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

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

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

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

Eighteenth Sports Minister’s Cup Inter-State/Division U-21 (Novice Division) Men’s Football Tournament concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Sept — The final match of the Eighteenth Sports Minister’s Cup Inter-State/Division U-21 (Novice Division) Men’s Football Tournament was held in conjunction with the prize presentation ceremony at Sagaing Division’s Sports Ground on 16 September.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and football enthusiasts.

Yangon Division Team picked up the championship cup after beating Kayin State Team 3-0 in the final match. Executive member of MBF U Tin Aung presented cash award to man of the match award winner Myo Zaw Hein of Yangon Division Team in the final match.

Next, Officials presented K 300,000 and medals to third place Taninthayi Division Team and K 600,000 and medals to runner-up Kayin State Team.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presents championship cup to Yangon Division team in eighth Sports Minister’s cup inter-state/division U-21 men’s football tournament.— SPORTS

Kyunthaya highway bus terminal commissioned into service in Bago Division

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Sept — The opening ceremony of Kyunthaya high-way bus terminal was held at the terminal in Bago Division on 9 September, attended by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and CEC Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min.

First, the CEC Member, Secretary U Pe Thein of Bago Division PDC and Director U Myo Naing Aung of Bago Division Development Affairs Committee formally opened the ceremony.

(See page 8)
Preventive measures being taken against recruitment of minors

Myanmar is now in the process of transition to democracy through concerted efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw. In such a transitional period, the entire people have to work harder to accomplish the national duty of drafting the State Constitution.

These days, anti-government forces and agitators at home and abroad are resorting to various ways and means and distorting the news stories intentionally to disrupt stability and peace restored throughout the State.

One of the groundless accusations is that Myanmar Tatmadaw has a large number of minors and is using child soldiers in the front lines.

Myanmar has formed the Committee for Prevention of Recruiting Child Soldiers. And necessary directives have been released to the Defence Services (Army) Recruiting Units not to recruit minors.

The Committee has constantly reinforced the units to strictly follow the orders and directives to protect and safeguard the interests of minors.

However much destructive elements are levelling slanderous accusations and propagating false images, international community will soon come to know the truth owing to the fact that the nation is taking measures in line with the rules and regulations for preventing recruitment of minors into armed forces and constantly fulfilling their requirements.

Minister looks into Yezin Agricultural Research Department

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Sept — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and departmental officials went on an inspection tour of Yezin Agricultural Research Department in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana on 15 September.

At the meeting hall, Director-General Dr Toe Aung of Agricultural Research Department briefed the minister on research works on respective crops such as five quality paddy strains, six strains of corns, five strains of peanuts, three strains of sesame and physic nut plants.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions on efforts for seeking new strains that can benefit the peasants, and checked booths on strains of crops on display and the research plantation of 10 paddy strains.

YANGON, 17 Sept — The International Abhidhamma Master Science Education Committee held its meeting 1/2007 at Thitagu International Buddhist Missionary Institute at the corner of Pinlong Street and Parami Road in Dagon Myothit (South) Township here at 3 pm today.

It was attended by Ovadaçariya Sayadaw of TIBMI Dr Ashin Nanissara (D-Litt) and Rector Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nandamalabhivamsa.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo visits paddy plantation of Yezin agricultural research department in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana.— A & I

International Abhidhamma Master Science Education Committee meets

International Abhidhamma Master Science Education Committee meeting in progress at Thitagu International Buddhist Missionary Institute.— NLM

Horizon League Basketball Tournament continues

YANGON, 17 Sept — Horizon League Basketball Tournament, jointly organized by Myanmar Basketball Federation and Horizon Int’l Education Centre, continued at Kyackansan Gymnasium yesterday afternoon.

Project-X won over Rabb Boy with 47-19 point and Blue Boy defeated Shadows with 55-23 point. KKS beat The Gyuts with 62-34 point while last Vampire won over GB with 56-54 point. Glory beat Precious with 44-39 point.

The tournament continues up to 23 September. — NLM

Players of Precious and Glory in action in Women’s Horizon League Basketball Tournament.— NLM
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

100,000 march against Iraq war in Washington, 200 arrested in dramatic mass die-in

WASHINGTON, 17 Sept — Nearly 100,000 people led by anti-war Iraq veterans, military families and others marched from the White House to the Capitol in Washington, DC to demand an immediate end to the occupation of Iraq on 15 Sept, 2007. The march concluded with a dramatic “die-in” of 5,000 people surrounding the Capitol. Almost 200 people were arrested when police prevented them taking an anti-war message to Congress. People marched shoulder-to-shoulder on eight-lane-wide Pennsylvania Avenue, with the densely packed march stretching more than 10 blocks. It was a historic action and a step forward for the anti-war movement. Protesters surged onto the Capitol’s south lawn and up the steps where they were met by a police line. There, Iraq veterans conducted a solemn ceremony to memorialize the US soldiers and Iraqis killed in the war. Over 5,000 people then laid down in a symbolic “die-in” — one of the largest acts of civil disobedience in recent years.

One hundred ninety-seven people, including dozens of veterans and activists, were arrested when they tried to deliver their anti-war message to Congress and were stopped by the police. Among the arrested were Adam Kokesh, Liam Madden, Jeff Millard, and Garrett Reppenhagen of Iraq Veterans Against the War; Brian Becker, National Coordinator of the ANSWER Coalition (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism); Ann Wright, former US Army Colonel; Michael Prysner, Iraq war veteran and ANSWER activist in Florida; union president Gloria La Riva; and Eugene Puryear, Howard University student and National Coordinator of Youth & Student ANSWER. Police pepper-sprayed demonstrators without provocation.

Militants step up Iraq attacks, kill 30

BAGHDAD, 17 Sept — Militants stepped up attacks across Iraq on Sunday, killing at least 30 people in a spate of bombings and shootings that followed a threat by al-Qaeda to launch a new phase of violence.

The US military announced it had caught a suspected al-Qaeda militant believed to be responsible for the killing last week of a key Sunni Arab tribal leader in Anbar province. Sheikh Abdul Sattar Abu Risha, who met US President George W Bush two weeks ago in Anbar, was killed in a bomb attack on Thursday near his home. He led an alliance of tribes that helped US troops push al-Qaeda out of much of the vast western area.

Suspected al-Qaeda militants shot dead 14 people in the predominantly Sunni Arab town of Muqdadiya north of Baghdad and torched at least 12 shops in the town, Iraqi police said.

A suicide bomber also killed six people at an outdoor cafe in the northern town of Tuz Khurmato. In Baghdad, eight people were killed in four separate bombings. — MNA/Reuters

Flood death toll hits 916 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 17 Sept — The flood in Bangladesh claimed 916 lives till Sunday, as a second spell of monsoon flood inundated low-lying areas in eastern part of capital Dhaka in last 24 hours.

Health Department sources said the death toll from flood-related incidents and diseases like diarrhoea, drowning, snakebites and respiratory diseases climbed up to 916 across the country since 30 July.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said the overall flood situation is improving and will continue to improve in the next 24-72 hours. The FFWC said the prevailing flood situation in the northern districts of Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Jamalpur, Sirajganj and Tangail is likely to improve further in the next 24-96 hours. The situation in south-central part of the country is likely to start improving in the next 24 hours. — MNA/Xinhua

Six dead, four missing as typhoon hits S Korea

SEOUL, 17 Sept — Six South Koreans died and four were missing in South Korea on Sunday after a typhoon hit the country’s southern coast, an official from the government emergency agency said.

Five were killed and four were missing in the resort island of Cheju as it was battered by typhoon Nari, whose name means a lily in Korean language, an official at South Korea’s National Emergency Management Agency told Reuters by telephone.

One woman was also found dead as a house collapsed in Jangheung, a coastal county southwest of Seoul, added the official who asked not to be identified. — MNA/Reuters

Eight killed, four injured in bus accident in India

NEW DELHI, 18 Sept — Eight people were killed and four others injured when a bus crashed into a locally-assembled auto-rickshaw in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh on Monday, according to local media.

The bus was bound from Budaon in Uttar Pradesh to New Delhi when it rammed into a auto-rickshaw, the Press Trust of India said, adding that the injured have been hospitalized.

The auto-rickshaws are widely used in many Indian states to ferry passengers in short distance. — MNA/Xinhua

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The auto-rickshaws are widely used in many Indian states to ferry passengers in short distance. — MNA/Xinhua
Iraqis tell Washington to monitor its own progress

BAKUHD, 17 Sept—Iraqi lawmakers said on Saturday Washington was covering up for its own mistakes in Iraq by setting artificial benchmarks to meet and then ticking them off like scorecards.

Frustrated by criticism from the United States over their slow progress towards political goals meant to foster national reconciliation, Iraqi leaders said Washington would be better served by examining its own progress in the unpopular war. “The Americans always try to pretend responsibility for cleaning up this mess isn’t theirs and tend to shift blame onto Iraq, Iran and Syria for everything that goes wrong,” said veteran Kurdish lawmaker Mamoody Othman. “But they should stop this nonsense and admit that most of the accountability rests on their shoulders,” he told state television.

The book was made available by its publisher, The Penguin Press. In his book, “The Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World,” Greenspan said he was surprised Bush was unwilling to temper his campaign promises with fiscal reality once elected in 2000, as previous Republican administrations had done. “Little value was placed on rigorous economic policy debate or the weighing of long-term consequences,” he said.

The book was made available by its publisher, The Penguin Press. “Much to my disappointment, economic policymaking in the Bush Administration remained firmly in the hands of White House staff,” he said. Greenspan, now 81, was the second longest-serving chairman in the Fed’s 93-year history when he stepped down in January 2006.

Greenspan said Bush’s combination of tax cuts and spending on the military and prescription drug benefits, while not “unrealistic” in 2000 after several years of federal budget surpluses, was not appropriate with growing deficits that returned in 2002.

The former Fed chair urged Bush to veto a string of “out-of-control” spending bills, but to no avail.

)— MNA/Reuters

Strong quakes boost seismic activities in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 17 Sept — The 7.9-magnitude earthquake in Bengkulu province of Sumatra Island last week has triggered the rise of seismic activities of three volcanoes in the area, but they all still calm now, the Indonesian Volcanology and Mitigation Centre said on Monday.

The quake with the epicentre located in western waters off Sumatra Island was followed by a string of tremors with magnitudes ranging from four to more than seven. Scores of tsunami warning had been issued.

“The three mountains, Dempo, Kaba and Talang, have greater seismic activities after the quake,” the head of volcanological survey of the center, Yan Saut Simatupang, told Xinhua. Simatupang said that Mount Talang located some 30 kilometers from Padang, the capital of West Sumatra province, may spew white cloud along with volcanic ashes, but Mount Dempo and Kaba in Bengkulu province may not, as both of them have rarely spewed lava, he said.

“There is a possibility that the Mount Talang releases white cloud containing ashes,” said Simatupang. “There will be blows of energy but they will not be significant, nothing to be worried,” he said. — Internet

Ahmadinejad repeats challenge to debate Bush at UN

THEHAN, 17 Sept—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad challenged US President George W Bush to a debate on global issues at a UN summit in New York, state TV reported on Sunday, repeating a call rejected by Washington last year.

“I had suggested holding a debate. I am saying again that let us discuss global concerns at the (UN) General Assembly in front of representatives of other nations,” Ahmadinejad told state television.

The United States severed relations after Teheran’s 1979 Islamic revolution which toppled the US-backed Shah.

Ahmadinejad is due to visit New York for the opening of the United Nations General Assembly in September. It will be his third visit since he took office in August 2005. During his interview with the state television, Ahmadinejad also condemned US policies in the Middle East, including Iraq “I am ready to hold talks with Bush on important global issues at the assembly,” he said. “Let us hold talks about Iraq and other issues. Then public opinion will judge ... We will offer our global solutions.”

The Academy Award-winning actor Jamie Foxx got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Friday. — INTERNET
**ECONOMIC NEWS**

**Fuel prices up in Zambia**

LUSAKA, 17 Sept — The Energy Regulation Board of Zambia has increased the pump prices of petrol and diesel by 4.5 per cent and 5 per cent respectively, Daily Mail reported on Saturday.

Petrol, which was pegged at 6,717 kwacha (1.68 US dollars) per litre, now costs 7,020 kwacha (1.76 dollars) while diesel, which costs 5,563 kwacha (1.39 dollars) per litre is now sold at 5,841 kwacha (1.46 dollars) per litre, according to Daily Mail.

The kerosene price also jumped by 141 kwacha (3.5 cents), now pegged at 4,382 kwacha (1.1 dollars) per litre.

The price hike, which became effect after Friday midnight, is to ensure the security of supply of fuel products from the duration of the shutdown of Indeni Petroleum Refinery, said the report.

The country’s sole refinery located in North Zambia was temporarily closed last week due to the running out of crude oil but the Zambian Government had pledged to import more finished petroleum products to ease the fuel shortage in the country. — MNA/Xinhua

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**China’s private sector employs 120 mln people**

GUANGZHOU, 17 Sept — China’s private enterprises employed 120 million people by September this year, up 9.5 per cent from the same month a year ago, said a senior official on Saturday.

“The private sector of the economy is a main avenue of employment and re-employment in China,” said Zhong Youping, Deputy Minister of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce.

Zhang made the remarks at a forum on Chinese and Japanese small and medium-sized enterprises held in Guangzhou of south China’s Guangdong Province.

developing economies, the fastest-growing countries in the world, will expand much more than expected this year, but credit problems in the West may take a toll in 2008, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on Monday. INTERNET

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**Degussa pours 250m euros into new Shanghai plant**

BEIJING, 17 Sept — The German-based Evonik Degussa, a global leader in specialty chemicals, announced on Saturday that it has begun building of a new plant with investment up to about 250 million euros in Shanghai.

The plant, located in the Shanghai Chemical Industry Park near Degussa’s existing factories, is scheduled to begin production in 2009 after two years of construction.

The new plant would be able to produce about 100,000 metric tons of methyl methacrylate (MMA) annually, along with products such as methacrylic acid and butyl methacrylates, to serve customers in optoelectronics, paints and adhesives industries as well as automobile manufacturers.

Evonik Degussa, formerly known as Degussa, is now a subsidiary of Evonik Industries AG, the newly-named German conglomerate that is engaged in chemicals, energy and real estate sectors, by the name of Chemicals Business Area of Evonik Industries. The new plant is the second largest single investment ever made by the Chemicals Business Area of Evonik. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Yahoo to operate second social network “Mash”**

BEIJING, 17 Sept — Yahoo Inc has begun testing a new service dubbed “Mash,” in the latest attempt to catch up MySpace and Facebook in the social networking stakes, media reported on Sunday.

“We just started inviting our friends outside Yahoo! to join us in testing Mash,” Will Aldrich, the head of Mash, writes in a blog on Friday.

Mash claims to have a new approach to online profiles. Users can start profiles for their friends and “open” their own profile to friends they trust, according to the blog.

Social networking has been one of the hottest areas of the Web in recent years. MySpace, the world’s biggest social network, was sold to News Corp in 2005 for $580 million US dollars. Facebook, MySpace’s next-biggest rival, is thought to have walked away from a 1 billion dollar buy-out offer from Yahoo last year.

Mash marks Yahoo’s second attempt to cash in on the social networking craze. Its previous social networking offering, Yahoo 360, has failed to gain much ground. — Internet

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**Japanese women clad in kimonos arrive at a Kabuki theatre in Tokyo on 10 Sept, 2007. The growing challenge facing much of corporate Japan is the task of marketing to and making money off the world’s most rapidly ageing population. — INTERNET**

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**Wu Fang (C), Sun Chen (L) and He Yuting pose for photos after winning the champion, second and third place respectively of the contest of Mainland China of Miss Asia, in Jinan, capital of east China’s Shandong Province, on 16 Sept, 2007. — XINHUA**
Kenyan police kill seven criminals in coastal region

NAIROBI, 17 Sept— Kenyan police on Saturday killed seven suspected criminals along in the country’s coastal town of Malindi as security agencies intensified crackdown countrywide ahead of the general elections.

“Five others who had escaped in the nearby bush were pursued and gun down following a fierce exchange of fire between them and the police,” he said.

Kenyan security agencies are under firm instructions to deal firmly with those who are bent on criminal activities.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia’s quake death toll rises to 23

JAKARTA, 17 Sept— The death toll of the 7.9-magnitude earthquake in Bengkulu Province in Indonesia’s Sumatra Island has risen to 23 with at least 88 others injured, the Indonesian Health Ministry said Sunday.

“The deaths now are 23,” Rustam Pakaya, head of the ministry’s crisis centre, told Xinhua.

Until Sunday, moderate and weak tremors frequently occurred with the position of epicentre moving toward northern part of the western waters off Sumatra Island, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said.

But, Pakaya said that the fatalities and damages were still mostly found in Bengkulu, which suffered the worst intensity of 5 to 7 MMI (Modified Mercalli Intensity) caused by the powerful quake which occurred on Wednesday. Such kind of intensity scale could cause buildings to collapse while 3 to 4 MMI can cause buildings cracking, according to the agency.

The northern part of Bengkulu, the closest to the epicenter of the quake, was the worst hit. Disaster and Management Agency has said.— MNA/Xinhua

Chronic fatigue syndrome may be linked to stomach virus

BEIJING, 17 Sept — A new research in US Journal of Clinical Pathology Chronic suggests that chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) may be linked to a group of common viruses known to cause gut infections in a large percentage of patients, media reports said on Monday.

The major symptom of the disease is severe fatigue that persists for at least six months, combining with symptoms such as muscle and joint pain, memory and concentration problems, depression, sleep problems, headaches, sore throat, swollen lymph nodes, and gastrointestinal problems.

The research, led by Dr John Chia, an infectious disease specialist in private practice in Torrance, California, involved with 165 patients who have longstanding stomach complaints, some of whom suffer from CFS.

Researchers compared the stomach tissue specimens of the patients who suffer from CFS with the specimens of the patients who do not suffer from CFS with 5 to 7 MMI (Modified Mercalli Intensity) caused by the powerful quake which occurred on Wednesday. Such kind of intensity scale could cause buildings to collapse while 3 to 4 MMI can cause buildings cracking, according to the agency.

The northern part of Bengkulu, the closest to the epicenter of the quake, was the worst hit. Disaster and Management Agency has said.— MNA/Xinhua

Explosion in Zambia leaves two children dead, 14 others injured

LESAKA, 17 Sept — A 40-millimetre rocket exploded on Saturday at Gonda barracks in Chipata, Eastern Province of Zambia, leaving two children dead and 14 others injured, according to Zambia News and Information Services (ZANIS).

The injured have since been admitted to Chipata General Hospital, Gonda Barracks Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-General Martin Banda told ZANIS that the explosion happened around 9 am local time (0700 GMT) in the morning.

The deceased children have been identified as Abel Musonda who died shortly after the accident happened and Pearson Kasimbwe who was rushed to Chipata General Hospital but died in a leg amputation operation.

According to a report, Kasimbwe picked up the blind rocket from a prohibited area in the camp and joined other children who were playing with it in hand. Upon seeing what Kasimbwe was holding, other children warned him that the device was an army tool which could be dangerous and he immediately dropped it out of frustration, triggering the explosion.

MNA/Xinhua

The photo shows a signpost in Qinghai, China. The signpost writes “fix traffic regulation in your memory, please treasure your life.”—Xinhua

A singer of the Miao ethnic group performs during the opening ceremony of 2007 China Guizhou Huangguoshu Waterfall Festival in the Huangguoshu Waterfall scenic area, southwest China’s Guizhou Province, on 16 Sept., 2007. More than 10 activities including a cultural festival and rock climbing will be held during the festival.—Xinhua
Clusters of dams in the whole nation benefit agriculture and power generation

As for an agro-based country like Myanmar, water is the main requirement for agriculture. Adequate amount of water supply will ensure success in crop cultivation.

The nation at present is striving for economic development, increasing the output of farm products as agriculture is the country’s main economic pillar.

In order to develop the agriculture sector with greater momentum and fulfill the requirements of farmers, the government has been building irrigation facilities including dams and pumping stations all over the nation.

Most of the irrigation facilities have been built in the dry region covering Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing divisions. The government is also building clusters of dams in other states and divisions depending on the agricultural prospects.

The volume of water flowing annually in all natural watercourses in the nation is 870 million cubic feet. The nation is using only about six per cent of the said volume. It is applying the following six methods to extend the use of water resources:

(1) To build new irrigation facilities
(2) To make arrangements to fully utilize water flowing down from catchments
(3) To renovate reservoirs to effectively irrigate crops and store more water
(4) To store water in man-made and natural lakes during flood times
(5) To pump water from natural watercourses
(6) To tap underground water

Beginning late 1988, the government is implementing irrigation projects using lots of financial power, machine power and manpower. From 1988-89 to 2007 August end, it built 202 dams. And move dam projects are being undertaken.

Thanks to the dams, the nation’s irrigated areas have increased from 12.5 per cent in 1987-1988 to 19 per cent in 2006-2007. Some of the dams are generating power also.

In the upper reaches of Ayeyawady River basin are Yeywa Dam, Shweli Dam, Thapanseik Dam, Mone Creek Dam and Paunglaung Dam projects.

Chindwin River basin has Htamanthi Dam, Manipura Dam, Myittha Dam and Shwesaye Dam projects.

Yenwe Hydropower Dam in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Division.

With a large number of dams built by the government, peasants of the once dry regions who valued water more than money are enjoying prosperity as their businesses are generating more profits.

Kengtawng project in Thanlwin River basin is under construction and Tarsan (Thanlwin) project is in planning stage. The government has been conducting feasibility study and building large, medium and small hydropower dams in Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin and Sittoung basins in addition to irrigation projects.

Hydropower dams are now fulfilling the domestic electricity requirements to a certain degree.

As some of the completed dams are generating power for villages through mini-hydropower projects, rural people are enjoying prosperity and happiness.

Gwecho Dam built by Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Yesagyo Township, Pakokku District, Magway Division, was commissioned into service on 19 August 2007. It is the 202nd dam built by the Tatmadaw government after 1988.

The government has been spending millions of kyats out of its sincere goodwill to set up businesses and required infrastructures in Pakokku District in addition to clusters of irrigation facilities for improving social conditions of the local people.

Thanks to the clusters of dams that are emerging in various parts of the nation, farmers can now grow up to three crops a year.

As there is adequate supply of water, farmers can also put more land under crops including edible oil crops and beans and pulses and fruits and vegetables.

Clusters of dams in the whole nation help provide adequate food for the rural people and beautify the land. Barren hills and plains are now lush and green with vegetation.

Besides, fish and animal farming develops together with agriculture. Rural people are now raising goats, sheep, cows, chicken and pigs on manageable scale.

With a large number of dams built by the government, peasants of the once dry regions who valued water more than money are enjoying prosperity as their businesses are generating more profits.

Irrigation helps farmers cultivate more rice, especially in summer. Clusters of dams have contributed much to meeting the nation’s paddy production target of over 1500 million baskets.

As for an agro-based country like Myanmar, water is the main resource.

Myint Maung Soe

Gwegyo Dam
15,000 feet long and 57 feet high is built on Hsinma win Creek in Yesagyo Township, Magway Division.
Production sharing contract on Kyaukpahto gold mining inked

Managing Director U Hla Thein and Director U Maung Ko sign Htawara Mining Company the Production sharing contract.— MNA

7 quit Ayadaw Township NLD

YANGON, 18 Sept — Members of Ayadaw Township National League for Democracy in Sagaing Division U Tin Aung, U Se Ngwe, Daw Thidar, Daw Khin Mar Sein, Daw Than Shwe, U Kyi Aung and Daw Tin Chaw resigned from the party of their own accord on 5 September and sent their resignations to NLD Headquarters and authorities concerned.

The resignations were sent to Sagaing Division Multi-party Democracy General Election Subcommission and NLD officials have said they quit NLD of their own accord as they had no longer interest in its activities. — MNA

UMFCCI meets foreign guests

YANGON, 18 Sept — Vice-Presidents of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, CEC members and executives met with member of the Board of Management of Robert Bosch GmbH of Germany Dr Rudolf Colm and President Mr Cem Peksaglam of Robert Bosch (SEA) Pte Ltd of Singapore at the office of UMFCCI yesterday.

They discussed matters related to investment opportunities and cooperation in technology and research.— MNA

Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min Win, U Aung Lwin and officials of UMFCCI meeting with guests of Singapore and Germany.— UMFCCI

Construction tasks of Myaungtaga (Hmawby) main sub-power station supervised

YANGON, 18 Sept — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint together with officials concerned went on an inspection tour of 230/33/11 KV (60MVA) Myaungtaga (Hmawby) main sub-power station in Hmawby Township on 16 September.

Upon arrival at the sub-power station, the minister inspected construction tasks, installation of Capacitor Bank and stockpile of 100 MVA transformers.

At the briefing hall, engineer in-charge U Ko Oo of the office of Myanma Electric Power Supply Project (South) and managing director U Tin Hlaing of Board of Directors of Parami Company briefed the minister on progress in building the sub-power station.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions on the sub-power station is a key role for boosting productivity of Myaungtaga Steel Industrial Zone and supplying the zone full power. The sub-power station is the important part of supplying power after connecting with Shwetaung, Kamanat (Bago) and Hlinethaya power lines. Officials concerned will have to carry out departmental functions through farsightedness to hit the target of the department.

Next, the minister and party looked into connection of powerlines, installation of Capacitor Bank and progress in building roads in the sub-power station.

At Yangon City Power Supply Board Headquarters, the minister and party supervised power supplying tasks and urged officials concerned to discharge duties to meet with success in power supplying tasks and fulfilled the needs. — MNA

Kyunthaya highway bus terminal ...

(from page 1)

Next, the Commander formally unveiled the signboard of the highway bus terminal building. Managing Director Dr Myo Aung of Panwar Construction Service briefed the commander and the minister on matters related to the building of the highway bus terminal building and handed over documents of the building to Executive officer Deputy Director U Tun Myaing of Bago Township DAC. Afterwards, the managing director presented commemorative flags to the commander, the minister and officials. After inspecting the already-built terminal, the commander, the minister and officials cordially greeted passengers who were taking the highway buses prior to their departure.

The already-built highway bus terminal has an area of 4 acres and it consists of 64 car gates and 44 shops totaling 108 rooms. — MNA

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar e-National Task Force Member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by officials to participate in Vietnam Comm 07 on 18 September. — MNA
As officials handle situation with care, no monk or no person involved in the incident injured or arrested  

(from page 16) 

Due to such agitation and other instigation made by bogus monks within the Sangha community, about 50 monks staged a protest walk in Sittway, Rakhine State, at 1.15 pm today. The monks began their protest at Dhammazeti and Shweseti monasteries. The number of monks increased to 100 when the protest walk reached Minbagyi Street at about 2 pm. There were about 500 people following and watching the protesters from either side. 

Two Sayadaws of the Central Working Committee of the Sangha, the chairman Sayadaw of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and division and township level officials followed the protesters to dissuade them to prevent occurrence of unnecessary incidents. 

The group of protesters threw stones and sticks at the officials and the Sayadaws. However, the officials did not react and continued to walk after them. The group left Minbagyi Street in procession and arrived at Pyidaungsu Street at about 3.10 pm. Then, the Secretary of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council, the commander of Rakhine State Police Force, the Deputy Commander of MPP Battalions Control Command, the chairman of Sittway District PDC and Sayadaws gently persuaded the demonstrators to disperse. 

Then, some protesters including six monks holding sticks and swords hit the officials with their weapons. Due to the attacks, the secretary of Rakhine State PDC was hit three times, Branch Clerk U Hla Maung Tha of the Township PDC office was injured in his forehead. While trying to control the violent acts, the officials managed to capture one of the protesters. U Hla Maung Tha was sent to the hospital and his injury was sutured seven stitches. 

The group of protesters threw stones and sticks at the officials and the Sayadaws. The officials did not react and continued to walk after them. So, the group dispersed at about 3.30 pm. 

Again at about 4.30 pm the same day, 50 monks staged a protest walk in procession, and then about 100 other people joined them. The group arrived at the office of Rakhine State PDC on May Yu Street. Then, the protesters forcibly opened the door, shouting and demanding the release of the person being arrested. Some protesters climbed over the concrete wall, catapulting and throwing stones at the officials. Although the officials dissuaded the protesters to stop the use of such violence against them, they did not obey and the situation was going from bad to worse to such an extent that they forced their way into the office. And officials had to use tear gas and fired three shots in the air to disperse the crowd. The crowd dispersed at 4.50 pm. In the incident, nine policemen were injured. As officials handled the situation with care no monk or no person involved in the incident was injured or arrested. 

Similarly, beginning 12 noon today, some 100 Buddhist monks marched along the route from Theinbyu Road in Botataung Township to Shwedagon Pagoda, to Sule Pagoda and then to Botataung Pagoda. However, the monks dispersed due to the request of Sayadaws of various Sangha Ganas including Sayadaws of Yangon Division and Township Sangha Nayaka Committees. Some other towns also saw the protest walks staged by some Buddhist monks. 

The public are concerned that there might occur terrorist acts and instability of the State as they have witnessed the instigation of internal and external destructive elements and attempts of some unscrupulous persons under the guise of monks. The people are opposed to any attempt to destroy peace and stability and they are also concerned that if there is instability of the State, their livelihood and social affairs might be affected. Similarly, business people, traders and shopkeepers are worried that there might be terrorism and instability and their business might be affected. Therefore, the public wish the Sayadaws to give Ovada to the members of the Sangha to follow the Vinaya rules in the interest of the people. 

Likewise, senior monks and the majority of the members of the Sangha are opposed to such protest walks and violence and they would like to live with peace of mind in accord with the Vinaya rules and they are trying to make sure that similar incidents do not happen again in their respective monasteries.

Nutrition Week marked  

YANGON, 18 Sept — A ceremony to mark Nutrition Week 2007 by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at MMCWA in South Okkalapa Township today. 

Also present on the occasion were Director-General of Health Department Dr Tin Win Maung, Vice-Presidents of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and Daw Aye Aye and CEC members, executives of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, officials of UN agencies and departmental officials. First, Dr Tin Win Maung and Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint delivered addresses. Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint presented the first prize to Yangon West District MCWA, Vice-President Daw Aye Aye, the second prize to Yangon North District MCWA, Head of Health and Nutrition Development Division of UNICEF Prof Osamu Kuni, the third prize to Yangon East District MCWA and consolation prize to Yangon South District MCWA. 

Afterwards, the vice-presidents and guests gave vitrom iron tablets and iodized salt to pregnant women. The vice-presidents and guests viewed the nutritious food preparing contest of MCWAs of four districts at MMCWA.

Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint presents first prize to Yangon West District MCWA.— MNA

Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung delivers an address at the activities of Nutrition Week 2007. — MNA

DSMA cadets visit MMCWA  

YANGON, 17 Sept — The cadets of Final Year (part-1) of 11th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy, accompanied by officials, visited Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association today. First, Vice-President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint extended greetings and explained the organizational set-up of the association and its functions on education, economic and social sectors. Next, Joint-Secretary-1 Dr Dan May Marlar also explained health care services of the association. 

The officials of the association replied queries raised by the cadets who viewed the documentary photos on the activities of the association and then they visited the centre for preventive measures against HIV from mother to child, diagnostic clinic, and pre-primary school of Early Childhood Development Centre.— MNA
Asian economy expected to grow by 8.3% in 2007

MANILA, 18 Sept — The developing Asian economies will register an 8.3-percent growth rate in 2007, driven by fast growth in China and India, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on Monday.

In a major semi-annual report on economic situation and outlook of the Asian economies except Japan, the ADB said China and India now account for 55.3 percent of the total gross domestic product in developing Asia.

The two countries also recorded their fastest growth in 13 years in the first half of 2007 and 18 years in fiscal year 2006, respectively, said ADB in The Asian Development Outlook 2007 Update.

The report said that the economic growth in Asia is more broad-based as South Asia and Central Asia are also posting robust growth while growth accelerates in the regions like Indonesia and the Philippines, which have seen relatively lower growth rates in the past several years.

But the report warns that economic outlook for 2008 is "hazy" as uncertainty reigns in global financial markets and there are concerns about the health of the US economy.

The report raised forecast for growth in Asia to 8.3 percent in 2007 from an earlier estimate of 7.6 percent made a year ago.

It also said that global economy steadies. Asia’s economic growth in 2008 could attain 8.2 percent.

The report ruled out a “sharp dive” of the Asian economy despite uncertainties in credit markets and the broader global economy.

“Developing Asia’s defences against external shocks are solid and it can weather a slowdown in the United States. The region’s growth prospects will continue to depend on how well the countries address their internal challenges,” said Ifzal Ali, ADB’s chief economist.

The report expected East Asia to grow by 8.9 percent in 2007, while South Asia, which continues to consolidate on its progress in recent years, is expected to grow by 8.1 percent.

Southeast Asia is expected to grow by 6.1 percent, while Central Asia’s growth is expected to 11.1 percent as high oil prices and mineral exports continue to support economic expansion there.

Nearly 200 die from dengue in Philippines in first 9 months

MANILA, 18 Sept — About 19,000 people in the Philippines were stricken with dengue, among whom 190 were killed, in the first nine months of the year, the local TV network GMA News reported Monday.

The death toll was down 4.6 percent compared with the same period last year, the report said, citing statistics from the Department of Health.

The mosquito-borne disease infected people ranging from 18 days to 98 years old, but 77 percent of the sufferers were below the age of 20. More than half of the infected were male, the department said.

Francisco Duque III, the Health Secretary, urged officials to continue their clean-up activities at least once a week and to remove nonessential containers that can hold water and become breeding places of mosquitoes that carry dengue. — MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia to create wildlife sanctuary in Takeo

PHNOM PENH, 18 Sept — The Cambodian Council of Ministers has approved a sub-decree to establish a protected area of around 8,000 hectares of wetlands in Takeo Province for endangered cranes and other wildlife, local media said on Monday.

The sanctuary, which will be created around the Prek Lpov Lake in Borei Cholsar and Koh Andaet districts, aims to preserve cranes, other bird species, aquatic animals and plants that are critically endangered, said Cambodian-language newspaper the Kampuchea Thmey.

The sanctuary will be divided into a “core zone”, to which access is highly restricted, and a “buffer zone,” said Agriculture Secretary of State Chan Tong Yves, reported English-language newspaper the Cambodia Daily.

However, Yves said that he did not know when the approved sanctuary will be established.

Malaysia’s satellite teleport plays role in tsunami warning

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Sept — Malaysia’s Smart Satellite teleport has played a role in the tsunami warning recently by providing vital information to the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Malaysian Smart Digital Communications Bhd president and chief executive officer Khairuddin Abdul Rahman said Monday.

The information was later shared with their Indonesian counterpart as well as the Malaysian Meteorological Department, he said in Putrajaya, the administrative centre of Malaysia.

According to Khairuddin, Smart has two sites to the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (Aus BoM) in the Indian Ocean, Cocos-Keeling Island and Christmas Island.

“They worked perfectly fine during the earthquake in the region (last week) and provided valuable information for tsunami warning. This narrowband Telemetry and Tracking service (THISS technology) is provided from our teleport in Kuala Lumpur,” the national news agency Bernama quoted Khairuddin as saying.

“The tsunami warning comes from the sites with meteorological scientists viewing in real time, the Australian authorities were able to see that the tsunami effect on Western Australia would be minimal and rescinded their earlier warning to Australians,” he said.

“This analysis, as well as the real-time true wave height information was also made available to Indonesia and other countries to contribute to the respective countries’ warnings,” he said.

Fake goods problematic in Vietnam

HANOI, 18 Sept — The trade and production of fake products, mainly beverages, cigarettes, fertilizers and construction materials, is a pervasive problem in Vietnam, local newspaper Vietnam News reported on Monday.

Statistics ranging over the past five years reveal the large volume of counterfeit goods circulating in the local market. They included eight tons of seasonings, 85,000 tons of cement, 50,000 tons of steel products, 25 tons of cosmetics, 35 million doses of pharmaceuticals, 25,450 bottles of alcohol, 50,000 bottles of beer, and 15,000 tons of chemical fertilizers.

In the case of alcohol, the original bottle with a brand label is reused and refilled with cheaper wine of poorer quality, but is usually sold for around the same price, said the newspaper.

Detected fake goods producers and traders are mainly fined. Only those who produce or trade fake goods worth over 30 million Vietnamese dong (some 1,870 US dollars) face trial.

Sally Field accepts the award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series for her role in “Brothers and Sisters” at the 59th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, California on 16 Sept, 2007. — XINHUA
Iraq revokes security contractor licence after shootout

BAGHDAD, 18 Sept — Iraq announced on Monday it had withdrawn the licence of a US security firm and would prosecute employees it said were involved in a Baghdad shooting in which 11 people were killed.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said guards working for Blackwater, one of the biggest foreign security contractors in Iraq, opened fire after mortar rounds landed near their convoy in west Baghdad's Mansour District on Sunday.

"By chance the company was passing by. They opened fire randomly among citizens," Brigadier-General Abdul-Karim Khalaf said. Eleven people were killed, including one policeman, and 13 people were wounded, he said.

"We have withdrawn its licence," Khalaf said, adding that the ministry was investigating the incident and would "deliver those who committed this act to the court". 

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and apologized for the shooting and the damage to a Blackwater contractor's vehicle, the official MENA news agency reported.

In a separate development, the ministry said it had revoked the licence of another security company working for Blackwater, adding that the company was suspected of taking bribes from drug gangs.

"We need always to remember that the use of force could only be resorted to when... every other option has been exhausted. I don't think we need to be cool and not hype the Iranian issue," said "a lot of mentionning Kouchner's comments, said a "lot of hype" had been raised about the Iran case and "we need to be cool and not hype the Iranian issue".

"There are rules on how to use force, and I would hope that everybody would have gotten the lesson after the Iraq situation, where 700,000 innocent civilians have lost their lives on the suspicion that a country has nuclear weapons," he said.

He said the IAEA has found no evidence of "weaponization" from Iran's nuclear enrichment work, although during his speech at the conference he regretted Iran's refusal to fall in line with UN resolutions.

"By November or December, we will be able to know if Iran is acting in good faith or not," he said, suggesting it is time to consider tougher diplomatic actions, if needed, instead of military action.

The chief nuclear inspector also expressed his reservation towards tougher UN sanctions.

"I ask everyone to hold their horses until the process is complete," he said. "If the UN Security Council decides to adopt more sanctions, if they believe it is a way to help resolve the issue, that is their prerogative."

"But I believe sanctions alone will not lead to a durable solution," he said. 

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki told reporters on the sidelines of the 51st annual regular session of the IAEA General Conference that he had gotten the lesson after the United States launched a war against Iraq.

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Some 70 illegal Egyptian immigrants saved in Mediterranean Sea

CAIRO, 18 Sept — Egypt’s Armed Forces on Sunday saved 70 illegal Egyptian immigrants when the boat carrying them ran out of fuel in the Mediterranean Sea, the official MENA news agency reported.

The group of illegal immigrants, who were supposed to reach the shores of Greece, was brought back to safety by the naval rescue team.

The boat was tugged to shore and the illegal immigrants will be handed over to the authorities concerned for investigation. — MNA/Xinhua

Oil hits record above $80 on supply worries

NEW YORK, 18 Sept — Oil soared to a record above 80 US dollars a barrel on Monday on worries that global energy supplies could shrink to critical levels this winter due to strong demand growth.

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Oil prices have quadrupled since 2002, when adjusted for inflation the price is still below the 90 US dollars-a-barrel peaks of the Iranian Revolution in 1979.

The Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries agreed on a small supply increase last week, but analysts said the decision to raise output by 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) from 1 November was not enough to reverse a rally that has lifted prices around 30 per cent this year.

"We believe that this will be too little, too late, barring an outright collapse in demand, and now expect inventories to draw to critical levels this winter," said investment bank Goldman Sachs in a research note. — MNA/Reuters

A helicopter used by private security contractors flies near al-Mansour hotel in Baghdad on 25 June, 2007 file photo. Iraq announced on Monday it had withdrawn the licence of a US security firm and would prosecute employees it said were involved in a shooting in Baghdad in which 11 people were killed. — INTERNET
Canada’s summer getting hotter

OTTAWA, 17 Sept—The trend for summer to get hotter year after year is becoming a norm in Canada as the country reported another warmer-than-average summer in 2007.

Environment Canada said in a report Sunday. During this past summer, temperatures were 0.9 degrees higher than average across the country. "The change is consistent with what scientists predict will happen more frequently as the world becomes warmer as a result of climate change," it said.

2007 was Canada’s seventh-warmest summer on record. The hottest summer registered was in 1998, when temperatures were 1.8 degrees over the norm, said the agency.

India donates $10m to flood victims in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 17 Sept—India on Sunday handed over a cheque of 10 million US dollars to Bangladesh to assist ongoing flood relief and post-flood rehabilitation programmes, a private news agency reported.

Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh earlier mentioned the donation in a letter to Chief Advisor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed.

India’s high commissioner to Bangladesh Pinak Ranjan Chakraborty handed over the cheque to Bangladesh’s Foreign Adviser Dr Ilickkar Ahmed Chowdhury at his office.

Talking to reporters, the Indian envoy said the shipment of food grains New Delhi earlier committed will arrive in the middle of this month. The food grains will include 40,000 tons of rice and 10,000 tons of wheat.

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An unidentified tourist boards a bus in Phuket, Thailand, for the Krabi, Thailand, airport on 17 Sept, 2007. The airport in Phuket remained closed most of 17 Sept, 2007, as officials investigated the crash of Thai One-Two-Go flight OG269 which crashed on Sunday, 16 Sept, 2007, while attempting to land in a driving rainstorm. At least 89 people were killed in the crash. — Internet

Loneliness with serious health complications gene deep

BEIJING, 17 Sept — A research in the US journal Genome suggests the reason that lonely people may face several serious health complications and die young is gene deep, media reports said on Monday. The research examined the DNA of about 22,000 people and found that those who described themselves as chronically lonely had weaker immune systems.

Many earlier studies of large populations have shown that people who describe themselves as lonely or as having little social support are more likely to die earlier, and to have infections, high blood pressure, insomnia and cancer.

Scientists wonder the higher rate of death among lonely people is because of reduced social resources or because of the effect of isolation on their bodily functions, or perhaps both.

Steve Cole, leading researcher of this study, a molecular biologist at the University of California found that feelings of isolation are linked to changes in gene expression that drive inflammation, one of the first responses of the immune system.

“This study shows that the biological impact of social isolation reaches down into some of our most basic internal processes — the activity of our genes,” said Cole. — Internet

Research awards go to two heart surgeons, immunologist

BEIJING, 17 Sept — Pioneering heart surgeons Alain Carpentier and Albert Starr and immunologist Ralph Steinman were announced on Saturday as recipients of Albert Lasker Medical Research Awards.

Carpentier, who is French, and Starr, an American, will receive the award, sometimes dubbed “America’s Nobels,” for clinical medical research in recognition of their advances in heart valve surgery.

Dr Anthony Fauci, 66, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and an expert on the immune system who has helped lead the fight against AIDS, will receive a Lasker public service award, in part for his role in encouraging the creation of the current multibillion-dollar US effort to combat AIDS globally. Starr, 81, co-invented and implanted the world’s first successful artificial heart valve in 1960 and has contributed to innovations related to congenital heart defects, coronary artery bypass surgery and heart transplant surgery. He works for Providence Health & Services in Portland, Oregon.

Carpentier, 74, also is a foremost figure in the field of heart valve replacement. He works for Hospital Europeen Georges Pompidou in Paris. — Internet

Black boxes of crashed Thai plane recovered

BEIJING, 17 Sept — Investigators have recovered the two black box flight recorders in the wreckage of the plane that crashed in stormy weather on the Thai holiday island of Phuket Sunday, killing 88 people, according to media reports Monday.

The black boxes would be sent to the United States for analysis. Phuket deputy governor Vorapot Rajsima said 42 people on board were being treated for their injuries in nearby hospitals, five with critical burns. Most of the people on the budget airliner from Bangkok were European holidaymakers.

Survivors described their escape amid chaos, smoke and fire. They said the plane was trying to land in very bad weather conditions. The pilot tried to land, then attempted to abort as the vehicle left the runway, but the plane started filling with smoke and fires broke out. Canadian Millie Furlong, 23, said she could see trees bending over in the wind as the plane approached the island amid heavy rain on Sunday. A passenger in front of her caught fire, while one in the back kicked out a plane window. She and her boyfriend managed to escape unscathed. “Our plane was landing, you can tell it was in trouble, because it kind of landed then came up again the second time,” said John Gerard O’Donnell of Ireland, speaking from his hospital bed. — Internet

SpiralFrog: Free, legal music, video downloads

BEIJING, 17 Sept — An ad-supported website that lets visitors download videos and music for free was scheduled to launch on Monday in Canada and the United States after months of “beta” testing. SpiralFrog.com, which will pay record companies a cut of its advertising revenue, targets music fans who usually swarm online file-swapping networks to share and download music for free. The recording industry has sued thousands of computer users for doing so in recent years. “We believe it will be a very powerful alternative to the pirate sites,” said Joe Mohen, chairman and founder of New York-based SpiralFrog Inc. “With SpiralFrog you know what you’re getting... there’s no threat of viruses, adware or spyware.”

To assure users won’t post copies of songs and videos they get from SpiralFrog, the service requires that users register and log on to the site at least once a month. Otherwise, the content locks up and can’t be played. The website’s registration screen queries users on demographic filters such as their age, gender and ZIP code. — Internet

Astronauts Faiz Khaled (R) of Malaysia, Michael Fincke of the US (L) and Salizhan Sharipov of Russia wave as they start their exams in Star City Cosmonaut Training Centre outside Moscow, on 17 Sept, 2007. — Internet
Chen wins triple gold for China

CHANG MAI (Thailand), 18 Sept — China's Chen Xiexia swept all three gold medals up for grabs on the opening day of the world weightlifting championships.

China's national anthem was the only one played at Chiang Mai's 700th Anniversary Stadium on Monday when Chen got China's Olympics preparations off to the perfect start. She dominated the women's 48kg category with wins in the snatch and the clean and jerk, helping her clinch another gold medal in the total category.

"I'm so very happy," a beaming Chen told reporters when asked how it felt to win her first world title. "Now, I'm going to work even harder." Chen lifted 96kg on her third attempt in the snatch and had to settle for 118kg in the clean and jerk — 2kg less than her own world record — for a total of 214kg, 18 more than silver medallist Pramssri Bumphaikl of Thailand.— MNA/Reuters

#### Sports

**Platini warns Ukraine on Kiev stadium for 2012**

KIEV, 18 Sept — UEFA president Michel Platini has warned Ukraine's soccer authorities that a Kiev stadium cannot be used for Euro 2012, to be hosted jointly with Poland, unless construction of a nearby shopping centre is halted. A note on the Ukrainian soccer federation's Web site (www.sfu.org, quoted by media on Monday, said federation president Hryhory Surkis had received the letter after a UEFA inspection of the site around Kiev's Olympic stadium this month.

"The partial blockage of exits from the stadium and its emergency routes, plus the limited area in which spectators can move, about significantly raises the threat of poor security for fans," the site quoted Platini as saying in his letter. "The conclusion leaves no doubt: the stadium, with limited space for movement, clearly cannot host matches for Euro 2012. We therefore hope and believe that the appropriate state bodies in Ukraine will adopt the necessary decisions immediately."

President Viktor Yushchenko, who played a key role in Ukraine and Poland jointly winning the right to host the 2012 European championship, issued a decree this month ordering the dismantling of the construction project.— MNA/Reuters

**England striker Heskey has surgery on broken foot**

LONDON, 18 Sept — England striker Emile Heskey has had an operation on his foot after breaking a metatarsal in Wigan Athletic's Premier League match with Fulham on Saturday.

In a statement on Monday, his club said on their Web site (www.wiganactics.co.uk), that the injury has now been confirmed as a stress fracture. "Emile has undergone an operation this evening (Monday) where a screw was inserted into the foot," the club said.

Heskey was given a standing ovation when asked how it felt to win her first world title. "Now, I'm going to work even harder." Chen lifted 96kg on her third attempt in the snatch and had to settle for 118kg in the clean and jerk — 2kg less than her own world record — for a total of 214kg, 18 more than silver medallist Pramssri Bumphaikl of Thailand.— MNA/Reuters

**Stunning Miller goal gives Derby first win of season**

LONDON, 18 Sept — A stunning volley from Kenny Miller on his debut gave Derby County their first Premier League win of the season as they defeated previously unbeaten Newcastle United 1-0 at Pride Park on Monday.

The victory lifted newly-promoted Derby off the bottom of the table for the first time since the middle of August with four points from six matches, sending Bolton Wanderers into last place instead.

The winning goal came in the 38th minute when Miller, making a belated debut after being injured following his close-season move from Celtic, volleyed in from outside the box after a long clearance from goalkeeper Stephen Bywater.

Both teams had chances to score with defender David Rozehnal wasting Newcastle's best chance in the first half.

Stephen Pearson had two good chances to give Derby some breathing space after the break but failed to take them.

Victory would have taken Newcastle up to fourth in the table but they dropped a place to 10th after a strangely tepid display.

Michael Owen, who scored three times for England in European qualifiers against Israel and Russia earlier this month, had a quiet game and was substituted after 55 minutes.

The result had no impact on the top of the table with Arsenal (13 points) leading the standings from Manchester City (12), Liverpool (11) and Manchester United (11).— MNA/Reuters

**Chile's Fernando Gonzalez attends the awarding ceremony for the men's singles at the 2007 China Open tennis in Beijing, China, on 16 Sept, 2007.**

The result had no impact on the top of the table with Arsenal (13 points) leading the standings from Manchester City (12), Liverpool (11) and Manchester United (11).— MNA/Reuters

**Sharapova gets cold shoulder in Russia**

MOSCOW, 18 Sept — Russia easily recaptured the Fed Cup title from last year's surprise winners Italy by thrashing them 4-0 in the Moscow final over the weekend.

Even without Maria Sharapova, who was nursing a shoulder injury, the Russians, led by world number two Svetlana Kuznetsova and fifth-ranked Anna Chakvetadze, were too strong for the Italians, who do not have any one in the top 24.

Despite the injury, Sharapova, who has yet to play for Russia in the Fed Cup, arrived in Moscow last week amid the usual fanfare, saying she wanted to give her support.

The world number four, clad in the Russian team outfit, was seen exuberantly cheering her team mates during the two-day tie, then joined them for a victory lap around the court holding a big Russian flag.

But despite her efforts, the Siberian-born player was given the cold shoulder by the rest of the team.

Most of the local media also saw the hoopla surrounding Sharapova's visit as nothing more than a PR campaign, designed to boost her goodwill image in Russia.— MNA/Reuters

**Frenchman tennis man Gilles Simon celebrates after winning the final of Open Romania 2007 tennis tournament on 16 Sept, 2007.**

#### Germany's Bernd Prinz (R) challenges Japan's goalkeeper Mijo Fukamoto (L) during their Group A soccer match of the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup in Hangzhou on 17 Sept, 2007.— INTERNET

**Germany's Bernd Prinz (R) challenges Japan's goalkeeper Mijo Fukamoto (L) during their Group A soccer match of the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup in Hangzhou on 17 Sept, 2007.**

#### Banned Schalke coach will trust his assistants

GELSENKIRCHEN (Germany), 18 Sept — Banned Schalke 04 coach Mirko Slomka has promised he will make no attempt to communicate with his assistants from the stands during Tuesday's Champions League Group B game against Valencia.

Slomka was given a one-match touchline ban for a gesture he made to the referee in a UEFA Cup game against Nancy last season.

In an age of blackberries and wireless Internet, not to mention woolly hats, it would be no great technological challenge to be in contact with Nestor Jevtic and Oliver Reck but Slomka says he will trust in his assistants.

"My mobile is always switched off during games," the coach said at a news conference on the eve of the game. "It will be the same on Tuesday. Oliver has a lot of experience and they will do just as well as I can."

In a famous case in 2005, Chelsea fitness coach Rui Faria wore a woolly hat that partly covered his ears when coach Jose Mourinho was similarly banned from the touchline.

"I'm going to work even harder." Chen lifted 96kg on her third attempt in the snatch and had to settle for 118kg in the clean and jerk — 2kg less than her own world record — for a total of 214kg, 18 more than silver medallist Pramssri Bumphaikl of Thailand.— MNA/Reuters


**Frenchman tennis man Gilles Simon celebrates after winning the final of Open Romania 2007 tennis tournament on 16 Sept, 2007.**

"I'm so very happy," a beaming Chen told reporters when asked how it felt to win her first world title. "Now, I'm going to work even harder." Chen lifted 96kg on her third attempt in the snatch and had to settle for 118kg in the clean and jerk — 2kg less than her own world record — for a total of 214kg, 18 more than silver medallist Pramssri Bumphaikl of Thailand.— MNA/Reuters
Singapore’s FM says ASEAN integration unlike EU

SINGAPORE, 18 Sept — The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) will not become a union like the Europe Union (EU) even if it establishes the economic community by 2015, Singapore’s Foreign Minister George Yeo said here Monday.

“ASEAN, however integrated, will not become a union like the EU. We are too diverse in our history, culture and economic development for this to be possible,” Yeo, whose country assumed chairmanship of ASEAN from the Philippines at the end of July, told Parliament.

He added that ASEAN leaders have recognized this reality and reached a consensus that the pace of integration should not always be determined by the lowest common denominator or the slowest member.

“Let’s move quickly where we can in a practical way. Members who are ready to move first in particular areas should be free to do so, provided the door is left open for others to join when they are ready,” said the Foreign Minister.

The 10-member grouping, established in 1967, strives to build an ASEAN Community by 2015. And it is drafting a ASEAN Charter, a milestone document which hopes to transform the bloc into a more effective rules-based organization.

He said that the drafting of the ASEAN Charter “is at an advanced stage.”

The High Level Task Force met last week and will present the final draft to the foreign ministers at the coming meeting at the end of this month in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, according to Yeo.

MNA/Xinhua

Boa constrictor babies slither on top of each other at the Aquarium of the Berlin Zoo. A three-metre (10-foot) boa constrictor has been found coiled in the spare wheel well of a car in Vienna, police said recently. — Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring areas

WEATHER

Tuesday, 19 September, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kayin, Kayah, and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (3.78) inches, Coco Island (3.07) inches, Kawthoung (2.36) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (2.09) inches, Aunglan (1.42) inches, Tatkon (1.34) inches, Mandalay (0.71) inch, Yamethin (0.43) inch and Kyaukpadaung (0.38) inch.

Maximum temperature on 17-9-2007 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 18-9-2007 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 18-9-2007 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 17-9-2007 was (2.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 18-9-2007 was (1.42) inches at Mingaladon, (2.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.75) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (107.64) inches at Mingaladon, (111.26) inches at Kaba-Aye and (111.46) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (17:30) hours MST on 19-9-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19-9-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin, Chin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of decrease of rain in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 19-9-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 19-9-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 19-9-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Water transport services inspected

YANGON, 18 Sept—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe had a meeting with the staff of the Myanma Port Authority at MPA office on Pansodan Street here yesterday afternoon.

Managing Director of the MPA U Thein Htay reported on organizational set-up of the staff, measures for safety of the ships, conditions of the lighthouses, arrival of MV MITT with tourists on board at the port, preventive measures against fluvial erosion in Hmawset, Dalla Township, shipbuilding, progress of docking large vessels, income gained from docking ships, and arrival of ships at the port; General Manager U Cho Than Maung, on e-Government services, and ongoing courses; and heads of division, on work of respective divisions.

The Minister called on the staff to provide satisfactory services, cultivate goodwill in work, try to become competent service personnel, minimize the expenses and boost income.

He inspected the sales of tickets to the passengers at the Pansodan-Dalla ferry station of the Delta Division of the Inland Water Transport, transport of the people, and the plying of vessels in Yangon River, and left instructions to the officials.

On arrival at the Delta Division, the minister heard reports by officials on strength of the staff and vessels, financial situations, transportation of passengers and loads, assigning of duties, and work progress. The minister called for raising the income, expeditious use of fuel and expenses, punctuality of the vessels, and steps to win passenger satisfaction, and inspected the loading of goods onto Vessel Bala Kyaw Thu that plies between Yangon and Myaungmya, and transport of passengers.—MNA

Destructive elements inciting instigation to grab power through short cut

Foreign radio stations airing exaggerated news, trying to instigate public, launching propaganda campaigns

Due to exaggerations, tricks and instigation by bogus monks, violent demonstrations break out in Pakokku, some monks stage protest walk in Sittway

Some Buddhist monks also march in procession in Yangon

People oppose any attempt to destroy peace and stability, wish Sayadaws to guide monks to follow Vinaya rules in interest of people

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Sept — Destructive elements from inside and outside the nation have been inciting instigation since 19 August with the intention of stirring up unrest as in 1988 to grab power through short cut and to make manipulations at will.

Internal and external saboteurs and foreign radio stations have been airing exaggerated news reports on the protests, trying to instigate the public and launching propaganda campaigns and making attempts to mislead the people by holding interviews with some NLD members and the so-called 88 generation students.

Due to exaggerations, tricks and instigation and the perpetration to organize the members of the Sangha by planting bogus monks, there broke out violent demonstrations in Pakokku on 5 and 6 September in which cars were burnt down.

News about the violent demonstration had already been reported in the dailies. With the intention of causing new protests and fueling them, internal and external saboteurs organized members of the Sangha to stage Pattanikkujjana campaign beginning 17 September (Monday) and monks in Yangon, Mandalay and states and divisions to stage protest walks towards famous pagodas on 18 September (Tuesday) through the so-called All Myanmar Sangha Sammaaggi and Young Monks Samagga, issued announcements concerning their opinions about the detained so-called 88 generation students and the so-called announcement of the personnel of four departments, tried to trick the people by saying that the so-called Myanmar Saveguarding Association was urging the public to beat hollow tin containers or steel trays from 11 to 13 September and issued directives to be followed by terrorist expatriates abroad.

(See page 9)