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

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

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

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Chilean President

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Sept -- Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Michelle Bachelet Jeria, President of the Republic of Chile, on the anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Chile which falls on 18 September 2007. — MNA

True patriotism
* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Myanmar working in cooperation with UN agencies to reveal that accusation concerning child soldiers is totally untrue

Secretary-1 addresses meeting on the formation of a working committee to adopt a monitoring and reporting mechanism for prevention against recruiting minors into army

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Sept — A coordination meeting on the formation of a working committee to adopt a monitoring and reporting mechanism for prevention against recruiting minors into the army took place at the State Peace and Development Council Office here at 3 pm today with an address by Chairman of the committee for prevention against recruiting minors into the army Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Present at the meeting were committee members ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, the directors-general of the SPDC Office and Government Office and departmental heads. Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said the committee for (See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Enhance public health care services

As loss of sight could amount to loss of life, the value of an eye is therefore priceless.

Open angle glaucoma, angle closure glaucoma and cataract are eye complaints one should know in order that he may avoid it. Open angle glaucoma is unnoticeable because there is no sign of poor eye-sight. It can be diagnosed through consulting a doctor. As it often develops in people over forty everybody at that age needs to have their eyes checked.

Headache, nerve cramps, vomiting and suffering from poor eye-sight are the symptoms of angle closure glaucoma. When one eye is affected the other should be treated in advance.

Cataract often develops in older persons whose lenses have become dim. Moreover, trachoma is a kind of ailments that can harm the eyesight.

Under the Anti-trachoma Campaign and Prevention of Blindness Programme of the Health Department of the Ministry of Health, free medical treatment was given to 2,012 eye patients in Mahlaing Township, Meiktila District from 7 to 18 September.

Likewise, under the arrangement of the Ministry of Health, the Union Solidarity and Development Association and the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, free medical treatment was carried out in Thongwa Township and other townships in which surgical operations were performed on those with eye complaints.

Therefore, people should be provided with more health care services through imparting knowledge on eye complaints and providing medical treatment to eye patients.

FM felicitates Chilean counterpart

Yangon, 17 Sept — News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information conducted the journalism course No 1/2007 at the training hall of the New Light of Myanmar daily publishing house on Strand Road in Botataung Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were heads of departments of the ministry, veteran journalists, chief editors of daily newspaper publishing houses, deputy chief editors, media persons, course instructors, guests, the

Managing Director U Soe Win of NPE makes a speech at the opening ceremony of the journalism course No 1/2007. — MNA

principal, course in-charge and trainees.

On behalf of the Minister for Information, Managing Director U Soe Win of NPE made a speech on the occasion, saying that NPE conducted the present course as the 13th of its kind. There are three aims of the present course, first of which is to get knowledge or skills in journalism field basically, the second is to boost work efficiency and good moral qualities and the third is to enable the trainees to always stand by the State and the people and produce quality newspapers featuring latest and interesting news. The course is important not only for the State and the people but also for the media, adding that the journalism course can support media works as supporters of the State and the people. It is certain that the course ensures benefits to the trainees and the State.

A total of 50 trainees—30 of departments and enterprises of the Ministry of Information, 18 of the Ministry of Education and two of Myawady Televis-

Development tasks supervised

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Sept — Director-General U Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department and officials concerned attended the coordination meeting on No 1 and No 2 district-to-district road of Mandalay Division on 16 September.

Director U Hla Myo of Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee briefed the Director-General on accomplishment of the construction projects for the road and future tasks with the use of charts.

After hearing the reports, the Director-General gave instructions on timely completion of the construction tasks. Next, he inspected No 1 district-to-district road in Mahlaing Township and tarmacking of the road near Myaukole village at mile post No 38/6 and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Myanmar Taekwondo team to take part in Korea Open

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Sept — The Myanmar taekwondo team that will undergo a joint training programme in Incheon, the Republic of Korea, and take part in Korea Open championship (2007) was honoured with a dinner hosted at Yuzana Hotel here yesterday evening.

Chairperson of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sport Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint deliv-
ered an address at the dinner hosted by President U Htay Myint of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation.

The minister also presented K 1 million and tracksuits to the federation through its president.

Chairperson of Central Working Committee of Myanmar Women’s Sport Federation Daw Aye Aye then presented K 200,000 to the team through MTF Vice-President U Mya Han.

The military attache of ROK embassy and MTF President U Htay Myint also made speeches. An MTF coach gave words of thanks. — MNA

In memory of grandparents and younger brothers U Nyunt Maung, Daw Tin Aye and U Hla Thein, Daw Hla Yi and family donates K 100,000 for the construction of three-storey building of Hsinjigon Home for the Aged through treasurer U Aung Than of Administrative Body of Home for the Aged. — U
Vice-President calls for public energy-saving awareness

BEIJING, 17 Sept—Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong called for public energy-saving awareness while participating in activities for a National Science and Technology Popularization Day held on Saturday. Zeng said governments at all levels should organize all forms of science and technology popularization activities to increase energy-saving awareness of the public.

He made the remark in attending an exhibition held in Gaobeidian science and technology park.

China’s 9th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention will be held in Kobe on 15-16 Sept and move to Osaka on 17 Sept, with some 3,600 attendants from 33 countries and regions. — XINHUA

US soldier killed in bomb attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 Sept—An American soldier was killed and four others were injured in a roadside bomb attack, the US military said on Saturday. Six people are wanted in connection with the illicit drug trafficking.

The attack occurred when Task Force Marne soldiers were on foot patrol on Friday, a military statement said without saying where exactly the incident took place.

However, the Task Force Marne, also known as Multi National Division-Central, is responsible for the security of a huge area located along the southern edge of Baghdad and scales from the border of Saudi Arabia to the border of Iran. The latest death brings the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to more than 3,780 since the outbreak of the Iraqi war in 2003. The accident occurred when the driver lost control of the vehicle while passing through a culvert, crashing it down into the well. Injured passengers were taken to the nearest hospital. — XINHUA

Turkey seizes 1.3 tons of hashish in eastern city of Van

ANKARA, 17 Sept—Turkish security forces impounded some 1.3 tons of hashish in an operation in the eastern city of Van, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off, the security forces raided some houses in the villages of Erkonagi and Yukari Kume in Van late Friday and seized the large amount of the hashish, according to the report.

In the past one year, security forces confiscated a total of 5.7 tons of hashish and 1.3 tons of heroin in the province, and 57 people were arrested in the operations.

Turkey is a key transit route for smuggling drugs from Asia and the Middle East to markets in western Europe. — XINHUA

Ten die as bus falls into well in India

NEW DELHI, 17 Sept—At least 10 people were killed Saturday when a bus carrying them swerved off the road and plunged into a 30-foot well in a barbecue fall in a southern Indian state. The crash at Parthanal in Karnataka left 12 others injured. The toll might go up, police said. Cranes were used to pull the bus and its passengers out. The accident occurred when the driver lost control of the vehicle while passing through a culvert, crashing it down into the well. Injured passengers have been hospita-lized. — XINHUA

A resident walks past the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad on 16 Sept, 2007. INTERNET

The 9th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention will be held in Kobe on 15-16 Sept and move to Osaka on 17 Sept, with some 3,600 attendants from 33 countries and regions. — XINHUA

Helicopter crashes near rally champion home

LONDON, 17 Sept—A small helicopter crashed, killing those on board, on Saturday near the home of former world rally champion Colin McRae, a helicopter pilot and enthusiast, police said.

They added in a statement that four people were on board the helicopter owned by McRae, which came down in a wooded area in Lanarkshire, Scotland at about 1510 GMT. It’s believed he (McRae) was on board the helicopter, however until formal identification has been released on Sunday, Air Accident Investi-gators will carry out a full investigation into the cause of the crash.

McRae, 39, the son of five-times British rally champion Jimmy, wrote his name in the record books in 1995 when he became the first Briton to win the world rally championship. — XINHUA

Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong called for public energy-saving awareness while participating in activities for a National Science and Technology Popularization Day held on Saturday. — XINHUA

A resident walks past the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad on 16 Sept, 2007.
Chinese official commended for dedication to “leprosy village”

BEIJING, 16 Sept— Lin Qiang, an education official from Sichuan Province, was commended here in Beijing on Friday for his dedication to improve welfare and education of a despised “leprosy village” in a remote mountainous area.

Chinese President Hu Jintao has called on all the Party and government officials to learn from Lin. Vice-President Zeng Qinghong said on Friday officials “should put the interests of the common people first, just like Lin has done.”

53-year-old Lin, director of the provincial linguistic committee of Sichuan, found a leprosy recovery village in 2003, where all the patients have been cured but many were left handicapped, and was stunned by the destitution of villagers and their illiterate children.

Leprosy is a chronic, mildly contagious disease, characterized by ulcers of the skin, bone, and viscera and leading to loss of sensation, paralysis, gangrene, and deformity.

China has eradicated the disease 40 years ago, but left cured patients in Abuluoha Village in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan virtually isolated to the outside world, because people nearby are still afraid.

Suicide car bombing kills 10 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 16 Sept— A suicide car bomb exploded near a police checkpoint in southwest Baghdad on Saturday, killing ten people and wounding 25 others, police said.

“A suicide bomber blew up his explosives laden car near a police checkpoint in the predominantly Shiite district of Amil in the southwest Baghdad,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The powerful explosion killed ten people and wounded 25 others, along with damaging some nearby buildings, the source said.

Indonesia’s quake death rises to 21

JAKARTA, 16 Sept— The death toll of the powerful quake measuring 7.9 on the Richter Scale in Bengkulu Province in Indonesia’s Sumatra Island on Wednesday went up to 21 with 88 others having been wounded, the Indonesian Health Ministry said here Saturday.

The rise was caused by three deaths from the worst-hit tourist island of Mentawai, which is a heaven for surfing, in West Sumatra Province, head of the ministry’s crisis centre Rustam Pakaya said.

Another death was found in southern coastal area of the province, he said. “The total death toll reached 21, with 88 other persons having been wounded,” he told Xinhua.

Up to Saturday, frequent powerful or moderate tremors have occurred with the epicentre moving toward northern parts of the western waters off Sumatra Island, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said.

However, Pakaya said that the fatalities and damages were mostly found in Bengkulu, which bore the brunt of the greatest intensity of 5 to 7 MMI (Modified Mercuy Intensity) caused by the magnitude 7.9 quake on Wednesday.

Such kind of intensity scale can turn down buildings, while other places only suffered 3 to 4 MMI, the intensity scale which can crack buildings, according to the agency.

The northern part of Bengkulu, the closest area to the epicentre of the quake, was the worst hit in the province, the Disaster and Management Agency said.

Indonesia lies on a vulnerable quake-hit zone called “the Pacific Ring of Fire,” where two continental plates meet, resulting in frequent seismic and volcanic activities.

US Capitol Police officers form a human barricade to stop anti-war demonstrators from crossing onto Capitol grounds, on 15 Sept, 2007, in Washington. At least 150 protesters were arrested on Saturday as thousands of demonstrators marched to the Capitol demanding an end to the Iraq war.

INTERNET

India to provide $100m loan to Nepal

KATHMANDU, 16 Sept— India has signed an agreement providing Nepal 100 million US dollars for Nepal’s infrastructure development project, The Himalayan Times reported on Saturday.

According to the daily, the Indian Government had promised to provide this aid 16 months ago when Nepali Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala visited New Delhi.

The agreement was signed here on Friday. Nepal is expected to return the loan over a period of 20 years at an interest rate of 1.75 per cent.

The Physical Planning and Works Ministry of Nepal has marked some projects for the building of new rural roads and the widening of others. Some of the loan money will be spent on rural electrification. Transmission lines will also be expanded. A part of the loan amount will be spent on expanding and upgrading the 115-kilometre-long Hulaki road in the southern Nepal’s Terai Region and on building 500 kilometres of roads in the hilly regions.

Chinese rescuers leave the helicopter to the site where the bodies of missing Russian canoeists were found in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, on 15 Sept, 2007. Rescuers have found three bodies of the six Russian canoeists who had been missing in northwest China’s Xinjiang since 2 Sept. — XINHUA
**ECONOMIC NEWS**

**China rejects pork imports from US, Canada**

BEIJING, 17 Sept—China has rejected shipments of pork kidney from the United States and of spare ribs from Canada after finding traces of a banned growth agent in them, in the latest volley of cross-border accusations over product quality.

The Xinhua news agency cited the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) as saying that the 18.4-ton shipment of frozen kidneys and the 24-ton shipment of frozen pork ribs had been returned to the exporters by local quarantine officials in southern Guangdong Province.

The growth agent ractopamine, commonly used in the United States, is at the centre of negotiations between US and Chinese officials over the pork trade.

China has banned use of ractopamine and refuses to import pork containing it.

Richard Raymond, the US Agriculture Department’s undersecretary for food safety, said on Thursday following meetings with the AQSIQ that he hoped Beijing could change its stance on ractopamine if Codex Alimentarius, an international food safety body, could endorse tolerance levels for it.

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**Indonesia out to woo Italian auto-firms**

JAKARTA, 16 Sept—Indonesia wants to woo Italian automobile industry giants like Ducati Motor Holdings, Fiat SpA and Piaggio to invest in the country.

“With its huge population, Indonesia is a potential market and a strategic place for automotive assembling and manufacturing,” Indonesian Automotive Manufacturers Association (GAIKINDO) chairman Bambang Trisulo was quoted Friday by English daily The Jakarta Post as saying.

“Unfortunately, Italy does not have a big presence in Indonesia. We would like to invite Italian automobile companies to Indonesia.”

According to Bambang, Italian automobile companies know little about the potential of the Indonesian market.

“It seems they do not know that we are the world’s third biggest producer of motorcycles after China and India.

Only one Italian company, Piaggio, is currently present in Indonesia. It sold just 915 motorcycles in Indonesia in 2005.”

Bambang told the daily.

Indonesia has been the darling of motorcycle manufacturers from China, South Korea, and India in recent years. Japan has been the market leader in Indonesia with a 90-per-cent market share for many years.

Bambang said that Indonesia’s vehicle sales stood at 318,000 units in 2006. In the previous year, 2005, they hit a record high of 534,000 vehicles.

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**Germany rejects EU’s idea to woo foreign workers**

BERLIN, 16 Sept—German Economy Minister Michael Glos has rejected a European Commission plan to encourage legal migration into Europe to ease labour shortages caused by a declining, ageing population, a German magazine reported.

EU Home Affairs Commissioner Franco Frattini said on Thursday he would present proposals to member states on 23 October aimed at reversing a trend whereby skilled migrants are going to places like the United States and unskilled workers to Europe.

Speaking for Germany, which has been reluctant to open up its labour market to non-European Union citizens as well as workers from the new EU member states, Glos dismissed the idea.

Germany cannot “massively take in workers simply because we need them at the moment”, Glos was quoted as saying on the website of German magazine Der Spiegel on Friday.

He added that there was “a large reserve of unused labour” in Germany, which has an unemployment rate of nearly 9 per cent.

Germany announced last month that it would open its doors to engineers from eastern Europe from November to help compensate for a skills shortage in the sector that risks holding back economic growth.

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**Toshiba says subpoenaed over US flash memory**

**Tokyo, 16 Sept**—Japanese electronics firm Toshiba Corp said it had been subpoenaed by the US Department of Justice about its flash memory business in the key US market.

That comes after Toshiba’s US partner, SanDisk Corp, said on Friday it and its chief executive had received the subpoenas.

SanDisk said on Friday it and its chief executive had received the subpoenas.

SanDisk had been subpoenaed by the US Department of Justice as part of its probe into possible price-fixing in the NAND flash memory industry.

The filing said 23 other companies were also sued for the same reason.

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**Bangladeshis men collecting seedlings of paddy at a flooded field outside the port city of Chittagong, on 9 Sept, 2007 file photo.**

Bangladesh researchers say a new rice strain may be able to resist devastating floods that destroy vast tracts of paddy fields in the impoverished country each year.

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Pakistan Govt inks peace deal in tribal region

ISLAMABAD, 16 Sept — The Pakistani Government signed a peace deal with tribal elders in one of Pakistan’s tribal regions on Saturday, officials said. Some tribesmen from Safi tribe in Muhmand Tribal Agency had earlier held talks with local pro-Taliban militants and received assurance from militants that they would neither shelter foreigners nor attack government officials and buildings. The agreement was inked at Ghalanai, the headquarters of Muhmand Agency in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), at a jirga or council of tribal elders. The government officials will have the right to move freely in the area under the agreement.

Political Agent of Muhmand Agency Kazim Niaz praised tribesmen and said that the agreement would help maintain peace in the area. Pro-Taliban militants occupied a mosque in the area soon after the Army stormed the Lal Masjid, or Red Mosque, in Islamabad in July.

They named the mosque as Red Mosque after occupation but the tribal elders persuaded them to end the occupation after more than a week. Local militants in North Waziristan scraped a peace deal with the government in mid-July, accusing the authorities of violating the agreement. The deal, signed in September last year, had brought fighting to an end but attacks on security forces increased in the region after the agreement was scrapped.

Airplane crashes on landing in southern Thailand

BANGKOK, 16 Sept — A passenger plane crashed on landing at the airport of Phuket in southern Thailand Sunday, causing many casualties. The One-to-Go airplane slid out of runway when attempting to land at Phuket at about 3:40 pm (0840 GMT), and crashed with trees at the airport. The ill-fated aircraft MB-82 broke into two pieces during the crash while landing at Phuket at about 3:40 pm (0840 GMT).

Eye-witnesses said the impact of the crash caused the plane to break in two and they heard a series of explosions.

Initial report said the airplane has 128 passengers and crew. Thai local news network The Nation reported that some 60 passengers were killed. The nationalities of those on board are also unknown, but Phuket is a highly popular destination for overseas tourists. Local radio FM 100 said the casualties include Thais and foreigners. Rescue work has started soon after the crash and the injured have been sent to the airport. Ambulance vehicles have already got to the spot, but local reports said the plane was all burnt down.

The accident was said to be caused by slippery runway after heavy rains.

Beijing stages subway fire drill ahead of party congress

BEIJING, 16 Sept— Beijing staged a major fire drill Saturday morning in the city’s subway in a bid to test its abilities to handle emergency situation of the underground mass transit system. The fire drill started around 00:45 am in the Guomao, or the World Trade Centre stop on the horizontal Line 1, with a simulated fire that trapped several hundreds of people.

Shortly afterwards, more than 20 policemen, 100 firefighters and 20 rescue teams rushed to the site, cordoning off the area. Twenty vehicles loaded with smoke-ventilating, illumination, incision and fire extinguishing devices also rushed to the site.

Firefighters wearing fire and chemical proof outfit and oxygen masks went down the tunnels with the equipments to evacuate passengers, save the feigned casualties and put out fires. The fire debris were later collected to check if they contain biochemical or radioactive substances.

Li Jin, deputy director of the Beijing fire control bureau, said the drill was organized to test the police and firefighting team’s abilities to tackle subway crises that are likely to lead to massive casualties.

The drill is an important practice to ensure the security for the 17th National Congress of the CPC, which will begin on 15 October, Li said, adding that it also helped them gather experiences to prepare for the 2008 Olympic Games.

Tropical storm “Ingrid” fizzles in far Atlantic

MIAMI, 17 Sept— Tropical Storm Ingrid, the ninth named storm of the 2007 hurricane season, fell apart over the open Atlantic on Saturday and was downgraded to a tropical depression as it fought unfavorable atmospheric conditions.

The weather system was likely to continue to weaken due to wind shear — the difference in wind direction and speed at different altitudes — but some computer models still indicated it could strengthen again if it clings on as a depression for a few days, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

The depression had top sustained winds of 35 miles per hour (55 km per hour) as it swirled around 510 miles (820 kilometres) east of the Lesser Antilles islands of the Caribbean at 11 am EDT (1500 GMT), the hurricane center said.

It was moving west-northwest at 10 mile per hour (16 kilometre per hour), on a track that was likely to keep it over water well north of the islands.

The 2007 Atlantic hurricane season has been active, though far less ferocious than record-breaking 2005 when 28 storms spawned 15 hurricanes, including Katrina, which flooded New Orleans and killed 1,500 people on the US Gulf Coast.

The New Light of Myanmar
Successful car assembling plant of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone

Of the many industries in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone, auto assembling, an import-substitute enterprise, is achieving notable success.

The zone in northern Yangon is famous for manufacturing quality and marketable farm machinery, export quality goods and import-substitute goods.

“The government has permitted to manufacture appropriate and actually required cars. As we are producing cars in accord with government’s aim, our products are high in quality and penetrating markets well”, Managing Director U Maung Pu (a) U Pyone Cho.

MG Car Production set up its car assembling plant at a plot on Gandawin Street, Zone 5, Hlinethaya Industrial Zone, after the government gave the permission to establish industrial zones in 1995.

The company is assembling MG Light Trucks and MG Super Light Trucks. The design of the former is similar to that of Toyota Town Ace 88 model and the design of the latter to that of Toyota Town Ace 97 model”, explained U Maung Pu (a) U Pyone Cho.

MG Light Truck is equipped with 2C turbo diesel engine, 5 speed gear and power steering and MG Super Light Truck, 2C turbo diesel engine or 3Y petrol engine, 5 speed gear and power steering. Both types can carry loads up to 1000 Kg and have three doors to load and unload goods easily and smoothly.

Except engine, gear and axle, the bumper, body, frame and paint are produced locally. “Our experts are making efforts for ensuring customer satisfaction, creating fine car designs and enhancing their quality to match imported cars”, the managing director said.

Buyers can place orders in advance to buy MG-I jeeps, MG-II jeeps, MG Light Trucks or MG Super Light Trucks with the colours of their choice. Payments can be made in three installments. Moreover, the company is offering services for paying fuel purchase book, wheel tax, VIC and insurance premium.

Hlinethaya Industrial Zone is one of the most promising zones in Myanmar. It includes several sections and Shweinban Zone.

The whole Hlinethaya Industrial Zone is contributing to national economic development, creating more jobs, ensuring income generation and promoting regional economy and social standard of the local people.

In reality, the government has set up industrial zones to systematically relocate all kinds, types and sizes of industries that were scattered in towns and residential areas at chosen sites.

Moreover, the government has been providing all necessary assistance for progress of industrial zones. The zones are witnessing rapid development at present as the national entrepreneurs are also striving to develop their industries.

(Translation: TMT) Kyemon: 14-9-2007
USDA Joint Secretary-General meets executives

YANGON, 16 Sept — Joint Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min met with executive members of district and township USADAs and organizers of ward and village-tract USADAs of Thayet District, Thayet and Aunglan Townships at the Aunglan Township USDA office on 14 September.

The Joint Secretary-General called for active participation of USDA in public welfare tasks, rural development work, drinking water supply tasks, education, health and social sectors and the flourishing of Union Spirit. — MNA

Deputy Rail Transportation Minister meets service personnel

YANGON, 16 Sept — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin met the general manager, engineers and supervisors of Insein Locomotive Shed of Myanmar Railways at the shed on 14 September and discussed the improvement of work efficiency of staff and quality of products.

Next, the deputy minister inspected production process and stressed the need for minimizing loss and wastage and worksite safety. Yesterday morning, the deputy minister and party visited Mahlwagone Locomotive Shed and Sethsan Warehouse and Botataung goodshed and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Myanmar working in cooperation with UN...

(from page 1)

prevention against recruiting minors into the army was formed on 5 January 2004. The committee laid down a project to take measures for prevention against recruiting minors into the army.

A working committee was formed with the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Social Welfare. Relief and Resettlement to systematically supervise the task of implementing the project.

The committee has to constantly supervise the work of preventing the use of force in recruiting minors to the Armed Forces, protecting the interest of adolescents and ensuring the orders and directives are being strictly followed.

The Tatmadaw has been recruiting new members in accord with law, rules and regulations. However, opponents from inside and outside the country holding negative views are trying to smear Myanmar Tatmadaw saying that it is using child soldiers in forward areas.

The government has been working in cooperation with UN agencies to reveal that the accusation is totally untrue. It will continue to inform the UN agencies about the true situation in Myanmar. Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy, Under Secretary General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, visited Myanmar from 25 to 29 June.

During her visit to Myanmar, she made suggestions regarding future programmes for protecting minors from recruiting into military service. Regarding the issue of child soldiers, the director-general of Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was designated as the focal point and necessary measures will be taken, he said.

Moreover, he said, the director-general of International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been designated as the focal point for effective communications with UN resident agencies.

In order to carry out the tasks more effectively, a work committee comprising the director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as chairman and delegates from related ministries is to be formed for establishment of the national level monitoring and reporting mechanism, he said.

Those present at the meeting reported on protecting minors from being recruited into military service, safeguarding the interest of the child and measures taken in diplomatic, judicial, legal, social, worker and Tatmadaw sectors in accord with laws, rules and regulations for rebutting fabricated accusations after realizing the government’s genuine measures.

Next, the meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by the Secretary-1. — MNA

Sangyoung Township USDA holds AGM 2007

YANGON, 15 Sept — Sangyoung Township Union Solidarity and Development Association held annual general meeting for 2007 at the office of the association, here, this morning.

On behalf of CEC member of USDA Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Managing Director U Maung Maung Nyein of Myanma Five Star Line and Executive U Min Thein of Yangon Division USDA delivered addresses.

Next, responsible persons accepted cash donations of wellwishers and presented gifts to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination, doctors who performed free medical treatment at Phyo Cetena Clinic of Yangon West District and members of social organizations. Later, the executives submitted and read out reports at the annual general meeting.

MNA
3rd Meeting of Sectoral Working Group...

(from page 16)

At the same time, we are of the view on slow progress in common projects and bilateral programmes. In this regard, situation definitely needs to speed up the implementation of common and bilateral projects between us.

The preliminary evaluation made at the various ACMECS Meetings and lately at the ACMECS leaders’ Mid-term Review meeting in Cebu, early this year indicated that progress has been made in bilateral projects involving Thailand. I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Government of Thailand for its kind support in carrying out the bilateral projects effectively, mostly in the area of Human Resource Development in the agricultural sector.

In the second meeting of the Sectoral Working Group on Agriculture, held in Chiang Rai, Thailand in August 2006, altogether 7 common projects and 28 bilateral projects were identified to implement under the agricultural cooperation sector. However, most of these projects are still in the conceptual stage and required to be transformed into action.

Though all the member countries have shown their keen interest to cooperate in these bilateral projects actively, funding has been a major constraint in ACMECS Community. In this respect, prevailing situation demands us to work out an effective fund raising plan in order to ensure acquisition of required budget in materializing our visions. At the same time, we may need to reprioritize the possible ways and areas of cooperation based on the actual situation of each particular country. I do hope that today’s Working Group Meeting will produce valuable recommendation for the future direction of ACMECS rice cooperation.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo makes a speech at the 3rd Meeting of Sectoral Working Group on Agricultural Cooperation under ACMECS.—MNA

YANGON, 17 Sept — Seven members namely U Than Htay of Shwetaung Township National League for Democracy of Bago Division (West) on 28 June, and U Maung Maung Oo, U Hla Oo, U Aung Tin and U Sein Maung of Taungdwingyi Township NLD, Magway Division, and U Aung Phyo Wai and U Toe Gyi of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township NLD on 5 September resigned from NLD of their own volition, sending their resignation letters to NLD Headquarters and local authorities.

In their resignation letters sent to Shwetaung, Taungdwingyi and Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township NLD, they said that they no longer wished to stand as NLD members. That was why they resigned from the party of their own volition, they said. — MNA

No interest to stand as NLD members

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In their resignation letters sent to Shwetaung, Taungdwingyi and Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Subcommission, they said that they no longer wished to stand as NLD members. That was why they resigned from the party of their own volition, they said. — MNA
Commander attends cornerstone-laying ceremony of Lawka Hmanku Pagoda in Toungoo

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Sept—The cornerstone were laid for construction of Lawka Hmanku Pagoda at Wisuddhayon TheinU Monastery in Myogyi Ward, Toungoo at a ceremony held in the precinct of the pagoda on 8 September.

It was attended by members of the Sangha led by Chairman of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Yadana Bonmyint Monastery Agga Maha Saddanmayotikakajhaja Bhaddanta Aravundabhivamsa, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, senior military officers, division and district level departmental officials, social organizations and others.

The congregation led by the commander received the Nine Precepts from Bhaddanta Arawundabhivamsa. Next, the commander presented the gem caskets and ruby cornerstones to the Sayadaw and the deputy commander, offerotories to members of the Sangha.

The first session of the ceremony ended with the delivering a sermon by Bhaddanta Aravundabhivamsa. The second session of the ceremony followed. The commander and party laid the cornerstones at the designated places and sprinkled scented water onto them.

At 8 am on 8 September, the commander attended the ceremony to mark the 2007 World First Aid Day held at Thirthantha Hall in Bago and made a speech on the occasion.

At 9 am, the commander attended the ceremony to mark the International Literacy Day. —MNA

Cash donated for construction of religious edifices

YANGON, 16 Sept—Cash donations for construction of monasteries in hilly and border regions, construction of Bagan Sasana Beikmandaw and all-round renovation of Sanghabesi jatanaavibhara Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinnrama were presented to the Branch Office of Ministry of Religious Affairs on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning, and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung attended the ceremony and accepted the cash donations.

First, the minister and congregation received the Five Precepts from Presiding Nayaka of Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Majjimagonyi Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovid.

Next, the cash presentation ceremony followed. the minister accepted the donations that included K 513,000 by U Zaw Zaw Naing, K 500,000 each by U Nyunt Huy-Daw Nila Shwe, U Aung Mon, U Tin Win-Daw Khin Kyi and U Bo Gyi-Daw Than Tha, K 520,000 by U Ye Aung-Daw Le Le Win, K 505,000 by (U Thein Maung)-Daw Pu Pu and U Chit Aye-Daw Than Tha, and K 100,000 by Daw Daw Kyin of Lanmadaw totaling K 29,443,000 and presented certificates of honour to the well-wishers.

After that, Presiding Nayaka of Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Majjimagonyi Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovid delivered a sermon, after which the ceremony came to an end. —MNA
Mahathir in stable condition

Kuala Lumpur, 17 Sept — Former Malaysian premier Mahathir Mohamad is in a stable condition after being moved back into intensive care for checks by doctors, his son Mohd Nazri Mahathir said on Sunday.

The 82-year-old Mahathir, Malaysia’s longest-serving premier, underwent heart bypass surgery on September 4. This was his second such operation since 1989 and followed two heart attacks over the past 10 months.

The hospital treating Mahathir said on Saturday he had been moved back into intensive care to facilitate checks by doctors.

State news agency Bernama quoted Mahathir’s daughter, Marina, as saying the former premier was transferred back to intensive care as a precautionary measure to prevent any infection.

“The doctors say Tun (Mahathir) will remain longer in the ICU due to the need to prevent any infection,” Marina said, adding “if you don’t fight the enemy in the way that he’s motivated, you’re going to lose.”

He warned the United States should never have entered Iraq and is on the verge of losing the war in that country. He said Western countries like Canada are pursuing wrong strategies in Afghanistan and may also face loss there.

Canada and its allies have too many agendas in Afghanistan and yet have deployed too few soldiers to carry out the tasks. This has already led to a near-defeat there and if Western countries decide to pull out combat troops it would mean the ultimate triumph of terrorism, he said.

Scheuer said that victory against Islamic fundamentalists can only come if Canadian, the United States, and other Western governments change strategies and understand what motivates terrorists.

Scheuer’s book Through Our Enemies Eyes was mentioned by Osama bin Laden in a video released last week when the al-Qaeda leader tried to explain why the West was to lose in this war with him. — MNA/Xinhua

Syria stresses right reservation to respond to Israeli violations

DAMASCUS, 17 Sept — Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal al-Mekdad has stressed that his country reserves the right to respond to the recent violation of its airspace by Israeli warplanes, the independent Champress website reported on Saturday.

“Syria is not accustomed to keep silent on violations (of its airspace) and will choose when and where to respond,” Mekdad was quoted as saying.

“The Syrian authorities will make response to the aggression now or in the future,” he added.

Syrian defence forces opened fire on Israeli aircraft after they flew over northern Syria and dropped ammunition on September 6, according to official media here. — MNA/Xinhua

CIA analyst says West losing in Iraq, Afghanistan

OTTAWA, 17 Sept — The West is losing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan because it does not understand the true motives of terrorists and is thus taking wrong strategies against them, a former analyst of US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) said on Sunday.

The reason for Osama bin Laden and his followers to fight the West is not because of their different values, or because they hate freedom, democracy or gender equality, but rather lies in Western countries’ policies in the Middle East, Michael Scheuer, a retired 22-year CIA veteran told Canadian Television during an interview.

American and the West’s unqualified support for Israel, support for tyrannical regimes in the Middle East, and dependence on oil in the region are the real factors behind the terrorist acts of Islamic fundamentalist, he pointed out.

Western countries so far have not realized or acknowledged these true reasons for terrorism, and so “we’re fighting an enemy that doesn’t exist,” he said, adding “if you don’t fight the enemy in the way that he’s motivated, you’re going to lose.”

He warned the United States should never have entered Iraq and is on the verge of losing the war in that country. He said Western countries like Canada are pursuing wrong strategies in Afghanistan and may also face loss there.

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Japan hits record number of centenarians

Tokyo, 17 Sept — The number of Japanese aged 100 or older will reach a record of more than 32,000 by next month, according to a government survey, the latest sign that Japan is ageing quicker than any other country.

One in five Japanese are now aged 65 or older and by mid-century that figure will nearly double, while the population is expected to drop by 30 per cent to 90 million.

Japan’s women, who have topped the world’s longevity ranking for 22 years, now account for 86 per cent of the country’s centenarians at 27,682, according to the recent government survey.

Japanese girls born last year can expect to live to an average age of 85.8 years. Their male compatriots have a life expectancy of 79.2 years.

Russia’s players (L-R) Elena Vesminta, Anna Chakvetadze, team captain Shamil Tarpischev, Svetlana Kuznetsova and Nadia Petrova pose with a trophy after their victory over team Italy in the Fed Cup final tennis match in Moscow, on 16 Sept, 2007. — INTERNET

Birdman competition kicks off in Chinese Hunan Province on 15 Sept, 2007. — XINHUA

Militant linked to killing of Iraqi tribal chief caught

Baghdad, 17 Sept — US forces have caught a suspected al-Qaeda militant believed to be responsible for the killing last week of a key Sunni Arab tribal leader in Iraq’s Anbar Province, the US military said on Sunday.

Abdul Sattar Abu Risha was killed in a bomb attack on Thursday near his home in Ramadi, provincial capital of Anbar.

Abu Risha, who met US President George W. Bush two weeks ago in Anbar, led the Anbar Salvation Council, an alliance of Sunni Arab tribes that worked with US troops to push Sunni Islamist al-Qaeda out of much of the vast desert area.

In a statement, the US military named the captured militant as Fallah Khalifa Hiyaas Fayyas al-Jumayli.

It said he was caught on Saturday during an operation near the town of Balad, north of Baghdad. — MNA/Reuters
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR   Tuesday, 18 September, 2007

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

TRADEMARK CAUTION
AJINOMOTO CO., INC., a company incorporated in Japan, of 15-1, Kyobashi 1-Chome, Chuo-Ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trademark:

AMINO VITAL
Reg. No. 4/2627/2004
in respect of "Dietary supplements, in the forms of granules, liquid, tablet, powder, capsule and jelly for food (other than for medical use); food supplements in the forms of granules, liquid, tablet, powder, capsule and jelly for food (other than medicated or predominantly of vitamins, minerals or trace elements); preparations for use as dietary additives for consumption by sports persons included in Class 29; Sports drinks for athletes in liquid or semi-jelly form, preparations for making sports drinks in Class 32."

CORRECTION
In the Cautionary Notice of Trademark XEPLION appearing in this paper on 12 September 07, the correct Reg. No. is 4028/2006.

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(Reg. No. IV188/2007)
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Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of any or other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Thien Aung E.S.C.R.L.B.L. Advocate MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mptp@mental.net.my
Tel: 254073
P.O.Box 506 Yangon
18 September 2007

rescia find two bodies of Russian canoeists in N-W China

URUMQI , 17 Sept— Rescuers have found two bodies of the six Russian canoeists who had been missing in northwest China’s Xinjiang since 2 September, sources with the local rescue headquarters said Saturday.

Four rescuers, including three Russians and a Chinese, crossed the river and found the bodies around 01:20 pm on Saturday under two canoes, spotted earlier at some 58 kilometres north of Omisha, a village at the mid-point of the Yurungkax River in southern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, said Zhang Shaoyun, deputy chief of the rescue headquarters.

The bodies have been transported back to the northern bank of the river, and will later be sent back to Hotan, Zhang said, adding that their identities are yet to be confirmed once they are sent back to Hotan.

OTTAWA, 17 Sept—Canada reports record number of West Nile cases this year.

OTTAWA, 17 Sept—Canada has been hardest hit by West Nile virus this year, reporting the highest number of cases in any year this summer, according to the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The country reported 1,790 cases of the disease this summer, up considerably from the 1,481 in 2003. The vast majority of the cases are in central Canada or the so-called Prairies, where seven people died of the disease, Canadian Press (CP) said in a report Saturday citing the agency statistics.

Scientists say the wet spring and hot summer this year may have contributed to the rise in West Nile virus. On the one hand, this weather condition is an ideal environment for the development of Culex tarsalis mosquitoes, the type that transmits West Nile to humans.

On the other hand, the same weather is not right for the breeding of nuisance mosquitoes, which do not carry West Nile but are annoying enough to get people vigilant and thus take precautions against being bitten, health officials pointed out.

Most people infected with West Nile virus do not show any symptoms. But in some cases it may cause swelling of the brain and spinal cord, as well as paralysis, or even death.

Israel force clashes with militants in Gaza

GAZA, 17 Sept — A small Israeli ground force pushed into the northern Gaza Strip on Saturday, clashing with militants and bulldozing areas of farmland, the Army and residents said.

Local medics said a 17-year-old Palestinian male was in serious condition after being shot in the stomach in northern Gaza. The Army said it had no reports of injuries.

An Army spokesman said Israeli forces conducted "routine activity" against what it called terror threats in the north of the coastal enclave, and said troops arrested nine Palestinians.

Militants in northern Gaza fired a rocket propelled grenade at the Israelis and exchanged fire with soldiers, he said.

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MNA/Xinhua

Helicopter crash kills six in Russia

MOSCOW, 17 Sept—At least six people died when a helicopter crashed in Russia’s far east, ITAR-TASS news agency reported on Sunday.

The wreckage of the Mi-8 carrier, with three pilots and four passengers onboard, was found in the Magadan region on Saturday. Only the captain survived, said local emergency authorities.

The helicopter, owned by a regional forest protection base, was on a commercial flight to the Burgali River. It crashed and caught fire near Suruktash Mountain, the authorities said.

The Mi-8 is widely-used for both civilian and military purposes. However, crashes in Russia have been quite frequent and are mostly blamed on poor maintenance and excessive service age.

MNA/Xinhua

Champion Ma Qing (3rd L) poses with runner-ups after the final of the 2007 New Silk Road Model Competition held in Sanya, south China’s Hainan Province, on 15 Sept, 2007. A total of 60 contestants attended the final of this year’s event.

—XINHUA

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Militants in northern Gaza fired a rocket propelled grenade at the Israelis and exchanged fire with soldiers, he said.

MNA/Reuters
A utility truck drives past a pile of oil palm fruit bunches awaiting collection at a roadside in a oil palm estate near Sepang, in February. The value of Malaysia’s palm oil exports is expected to reach a record high this year thanks to strong worldwide demand fuelled by the boom in biofuels, a report said on Sunday. — Internet

State of emergency proclaimed in California county

LOS ANGELES, 17 Sept — California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Saturday proclaimed a state of emergency in San Bernardino County due to a raging wildfire.

The fire, which began on Friday, has burned more than 18,000 acres (7,300 hectares) of land and forced the evacuation of 5,000 people from a pair of mountain communities.

The fire is threatening large areas in the county, including 6,000 homes and 150 businesses, and continuing to burn “with very little containment,” the governor said in a statement e-mailed to Xinhua.

There are currently mandatory and voluntary evacuations occurring, and as a result of the fire, “conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen in San Bernardino County,” the governor said, adding that there is imminent danger to populated areas.

The serious side effects include blood clots in the legs and lungs, and death due to stroke. Women with current or prior blood clots in the legs, lungs, or eyes should not take Evista. Other potential side effects include hot flashes, leg cramps, swelling of the legs and lungs, and death due to stroke. Women with current or prior blood clots in the legs should not take Evista. Other potential side effects include blood clots in the legs and lungs, and death due to stroke. Women with current or prior blood clots in the legs, lungs, or eyes should not take Evista. Other potential side effects include hot flashes, leg cramps, swelling of the legs and lungs, and death due to stroke.

Evista is commonly referred to as a selective estrogen receptor modulator (SERM). In reducing the risk of invasive breast cancer, SERMs may act by blocking estrogen receptors in the breast.

“Today’s action provides an important new option for women at heightened risk of breast cancer,” said Steven Galson, director of FDA’s Centre for Drug Evaluation and Research. “Because Evista can cause serious side effects, the benefits and risks of taking Evista should be carefully evaluated for each individual woman.”

The survey said 73 per cent of the respondents did not do any exercise and 12.5 per cent of them sleep for less than eight hours a day.

Statistics showed the number of Internet users in China hit an estimated 162 million by the end of this June.

HK to strengthen role as regional technology servicing hub

HONG KONG, 16 Sept — Hong Kong is to strengthen its role as a regional technology servicing hub, said John Tsang Chun-wah, Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Friday on the opening ceremony of the “Innovation Expo 07” showcasing the latest achievements of Hong Kong in innovation, technology and design.

He said the government had been actively promoting innovation and technology by putting in place funding programmes and infrastructural support, including the establishment of the Innovation and Technology Fund, the Hong Kong Science Park, Cyberport and five Research and Development Centres.

The “Innovation Expo 07” features more than 100 exhibitors from local universities, research and development organizations, industry support organizations, technology and design enterprises and technology education organizations.

Osteoporosis drug Evista approved to cut risk of breast cancer

WASHINGTON, 14 Sept — The US Food and Drug Administration approved Evista on Friday for reducing the risk of invasive breast cancer in postmenopausal women with osteoporosis and in postmenopausal women at high-risk for invasive breast cancer.

In 1997, FDA approved Evista, which is manufactured by Eli Lilly and Company, for the prevention of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women and, in 1999, for the treatment of postmenopausal women with osteoporosis. Previously as a drug for osteoporosis, Evista is now only the second drug approved to reduce the risk of breast cancer.

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The serious side effects include blood clots in the legs and lungs, and death due to stroke. Women with current or prior blood clots in the legs, lungs, or eyes should not take Evista. Other potential side effects include hot flashes, leg cramps, swelling of the legs and feet, flu-like symptoms, joint pain, and sweating.

Evista should not be taken by premenopausal women and women who are or may become pregnant because it may cause harm to the unborn baby, warned FDA in its statement.

An iceberg melts off Ammassalik Island in Eastern Greenland in this 19 July 2007 file photo. Arctic ice has shrunk to the lowest level on record, new satellite images show, raising the possibility that the Northwest Passage that eluded famous explorers will become an open shipping lane. — Internet

Over 70% Chinese Internet users have health problems

BEIJING, 16 Sept — About 73 per cent of Chinese citizen are in sub-healthy state with 70 per cent of them suffering from psychological problems, according to a survey conducted by 39.com website.

The survey said 73 per cent of the 150,000 respondents have dizzy, insomnia and arthralgic problems, according to a survey conducted by 39.com website.

More than 70 per cent citizen have suffered amnesia, anxiety and scatterbrained problems, however, 90 per cent of them never resort to psychological doctors, the survey showed.

Surfing on the Internet kills netizens’ time for physical exercise. 51.4 per cent of the respondents said they spent less than three hours every week in taking exercise and 12.5 per cent of them did not do any exercise in the last half year. The Internet also sharply reduces users’ time for sleeping. The survey said that 84 per cent of them sleep for less than eight hours a day.

Statistics showed the number of Internet users in China hit an estimated 162 million by the end of this June.

Sub-healthy state, referred to a functional change without organic pathological process, is a transitional stage between the health and illness.
Sports

Manchester United defender Silvestre out for season

LONDON, 17 Sept — Manchester United’s France defender Mikael Silvestre is likely to miss the rest of the season after suffering a cruciate knee ligament injury at Everton, the champions said on their Web site on Sunday. The 30-year-old left back got his studs caught in the ground and fell awkwardly, twisting his knee in Saturday’s Premier League match at Goodison Park which United won 1-0. Silvestre, who will miss France’s Euro 2008 qualifying run-in, is the third United player to suffer a serious knee injury this year following similar problems for South Korean midfielder Ji-sung Park and goalkeeper Ben Foster. — MNA/Reuters

Barca slip further, Sevilla crush local rivals

MADRID, 17 Sept — Barcelona lost more ground in the title race on Sunday with a 1-0 draw at Osasuna while Sevilla showed they are the Primera Liga’s form team with a 4-1 stroll past regional rivals Recreativo Huelva.

Shorn of regular strikers Samuel Eto’o and Lionel Messi, Barcelona lacked penetration and now languish fourth in Ligue 1 on Sunday. The 30-year-old left back got his studs in an injury at Everton, the champions said on their Web site and defender Mikael Silvestre is likely to miss the rest of the run-in, is the third United player to suffer a knee injury this year following similar problems for South Korean midfielder Ji-sung Park and goalkeeper Ben Foster. — MNA/Reuters

Primera Liga reports

MADRID, 17 Sept — Brief reports of matches played in the Primera Liga played on Sunday:

Deportivo Coruna 1 Real Betis 0

Deport’s Jose Guardado punished sloppy Betis defending when he latched on to a long through ball eight minutes. The home side could have had more goals but Ricardo saved a point-blank header and a 90th minute strike from Joan Verdu hit the post.

Espanyol 1 Getafe 0

Espanyol edged an entertaining game in Barcelona thanks to a goal by Jonathan Soriano and also had a penalty appeal turned down when Raul Tamudo was bundled over in the 12th minute. Getafe substitute Esteban Granero was sent off after six minutes on the pitch midway through the second half. The 10 men fought valiantly but Soriano ended the resistance by stretching to poke home Albert Riera’s cross two minutes from time.

Racing Santander 1 Levante 0

Racing’s Pedro Munitis ran on to a sharp interception to sidefoot home after 28 minutes to give the north coast team their first win of the season.

Johnson goal lifts Man City into second place

LONDON, 17 Sept — Manchester City moved into second place in the Premier League on Sunday after a goal from teenager Michael Johnson gave them a 1-0 win over Aston Villa.

Johnson powered past three Villa defenders after taking a pass from Brazilian Elano to fire wide of keeper Scott Carson in the 48th minute.

The win on a rainy afternoon at the Etihad Stadium scene Manchester United (11) and Champions League on Sunday after a goal from teenager Michael Johnson gave them a 1-0 win over Aston Villa. Eriksson left Stephen Ireland out of the squad after he said the midfielder “was not quite right” after the player admitted lying and apologizing to Irish officials after claiming his grandmother had died while on international duty last week.

He trained today, but he wasn’t quite right,” Eriksson told Sky TV. “He will be back on Tuesday and I am sure he will be 100 per cent then.” — MNA/Reuters

Feyenoord beat Roda 3-1 to move back on top

AMSTERDAM, 17 Sept — Canadian Jonathan de Guzman scored twice in the second half to help Feyenoord to a 3-1 victory over Roda JC Kerkrade in the Dutch League on Sunday.

Cheikh Tiote netted a rebound to put Roda in front six minutes before the break. Early in the second half Roy Makaay equalized from the penalty spot, before de Guzman struck twice.

Feyenoord moved back to the top of the table with 12 points after four matches, two above Ajax and PSV Eindhoven who had 1-0 wins on Saturday over Heracles Almelo and Vitesse Arnhem respectively.

Feyenoord will travel to PSV next Sunday. AZ Alkmaar came from two goals behind to get a point against Sparta Rotterdam.

Midfielder Haris Medunjanin scored an own goal after five minutes to hand Sparta the lead, while Nourdin Boukhari made it 2-0 early in the second half.

Midway through the second half Julian Jenner pulled one back and with 14 minutes remaining Moumar El Hamdaoui struck his first for Alkmaar to earn his side a point. — MNA/Reuters

Atletico held at Murcia, Villarreal snatch late winner

MADRID, 17 Sept — Big spending Atletico Madrid stumbled to a 1-1 draw at promoted Real Murcia in the Primera Liga on Sunday while fellow UEFA Cup contenders Villarreal snatched a late victory against Real Mallorca.

Atletico looked headed for their first win of the campaign against Argentine Sergio Aguero put away Yourkas Seitaridis’s cross in the 15th minute for his second goal of the season.

However, Murcia’s Francisco Gallardo struck a late equalizer when he collected a sweeping pass, wrong-footed Costinha and rifled a shot into the far corner.

The result leaves Atletico with just two points, seven behind city rivals and leaders Real Madrid. — MNA/Reuters
4,000 people call for Danube cleanup in Budapest

BUDAPEST, 17 Sept — Some 4,000 people armed with green umbrellas called attention to Danube pollution and the need for an environmental cleanup in Budapest on Saturday, according to MTA news agency.

The appeal was part of a Danube Conference organized jointly by the Budapest municipal government and the sister city of Ulm, Germany, where countries, regions, cities and towns along the Danube are meeting to promote cultural, economic and political cooperation.

Budapest Mayor Gabor Demszky called a cleanup of the Danube “one of Europe’s top environmental priorities”.

The umbrellas were the idea of Spanish artist Maider Lopez and were intended to call attention to individual responsibility for the environment.

MNA/Xinhua

Greenspan says Iraq war was really for oil

LONDON, 17 Sept — Former US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, in a memoir to be released on Monday, says the prime motive for the March 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq was oil, The Sunday Times reported.

In his long-awaited memoir, Greenspan will also deliver a stinging critique of US President George W Bush’s economic policies, according to the paper.

However, it is Greenspan’s view on the motive for the 2003 Iraq war that is likely to provoke the most controversy, the paper said.

“I am saddened that it is politically inconvenient to acknowledge what everyone knows: the Iraq war is largely about oil,” Greenspan says in the book, as cited by the paper. Greenspan is understood to believe that Saddam Hussein, the former Iraqi president, posed a threat to the security of oil supplies in the Middle East, the paper said.

America and Britain have always insisted that the war had nothing to do with oil, and Bush said the aim was to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction and end Saddam’s support for terrorism, the paper pointed out.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Monday, 17 September, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, Southwest monsoon is withdrawing from the North Bay of Bengal and Central Myanmar areas. Rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Rakhine, Kayin, Kayah States, Magway Division, scattered in lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Katha (3.54) inches, Kawthoung and Machamblw (2.13) inches each, Thaton (2.05) inches, Dawei (1.54) inches, Kyaukse (0.87) inches and Yamethin (0.83) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-9-2007 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 17-9-2007 was 76°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 17-9-2007 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 16-9-2007 was (1.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 17-9-2007 was (0.04) inch at Mingaladon, (0.43) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.08) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (108.22) inches at Mingaladon, (109.17) inches at Kaba-Aye and (110.71) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southeast at (16:15) hours MST on 16-9-2007.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-9-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State and Bago Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Withdrawal of Southwest monsoon from the Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 18-9-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 18-9-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 18-9-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Xinhua
According to the (06:30) hr MST observations today, the water levels of Ayeyawady River at Minbu and Magway are (1670) cm and (1656) cm respectively. The water levels are possible to reach the respective danger levels of Minbu and Magway (1700) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

Flood Possibility Warning

YANGON, 17 Sept — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htut Win, Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, senior military officers, Secretary of Yangon Division PDC U Hla Soe and officials, inspected Myanmar Steel Industrial Zone being developed by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development in Hmawby Township yesterday.

The 1,015.57-acre zone will be set up in three phases and it will produce iron rods necessary for national development tasks.

At the management office of the zone, Director General of DHSHD U Aung Win reported on implementation of the project, the area of the zone, construction of earth and concrete roads, arrangements for construction of sluice gates, installation of power lines, environmental conservation and communications measures and sale of plots of land and payment.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint reported on power supply and installation of 230 KV power lines and future. Officials concerned also reported on the respective work.

In his discussions, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said the government has been providing necessary assistance for industrial development in building a peaceful modern developed nation. The government-owned and private-owned factories produce cement and ironware. The steel industrial zone is being set-up in Myaungdaga Village in Hmawby Township for production of ironware, he said.

He said the zone will supply ironware for local demand. In the long run import of other iron products will be cut. Industrial zones in the country have developed due to the government’s encouragement and cooperation among the industrialists, he added. He spoke of the need for industrialists to invest in the industrial zone. Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party toured the zone. — MNA

3rd Meeting of Sectoral Working Group on Agricultural Cooperation opens

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Sept — The Third Meeting of the Sectoral Working Group on Agricultural Cooperation under Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategies (ACMECS) was opened at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here this morning with an opening address by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo.

In his address, the minister said: I am pleased to recall that the first ACMECS summit held in Bagan, Myanmar in November 2003 and the Second ACMECS Summit, held in Bangkok in November 2005 highlighted the importance of agricultural sector in the sub-region. Also the ACMECS Plan of Action-2006, outlined the area of agricultural cooperation by increasing productivity, improving market access and promoting investment and joint production, research and development.

With a view to achieving these objectives, we all have to take our respective responsibilities particularly on reviewing the progress and obstacles in implementing our common and bilateral projects, and finding our commonly agreeable solution.

Over the past four years, we have been working together to translate our vision into reality. However, I noted that our endeavors have not reached full potential and still required a more practical way and action. (See page 9)