient architecture.

There are also 300 places in the pagoda that are in need of repair, said Chai. “We are worried about the ancient pagoda’s safety,” he added.

A special committee is preparing a plan to repair and protect the structure.

**Majority of 9/11 first responders suffer lung problem**

NEW YORK, 7 Sept — Nearly seven out of every ten first responders suffered some sort of lung problem during or after their work at the World Trade Centre site, according to a report released Tuesday by Mount Sinai.

The hospital released the results of what it calls the largest and most inclusive study of the health effects first responders suffered at the WTC site.

According to the report, nearly 70 per cent of first responders have a new or worsened respiratory symptom since working at the site.

Among those who had no health problems before 11 September, 61 per cent developed symptoms after exposure to the toxic dust. One third of those tested have abnormal lung function, with the rate of abnormality double that of the general population.

Mount Sinai’s five-year-long study is based on findings from medical exams conducted between July of 2002 and April of 2004 among 9,500 rescue workers. The report suggests that people who responded right after the attacks experience the worst health effects.

Meanwhile, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced a series of initiatives to help those first responders who suffer from lung problems.

**NASA postpones launch of space shuttle “Atlantis”**

CAPE CANAVERAL, 7 Sept — NASA postponed the launch of the space shuttle Atlantis on Wednesday because of a problem with one of the three systems aboard the ship, officials with the US space agency said.

The launch of Atlantis on NASA’s first construction mission to the International Space Station since the 2003 Columbia accident had been planned for 12:29 pm (1603 GMT) Wednesday.

The next opportunity to fly would be at 12:03 pm (1603 GMT) on Thursday.

“We’re delayed for 24 hours,” NASA spokeswoman Kim Newsom said.

Managers learned of the problem as they met early Wednesday to review launch preparations and consider whether or not to fuel the shuttle for a launch attempt. They delayed the start of fuelling to allow time for technicians to troubleshoot a power problem with one of the three systems aboard the shuttle that produce electricity during flight.

**Pakistani doctors remove forceps to save woman**

KARACHI, 8 Sept — A Pakistani woman has had a pair of forceps removed from her abdomen a year and a half after they were left there during a Caesarean operation, a doctor said on Thursday.

The mother of four was admitted to hospital in the city of Karachi last week complaining of severe abdominal pain. Surgeons removed the forceps on Wednesday.

“We have removed the forceps but they caused some damage to her intestines,” said Shaukat Rajput, a doctor at the Liaquat Hospital.

**Brazil says deforestation in Amazon rainforest slowing in 2006**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 Sept — The Brazilian Government said on Tuesday that the rate of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest is declining in 2006.

The rainforest lost 16,700 square kilometres between 2005 and 2006, a decrease of 11 per cent over the year before, the Environment Ministry said, citing preliminary figures gathered by the National Institute of Space Research. “We are now, once again, seeing a declining trend, this shows that it’s not something sporadic but something that is continuing over many years,” Environment Minister Marina Silva said, adding that the government has to combat illegal deforestation.

It is the first significant fall in deforestation levels since 1997. In 2002, deforestation in the Amazon rainforest region saw a increase of 27 per cent. The minister said studies also showed that destruction levels are expected to continue to fall this year, thanks to strengthened law enforcement and stringent environmental regulations.

**Residents, affected by the toxic waste which was dumped around Abidjan, wait to consult doctors at the main hospital of Cocody in Abidjan on 7 Sept, 2006.—INTERNET**

**Residents, affected by the toxic waste which was dumped around Abidjan, wait to consult doctors at the main hospital of Cocody in Abidjan on 7 Sept, 2006.—INTERNET**
**Sports**

**Werder the one outsider capable of causing Real upset**

**BERLIN, 8 Sept —** Werder Bremen face a daunting task in a group featuring Barcelona and Chelsea but no one has seen them in action over the last couple of seasons would write off their chances of causing a Champions League upset.

Under Thomas Schaaf, Werder have played the best attacking football in the Bundesliga, running riot at times against even the best of defences.

After winning the German title in 2004, they have not quite shown the man title in 2004, they will need consistency to have not quite shown the man title in 2004, they will need consistency to have not quite shown the man title in 2004, they will need consistency to have not quite shown the man title in 2004, they will need consistency to have not quite shown the man title in 2004, they will need consistency to have not quite shown the man title in 2004, they will need consistency to have not quite shown the man title in 2004, they will need consistency to

but at their best they have been as entertaining a side as any in Europe.

They have also done well in the Champions League, making it through to the knock-out phase of the competition in each of the last two seasons.

In 2004-05, they suffered a humiliating 10-2 aggregate defeat by Olympique Lyon in the last 16. Last season, they came within a whisker of knocking out Juventas at the same stage, with only a calamitous late mistake from Tim Wiese costing them a quarterfinal spot.

Robin van Persie of the Netherlands (C) celebrates his second goal against Belarus with his teammate Dirk Kuyt (L), Wesley Sneijder (2nd L) and Nigel de Jong (R) during their Euro 2008 group G soccer qualifying soccer match against Belarus in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, on 6 Sept, 2006. — Xinhua

**Davydenko recovers to subdue Haas**

**NEW YORK, 8 Sept —** Russian Nikolay Davydenko produced a stirring comeback as he recovered from two sets down to beat German Tommy Haas 4-6, 6-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 to reach the US Open semi-finals on Thursday.

The seventh seed was outplayed for two sets but Haas, who won back-to-back fifth-set tiebreaks to reach the last eight, tired as the match wore on and Davydenko held his nerve to reach the semi-finals in New York for the first time.

Focusing on Davydenko’s forehand, Haas won four straight games to win the first set and looked on course for his first semifinal at Flushing Meadows when he took the second on a tiebreak. But Davydenko refused to give in and one break in each set helped him to level the match.

MNA/Reuters

**Strange, Pagunsan share Singapore Open lead**

**SINGAPORE, 8 Sept —** Australia’s Scott Strange birdied the last two holes to record a four-under-par 67 for a share of the lead with Juvic Pagunsan of the Philippines after the opening round of the 3 million US dollars Singapore Open on Thursday. Toning off in the morning, the 29-year-old Strange offset two dropped strokes on the front nine with six birdies to post a target for the afternoon starters that only Pagunsan could match. The 28-year-old Pagunsan, who earned his Asian Tour card this season through Qualifying School, stormed up the leaderboard with two birdies on the front and back nine in a bogey-free round.

India’s Jyoti Randhawa stands alone in third place on three-under, one ahead of a group of five players that includes Argentinian world number 23 Angel Cabrera, 29th-ranked Nick O’Hearn of Australia and Japan’s Shingo Katayama.

Defending champion and world number six Adam Scott lurks three shots back after an opening 70, one clear of South Africa’s Ernie Els.

Asian Tour player Strange, who won the Phil-ippine Open in May, holed a sand wedge from a greenside bunker on the 17th before following that up with a sublime approach shot to within five feet on the last. Making the most of fortunate breaks is something the Australian feels is vital to firing a low score on the testing par-71 Serapong Course hosting the Asian Tour’s flagship event.

Cabrera, one of eight of the world’s top 50 players in the field this week, was delighted with his start on a scorching day with almost no wind.

MNA/Reuters

**Barcelona soccer club to help children with AIDS**

**UNITED NATIONS, 8 Sept —** The Barce- lonia soccer club and the UN children’s agency, UNICEF, announced a deal on Thursday in which the team will donate 1.9 million US dollars (1.5 million euros) a year over the next five years to help poor children with AIDS in developing coun-tries. The first installment of the club’s money will pay for AIDS programmes in Swaziland, a tiny, impoverished country in southern Africa where some 40 per cent of adults are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The money will fund efforts to prevent mother-to-child trans-mission and infection among adolescents and to support and care for children or-phanned by the disease. As part of the deal, the Spanish and European champion’s scarf and blue jersey will have UNICEF’s logo on its front. The first time in the club’s 107-year history it has allowed such an arrangement.

**Vijay Singh of Fiji watches his drive on the seventh hole at the Canadian Open Golf tournament in Hamilton, Ontario, on 7 Sept, 2006. — Internet**

MNA/Reuters

**Clash averted over FIFA plan to cut leagues to 18 clubs**

**STRASSBOURG (France), 8 Sept —** A possible clash between soccer’s world governing body FIFA and Europe’s top leagues over plans to cut the number of clubs next year was averted following a meeting of both sides on Thursday.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter’s idea to reduce numbers from the start of the 2007-08 season was endorsed at a FIFA Congress in June and immedi-ately sparked a row between Blatter and the leagues in countries such as England, Spain and Italy.

However, after initially threatening to fight Blatter over the issue, the leagues — represented by the Euro- pean Professional Football Leagues (EPFL) — have decided to work with FIFA to find a solution after being told the decision was not binding.

“FIFA has stated that an imposition for leagues to reduce to 18 clubs does not exist,” the EPFL said in a faxed statement to Reuters.

“It is rather an open dis-sussion being considered by a FIFA task force within the context of a review of the international match calendar,”

The EPFL added that they had accepted an offer by FIFA to have a repre- sentative on the task force. It is the first time that this has happened.

MNA/Reuters

**Pirlo extends Milan deal**

**MI LAN, 8 Sept —** Ita-ly’s World Cup winning midfielder Andrea Pirlo has extended his contract with AC Milan until July 2011.

Pirlo’s current deal with Milan ran until 2008 but the club said on Thurs- day that he had signed a new three-year extension.

The classy central midfielder joined Milan from city rivals Inter in 2001 after spells with Brescia and Reggina. Earlier this week Mi- lan’s Georgian defender Kakha Kaladze also signed up to an extended deal, also until 2011.

MNA/Reuters
Swans fitted with transmitters in bird flu fight

TORONTO, 9 Sept — Outfitting swans with super-light Teflon backpacks containing solar-powered GPS satellite transmitters is the latest way scientists and researchers are trying to fight the spread of avian influenza.

Ten whooper swans were released in far eastern Mongolia, near the borders of Russia and China, by an international team of scientists in early August as part of a study to shed light on how wild birds may be involved in spreading bird flu. The whooper swans were chosen for the experiment because large numbers of the species have died in Mongolia and western China in the past two years. Tests verified that some of them were infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The H5 and H7 types of avian influenza cause very high death rates in poultry and are blamed for the vast majority of bird flu cases in humans, with the H1N1 bird flu strain killing an estimated 141 people.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 9 September, 2006

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, southwest monsoon has withdrawn from northern Myanmar area. Rain or thunder-showers have been widespread in Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Kayin State and isolated in Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago Division and weather has been mostly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myitkyina (1.77) inches, Hkamti (1.54) inches, Thpaw (0.83) inch and Yameinthin (0.24) inch.

Maximum temperature on 7-9-2006 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 8-9-2006 was 79°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 8-9-2006 was (72%). Total sunshine hours on 7-9-2006 was (9.9) hours approx. Rainfalls on 8-9-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (83.07) inches at Mingaladon, (93.90) inches at Kaba-Aye and (98.70) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (21.30) hours MST on 7-9-2006.

Bay influence: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 9-9-2006: Rain or thunder-showers will be fairly widespread in Kachin, Chin, Kayin States and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan, Rakhine States and Bago Division and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the Seas: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar wathers.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of thundery activities in Central Myanmar areas.

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 9-9-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Weather Outlook for Third Weekend of September 2006: During the coming weekend, isolated rain or thunder-showers are likely in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.
Myanmar will soon be able to declare itself as a country free from iodine deficiency

Secretary-1 attends ceremony to mark Nutrition Promotion Week

**Efforts of Myanmar from 1999 to 2001 to alleviate iodine deficiency met with success thanks to the active participation of people, UN agencies and NGOs.**

...In reality, Myanmar is enjoying peace more than ever before, and there is nothing to compare her situation with the world nations including those of the Middle East facing conflicts, wars, starvation or epidemic. It is natural that like other developing countries in the time of democratic transition and economic transformation, Myanmar will face difficulties as usual.

**INSIDE**

Page 8+9  **SOE MYA KYAW AND SAW MYA AUNG**

---

**INSIDE**

...Efforts of Myanmar from 1999 to 2001 to alleviate iodine deficiency met with success thanks to the active participation of people, UN agencies and NGOs.

---

**Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy U-21**

Tatmadaw Soccer Tournament 2006 opens

YANGON, 8 Sept — The opening ceremony of the 22nd Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy U-21 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Soccer Tournament for 2006 was held at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna), here, this evening, attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence. Among the spectators were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, senior military officers, military attaches, the officials of the Ministry of Sports and football fans.

First, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence made a speech.

In the opening match, Camp Commandant’s Office of the Ministry of Defence team beat South-East Command team 2-1.

The first round matches will be played from 13 to 22 September in Mawlamyine, Pahein, Monywa, Mandalay and Toungoo.

---

Li-Gen Myint Swe addresses the opening of 22nd Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Soccer Tournament.—MNA