Lt-Gen Myint Swe opens 23rd Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy U-21 Tatmadaw Football Tournament 2007

Myanmar used to be an Asian football power, and many of Myanmar footballers at that time were Tatmadaw members

Lt-Gen Myint Swe in his speech said that of the three major tasks of the Tatmadaw, the most important one is to defend the motherland. In this regard, every serviceman needs to be strong and healthy. Fitness is designated as one of the ten strengths of the Tatmadaw. So, Defence Services sports tournaments and events are held yearly in order that Tatmadaw members will keep fit and healthy.

“Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation” is one of the 12 objectives laid down for building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Such objective plays a key role in discharging duties of national defence and national development.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe addresses opening of 23rd Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy U-21 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) Football Tournament 2007. — MNA

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

Friday, 21 September, 2007

Speed up work to wipe out polio

The government is stepping up health care services for all national people to be able to enjoy life span fully and to be free from diseases.

In particular, it is taking steps for nutritional development of women and children, organizing immunization days, and carrying out tasks of disease control, sanitation and school health and giving educative talks on health of mothers and children.

Myanmar is working hard to control the seven common diseases, one of which is polio. Since 1996, the government has held national immunization days across the nation to be free from polio. Due to large-scale implementation of these tasks in states and divisions, polio was eradicated between 2000 and 2006 in the nation. However, early this year Maungtaw Township in Rakhine State faced the disease due to wild polio virus spread from a neighbouring country. Now, plans are under way to organize national immunization days throughout the country to control the spread of polio virus and strengthen the children’s resistance to polio.

The first phase of national immunization days will be held from 3 to 5 November 2007, and the second phase, from 2 to 4 December to feed polio vaccine to the children with momentum. In Myanmar, children under five constitute more than seven million. Therefore, it is believed that polio will be eradicated soon in Myanmar with voluntary services to be contributed by health staff, local people and social organizations in giving vaccines to the children.

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**15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions of Mon State opened**

**YANGON, 19 Sept** — The opening ceremony of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2007 of Mon State was held at State Hall in Haukseik on 1 September.

Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win delivered an address and opened the competitions.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe and guests enjoyed the dance contests.

The commander and wife extended greetings to members of panel of judges and artistes and then presented cash to the participants.

Next, the commander together with officials visited the music contest at Education College, the song composing contest at Mon Cultural Museum, the singing contest at Yin Mar Hall of No 8 Bscic Education High School and they greeted the artistes. — MNA

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**Myanmar Volleyball Team leaves for China**

**YANGON, 20 Sept** — The Myanmar Men’s Volleyball Team led by Vice-President of MyanmarVolleyball Federation U Thein Win left here for the People’s Republic of China by air this afternoon.

The team was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Director U Maung Win of Sports and Physical Education Department, executives of MVF and relatives.

Coaches U Myo Myint and U Nyi Nyi Lwin, players Ye Min Aung, Kyaw Swa Win, Kyaw Soe Aung, San Shwe Maung, Sai Nyi Lay, Kyaw Kyaw Hwhe, Saw Hein Thu, Zaw Lin Oo, Myat Kyaw Tun, Ye Yint Tun and Win Tun Oo were included in the team. While in China, they will play friendly matches against Sichuan Province Team on 21, 24, 26 and 27 September.

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**Cash donated to organizing ceremony to pay respects to the aged**

**YANGON, 19 Sept** — In memory of late film director Academy Maung Nanda, actor and vocalist Than Pe Lay, film directors Maung Ni Lwin (Thabyu), U De Ni and U Ba Shin, U Win Naing (Myetchi Video Industry) recently donated K 500,000 to the funds of holding the ceremony to pay respects to the aged of the motion picture world. Likewise, film directors Zaw Myint Oo, Aye Kyaw, Kyaw Za and Aung Aw Ba donated K 200,000 in memory of late film director Maung Nanda. Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Association U Myint Thein Pe and executives accepted the cash donations at the office of the Association. The 44th ceremony to pay respects to the aged of the motion picture world will be held on 13 October. — MNA

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**Prevention against HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and infectious diseases discussed**

**YANGON, 19 Sept** — The workshop on prevention against HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and infectious diseases was opened at ParkRoyal Hotel on Alanya Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

Thai Ambassador Mr Bansarn Bunnag, Director-General Dr Thawat Suntrajarn of Disease Control Department of Thai Public Health Ministry and Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of Health Department gave speeches. Director-General Dr Thawat Suntrajarn handed over ARV medicines for HIV patients and condoms to Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung.

Participants discussed the control of HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and infection of diseases along Myanmar-Thai border area. The workshop continues up to 21 September. — MNA
IAEA to help Bangladesh install N-power plant

Dhaka, 19 Sept—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) assured assistance in establishing a nuclear power plant in Bangladesh for generating electricity following an appeal from Tapan Chowdhury in Vienna Monday.

The assurance came when Adviser for Science and ICT Tapan Chowdhury met with Deputy Director General and Head of Nuclear Energy of the IAEA Yuri Sokolov in Vienna Monday.

During the meeting, Tapan Chowdhury asked for IAEA help in formulating an action plan for the proposed nuclear power plant project, Rooppur Power Plant in western Pabna District, 125 kilometres southwest of capital Dhaka.

The IAEA was also asked to provide support for preparatory works and technical support for building the plant. Tapan Chowdhury appreciated the role of Bangladesh in campaigning for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. He was impressed with the steps taken by Bangladesh in ensuring nuclear safety standards and assured IAEA assistance in the efforts to set up nuclear power plant for generating electricity.

Tapan Chowdhury is in Vienna leading the Bangladesh delegation to the 51st General Conference of IAEA, an organization responsible for peaceful use of nuclear energy.—MNA/Xinhua

Five coral reef zones in Maluku badly damaged

Jakarta, 19 Sept—At least five of Indonesian Maluku’s 17 coral reef zones have been badly damaged due to the use of fish bombs and toxic substances like potassium cyanide by local fishermen, an environment official said Monday.

Six other coral reef zones are slightly damaged and intersectoral handling is needed to repair the damage,” the head of the environmental affairs section of Maluku’s forestry and plantations office, John Nahusona, was quoted as saying by Antara news agency.

Local fishermen’s awareness about the impact of the use of potassium cyanide and fish bombs on the environment and marine biota has remained low, he added.

China needs 3,400 airplanes by 2026

Beijing, 19 Sept—China will require 3,400 new airplanes worth about 340 billion US dollars over the next 20 years, US aircraft giant Boeing said on Tuesday.

Continued strong growth in passenger and cargo transport, China’s fleet will nearly quadruple to 4,460 airplanes by the end of 2026, making it the largest market outside of the US for new commercial airplanes, it said. Following the anticipated surge in passenger traffic for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, China’s domestic market will grow to nearly a five-fold size by 2026 to become slightly larger than today’s intra- North American market, it said.—MNA/Xinhua

Guangzhou culls 150,000 poultry in response to bird flu outbreak

Guangzhou, 19 Sept—China’s southern city of Guangzhou has destroyed 153,320 domestic fowls in the wake of an outbreak of bird flu, local authorities said on Tuesday.

The extermination of 134,384 ducks, 18,786 chickens and 150 doves was carried out in nine villages within a radius of three kilometres from the site of the outbreak, an official with the Panyu District government said.

A total of 68 poultry farmers in Panyu district who have had close contact with ducks killed by bird flu have taken blood tests and medical checkups, and were found to be in good condition.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the National Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory have confirmed a subtype H5N1 bird flu strain killed 9,830 ducks raised in Sixian Village of Panyu District in Guangzhou City since 5 September.

The Panyu District government announced on Tuesday the suspension of all poultry markets within a 13-kilometre-radius surveillance zone. Tan Yinghua, Party chief of the district, told Xinhua the district would put more pork, beef and fish on the market to meet the needs of local consumers.—MNA/Xinhua

Two dead, four missing in Slovenia floods

Ljubljana, 20 Sept—Two people died in floods and landslides caused by heavy rain which started in Slovenia on Tuesday while four are missing, the country’s Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief said on Wednesday.

“What we know now is that two are dead and four are missing but rescue teams have not yet made it to villages high in the hills because the roads are blocked so we do not know what happened there,” spokesman Bojan Kuntaric told Reuters. He said that conditions in the northwest and northeast parts of the country that were affected were now improving.—MNA/Reuters

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China confirms bird flu outbreak in Guangzhou

Beijing, 19 Sept—China’s Ministry of Agriculture on Tuesday confirmed a bird flu outbreak in South China’s Guangzhou, which began with the mass deaths of ducks on 5 September.

The outbreak was confirmed as a sub-type of H5N1 bird flu by the National Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory, according to the ministry.

It said 36,130 ducks had been culled as of 17 September, after farmers in Sixian Village and Xinzhao Township in the Panyu District of Guangzhou reported the deaths of their ducks on 5 September.

The Agriculture Ministry and the Guangdong provincial government immediately implemented an emergency plan to deal with the outbreak and the ministry said the outbreak has been brought under control.

It also said no further deaths of fowl have been reported in the Panyu District or nearby areas.

The last reported case of H5N1 bird flu in China occurred on 19 May at Shijiping Village in Yuyang City of Hunan Province, which killed more than 11,000 poultry with another 52,800 birds culled.

China has reported a total of 25 human cases of bird flu since 2003, which have resulted in 16 deaths.

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Singapore reports eight death from dengue disease

Singapore, 19 Sept—Singapore’s Health Ministry on Tuesday confirmed a 60-year-old woman died from dengue disease last week, the eighth death from the disease in the country this year.

According to the Health Ministry, the housewife had fever and body ache on 9 September, then consulted a general practitioner and was given medication.

After her fever subsided for two days, she became unwell again on 12 September and was admitted to National University Hospital for grievness and abdominal discomfort.

Tests showed that she had dengue, then her condition deteriorated rapidly and she died on last Saturday from Dengue Shock Syndrome. Dengue is caused by four closely related viruses and is spread by the Aedes mosquito, which breeds in still water. Its symptoms include high fever, nausea, rashes, backache and headache.

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British all-business class airline to launch London-Dubai service

ABU DHABI, 19 Sept—Silverjet, a British all-business class airline, will launch a new service linking London and Dubai on a daily basis from 19 November, local newspaper Gulf News reported on Tuesday.

The service will be operated by a converted Boeing 767 aircraft with 100 business class seats instead of its usual 300 seats, and passengers will be offered 30-minute check-ins at private terminals, pre-ordered gourmet meals and chauffeur services, according to the report. Dubai is the second international destination of Silverjet, which launched its first route to New York in January.

“We chose Dubai because this region is growing very rapidly, with growth at about 20 percent per annum,” the airline’s CEO Lawrence Hunt was quoted as saying.

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Antibiotic, drug mix shortens TB treatment time

BEIJING, 19 Sept—Researchers have discovered that adding an antibiotic to the usual tuberculosis drugs produced results that could lead to successfully treating the contagious lung disease in a few months rather than the six months currently needed.

Adding the antibiotic moxifloxacin shortened the time to cure to an estimated four months in a study in Brazil, Johns Hopkins University scientists reported Tuesday at an American Society for Microbiology conference in Chicago.

A second study by Hopkins researchers cured mice of TB in 10 weeks instead of the usual six months with moxifloxacin plus the TB drug rifampicin at higher doses. “It sounds fantastic,” said Dr Melvin Spigelman, research director for the nonprofit Global Alliance for TB Drug Development in New York. “The science is there” and just needs to be verified in larger studies, he said.

Also on Tuesday, the Seattle-based Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced its largest grants ever to fight TB — 280 million US dollars for research on vaccines, diagnostics and drugs.

“If everything goes well, it should be feasible to shorten treatment time,” he said. “We also think the region is perfect for our market with a mix of business and leisure travellers who will be attracted to our private jet experience,” he said.

Silverjet was also keen to set up a second hub in Dubai, which would allow it to continue on to further destinations including South Africa, India, Southeast Asia and even the United States, he added.—MNA/Xinhua
ECONOMIC NEWS

British investors interested in pig rearing, bio-fuel in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, 19 Sept — A group of British investors have expressed interest in cooperative investment in pig-rearing and jatropha growing in Cambodia, local media reported on Tuesday.

The investors showed their interest after visiting some agro-industrial farms in Sihanoukville Municipality and Koh Kong Province on Sunday, reported Cambodian-language newspaper the Kampuchea Thmey.

British Ambassador to Cambodia David Reader said during the visit that he had brought two important British companies to observe the sites, operated by the Cambodian Mong Reththy Group. In the future many other UK firms will arrive in the kingdom to cooperate with the group for the development of the nation’s agricultural and agro-industrial sectors.

Stephen J Curtis, the executive chairman of ACMC, an East Yorkshire-based pig breeding and pig genetics company, said that his company was interested in cooperating with the Mong Reththy Group as Cambodia has strong potential to provide favourable conditions for industrial-scale pig-rearing. Mong Reththy, director of the Mong Reththy Group, said that foreign investors seemed very keen on pig rearing and jatropha planting in Cambodia, and his company is ready to work with the foreign investors.

The Apple iPhone is displayed at the Apple store in central London, on 18 Sept, 2007. Deutsche Telekom’s mobile phone division, T-Mobile, said on Wednesday it won a deal to sell Apple’s iPhone and said the price would be 399 euros ($558), as reported last week by Reuters. — INTERNET

S Korea, India agree to conclude talks on trade within 2007

Seoul, 19 Sept — South Korea and India agreed on Monday to conclude negotiations for a trade agreement within this year, the South Korean Foreign Ministry announced.

The ministry made the announcement after a meeting between South Korean Foreign Minister Song Min-soon and visiting Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee.

The ministers expressed “their desire to conclude the negotiations by the end of 2007,” the ministry said in a news release.

“The two ministers noted with satisfaction that bilateral relations have gained new momentum following the establishment of a Long-term Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity,” the ministry said.

The two ministers also expressed confidence that a trade target of 10 billion US dollars could be achieved before 2008, it said. Seoul and New Delhi have been working to sign a comprehensive economic partnership agreement, which is roughly the equivalent of a free trade agreement, local media said.— MNA/Xinhua

British Olympic “Bird’s Nest” model on sale

Beijing, 20 Sept — Nearly a hundred medium-sized metal scale models of the Olympic centerpiece were sold at an Olympic-licensed flag store, as the products were launched on the market.

It all looked like collector’s fiesta. A long queue of customers awaited the opening of the store on Wangfujing Street, the busiest commercial street of downtown Beijing.

One person said he had waited here all night since 11 pm Tuesday night. Within no more than one hour after the product was presented to the public, the products at the store were sold out.

“I am glad now that I have managed to lay hold of the first ‘Bird’ Nest’ model. This model is very beautiful and of very high value for collectors,” said a customer at the store, who admits he’s not a professional.

With a limited issue of 99,999, the models are gold- and tin-plated, outlining the detailed structures of the stadium, including the entrances and stairways, as well as the surrounding landscape.—Internet

Vietnam to invest $7b in expanding Hanoi

Hanoi, 19 Sept — Vietnam has planned to invest nearly 7.1 billion US dollars in expanding its capital city by building a large residential and administrative area at the Red River’s banks in 2008, local newspaper Pioneer reported Tuesday.

Of the investment, over 3.6 billion dollars will be poured into housing development, more than 1.9 billion dollars into infrastructure construction, and nearly 1.6 billion dollars into compensation and resettlement.

The construction is expected to be completed in 2020. Vietnam is seeking funds, both at home and abroad for the project. — MNA/Xinhua

Britain pledges $8m for peace process in Nepal

Kathmandu, 20 Sept — Britain has pledged eight million US dollars to support Nepal’s fragile peace process.

The visiting International Development Minister for Asian Affairs Shahid Malik extended the assistance during his meeting with Nepali Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala Wednesday morning.

After the meeting, Koirala’s foreign affairs adviser Suresh Raj Chalise said the pledged amount will be mobilized through the Peace Fund set up by the government to support the peace process.

According to the advisor, Malik had dubbed the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) move to quit the eight-party government as “unfortunate” and hoped that the political parties would soon reach a new agreement in a few days. Malik said that he was disappointed by the Maoists’ move.— MNA/Xinhua

Residents watch a oil pipeline as it burns after a bomb attack in Baiji, 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad on 18 Sept, 2007. — INTERNET
Beijing starts compulsory urine tests to keep drug addicts clean

Beijing, 19 Sept—Convicted drug takers in Beijing are to be subjected to compulsory urine tests to ensure they remain clean of illegal narcotics, the municipal drug control committee has announced.

Those who test positive will be ordered to seek treatment at community-based rehabilitation centres and assigned to a social worker who will monitor their progress in kicking their habits, said committee deputy director Shi Dawei.

The new stricter measures are part of a campaign, running till the end of the year, to stop the spread of illicit drugs in the city.

“Drug takers who voluntarily decide to kick the habit should register their real names with the police if they wish to have methadone treatment, and new treatment centres are to be built,” said Shi, who declined to give exact figures for drug users in the capital or for new methadone clinics to be added.

Beijing has been striving since last year to progressively rid entertainment venues, such as karaoke rooms, public places and all communities of drugs, but with limited success.

In late May, city police launched a drive titled “Wind and Thunder Sweeping Narcotics”.

Indian telecom regulator urges subsidy for broadband services

New Delhi, 19 Sept—Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Monday called for subsidizing broadband services, saying the present policy has failed to spur growth.

The telecom regulator sought the industry’s response to its new draft suggestions on broadband, saying a universal service obligation (USO) fund should be offered as subsidy for providing high speed Internet services through satellite in remote and hilly areas, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Monday.

The USO fund is made up of contribution from telecom firms and is used for supporting companies that provide services in less lucrative rural markets, said the report.

Until July, India has 2.47 million broadband connections, but the country targets the 20-million mark by 2010.

In a statement, TRAI said growth has remained below expectations despite a range of initiatives in India’s telecom sector.

Giant panda twins born in southwest China

Chengdu, 19 Sept—A new pair of giant pandas have been born in southwest China’s Sichuan Province, a local panda research centre said on Monday.

The cubs, born on Friday, had survived the critical first three days after birth, said Li Desheng, deputy director of the Research Centre of the Sichuan-based Wolong Nature Reserve for Giant Pandas.

Eight-year-old “Ye Ye” first gave birth to a female cub weighing 150 grammes at the research centre and then a male weighing 146 grammes, said Li.

Researchers were giving “Ye Ye” breaks in caring for the cubs, and mother and cubs were in good health.

China has seen 24 giant panda births in captivity in 15 deliveries so far this year, including nine twins, and 23 have survived.

“It was a pleasant surprise to see so many pandas born this year,” said Zhang Zhife, director with the China Committee of Breeding Technique for Giant Pandas.

“That’s due to the hard work of Chinese researchers, who have developed quite mature skills in artificial insemination,” Experts say both artificial insemination and natural mating are usually used at the same time to help female pandas become pregnant, as the endangered animal only gives birth once a year, each time to one or two cubs, while pandas bred in captivity are even less sexually active.

China has been breeding giant pandas artificially since the 1960s.

Last year, the country saw 33 born in captivity in 21 deliveries, 30 of which survived, setting a record.

US Air Force sets up provisional command for cyberspace war

Washington, 19 Sept—US Air Force announced Tuesday the establishment of a cyber command to prepare for war in cyberspace.

Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne made the announcement at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, where the provisional headquarters of the cyber command lies.

“Another threat we must manage centres on our newest threat: cyberspace,” he also briefly talked about the new command when attending the Air Force’s 60-anniversary ceremony at the Pentagon on Tuesday, “we are standing up a new command”.

Air Force officials said that within a year after the provisional command is set up, the first major command for cyber warfare operations will be created.

The US 8th Air Force, whose headquarters is at Barksdale base in Bossier city, currently conducts day-to-day cyber operations.

Despite the competition with some other Air Force bases for the permanent headquarters of the cyber command, Bossier City Mayor and a retired Air Force officer Lo Walker expressed his confidence in an interview with a local TV, saying that it is unusual for the military to change a provisional command.

Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (R) walks with his French counterpart Bernard Kouchner during their meeting in Moscow, on 18 Sept, 2007.—INTERNET

A model displays an outfit by Roberto Torretta during the Spring/Summer 2007-08 Pasarela Cibeles fashion show in Madrid on 18 Sept, 2007.—INTERNET
Bridges contribute to national economic growth

The government has been building roads and bridges the length and breadth of the country. Smooth transport serves as an engine for regional development. Building roads and bridges helps foster relations and unity of local people.

Owing to the transport facilities the government has constructed, the people now can travel directly from one region to another with comfort and convenience. In the past, Myanmar had the one and only river-crossing major bridge: the Sagaing Bridge spanning the Ayeyawady River. After 1988, the government built river-crossing bridges such as Bala Min Htin Bridge, Yadanaon Bridge, Anawrahta Bridge, Nawaday Bridge and Bo Myat Tun Bridge on the Ayeyawady River, and Hpa-an Bridge and Tarkaw-at Bridge on Thanlwin River.

In addition to such large bridges that make significant contribution towards the interest of the people, the government is building medium and small bridges wherever necessary across the country with the aims of ensuring smooth transport of the regions that are not easily accessible yet, swift commodity flow through better transport of local goods, raising the living standard of local people through extensive business, trade and productivity, and promotion of the education, health and social sectors.

The large bridges have linked the regions that are divided by Chindwin, Ayeyawady and Shweli rivers. Thanks to the seven Ayeyawady River-crossing bridges, two Chindwin River-crossing bridges and five Thanlwin River-crossing bridges, the regions on the eastern bank of Shweli River, on the western bank of Ayeyawady River, and on the western bank of Chindwin River that lagged behind other regions in development, are now enjoying unprecedented development. Moreover, such large bridges have helped restore stability and peace and create good foundations for national and regional development.

In order to link the Union highways between the southern part and northern part of Myanmar, the government built a large number of river and creek bridges including Thanlwin River-spanning Mawlamyine Bridge that is the longest of its kind in Myanmar, and river and creek-spanning bridges in Taninthayi Division.

Although the government is dedicating itself to national development undertakings, internal and external saboteurs are blocking the nation-building tasks on purpose. Anyhow, with the capabilities of national engineers and experts, the government managed to build these river and creek-crossing bridges without any foreign assistance. That has depicted the national vigor of the people.

In this regard, the government invested heavily with a view to improving the living conditions of local people, and ensuring equitable development of all parts of the Union.

In its bid to improve the transport sector necessary for regional development, the government had to surmount natural barriers such as Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Tharlyin and Sittoung rivers and Rakhine Yoma, Bago Yoma and West Yoma mountain ranges. It completed the projects with tenacity for national and regional development in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State who said, “We have to work hard to ensure equitable development of all regions of the Union and to reduce the development gap between one region and another as far as we can. We also have to apply all possible ways to develop the regions that still lag behind in development. It will be possible for our Union to be perpetual only if all parts of the Union enjoy parallel development”.

Between 1988 and July 2007, the government built 207 bridges, 180 feet and above long. These bridges include Dunban Bridge in Phakant Township in Kachin State, Maubin Bridge with more than 180 feet in length on Ayeyawady River, and 3612-foot Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge on Myeik-Dawei Road near Myeik in Taninthayi Division in lower part of Myanmar. Therefore, people can travel from one place to another throughout the nation with convenience in a short time and commodity flow has become swifter and local people have enjoyed social improvement and economic growth.

The number of 207 large bridges is exclusive of eleven bridges by Tatmadaw members, seven bridges by Myanmar Railways and two bridges by the Ministry of Electric Power. The total number of bridges therefore stands at 227.

The government, in its drive to build a network of transport facilities covering the whole nation, constructed 1834 bridges between 20 feet and 100 feet long and 240 bridges between 100 feet and 180 feet long, thereby giving priority to regional development and raising the standard of living of local national races. In other words, it got rid of all natural barriers to dealings and relations between one region and another.

Now, many projects for building bridges, large, medium and small, are being implemented across the nation.

Previously, waterways were common means of transport in many regions. Unlike that, now local people in these regions can travel from one region to another by car. That is, indeed, a sign of rapid development of the nation.

Implementing one of the five rural development tasks “to improve transport” helps create a situation in which the people can travel and transport goods to any regions in the nation at any time with convenience. So, the government is working hard to ensure smooth transport to achieve national economic growth and social and economic development of the people.

Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge constructed by Public Works of the Ministry of Construction in Myeik, Taninthayi Division.
Health care services provided, sanitation tasks carried out at monasteries

YANGON, 20 Sept — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa visited Chaukhtatkyi Phayakyatika on Shwegoneine Street in Bahan Township this morning.

At Chaukhtatkyi Phayakyatika, they gave encouragement to those who were participating in health care services provided to members of the Sangha, sanitation and using insecticide, organized by Yangon West District and Bahan Township at Union Solidarity and Development Association.

First, the Mayor and Vice-Mayor paid homage to Presiding Sayadaw of Chaukhtatkyi Phayakyatika, Monasteries Agga Maha Ganthayacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Surya and Sayadaws.

Next, the Mayor and party supervised health care services provided to members of the Sangha, sanitation and using insecticide at the monasteries of Chaukhtatkyi Phayakyatika. MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe opens 23rd Defence Services...

(from page 1)

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe took the salute of the football teams.

After the opening ceremony, the Camp Commandant’s Office of the Ministry of Defence team and Eastern Command team ended in a goalless draw.

The first round matches will be held for the group (A) in Mawlamyine, for the group (B) in Pathin, for the group (C) in Monywa, for the group (D) in Mandalay and for the group (E) in Toungoo from 24 September to 3 October. — MNA

Deputy Minister arrives back from DPRK

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Sept — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar U Kyaw Thu arrived back here by air this morning after paying a goodwill visit to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea from 13 to 18 September at the invitation of Mr Kim Yong Il, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Member of the delegation U San Lwin, Deputy Director for Foreign Affairs also arrived back here by air this morning.

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu and party arrived at Pyongyang on 13 September and were welcomed by Vice-Minister Mr Kim Yong Il and responsible officials at Pyongyang International Airport.

On 14 September, the deputy minister held the first bilateral consultation meeting with Vice-Minister Mr Kim Yong Il on matters related to bilateral relations and cooperation. After the meeting, the two deputy ministers signed the agreement on consultation between the ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar and the DPRK.

On 17 September, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu called on President Mr Kim Yong Nam of the Supreme People’s Assembly and also on Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Pak Ui Chun at Mansudae Assembly Hall during the visit. MNA

Cash donated to construction of MANA (HO)

YANGON, 20 Sept — Wellwishers are donating cash to the funds for construction of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (Head Office).

Managing Director of System Engineering Co Ltd U Kyaw Kyaw Soe donated K 25 million to the Myanmar Red Cross Society (Head Office) on behalf of the Myanmar Red Cross Society (Head Office) on behalf.

The representatives discussed preventive measures against HIV, AIDS, malaria, consumption of clean water, reproduction, fight against TB in the townships of states and divisions. The forum continues tomorrow. — MNA

Mine blast injures one in Htantabin Township

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Sept — U Tin Soe of Bomati Village of Htantabin Township in Bago Division had his right foot blown off on his way back to the village in Thandaung Township after stepping on a mine planted by insurgents on 18 September.

The injured was rushed to Zayetkyi Station Hospital. — MNA
**MWAF marks Nutrition Week**

*YANGON, 20 Sept —* Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation organized a ceremony to mark Nutrition Week 2007 at MWAF on Thanlwin Street here today.

Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Htay and executives, Vice-President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and executives, members of patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization, the officials of the Health Department, representatives of UN agencies and others were present on the occasion.

First, Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay delivered an address. Assistant Director Dr Daw Aye Aye Thaw briefed on tasks of nutrition development. Afterwards, the officials of the Health Department gave educative talks on nutrition development. — MNA

**Prevention against DHF demonstrated at IE Practising High School**

*YANGON, 20 Sept —* The Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Yangon City Development Committee jointly organized the demonstration on prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever at Institute of Education Practising High School in Kamayut Township this morning.

It was attended by Head of Administration Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe of MWAF, Member of Secretariat Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin, Yangon Division Regional Organizer Daw Khin Nyunt Myaing, Bago Division Regional Organizer Daw Wai Wai Thin, Chairman of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Khin Myo Thu, Headmaster of the school Dr Nanda Tun and officials.

Departmental officials reported on outbreak of DHF and a plan for sanitation. The Head of Administration Department attended to the needs.

Later, Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe and party viewed sanitation tasks being carried out in the compound of the school and distribution of pamphlets. — MNA

**Ban urges implementation of work plan between Iran, IAEA**

*UNITED NATIONS, 20 Sept —* UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon encouraged Iran Tuesday to be fully cooperative and transparent to implement the work plan with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Addressing a Press conference at the UN Headquarters in New York, Ban said “as a matter of principle, all the pending issues, whatever it may be, should be resolved through dialogue in a peaceful manner”.

“That is a very important principle which the United Nations is seeking,” he emphasized. He encouraged Iran to be fully cooperative and transparent in dealing with the IAEA and to implement the work plan they have agreed with the IAEA. — MNA

**Clothes donated to MCD Maternal and Child Welfare Association**

*YANGON, 17 Sept —* Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee donated clothes to the Maternal and Child Welfare Association of the Myanmar Correctional Department at the department in Insein Township this morning.

Chairperson of the committee Daw Mar Mar Wai made a speech and handed the clothes to the children of the female inmates and schoolchildren of the pre-primary school through Assistant Director of the department Daw Tin Tin Aye and schoolmistress Daw Khin Swe Win.

Chairperson of the association Daw Nwe Ni San submitted 87 permanent membership applications to Daw Mar Mar Wai.

After the ceremony, Daw Mar Mar Wai viewed the serving of nutrition cereals to the children and gave away clothes and gifts to them. She also presented food and gift to the schoolchildren at the pre-primary school.— MNA

**Nations urge big powers to ratify atom test ban**

*VIENNA, 20 Sept —* Nuclear test ban treaty members appealed to 10 major signatories including the United States and China on Tuesday to ratify the decade-old pact so it can take effect.

The 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty has been ratified by 140 countries in all, but 10 more must follow suit to transform the CTBT into a binding document.

“Strongly encourage such Annex 2 states to take individual initiatives to ratify the treaty,” some 100 signatories attending a Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT said in a final declaration.

The CTBT lists in an annex 44 countries that have nuclear capabilities already. Of those, 34 have both signed and ratified the pact — including nuclear weapons powers Russia, Britain and France.

“Relevant international developments since the 2005 conference ... make entry into force of the treaty more urgent today than ever before,” the declaration said.

Iran’s nuclear energy programme is seen by the West as a disguised quest to build atom bombs, and North Korea has stealthily developed and tested nuclear devices after bolting from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

— MNA/Reuters

*MEN IN TRADITIONAL COSTUMES PERFORM A FLAG DANCE BEFORE A BUFFALO FIGHTING FESTIVAL IN VIETNAM’S NORTHERN DO SON RESORT TOWN ON 19 SEP, 2007.*

— INTERNET
UN renews NATO troop mandate in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Sept — The UN Security Council authorized NATO-led troops to stay in Afghanistan for another year on Wednesday and gave the Japanese government support in its domestic dispute over refueling American and other ships in the Indian Ocean.

The vote was 14-0 with Russia abstaining in the resolution that emphasized “the increased violent and terrorist activities by the Taleban, al-Qaeda, illegally armed groups and those involved in the narcotics trade.”

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has close to 40,000 soldiers in Afghanistan to combat the country’s former Taleban rulers, toppled by US and Afghan forces in 2001.

New in the resolution is a sentence expressing appreciation to NATO and contributions from many nations to ISAF, which includes Japan, “including its maritime interdiction component”.

The leader of Japan’s main opposition Democratic Party, Ichiro Ozawa, has opposed extending Japan’s mission to refuel coalition ships in the Indian Ocean, in part because he says the activities lack direct UN permission.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe abruptly announced his resignation last week after a troubled year in office, citing the confrontation over the naval mission as the main reason.

The Democrats and their opposition allies won control of Parliament’s Upper House in a July election and can delay legislation to extend the mission beyond 1 November deadline. MNA/Reuters

Victims of Thailand’s plane crash to get $130,000 compensation

BANGKOK, 20 Sept — The Victims of One-Two-Go flight that crashed at Thailand’s Phuket International Airport Sunday would receive compensation of 130,000 US dollars each.

The agreement was reached during Wednesday’s meeting between Thai Transport Minister Theera Haocharoen, Deputy Transport Minister Sansern Wongchaum, Transport Permanent Secretary Chaisawat Kittipornpaibul, Civil Aviation Department Director General Chaisak Angsuwan and One-Two-Go CEO Khajit Hapnanont.

Theera said at the Press conference after the meeting between Thai Transport Minister Theera Haocharoen, Deputy Transport Minister Sansern Wongchaum, Transport Permanent Secretary Chaisawat Kittipornpaibul, Civil Aviation Department Director General Chaisak Angsuwan and One-Two-Go CEO Khajit Hapnanont...

One-Two-Go’s relatives shouldered while travelling down to Phuket.

He noted that for the injured passengers, the compensation figure was a result of One-Two-Go negotiation with the insurer. He noted that for the injured passengers, the budget airline would initially handle compensations for all medical bills as well as expenses that their relatives shouldered while travelling down to Phuket.

Eighth-nine persons killed and 41 injured when One-Two-Go’s MD-82 jet carrying 130 passengers and crew crashed at Phuket International Airport in bad weather late Sunday afternoon.

MNA/Xinhua

16 people appear in Dar-es-Salaam courts for banned plastic bags

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 20 Sept — Sixteen people have appeared in courts in Dar-es-Salaam for having violated Tanzania’s environmental regulations by importing or manufacturing banned plastic bags. The 16 people were detained last week during a government-led crackdown on people who were still defying the governmental ban on importing, manufacturing, selling and using plastic bags with a thickness of between 0.03 and 0.065 millimetres (30 and 65 microns).

Eight of the 16 detainees have already pleaded guilty to the offense while the rest were remanded for further court hearings scheduled for later this week, Tuesday’s edition of the ThisDay newspaper reported.

The government of Tanzania announced in March last year the ban on plastic bags with a thickness between 0.03 and 0.065 millimetres and the ban was expected to take full effect by late October last year.

But local shops were found to be still using plastic bags of the banned thickness. The National Environment Management Council, a governmental agency, warned on Monday that it would conduct prompt inspections around the country to nab producers and sellers of the banned plastic bags.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq sends first shipment of oil to Jordan

AMMAN, 20 Sept — Iraq has sent out the first shipment of oil to Jordan since the outbreak of the Iraq war in 2003, Jordan’s official news agency Petra reported on Tuesday.

“The first shipment of Iraqi crude oil is currently on its way to Jordanian territory,” said Petra.

According to the report, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al Maliki promised during a phone call with Jordanian Prime Minister Marouf Al Bakhtit that Iraqi Government would provide Jordan with part of its oil needs in compliance with a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed during the visit of Bakhtit to Baghdad in August 2006.

Under the MoU, Iraq agreed to provide Jordan with between 10 and 30 per cent of its daily oil needs of around 100,000 barrels at preferential rates starting from September of last year.

MNA/Xinhua

On 15 September, locals investigate the carcass of a 75 foot long, approximately 75 ton blue whale which washed up on a Ventura, CA beach about a week after it died. Scientists suspect that its back was broken after an encounter with a cargo ship.— INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET
Iraqi PM urges US Embassy to hire new security company

BAGHDAD, 20 Sept — Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki on Wednesday urged the US Embassy to replace the private security company Blackwater with a new security company after its guards involved in a deadly shootout that killed nine Iraqis. Maliki’s remarks came a day after his Cabinet vowed to review the operations of the foreign and local security firms in Iraq after the US Embassy’s security contractors opened fire in western Baghdad, killing nine civilians and wounding 15 others.

The Prime Minister said, “This is not the first time for the company to commit such violation. The Interior Ministry has registered seven violations and these violations should be dealt with.”

“We are not going to allow it to kill Iraqis in cold blood. Therefore, we have frozen all its activities and a joint committee has been formed to investigate the incident,” he added.

Ten killed in ambush of ex-vice mayor in S Philippines

MANILA, 20 Sept — Ten people were killed when 10 gunmen ambushed and fired at the convoy of a former vice mayor in North Cotabato province in southern part of the Philippines at 10 am, Wednesday morning, local news network reported.

Norodin Matalam, former vice mayor in the neighbouring Maguindanao Province and his wife survived the ambush but the driver and two military escorts were killed, the website of the Philippine Daily Inquirer cited local official Colonel Pedro Soria as saying.

Seven of the attackers were also killed in the ensuing firefight with Matalam’s other escorts, Soria said.

Soria, 602nd Infantry Brigade chief, said Matalam and his wife were in critical condition and were being treated at private hospital in North Cotabato.

Sudan demands arrest of Amnesty chief

KHARTOUM, 20 Sept — Sudan has called for the arrest of the head of global rights watchdog Amnesty International, accusing it of spreading lies that several men accused of plotting a coup were tortured, state media reported.

Amnesty said in a report last week that eight men arrested on accusations of trying to overthrow the government had been beaten, suspended by their wrists and tortured in Khartoum’s Kobar Prison. The government has denied reports of torture.

The state-controlled Sudanese Media Centre reported that the Sudanese Justice Ministry had asked Interpol for an arrest warrant for the female “manager” of Amnesty. Other local media interpreted that to mean Amnesty Secretary-General Irene Khan.

Justice Minister Mohammed Ali al-Marri told Reuters his ministry was taking legal action against Amnesty. But he declined to go into details of specific charges or defendants.

“We are launching a criminal action against them. It is a criminal complaint against this organization for defama-

Oil tanks explode in Durban, South Africa

Johannesburg, 20 Sept — Three oil tanks in South Africa’s eastern port city of Durban exploded on Tuesday night, turning a coastal oil depot into a blazing inferno, South African media have reported.

There were no immediate reports of any injuries or fatalities after Durban’s Island View oil depot on the south end of the harbour was rocked by the three explosions and subsequent fire at about 7 pm local time (1700 GMT), National Ports Authority said. “At this stage it is not known whether there have been any injuries or casualties,” the National Ports Authority said. “At the time of this release there were no casualties reported.”

It was believed that two of the tanks that exploded contained solvent and the third lubricant oil.
Typhoon "Wipha" lands in east China

HANGZHOU, 20 Sept—One person was killed and three others injured in east China’s Zhejiang Province as Typhoon Wipha made landfall on Wednesday morning, according to local sources.

Xiong Zhengjia, 29, a worker from central China’s Henan Province, was killed when his house in Jishu Village, southern of Zhejiang’s Wenzhou City, collapsed at about 2:00 am on Wednesday.

Three people have been taken to hospital.

Wipha hit Cangnan County, Wenzhou, at 2:30 am, destroying 669 houses, disrupting power supplies to 1,867 villages, affecting about five million people and destroying 669 houses, disrupting power supplies to 57 bodies in Zhejiang’s 11 cities closed on Wednesday.

Downpours continued in the province, which has received an average of 102.9 millimetres of rainfall by 6:00 am.

MNA/Xinhua

53 of 89 Phuket air crash victims’ bodies identified

BANGKOK, 19 Sept—Of the 89 bodies retrieved after a passenger plane crashed at Phuket international Airport Sunday, 53 have been identified while three persons injured in the accident remain in critical condition, local Press said.

The air crash killed 89 of the 130 persons listed onboard. Police forensic officials have so far identified all 32 bodies of Thai nationals, but only 21 of the 57 bodies believed to be foreign nationals, said Police Commissioner of the provincial police in southern Thailand, according to Thai News Agency.

Police said they are awaiting evidence from the relatives of the remaining 36 corpses. Forensic officials have collected fingerprints, dental records, and DNA samples from the bodies, which have been kept in refrigerated containers at Phuket Airport.

Relatives of the Thai victims had been allowed to reclaim the bodies of their beloved.

Meanwhile, Public Health Minister Mongkol Na Songkhla, after visiting the 41 injured victims at hospitals in Phuket, disclosed that out of 41 survivors in hospital, 38 people are in stable condition while three others remain in critical condition.

The minister expected most of the survivors would be able to return home within the next two weeks. He said public health staff are successfully providing medical treatment to all victims wounded in Sunday’s disaster. There have been no further fatalities reported.

MNA/Xinhua

Police seize 400 kilos of caffeine in China’s Inner Mongolia

HOHhot, 19 Sept—Police have seized 400 kilos of caffeine and arrested a suspect in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The drug-control police of Inner Mongolia’s Urad Middle Banner were tipped off in late August that Liu Sanhuan, a resident from the banner’s Shihai Township, was selling caffeine, which is listed as a highly controlled narcotic in China, a police spokesman said on Monday.

Police arrested Liu and seized 400 kilos of caffeine on Sunday after an undercover investigation which lasted nearly a month, the spokesman said.

Liu confessed that he had bought 500 kilos of caffeine before he was caught.—MNA/Xinhua

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Date: 6th September 2007

MNA/Xinhua

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For Schering Corporation

P.O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 21st September 2007

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia stops missile parts shipment to Iran

SINGAPORE, 19 Sept—A Singapore-based cargo forwarding company has been fined 22,000 Singapore dollars (14,500 US dollars) for trying to export missile parts to Iran without permission, the Straits Times reported on Wednesday, quoting Singapore Customs.

A Singapore Customs spokesman Victor Seah told the paper that the parts, worth 13,599 Singapore dollars, had arrived in Singapore from Switzerland and were being shipped to a destination in Iran.

The spokesman said that the company, World Freight Pte Ltd, had pleaded guilty.

The paper said officials of the Singapore Customs intercepted a consignment of “controlled military electronic connectors”— electronic parts meant for missiles. Under the Strategic Goods (control) Act, companies must get specific permission when they export or trans-ship certain types of “strategic goods”, the paper said.

MNA/Reuters

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IBM to offer free office software, targeting Microsoft

BEIJING, 19 Sept — IBM Corp is to start offering free programmes for word processing, spreadsheets and presentations, in another bid to upset the dominance of Microsoft's Office suite, media reported Tuesday.

The company was scheduled to announce the desktop software, called IBM Lotus Symphony, at an event Tuesday.

The name for the suite is the same name IBM used for its first integrated productivity suite, which it offered in the 1980s but which never took off with customers.

Mike Rhodin, general manager of Lotus Software for the IBM Software Group, said the company brought back the name to "herald a new age" of productivity software. The programs will be available as free downloads from the IBM Web site.

IBM's Lotus-branded proprietary programs already compete with Microsoft products for e-mail, messaging and work group collaboration. But the Symphony software is a free alternative to Microsoft's mainstay Office programs -- Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

The Office business is huge and lucrative for Microsoft, second only to its Windows operating system as a profit maker.

Microsoft's Office suite of products already faces some competition from Google Inc's online tools, called Google Apps.

Deadly amoebas lurk in Florida lakes

BEIJING, 19 Sept — The Marion County Health Department and the Florida Department of Health are urging citizens in and around lakes in Orlando, Florida, after a single cell amoeba claimed the lives of three boys this summer.

The amoeba, naegleria fowleri, which can expose the human brain through the nose, is almost always fatal.

It is commonly found in the bottom of freshwater lakes and ponds. The amoeba infection is very rare. The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, has documented only 24 cases in the United States since 1989. People exposed to the amoeba suffer from flu-like symptoms at the first period, including headache, fever, nausea, vomiting and so on. Very quickly, in from one to 14 days, the symptoms worsen. Patients may experience stiff neck, seizures, hallucinations, and loss of balance and bodily control, all of which finally lead to the actual death of parts of the brain.

Exposure to the amoeba can be detected by an MRI and it can be treated with antibiotics if caught early enough, but most medical personnel are not in the habit of looking for the disease.

US to study heart risks of attention-deficit drugs

WASHINGTON, 19 Sept — Two US health agencies will conduct the largest-ever study of potential heart risks from medicines used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), officials said on Monday.

The US Food and Drug Administration said it will collaborate with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to examine clinical data of about 500,000 children and adults who have taken ADHD drugs, which include Novartis AG's Ritalin and Shire Plc's Adderall.

The analysis, expected to take about two years, will include all drugs currently marketed for treating ADHD. Millions of people take the medicines.

Because the drugs can increase heart rate and blood pressure, there are concerns they may raise the risk of heart attacks, strokes or other cardiovascular problems.

"Case reports have described adverse cardiovascular events in adult and pediatric patients with certain underlying risk factors who receive drug treatment for ADHD, but it is unknown whether or not these events are causally related to treatment. The goal of this study is to develop better information on this question," said Dr Gerald Dal Pan, director of the FDA's Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology, in a statement.

In recent years, the FDA has been criticized as being slow to respond to signs of serious side effects with prescription drugs after they reach the market, most notably Merck & Co Inc's withdrawn arthritis drug Vioxx. Merck, pulled Vioxx from the market in 2004 after research found it doubled heart attack and stroke risk.

China launches third Sino-Brazilian earth resources satellite

TAIYUAN, 19 Sept — China launched the third earth resources satellite jointly developed by China and Brazil to take high-definition photographs of the earth's surface on Wednesday morning.

The satellite, named 02B, was launched on a Chinese Long March-4B carrier rocket which blasted off at 11:26 am (Beijing Time) from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province.

The satellite separated from the rocket 12 minutes after lift-off, entering its preset sun-synchronous orbit, at a perigee of 738 kilometres and an apogee of 750 kilometres.

The 1,452-kilogramme satellite with a designed life span of two years, will gather resources information and send images to China, Brazil and other countries, for use in agricultural production, environmental protection, city planning and land resources surveys. — Internet
**S**

**SPORTS**

Ronaldo heads Man Utd to 1-0 win at Sporting

**L**isbon, 20 Sept — Cristiano Ronaldo headed Manchester United to a 1-0 win against his former club Sporting Lisbon in their opening Champions League Group F match on Wednesday.

Closely marked in the first half, the Portuguese international winger shook off his former teammates in the 62nd minute to score with a diving header off a Wes Brown cross from the right. Ronaldo gestured to Sporting fans in a sign of forgiveness after his first goal in Alvalade stadium since he signed for United in 2003.

Sporting had two big chances to score but United goalkeeper Edwin Van der Sar made two spectacular saves for the Dutchman.

Van der Sar made two saves in the first half, with one from an Andriy Shevchenko centre that went off his former teammates in the 62nd minute. The Portuguese goalkeeper was then forced to head in a Max Tonetto cross from the right.

**Arsenal’s Robin Van Persie (R) scores against Udinese’s Andrea Perotta during their Champions League Group H soccer match at the Emirates Stadium in London on 19 Sept, 2007. — INTERNET**

**MNA/Reuters**

Ronaldo prevented the Lisbon side from equalizing.

"I think that both of Van der Sar’s saves reflect Sporting’s good offensive game, especially in the first half... but we finally managed to loosen our game and became dominant," said Ferguson’s assistant Carlos Queiroz, a former Sporting coach.

MNA/Reuters

Rangers beat Stuttgart in Champions opener

**G**lasgow (Scotland), 20 Sept — Rangers came from behind to open their Champions League campaign with a thrilling 2-1 win over Stuttgart in Group E on Wednesday.

After a goalless first half, Stuttgart went ahead in the 56th minute. Rangers were temporarily reduced to 10 men with Barry Ferguson receiving treatment at the start when Marvin Gomez converted a Sami Khedira free kick.

"The story of the match is... we couldn’t score two goals in 20 chances and we couldn’t defend a set piece (for Rosenberg’s goal)," a grim-looking Mourinho told reporters.

MNA/Reuters

Chelseas Andriy Shevchenko (L) challenges Rosenberg’s Miika Koppenin during their Champions League Group B soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 18 Sept, 2007. — INTERNET

**MNA/Reuters**

**Barcelona’s Ronaldinho (R) fights for the ball against Olympique Lyon’s Kim Kallstrom during their Champions League Group E soccer match at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona on 19 Sept, 2007. —INTERNET**

**MNA/Reuters**

Mourinho berates Chelsea for missed chances

**L**ondon, 19 Sept — Coach Jose Mourinho berated Chelsea for missing a host of chances and for their defensive frailty after being held to a 1-1 Champions League Group B draw by Norwe- gians Rosenberg Tond- hrem on Tuesday.

"The story of the match is... we couldn’t score two goals in 20 chances and we couldn’t defend a set piece (for Rosenberg’s goal)," a grim-looking Mourinho told reporters.

The Portuguese coach said he was alarmed at the lack of goals in a side missing last season’s top scorers Didier Drogba and Frank Lampard through injury.

"For me the drama is we play as an attacking team, dominating games, and we score one single goal in three games," said Mourinho.

The London side, Prem- ier League champions in 2005 and 2006, have now failed to win in their last three outings. “We did enough to win both of our last two matches but the reality is 0-0 and 1-1 so I am not happy,” said Mourinho.

He added that neither Lampard nor Drogba looked likely to be fit for Sunday’s match at Premer League champions Man- chester United.

Mourinho said the draw with Rosenberg was not “a drama” for Champions League qualification in a group that also included Schalke 04 of Ger- many and Spain’s Valen- cia.

— MNA/Reuters

**Rangers beat Stuttgart in Champions opener**

**G**lasgow (Scotland), 20 Sept — Rangers came from behind to open their Champions League campaign with a thrilling 2-1 win over Stuttgart in Group E on Wednesday.

After a goalless first half, Stuttgart went ahead in the 56th minute. Rangers were temporarily reduced to 10 men with Barry Ferguson receiving treatment at the start when Marvin Gomez converted a Sami Khedira free kick.

Charlie Adam levelled six minutes later when he curled a shot into the far corner following an enterprising run by Alan Hutton. — MNA/Reuters

**MNA/Reuters**

**Slavia beat Steaua on Champions League debut**

**P**rague, 20 Sept — Goals from Zdenek Senkerik and Tijani Belaid gave Slavia Prague a 2-1 victory over Steaua Bucharest in their Group H Champions League match on Wednesday.

Senkerik put the home side ahead after 13 minutes, pouncing on the loose ball after forward Stanislav Vlcek’s close- range shot was parried by goalkeeper Robinson Zapata.

Steaua levelled in the 33rd minute when defender Dorin Goian headed in from a corner but Belaid made it a win- ning start for Slavia in their first Champions League appearance with a shot from inside the box in the 63rd minute.

— MNA/Reuters

**DPK**

**DPRK qualify for quarterfinals despite losing to Sweden 2-1**

**T**aihwa (Chna), 19 Sept — Sweden struggled to edge North Korea 2-1 in their last group match at the Women’s Olympic Cup here on Tuesday but that was not enough for the European side to qualify from Group B.

North Korea, the former Asian champion, reached the quarterfinals by finishing second in the group fol- lowing the United States, who defeated Nigeria 1-0 to top the group in the day’s another match. — MNA/Inthra

**MNA/Reuters**

**Russian’s Maria Kirilenko returns a shot to Russia’s Ekaterina Ivanova during their second round match at the Sunfeast Open 2007 tennis tournament in Kolkata on 19 Sept, 2007. Kirilenko won the match 6-1, 6-4. — INTERNET**

**MNA/Reuters**

**Rosenborg ride luck to hold dominant Chelsea**

**L**ondon, 19 Sept — Norwegians Rosenberg Trondheim escaped from Stamford Bridge with an unlikely point after batt- ling to a 1-1 draw against a dominant Chelsea in Champions Group B on Tuesday.

Rosenborg arrived with only one win from 19 Champions League matches but went ahead against the run of play after 24 minutes when Fin- land defender Miika Koppinen got the final touch to an inswinging free kick.

Chelsea, without the injured Frank Lampard and Didier Drogba and Ricardo Carvalho, had more than 20 scoring chances but converted only one when Andriy Shevchenko headed home a Florent Malouda centre after 53 minutes. It was his 60th goal in European club competition, taking him within two of Gerd Mueller’s all-time record.

The Londoners, beaten only by Barcelona in their last 21 home Champions League matches, pressed from the start as the match quickly settled into a pat- tern of Chelsea attacking and Rosenberg furiously defending. However, the visitors took the lead when Koppinen stole in ahead of captain John Terry to meet a free kick, acrobati- cally sticking a leg out to direct the ball into the back of Petr Cech’s net.

MNA/Reuters

**INTERNET**

**M**orning ***THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR***

**Friday, 21 September, 2007**
UN seeks aid to bolster health of displaced Iraqis

GENEVA, 20 Sept — Five United Nations agencies appealed to donors on Tuesday for $85 million US dollars to combat illness and malnutrition among more than two million Iraqis who have fled war and violence in their country.

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN children’s agency UNICEF said the funds would be used to improve access to reproductive and child health care, as well as treatment for cancer patients, trauma victims and amputees.

Vaccination cover must also be reinforced in many cases, while unemployment and economic woes among the displaced had caused rising malnutrition, the agencies said in a statement released in Geneva.

“The health needs of more than two million displaced Iraqis should not be ignored. Many are survivors of violence and have serious medical conditions,” they said, stressing that Iraqis streaming into Syria, Jordan and other countries over the past year had “put an enormous strain” on host governments.

“The burden on their health systems has become overwhelming and requires immediate and urgent support from the international community,” their statement read. The $85 million US dollars would cover health assistance until the end of next year.

Indian state sacks 4,000 more cops for graft

LUCKNOW (India), 20 Sept — India’s most populous state, also one of its most lawless, fired nearly 4,000 policemen from their jobs on Tuesday on top of the 6,500 sacked last week saying they had bribed their way to the posts.

More dismissals were likely as an inquiry into the recruitment of around 22,000 policemen by the previous government was not yet complete, officials said.

“A high-level inquiry found gross irregularities in the recruitment process and there were allegations of even play of money, corruption and nepotism,” said JN Chander, the State’s Home secretary.

MNA/Reuters

Weather

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 21-9-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kan甚, Shan and Kayah States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfall in Mon State and isolated heavyfalls in Yangon and Bago Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.19) inch, Ye (9.45) inches, Thuton (4.57) inches, Co Co Island (3.67) inches, Thayawady (3.42) inches, Dawei (2.56) inches, Hinthada (2.24) inches, Minbu (1.46) inches and Chauk (1.18) inches.

Maximum temperature on 19-9-2007 was 82ºF. Minimum temperature on 20-9-2007 was 72ºF. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours on 20-9-2007 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 19-9-2007 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 20-9-2007 was (1.26) inches at Mingaladon, (0.51) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.50) inches at Central Yangon.

Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (109.29) inches at Magway, (112.40) inches at Kaba-Aye and (113.66) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southeast at (15:30) hours on 19-9-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 21-9-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kan甚, Shan and Kayah States and Sagaing Division, scattered in Rakhine and Chin States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kayin State and Bago Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions.

Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon in the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 21-9-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 21-9-2007: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 21-9-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Bridges contribute to national economic growth

Between 1988 and July 2007, the government built 207 bridges, 180 feet and above long. These bridges include Dunban Bridge in Phakant Township in Kachin State, Maubin Bridge with more than 180 feet in length on Ayeyawady River, and 3612-foot Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge on Myeik-Dawei Road near Myeik in Taninthayi Division in lower part of Myanmar.

Ko Arkar