Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Military Attaché of Lao PDR

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Military Attaché of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic to the Union of Myanmar Colonel Khamsy Vongkhamso at Bayintnaung Yeiktha here at 9 am today.

Also present at the call together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.—MNA
Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Continue safeguarding cultural heritage and national character

Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions play a pivotal role in preserving and revitalizing national culture and, therefore, efforts are being made to be able to hold the competitions on a grander scale and make them more successful year after year.

In striving for national development, it is also necessary to work for harmonious development of the economic, cultural and social sectors. As science and technology can bring development to a nation, so the higher standard of national culture enables the nation and its people to stand with dignity among the international community.

Now is the time when Myanmar is increasing its relations with the international community. At a time like this, it is necessary to steadfastly safeguard our national culture with national vigilance in order to prevent the infiltration of alien cultures.

It is important for new generation youths to value and cherish national culture and realize the essence of its preservation. This is one of the main reasons for holding Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions.

We would like to call on new generation youths to regard it as a bounden duty to prevent Myanmar traditional culture and arts from extinction and continue safeguarding cultural heritage and national character handed down by their forefathers.

Fuji Xerox copiers on show at Electronic and Living exhibition '09

YANGON, 4 Sept — Fuji Xerox brand colour copiers, A3, A4 black and white laser printers, colour laser printers, multi-purpose digital copiers and Garmin brand GPS are put on display by Concordia Ltd at Electronic and Living exhibition '09 at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara road here up to 6 September.

Fuji Xerox copiers made through modern technology are high quality products.

For detailed information, connect Shwegon Plaza (telephone 951-544824, 544199, 598170, 549444, 540026, Fax: 951 544999) in Yangon, on 30th Street between 77th and 78th streets in Chanayethazan Township, Yangon, or Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw (telephone 02-36478, 69303, 095067172, Fax: 02-36478) in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw Thiri Yadana (telephone 067-420819, 421362).—MNA

F&R Minister meets with staff of Internal Revenue Department and Revenue Appellate Tribunal

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun accompanied by Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyin, Director-General of Internal Revenue Department U San Tun, the directors-general of the departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and the managing directors and officials met with staff of Internal Revenue Department and Revenue Appellate Tribunal and delivered an address at the meeting hall of the Internal Revenue Department here today.

Firstly, the officers of the divisions under the Internal Revenue Department reported on the responsibilities of the division, the progress of task in the fiscal year and future programmes.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun said in his address that all are to follow rules and regulations in every task as the Internal Revenue Department is an important department earning income of the state, to manage to use effectively the developing information and communication technologies, and the staff of the department are to uphold the objectives and aims of the state and discharge duties of the department faithfully.

Next, the minister inspected the Internal Revenue Department office, heard the reports presented by the Director-General and the division Manager and left necessary instructions.—MNA

Cash donated to Kanbe Basic Education High School

YANGON, 4 Sept — Retd General Mr Pham Van Tra from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and party donated US $10000 to Kanbe Basic Education High School in Twantay Township, Yangon, on 30th Street between 77th and 78th streets in Chanayethazan Township (telephone 02-36478, 69303, 095067172, Fax: 02-36478) in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw Thiri Yadana.

Director-General of Fire Services Department U Myint Tun, Director-General of Department of Basic Education No 3 U Aye Kyu and Deputy Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Aung Tun Khaing received the cash assistance and presented the certificate of honour. —MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addressing staff of Internal Revenue Department and Revenue Appellate Tribunal. MNA

Concordia Ltd shows Fuji Xerox brand copiers at Electronic and Living exhibition '09. MNA

Retd General Mr Pham Van Tra from Socialist Republic of Vietnam donating cash for Kanbe Basic Education High School. MNA
Russia, US to hold another round of nuclear arms talks on 21 Sept

MOSCOW, 4 Sept — Russia and the United States will hold another round of talks on a new nuclear arms reduction agreement in Geneva on 21 Sept, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Thursday.

Five rounds of full-fledged talks on a replacement for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) have been held since President Dmitry Medvedev met US President Barack Obama in London in early April.

During their last meeting in Geneva, negotiators discussed the parameters of a new treaty, formulating wording that the presidents could both agree to, Andrei Nesterenko said at a regular news briefing.

The diplomat also said Russia was pleased with the "strategic dialogue with the new US administration."

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said earlier Thursday that the two countries have made progress in reaching a new arms treaty.

START I, signed in 1991 and due to expire in December, places a limit of 6,000 strategic or long-range nuclear warheads on both countries and allows the inspection of weapons.—Xinhua

Jimena weakens as it plows into Mexico, killing one

LOS CABOS, 4 Sept — Hurricane Jimena unleashed flooding that killed at least one man and cut off hundreds of people in remote fishing villages on Mexico’s Baja California peninsula before mellowing into a drifting tropical storm on Thursday.

The 75-year-old victim drowned when his house flooded in the village of Mulege on the west coast of the peninsula, said Jose Gajon de la Toba, director of Civil Protection in Baja California Sur state. He said one other person was missing in the fishing village of San Buto.

Emergency workers evacuated thousands of people from shacks and low-lying areas before Jimena made landfall on Wednesday, but some refused to leave their homes for fear their possessions would be stolen.

Two US soldiers die in vehicle accident in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 Sept — Two US soldiers died and five injured in a vehicle accident in northern Iraq, the US military said on Thursday.

The two soldiers, assigned to Multi-National Division-North, were killed on Wednesday in a vehicle roll-over accident in the volatile province of Diyala, a military statement said without giving further details.

The names of the deceased are being withheld pending notification of next of kin, it added.

The latest deaths bring the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to about 4,338, since the breakout of the US-led war on Iraq in 2003, according to media account based on Pentagon figures.—INTERNET

Blasts kill six at Serbia munitions factory

BELGRADE, 4 Sept — A series of explosions late Thursday at an ammunition factory in central Serbia killed at least six people and injured 10, police said.

They said the explosions occurred around 10 pm local time (2000 GMT) in the town of Uzice, about 150 kilometers (95 miles) southwest of Belgrade.

At least four blasts took place at an underground section of the factory, Uzice Mayor Jovan Markovic said.

He said that firefighting teams have contained the flames and that he doesn’t know how many people were in the facility when the explosions occurred.

“It’s dark down there and no one knows what caused the explosions,” he said.—INTERNET

NATO airstrike in Afghanistan kills up to 90

KABUL, 4 Sept—NATO launched an airstrike on two fuel tankers hijacked by Taliban militants in northern Afghanistan, sparking a huge blast that killed up to 90 people, including 40 civilians, Afghan officials said on Friday.

Militants seized the two trucks, which were delivering fuel to NATO forces, around midnight near the village of Omar Khel in Kunduz Province, and the alliance launched an airstrike when the Taliban fighters stopped the vehicles at a river crossing, Police Chief Gulam Mohyuddin said.

One police official estimated at least 90 people were killed, and that 40 of them were civilians, including some who were receiving fuel being distributed by militants at the crossing. He spoke on condition of anonymity because of sensitivity over the issue of civilian deaths in the Afghan conflict.—INTERNET

Powerful Indian politician killed in chopper crash

HYDERABAD, 4 Sept—Rescuers retrieved the bodies on Thursday of a powerful Indian politician and four others, whose helicopter crashed in dense jungles during a pounding rainstorm.

The helicopter carrying Andhra Pradesh state Chief Minister YS Raja Reddy lost contact with air traffic controllers Wednesday morning, setting off a frantic 24-hour search operation involving the army, air force and police in a stronghold of Maoist rebels.

On Thursday morning, air force helicopters found the crash site by tracking a mobile phone signal picked up after an SMS was sent at midday Wednesday to Reddy’s bodyguard, who was also on the helicopter, Press Trust of India news agency reported, quoting an unidentified government official. It was not clear why the signal coordinates had not been traced the day before.

Rescuers finally reached the scene after hacking through hilly jungle. They found the mangled remains of the chopper and charred bodies of all five people on board.

Reddy, 60, was accompanied by the bodyguard, an aide and two pilots.—INTERNET

A Serbian fire-fighter runs towards a munitions factory in Uzice, 200km south of Belgrade on 3 September.

A Chinese woman is seen after Hurricane Jimena blew the roof of her home in Puerto San Carlos, Baja California state, Mexico. Tropical Storm Jimena claimed its first life on Thursday as it lashed Mexico’s Baja California with torrential rain and ripped the roofs of houses.—INTERNET

Debris of the helicopter that carried Chief Minister of the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh YS Rajasekhara Reddy lies scattered at the crash site on a hill about 275 kilometers (170 miles) south of the state capital, Hyderabad, India, on 3 Sept, 2009.—INTERNET

An Iraqi youth looks at the shrapnel riddled army vehicle following a roadside bomb in the northern city of Kirkuk, 225 kms from Baghdad, on 2 September, 2009. At least five people were killed and nearly 100 were wounded in a swathe of attacks across Iraq on Thursday, police said.—INTERNET
The economy is showing consistent signs of improvement, but probably not enough to stop employers from cutting jobs or to keep the unemployment rate from rising.

The Labour Department is expected to report on Friday that the jobless rate increased to 9.5 percent in August, from 9.4 percent in July, as employers cut 225,000 jobs.

The employment report will follow other recent data that shows the economy is pulling out of the worst recession since World War II. A trade group reported on Tuesday that the manufacturing sector grew in August for the first time in 19 months, while home sales have increased for several months.

But the economy isn’t expected to grow strongly enough this year to persuade companies to ramp up hiring. Most economists expect the unemployment rate to top 10 percent by early next year. “We have a very long, painful healing process ahead,” said Bruce Kasman, chief economist at JPMorgan Chase & Co.

“The good news is we’re starting it, the bad news is we need much faster growth” to bring the employment rate down. A loss of 225,000 jobs would be the smallest monthly decline since last year, a sign that layoffs are easing. Employers cut 247,000 jobs in July, compared with an average of 691,000 per month in the first quarter.

The Labour Department said the unemployment rate for August climbed to 9.5 percent, compared with 9.4 percent in July. The jobless total stood at 14.8 million, up from 14.7 million in the previous month.

“The good news is we’re starting it, the bad news is we need much faster growth” to bring the employment rate down. A loss of 225,000 jobs would be the smallest monthly decline since last year, a sign that layoffs are easing. Employers cut 247,000 jobs in July, compared with an average of 691,000 per month in the first quarter.

Russia, India to bolster trade, economic cooperation

MOSCOW, 4 Sept—President Dmitry Medvedev and Indian President Pratibha Patil discussed cooperation in trade, economy, science and nuclear power during a Kremlin meeting on Thursday.

“Economic ties between the two countries are developing very well this year despite the global economic crisis,” Medvedev said at a news conference after the meeting.

Medvedev was confident that the goal of increasing bilateral trade volume to 10 billion US dollars in 2010 would be soon achieved.

Patil, who arrived on Wednesday for a five-day state visit, said both countries should not be content with the trade figure.

Key Energy lifts stake in Russian oilfield company

HOUSTON, 4 Sept—Key Energy Services Inc said on Thursday it closed the second part of its investment in Russian oilfield services company OOO GeoStream Services Group this week.

The investment completed on Tuesday was about $16.2 million and raised its stake in GeoStream to 50 percent from 26 percent.

The company closed its first investment in GeoStream for $17.6 million last October.

Ruling on Airbus-Boeing dispute expected on Friday

WASHINGTON, 4 Sept—The World Trade Organization is expected to release a long-awaited decision on Friday on whether Airbus received an unfair boost from billions of dollars in European government aid as it moved past Boeing to become the world’s top producer of commercial airplanes.

A decision by the WTO on one of the largest commercial trade disputes the global trade monitor has overseen will be released confidentially to trade representatives of the US and European Union in Geneva.

At stake is financing provided by Britain, France, Germany and Spain that helped Airbus develop big new passenger jets that compete directly with Boeing Co’s line of planes. The United States argues that they are illegal subsidies that gave Airbus an unfair edge in its heated rivalry with Boeing over what is projected to be a $32 billion high-slip market over the next 20 years.

A second ruling expected in the next six months will address European claims that the United States also improperly helped Boeing by funneling aid to the company’s commercial jet business through work it did for NASA and the Defence Department.
Minor quake hits Tokyo’s vicinity

**Tokyo, 4 Sept—**A minor earthquake measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale jolted Tokyo and neighbouring Chiba Prefecture, the Japan Meteorological Agency said on Friday.

The focus of the quake, which occurred at 11:30 am, was located some 80 km under the sea of Hokuseibu of Chiba, said the agency. The quake, measured an intensity of three in the Japanese seismological system of seven, is felt in the Tokyo metropolitan area.—*Xinhua*

Cuban Press highlight

**Havana, 4 Sept—**The Cuban Press on Thursday stressed the meeting between Cuban leader Raul Castro and visiting Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo, who finished his visit on Thursday.

Official daily “Granma” published in its front page a picture showing Castro was shaking hands with Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People’s Congress. The daily said Castro and Wu discussed the excellent bilateral ties which are at their best historical moments. Granma also mentioned that Wu hailed Cuba’s foreign policy.—*Xinhua*

Hamas deploys police in Gaza following blasts

**GAZA, 4 Sept—**Palestinian Hamas authorities on Thursday deployed police heavily on main streets and junctions in the Gaza Strip a few days after two strong blasts hit the city with no reports of casualties.

“The deployment comes as part of a plan to strengthen order and security in the Strip,” said Rafeeq Abu Hami, a police spokesman.

The policemen were seen stopping cars, searching them and inspecting the identities of travelers, especially on the roads linking the Gaza’s south and north towns. The two explosions took place near two Hamas security compounds in the west of Gaza city.

No one has claimed responsibility for the blasts, which followed threats by a radical Muslim Salafi group to retaliate for the death of its leader and a group of the al-Qaeda-style fighters in August clashes with Hamas in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah. Hamas has been controlling the Gaza Strip since it routed forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and ousted his secular Fatah movement in 2007.—*Xinhua*

All items from Xinhua

**UN team surveys aftermath of Indonesia’s deadly earthquake**

**United Nations, 4 Sept—**A team of 10 UN officials assessed on Thursday the emergency relief needs in the aftermath of the massive earthquake that struck Indonesia on Wednesday, a UN spokesperson said.

The team, consisting of representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), the World Bank and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), started its mission in Tasikmalaya, South Bandung, Garut and Bandung district, Marie Okabe told a daily news briefing.

They will visit the remaining affected districts of Ciamis and Cianjur on Friday while OCHA will hold a meeting to finalize the results of the assessment, Okabe said. An earthquake measured about 7.3 on the Richter scale hit West Java Wednesday around 2:55 pm local time. Indonesian authorities said on Thursday that the death toll has climbed to 57 and more than 3,000 people have been forced from their homes.

Another 42 people are missing and feared buried following a landslide in Cianjur district and almost 24,000 houses were either totally or partially damaged in the earthquake, with some 367 schools and 353 places of worship in West Java also affected, according to OCHA.—*Xinhua*

China stages biggest maritime rescue exercise

**NINGBO, 4 Sept—**China’s maritime rescue services staged their biggest ever exercise in the East China Sea on Friday to test rescue capabilities and security for the Shanghai World Expo in 2010. The exercise, jointly held by the Ministry of Transport and east China’s Zhejiang Province, involved 35 ships, three aircraft and more than 1,000 personnel, said He Yipei, deputy general director of the exercise and deputy director of the Zhejiang Maritime Safety Administration.

The exercise began at 9 am off the coast of Ningbo and lasted about an hour.

The exercise simulated a collision between a passenger ship carrying 390 people and a cargo vessel loaded with chemicals, resulting in fire on the passenger ship and a benzene leak.

Rescuers transferred the people in danger, treated those overcome by fumes, controlled the chemical leak, searched for people in the water, put out the fire and evacuated 16,000 people living along the coast in the area of the exercise.

Only one passenger “died” in the “accident.”—*Xinhua*

**Moderate quake rocks western Indonesia**

**JAKARTA, 4 Sept—**An earthquake with magnitude of 5.6 jolted western parts of Indonesia on Friday morning, but there was no report of damage or casualties, the Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said.

The quake struck at 07:52 am Jakarta time (0052 GMT) with epicenter at 95 km northwest Ujungkulon of West Java and 15 km in depth, the agency said.—*Xinhua*

**Earthquake hits Bangladesh, no damage report**

**DHAKA, 4 Sept—**A strong earthquake, measuring 6 on the Richter scale, shook Bangladesh early on Friday morning, but no damage has been reported.

The quake struck the entire country at 2:51 am and the epicenter was 460 kilometer northeast of Dhaka at Myanmar-India border, a spokesman with the meteorological office in the capital Dhaka told *Xinhua* by telephone.

Bangladesh, which sits on the zone of earthquake, is prone to tremors and experts predict a major earthquake in near future.—*Xinhua*
Confucius to teach Houstonians ancient Chinese philosophy

HOUSTON, 4 Sept — Some 2,500 years after his time, Confucius has come to the southern US metropolis of Houston to spread his wisdom of life to the local residents. Mayor Bill White and 14 Council members of Houston on Wednesday unanimously adopted an ordinance, accepting a cast bronze statue of Confucius into the City collection.

A dedication ceremony of the Confucius statue will be held on 26 Sept, jointly sponsored by Friends of Confucius Houston on the occasion of the 2,560th nativity anniversary of Confucius, the most famous and prominent ancient Chinese educator, thinker and philosopher, as well as the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-US diplomatic relations.

A ceremony of the Confucius statue will be held on 26 Sept, jointly sponsored by Friends of Confucius Sculpture for Hermann Park — a non-profit local Chinese NGO, the Chinese consulate and the city of Houston. — Xinhua

Swedish man attempts to make breast milk

STOCKHOLM, 4 Sept — A Swedish man says he is stimulating his breasts with a pump in an attempt to produce milk from his own body. Ragnar Bengtsson, 26, of Stockholm, said he began his experiment, which is being documented by Swedish TV, Tuesday and plans to pump his breasts at three-hour intervals every day until the start of December in a bid to create milk, The Local reported on Wednesday.

“Anything that doesn’t do any harm is worth trying out. And if it works it could prove very important for men’s ability to get much closer to their children at an early stage,” Bengtsson said. Bengtsson said he does not want to use any chemicals, such as hormone treatments known to cause male lactation.

“If it works and the milk turns out to have a high nutritional value, it could be a real breakthrough,” he said. Sigbritt Werner, professor of endocrinology at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, said Bengtsson’s quest could produce “a drop or two” of milk after three or four months of pumping.

Hitmen kill 18 in Mexico clinic on US border

CIUDAD JUAREZ, 4 Sept — About a dozen hooded gunmen burst into a Mexican rehab clinic near the US border on Wednesday, lining up patients before killing 18 of them.

Drug gangs have targeted rehab clinics in the manufacturing city of Ciudad Juarez across from El Paso, Texas, accusing them of protecting dealers from rival gangs.

The attack was one of the deadliest in President Felipe Calderon’s three-year war against drug cartels, despite the presence of 10,000 troops and federal police in Ciudad Juarez who constantly patrol the city’s streets. The suspected hitmen stormed their way into the drug and alcohol rehab clinic in Ciudad Juarez and forced patients into a line in a corridor before shooting them, the army and the El Diario newspaper said.

Bear climbs ladder to escape Colorado skate park

A bear that wandered into a sunken skateboard park and got stuck was rescued when officials lowered a ladder so it could climb out. The bear was discovered on Tuesday morning in the Colorado resort town of Snowmass. Officials say it apparently was in the park all night, and couldn’t get out because of the steep concrete sides.

Workers from the Parks and Recreation Department lowered a long ladder. The bear eventually climbed the ladder and wandered away.

No injuries were reported to people or the bear. Bear sightings have been common this summer in the Colorado mountains. Authorities are pressing residents not to leave out food or trash that attract bears. Most bears are trapped and relocated after encounters with humans.

More aggressive bears are shot.

Ancient Egyptian stone fragment found

An ancient stone fragment with archaic Egyptian signs found at a dig near Lake Kinneret is the first of its kind to be found outside Egypt, archaeologists said.

The Tel Bet Yerah (Khirbet el-Kerak) site, where the 1.574 inch long stone fragment was found last week, was on an ancient highway that connected Egypt to the ancient Near East, Maariv said on Tuesday. It is also where the Jordan River empties into Lake Kinneret, the paper said.

Tel Aviv University’s Raphael Greenberg and David Wengrow of England directed the teams at the dig, the paper said. Such finds are rare enough in Egypt let alone outside of the country, Greenberg told the paper. The carvings on the stone fragment he said shows an arm and hand grasping a scepter and an early form of the ankh sign (key of life). Greenberg estimated the stone fragment dates back to Egypt’s First Dynasty period around 3000 BC, the paper said.

89-year-old student in university for 24 years

Bo Laidong, an 89-year-old resident of Jinan, Shandong Province, has been a student at the old people’s university for the last 24 years.

Bo enrolled in the university to major in calligraphy in 1985, a year after the institution was set up.

Bo, who has won several accolades for calligraphy in national competitions, plans to stick around at the university for another five years to participate in the institution’s 30th anniversary celebrations.

Lego giraffe tail repeatedly stolen

Visitors to a tourist attraction in Berlin have been making off with an unusual memento — the 30 cm long tail of a Lego giraffe.

The Lego tail belongs to a six metre tall model that has stood outside the entrance to the Legoland Discovery Center on Potsdamer Platz since 2007.

“It’s a popular souvenir,” a spokeswoman for the center said.

“It’s been stolen four times now ...”

The tail is made out of 15,000 Lego bricks.

It takes model workers about one week to restore it at a cost of 3,000 euros ($4,300), the spokeswoman said.

In this photo taken, Caffee or Coffee a 1 and a half year old dog feeds a three month old unnamed cat at a house in Chiang Mai Province, northern Thailand.

Nepenthes edwardsiana grows only on two mountains in Borneo. The pitchers of this species are lined with inwards pointing blades that terminate in sharp points. From the perspective of trapped prey inside the pitchers, the rows of inward pointing spikes make escape very difficult.
Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of Ministry of Defence explains development of Kokang region in Laukkai

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, deputy ministers, the Chief of Myanmar Police Force and departmental officials, on 2 September morning met officials at the hall in Laukkai and explained development of Kokang region.

The commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and departmental officials reported on arrangements for development of Kokang region. Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing attended to the needs.

At the military hospital in Laukkai, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing comforted patient servicemen and presented foodstuffs and gifts to them.

While in Laukkai, he met with members of the Kokang Region Provisional Leading Committee and left necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and party looked into the arms factory of Kokang troops near Yanlonkyang gate of China-Myanmar border and the arms and ammunition and related items seized at the house of U Phon Kya Shin.

At the China-Myanmar border (Yanlonkyang gate), they also inspected the return of local people from the other country.

They proceeded to Kokang troops headquarters (Si-aw) and viewed the seized arms and ammunition, poppy seeds and related items for manufacturing narcotic drugs.

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and party observed peaceful travelling of local national races in Laukkai and sales of personal goods, textiles and household goods at the market and cordially greeted the local people.—MNA

The Buddha’s Message of Great Value

Appamadena sampadetha,
Accomplish oneself with mindfulness.

"O bhikkhus! All conditioned and compounded things, coporeality and mentality, arisen out of kamma, citta, utu and ahara have the nature of decay and disintegration; so with steadfast mindfulness cultivate morality, concentration and wisdom."

(Digha Nikaya, Mahavagga Pali-128)

Electronic & Living Exhibition ’09 continues

YANGON, 4 Sept—Electronic & Living Exhibition ’09 continued for the second day at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara road, here, today.

A total of 70 companies display 135 booths. As a sole agent, TMW Enterprise Ltd distributes international standard tiles and various items for bathroom.

The imitate INAX brand tiles are entering the market with another name and it is a cheaper one.

New designs of other tiles and bathroom items are put on sale at special price. Super Stars Model Agency led by U Cho Gyi held the product show and performed the entertainment to the visitors. The exhibition will last up to 6 September from 9 am to 6 pm. Admission is free.—MNA

Myanmar labourers arrive back from Malaysia

YANGON, 4 Sept — Under the arrangement of officials from Myanmar and Malaysia to provide assistance to Myanmar labourers facing difficulties in Malaysia, 49 labourers in Malaysia arrived back here by Myanmar Airway on flight No. 8M-502 this afternoon as the first batch. They were welcomed by officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Immigration and Population and Ministry of Health and theirs families at the airport.

—MNA
Prosperous future of Laukkai (1)
Mahn Tha Sein (Papun)

Recent Kokang issue attracted widespread criticisms from foreign media. In particular, certain media aired many broadcasts based on idle speculation that national races turned down the government’s offer of reforming national race armed groups into a frontier forces before the forthcoming elections, so the tension grew, and the government waged an attack on Kokang group as an exemplary punishment. Those news programmes are designed to drive a wedge between the government and national race armed groups as well as to mislead the international community into misunderstanding that the government is committing human rights violation by launching unjust attacks on Kokang nationals.

Foreign radio stations aired as though Kokang troops had to launch counter offensives in retaliation of the Myanmar Tatmadaw’s hostile action; the whole Laukkai had been war-torn and all the locals had fled for their lives; and the border issue was growing into an incident that is beyond solution. So, there might have been common worries. However, the people now have realized the issue thanks to the news stories the government has issued. As a result, the fabrications manufactured by the foreign radio stations have faded away.

In reality, Kokang group used to be an armed group under the influence of Burma Communist Party (BCP). In March 1989, it broke away from the BCP, and returned to the legal fold under the name of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDDA). The group is the first of its kind to return to the legal fold. The government designated an area as Special Region (1) in Shan State (North) for it. Thenceforth, the group has engaged in the tasks to maintain stability, peace and development of the region in harness with the government, and Kokang Region has now developed remarkably if compared with its conditions previously. Surely, local residents were happy with better living conditions resulting from stability, peace and economic growth.

Moreover, the delegate group of Kokang group attended the National Convention and played an active role in the proceedings of formulating the constitution. According to the approved constitution (2008), Kokang Region will be a self-administration one. That is why the government is taking preparatory measures for the sake of forthcoming administrative machinery and judicial machinery.

All the conditions are satisfactory and Kokang group members and local people want to lead a peaceful life in the framework of the law. In contrast, the leaders of Kokang group were unable to suppress their sense of rapacity, and turned violent. Bluntly, it is for generations they have ignored regional and public interest, and focused on that of their families and relatives. They, like warlords, put their subordinates completely under their thumb and have been locked in the devastating conflicts. The true story is, in reality, endless. So many times, the government had to intervene in the issue in order that Kokang Region again would not see inferno of armed conflicts stemming from contradiction, and stability and peace would not deteriorate. In the end, the government had to allocate separate areas for the “Phon”, “Yan” and “Mon” groups. To say short and to the point, “Phon” group came to power, and U Phon Kya Shin wielded power and authority as the chancellor of Kokang nationals.

To present the objective conditions of Kokang Region as they really are, U Phon Kya Shin has been the godfather of an armed Mafia. Instead of working for regional development and serving the interest of the dwellers, the strong man monopolized the region’s trade and economic activities for the sake of the prosperity of “Phon” clan. All the members were completely under the control of his relatives, thus attracting general dissatisfaction from Kokang troops and having adverse effects on the socio-economic life of local people. Besides, they unjustly wielded power with the intention of making the government’s administrative machinery less effective. One of them is that they replaced the language of the textbooks prescribed by the government with Kokang language and local dialects. Actually, they did hurt the human resource development of local national races. Such an undesirable domination with force is completely unacceptable. They are some of the misbehaviors that showed to what extent U Phon Kya Shin’s group’s wielding power harmed the interest of locals.

(See page 9)
Prosperous future of Laukkai (1)

Mahn Tha Sein (Papun)

July that there was an arms factory near Yanlonkyaing Village in Kokang; that Thu Kaw Hon, a 43-year-old Chinese man, was taking charge of running the factory, and that arms and ammunition were being smuggled. Acting on the tip-off, Myanmar Police Force combed and seized the factory on 8 August. According to investigation, U Phon Kya Shin, U Phon Kya Shin's group and U Phon Tarli were held responsible for the case. So, MPF filed a lawsuit and summoned them to settle the issue. If those responsible had solved the problem in accordance with the law, it would not have got worse. But it is natural that law breakers are quick to breach laws but reluctant to face a lawsuit in accord with the law.

Now again, the U Phon Kya Shin’s group refused to address the issue legally for fear of facing the law. Moreover, he arranged redeployment of some members of his Kokang troops in Special Region (1). He himself moved to the border of Yanlonkyaing region. At the same time, false news was manufactured that Kokang troops would be facing the government and there would be armed clashes in the region. Consequently, there caused instability in border region and some local people fled in fear to other regions of the country and the other neighbouring nation. It was clear that those who initiated destruction of regional peace by spreading rumours were none other than the group of U Phon Kya Shin. Their acts caused negative impact not only on our nation but also on our neighbouring nation, and this adversely affected economic stability of both countries as well.

If the arms factory remained on the long border of our two countries smuggling arms and ammunition, it would threaten the border security, the rule of law and peace and stability of both countries. What’s more, there might cause instigation of insurgents and terrorist groups and media attacks. That was why the neighbouring country informed us of the case as a good neighbour and our country did what should have been done in no time. This means continuing to maintain the fine tradition of cooperation between the two countries. In the past, there were similar instances of successful bilateral cooperation in combating narcotic drugs. Now, the problem of illegally trading arms and ammunition could have been solved in time through bilateral cooperation.

Not wanting to cause any harm to peace, the State on its part took positive persuasions out of magnanimity. It tried its best to make lasting peace by patiently understanding the things that could be forgivable. However, patience has its limits and forgiveness cannot always be expected in every case.

The State had been in no position to forgive it, So the State had been in no position to forgive it. It tried its best to make lasting peace by patiently understanding the things that could be forgivable. However, patience has its limits and forgiveness cannot always be expected in every case.

Despite having faced breakaway Kokang troops, U Phon Kya Shin’s group does not seem to realize the real situation. So, they took 39 members of MPF who were on duty at Yanlonkyaing border checkpoint as hostages on 27 August morning. The State did its best to negotiate with them. Although information was repeatedly sent to U Phon Kya Shin’s group to release the hostages, they ignored it. So, with the help of Kokang Region Provisional Leading Committee, a combined team of the Tatmadaw and MPF went to the Yanlonkyaing border at 4 pm. On their arrival, the combined team received fire from the Kokang troops loyal to U Phon Kya Shin. As there were casualties of members of the national security force, they unavoidably opened fire on Kokang troops.

Looking at the situation, it was clear that the government troops did not launch the offensive as said by outside anti-government media. As the troops of U Phon Kya Shin started opening fire, there caused causalities of our government troops and they had to open fire on the Kokang troops. (To be continued)
Government fulfilling all requirements such as...

(from page 16)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein made an opening address. In his speech, he said that in reviewing the history of national building tasks from assumption of State duties by the Tatmadaw government to date, the government strived for putting an end to armed insurgencies caused by ill-legacy of colonialists, strengthening national consolidation and prevalence of law and order and peace and stability. In building modern and developed nation regarding as the national goal, the government has laid down political, economic and social objectives upholding “Our Three Main National Causes” and implemented national plans step by step, he added.

In serving the interest of the State and the people, the government is making all-out efforts to transform the nation into industrialized one in accord with the already-laid down economic policies for the development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. The Prime Minister urged not to be complacent about current progress in carrying out tasks for the emergence of industrialized nation with the help of benefits from agriculture sector. In striving for food sufficiency in the nation, emphasis is being placed on food security which will be able to fulfill the food requirement of the entire people as the first phase, boosting agricultural production with the aim of exporting food surplus as the second phase and emergence of modern and developed nation by transforming the nation into industrialized one with the help of incomes from agriculture sector as the third phase.

He added that the nation enjoys food sufficiency and sees food surplus as national level projects were implemented simultaneously in accord with the guidance given by the Head of State. He urged not to be complacent about current progress and called for strenuous efforts on boosting agricultural production in order to meet the growing demand of future population. The surplus will contribute towards regional food sufficiency and export earnings are to be invested in other sectors for the emergence of industrialized nation.

Agriculture sector constitutes 40 per cent of the country’s GDP and it is necessary to transform and upgrade the role of industrial sector as industrial sector constitutes about 20 per cent of GDP. It is required to place emphasis on emergence of industrialized nation in accord with the guidance given by the Head of State that the nation will become modern and developed one only through the industrial development. In making efforts with added momentum to improve the industrial sector, it is required to strengthen the agriculture sector which plays an important role in national economy and to use modern agricultural methods which will help export more agricultural produce.

As the government has implemented with added momentum to attend to the social needs of the entire people based on own natural resources, strengths of own human resources and production capacity of the nation, the remarkable progress can be seen in agricultural production where the export volume of agricultural produce has been increasing year by year.

In export sector of farm product, earnings reached $35.12 million US dollar in 2005-2006, 1,400.85 million US dollar in 2008-2009 and 509.87 million USD until July of 2009-2010 financial year. It is a sign of development for the agriculture sector due to the fact that more farm products were exported and more foreign exchange received year by year. It should not relent in these efforts and be satisfied with what it has achieved so far but have to work harder to be able to keep abreast of the international community.

Due to the cooperation of the State, people and private entrepreneurs, export of agricultural produce has increased but there is still room for qualitative and quantitative improvement in competing with other nations in the international market.

The country does not get reasonable price for farm products due to the inability to use the advanced technologies and weaknesses in storage and packaging methods. These have resulted in losses not only for an individual entrepreneur but also for the State.

Agricultural countries in the region do not have much land that can be reclaimed for agriculture. Therefore, these countries are placing emphasis on quality-based agriculture to improve quality and boost per-acre yield of farm products.

According to farm production capacity of the country, there are vast tracts of land that can be reclaimed and there is potential for improvement in quality and quantity of farm products. I would like to say that we can do extensive farming and intensive farming.

The country has a total area of 167.18 million acres. Out of them, there are 84.7 million acres of arable land, exclusive of human settlements urban and rural areas and forest reserves and protected forests according to land reclamation in 2008-2009 year. At present, 29.35 million acres of farmland can be grown and there are 0.63 million acres of fallow land, 40.69 million acres of virgin land, and 14.03 million acres of vacant lands and 55.35 million acres of arable land that have not been cultivated. Therefore, there are still 65.348 percent of additional acres of land that can be used for cultivation. There is a vast area of land that can be reclaimed for agricultural purposes.

The State is changing cropping patterns from conventional single cropping to double cropping, triple cropping, multiple cropping and mixed cropping for boosting par acre yield.

At the same time, such infrastructures as transportation networks, dams and river water-pumping stations are being built to strengthen the foundation of agricultural economy. Moreover, the State is fulfilling all the requirements such as modern farm implements, quality strains and fertilizers to shift from manual farming to mechanized farming. Farmers, on their part, are required to preserve local quality strains, to grow quality crops in good demand and to use systematic cultivation methods.

(See page 11)
Government is fulfilling all requirements such as…

(from page 10)
A look at the international food market shows that the current population of the world is increasing every minute and therefore the demand of increasing world population for food is becoming greater. All in all, the agriculture sector of Myanmar has good prospects but there are weaknesses in use of high technology in accord with the international standards, investment, skilled labour, crop quality control, crop storage and packaging, and exploration of market. The purpose of the workshop being held today is to weather these challenges, for agricultural produce to fetch good prices in the international market and to modernize the agriculture sector.

Every nation in the world is faced with such problems as food insufficiency, climate change and rising crop prices. Moreover, due to the fact that fossil fuel is becoming scarce, measures are being taken to produce and use bioenergy. Therefore, higher efficiency of the agriculture sector has become more important and it is necessary to strive for agricultural development by making the best use of modern technology, investment, human resources and machines and through harmonious combination of active cooperation of the private sector, assistance of the State and technological skill. The government has spent a lot of money sending agricultural scholars abroad. Now the nation has more than 1,000 agriculturalists, including 78 master’s degree holders and 26 who hold PhD’s—an enormous human resources for the agriculture sector. These scholars need support and assistance to put their knowledge into practice and effective use. If the government and private entrepreneurs render necessary assistance, it will benefit the nation as well as the entrepreneurs themselves.

The Prime Minister said that high quality and safe agricultural foodstuffs are required in the nation in the long term. He stressed the need to organize the agriculturalists, entrepreneurs and farmers to enable them to work in cohesion. It is necessary to create the opportunity for the entrepreneurs to be able to apply research works, human resources and green house cultivation method and use modern farms, he said. If the government, the local people and farmers, agriculturalists and private entrepreneurs join hands to establish the international standard modern special farming zones, the agriculture sector of the State will achieve remarkable progress, he noted.

In studying the cultivation and production system of some countries that earn huge income through agriculture task, the companies of entrepreneurs provided quality strains of crops and necessary inputs to the farmers, he said. Moreover, he added that the agriculturalists trained the farmers to systematically grow and harvest the crops. When the crops come out, the agriculturalists examined the quality of crops; the companies sought the market and exported their products; then, the profits were shared among them including the government. In addition, he said that the companies are conducting the research works to get quality strains of crops with the assistance of agriculturalists by spending a large sum of money.

Therefore, the Prime Minister stressed the need for the agriculturalists, private entrepreneurs and farmers to join hands for producing quality crops. They need to strive for keeping abreast of other countries in systematic cultivation and production of crops by establishing agricultural zones and green houses, he said. (See page 12)

Stability, peace return to normal in Kokang Region, Shan State (North)

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—Stability and peace have been back to normal in Kokang Region, Shan State (North), since 29 August. Up to 6 pm today, 10,731 of the inhabitants, who had fled to the neighbouring country, had returned to Laukkai via Yanlonkyaing and Chinswehaw border checkpoints.

Now, the administrative machinery has returned to normal in Kokang Region in Shan State (North).—MNA

TNT factory in Laukkai region in…

(from page 16)
The team seized a steam boiler, a set of mixer reactor, a set of rector supposed to produce gunpow-der, a machine and accessories used for packing and chemical precursors—bags of Potassium Nitrate (KNO3), bags of Sulphur, coal, empty diesel containers, a container with Toluene-like liquid, a bag with unidentified white powder, a bag with unidentified transport yellow-coloured slabs—at TNT factory with seven buildings between Mukwakyaing and Tarsenkyaying villages. The words mentioned on packing boxes are DT Rock Type, An-TNT-Fo Explosive, Luliang Yunnan China, State-owned Yunnan Packing Plant (No. 9815 Military Plant).—MNA

Packing boxes seized by combined team comprising members of local battalion and anti-drug squad.—MNA

Some machines seized by combined team comprising members of local battalion and anti-drug squad.—MNA

Some bags of chemical precursors seized by combined team comprising members of local battalion and anti-drug squad.—MNA
Singapore Airlines takes measure to weather financial storm

SINGAPORE, 4 Sept—One in four of its cabin crew has opted for voluntary no-pay leave, as Singapore Airlines (SIA) takes action to ride out the financial storm, local media reported on Friday.

This works out to about 1,800 out of 7,400 of cabin crew, who have taken up the scheme to go on anything from one week to two years of no-pay leave, as SIA trimmed excess manpower, local newspaper The Straits Times said. Many who took it up have asked for periods of up to one month.

Landslide kills 10 in Mumbai slum area

NEW DELHI, 4 Sept—At least 10 people were killed and 25 injured on Thursday midnight in a slum district, northeast of India’s Mumbai, following a landslide triggered by entrepreneurs for boosting production of agricultural produce, other marketable crops, vegetables and flowers by applying modern technology. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation had sent 1201 trainees to foreign countries up to 2008, and most of them are discharging duties at the respective departments and private works, he said. They gained experiences to produce crops and flowers. Depending on climate, soil and market position of the nation, it is necessary to apply modern technology, he added. The minister said that the papers to be submitted to the workshop would focus on successful carrying out of the agriculture task and on seeking the foreign market in term of profit.

The Prime Minister and party posed for documentary photo with agriculturalists, entrepreneurs and resource persons.

After the opening ceremony, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present.

The workshop continued at 10 am. The resource persons submitted their papers on flowers, fruits, vegetables and organic farming and the paper on post-harvesting and scrutinizing market news. Those present took part in the discussions and the workshop ended in the evening.—MNA

Claims Day Notice

MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (467)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (467) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 5.9.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

Agent for: M/S Advance Container Lines

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Claims Day Notice

MV DAGAT BLUE VOY NO (49)

Consignees of cargocarried on MV DAGAT BLUE VOY NO (49) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 6.9.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-7 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

Agent for: Toto Kain Kaisha Ltd

Phone No: 256924/256914

Claims Day Notice

MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9034)

Consignees of cargocarried on MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9034) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 5.9.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

Agent for: M/S China Shipping (Malaysia) Agency SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Claims Day Notice

MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9034)

Consignees of cargocarried on MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9034) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 5.9.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

Agent for: M/S China Shipping (Malaysia) Agency SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Claims Day Notice

MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9034)

Consignees of cargocarried on MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9034) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 5.9.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

Agent for: M/S China Shipping (Malaysia) Agency SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Claims Day Notice

MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9034)

Consignees of cargocarried on MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9034) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 5.9.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
New treatment may combat drug-resistant flu

LONDON, 4 Sept—A new and unlicensed treatment for swine flu could be used in patients who have Tamiflu-resistant viruses, doctors say.

In an article published on Friday in the medical journal Lancet, British doctors describe how they used an intravenous form of the antiviral Relenza to treat a 22-year-old woman who had a severe case of swine flu. Relenza is usually inhaled via the nose, and is not licensed to be given intravenously.

The woman had recently undergone chemotherapy for Hodgkin’s disease. After catching swine flu, her lungs filled with fluid and she was put on a ventilator to help her breathe. Despite days of being given Tamiflu, inhaling Relenza, and other medicines, the patient deteriorated.

So her doctors decided to try a different way of getting the drug into her body, since her lungs weren’t able to absorb the antivirals the usual way. After getting permission from her family and a hospital committee, they gave her an unlicensed, intravenous form of the antiviral zanamivir, or Relenza, provided by its maker, GlaxoSmithKline PLC. The patient recovered soon afterward, with no reported side effects.

“This may provide a third route to treat patients that are not responding to antiviral treatment because the active drug is not getting to the lungs,” said Michael Kidd, of University College London, and the lead author of the study.—Internet

Airport’s shooting of endangered birds arouses controversy

HANGZHOU, 4 Sept—To shoot or not to shoot, that is a question for a Chinese airport using live ammunition to prevent birds from endangering aircraft safety. During the post-typhoon season from June to October every year, about 400-1000 migrating egrets stop over on grassland at the Lishu International Airport in the eastern coastal city of Ningbo.

The airport sets up a task force to keep a close watch over the birds around the clock every day and have previously managed to scare them away with gun-shot sounds or catch them in nets to ensure the safety of flights. “But over recent months, the airport staff have changed their usual practice of driving the birds away and are shooting to kill them instead,” netizen “Jinkali”, who works near the airport, said in an article posted on online forum bbs.cnool.net last week.

Opinions over the airport’s actions are sharply divided, according to comments posted after the article appeared.

“There should be a limit to animal protection. The birds should be killed if they endanger flight safety,” said “Huduan” in support of the airport.

“Birds are living beings, too, and they have the right to live. Egrets can be driven away, but it is not necessary for us to kill them,” netizen “Wokunle” said.—Xinhua

Flu cases surge in Spain

MADRID, 4 Sept—The occurrence of A/H1N1 flu cases in Spain surged by 24 percent last week, the Spanish Ministry of Health said on Thursday in weekly-published figures.

The estimated prevalence increased from 41 cases per 100,000 inhabitants to 53.16 per 100,000 inhabitants, which means Spain now has nearly 24,000 cases in total.

Two more flu deaths were reported in the last nine days, raising the death toll to 23. The flu mortality rate of the country now stands at 0.18 deaths per 1,000 cases.

The Health Ministry did not give further details of the two deaths, but said it would as Spanish schools prepared for the new academic year.—Xinhua

Kuwait reports 443 cases of A/H1N1 flu in past week

KUWAIT CITY, 4 Sept—Kuwait registered 443 new cases of A/H1N1 flu infections in the past week, bringing the total number to 1,779, official KUNA news agency reported on Thursday.

Most of the cases were light and did not have to be hospitalized, the report quoted a release of Kuwaiti Health Ministry as saying.

To date, there were five deaths of the deadly virus in Gulf country, which has witnessed a spiraling rise in the number of infection in recent weeks.—Xinhua

Nearly 1,200 new A/H1N1 flu cases confirmed in Europe

STOCKHOLM, 4 Sept—A European health agency said on Thursday that 1,193 new A/H1N1 flu cases were reported in European countries within the last 24 hours.

Of the news cases, 380 were confirmed in Portugal, 323 in Germany, 258 in Italy and 128 in Norway, while the remaining 104 cases were reported in 10 other European countries, the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said in its daily situation report.

The cumulative number of confirmed cases of the A/H1N1 flu virus in the EU (European Union) and EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries increased to 47,828, with 16,584 cases in Germany, 13,095 in Britain, 2,624 in Portugal, 2,058 in Italy and 1,839 in Greece, the ECDC said.—Xinhua
SPORTS

‘Believe’: Teen from Georgia stuns Dementieva

NEW YORK, 4 Sept—It’s not quite the case that 17-year-old Melanie Oudin and her family knew for sure she would get this far, this fast.

Not when Melanie was 7, hitting buckets of tennis balls with Grandma Mimi back home in Marietta, Ga.

Not a couple of years later, when Melanie and her twin sister began taking lessons together.

And certainly not when Melanie lost her first two Grand Slam matches.

Still, there was Oudin at the US Open on Thursday, ranked all of 70th, dealing with a painful leg and an overwhelming occasion on a supersized stage — and stunning No 4-seeded Elena Dementieva 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 to set up a third-round match against 2006 champion Maria Sharapova.

Maria Sharapova of Russia celebrates after winning the women’s singles second round match against Christina McHale of the US at the US Open tennis tournament in New York, on 3 Sept, 2009. — Xinhua

Kaka says Messi the best in the world right now

RIO DE JANEIRO, 4 Sept — Former World Footballer of the Year Kaká acknowledges Lionel Messi deserves that title for now. “He is a player who makes a difference,” Kaká said on Thursday, just two days before meeting Messi in a World Cup qualifier between South American rivals Brazil and Argentina.

“I would vote for him for all he has done, leading Barcelona to all these titles.”

Messi has never won FIFA’s Player of the Year Award but he is considered a front-runner for this year’s title. Kaká won it in 2007 and has constantly said his goal was to earn the prize again. “It remains my objective to get back there and win it,” said Kaká.

Kaká played down a duel with Messi when they meet in the qualifier at Rosario on Saturday. — Xinhua

I’m no cheat says Man Utd’s Rooney

WATFORDS, 4 Sept — Wayne Rooney has reacted to suggestions that he dived to win a penalty in Manchester United’s win over Arsenal last weekend by insisting he is an honest player. Rooney earned and converted the spot-kick that brought United level by insisting he is an honest player. Rooney earned and converted the spot-kick that brought United level against the Gunners when he tumbled under goalkeeper Manuel Almunia’s challenge.

Almunia had rushed from his line and appeared to catch Rooney, but television replays showed that the England star may have started to fall before there was any contact. In the aftermath of Arsenal striker Eduardo’s two-match ban for deceiving the referee to win a penalty against Celtic, Rooney felt compelled to defend himself when questioned on the issue of cheating ahead of England’s friendly against Slovenia on Saturday.

Manchester United’s forward Wayne Rooney (right) lines up a free kick during their English Premier League football match against Arsenal at Old Trafford in Manchester. — Internet

Roddick, Querrey lead home charge at US Open

NEW YORK, 4 Sept—Hopes for a first home win in the men’s singles at the US Open in six years were given a boost with Andy Roddick and rising star Sam Querrey leading a charge into the third round.

Roddick, the fifth seed and the last American to win the title here in 2003, coasted through 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 against Frenchman Marc Gicquel in a match that finished after midnight.

The giant 21-year-old Querrey, who this summer has taken over as the US number two, defeated compatriot Kevin Kim 7-5, 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-4 and is just two wins from a possible quarter-final match against top seed and titleholder Roger Federer.

Adriano says that Brazil will “shock” Argentina

RIO DE JANEIRO, 4 Sept — Brazil striker Adriano said on Thursday that the five-time World Cup winner will “shock” Argentina when they meet in a World Cup qualifier on Sunday.

Adriano is with Brazil’s squad preparing for the highly-anticipated match on Saturday at Rosario. He hadn’t been called up by coach Dunga since he failed to rejoin Inter Milan in April after the World Cup qualifier against Peru.

Adriano missed out on the Confederations Cup in South Africa, and the last time Adriano played in a match for Brazil was in the 2-0 win over Italy in a friendly in February.

“I didn’t feel like playing or practicing anymore so I decided to return to stay close to my family,” Adriano said. “It was very important to be near the Brazilian people again.”

Should Brazil win Saturday’s game, along with a Columbian win and a Uruguayan loss, Brazil will guarantee their appearance in South Africa in their hunt for a record 6th World Cup title. — Xinhua

Chicago 2016 confident after IOC bid evaluation

CHICAGO, 4 Sept — Chicago 2016 says it is proud of the evaluation it got from the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Based on its April visit to Chicago, the IOC reported that Chicago did not have a full guarantee covering potential economic shortfalls from the Games.

The committee has pledged additional insurance to protect taxpayers from footing any financial losses.

Chicago 2016 CEO Pat Ryan told local reporters on Thursday that the question of finance should have been addressed sooner. He said there’s nothing the committee can not resolve within the next month.

“We’re certainly going to communicate to the IOC membership all of we think is relevant to the report. We’re going to communicate very quickly the disposition of the issues raised.”

“Ambitious but achievable” is how the IOC report described Chicago’s bid. The three other finalist cities—Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo—also received praise and criticism from the IOC. The final selection of the city to host the 2016 summer Olympic Games will take place on 2 Oct in Copenhagen.

Ferguson hopeful of Obertan United bow

LONDON, 4 Sept — Sir Alex Ferguson said Thursday that he hopes French Under 21 international Gabriel Obertan will be fit enough to make his debut by next month.

Obertan cost three million pounds from Bordeaux in the summer, but has been sidelined because of a spinal injury. “Gabriel has had a spine problem but I think he will be back in a month to six weeks’ time,” Ferguson told Inside United.

Chelsea vow to fight transfer ban

LONDON, 4 Sept — Chelsea has vowed to vigorously contest FIFA sanctions that would prevent the London club from signing any new players until January 2011.

World football’s governing body announced the ban on Thursday after its Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) concluded that the Premier League club had induced promising French youngster Gael Kakuta to break his contract with his first club Lens.FIFA’s DRC said Chelsea would not be allowed to register players in the next two transfer windows— January 2010 and the period between the end of the current season and the end of August 2010. Kakuta was banned from playing for four months and ordered to pay Lens 780,000 euros compensation. Chelsea will be liable for that amount and a further compensation payment of 130,000 euros to the French club.

Chelsea 2016 confident after IOC bid evaluation

CHICAGO, 4 Sept — Chicago 2016 says it is proud of the evaluation it got from the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Based on its April visit to Chicago, the IOC reported that Chicago did not have a full guarantee covering potential economic shortfalls from the Games. Since then Chicago organizers have pledged additional insurance to protect taxpayers from footing any financial losses.

Chicago 2016 CEO Pat Ryan told local reporters on Thursday that the question of finance should have been addressed sooner. He said there’s nothing the committee can not resolve within the next month.

“We’re certainly going to communicate to the IOC membership all of we think is relevant to the report. We’re going to communicate very quickly the disposition of the issues raised.”

“Ambitious but achievable” is how the IOC report described Chicago’s bid. The three other finalist cities—Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo—also received praise and criticism from the IOC. The final selection of the city to host the 2016 summer Olympic Games will take place on 2 Oct in Copenhagen.

Ferguson hopeful of Obertan United bow

LONDON, 4 Sept — Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson said Thursday that he hopes French Under 21 international Gabriel Obertan will be fit enough to make his debut by next month.

Obertan cost three million pounds from Bordeaux in the summer, but has been sidelined because of a spinal injury. “Gabriel has had a spine problem but I think he will be back in a month to six weeks’ time,” Ferguson told Inside United.

Chelsea vow to fight transfer ban

LONDON, 4 Sept — Chelsea has vowed to vigorously contest FIFA sanctions that would prevent the London club from signing any new players until January 2011.

World football’s governing body announced the ban on Thursday after its Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) concluded that the Premier League club had induced promising French youngster Gael Kakuta to break his contract with his first club Lens.FIFA’s DRC said Chelsea would not be allowed to register players in the next two transfer windows— January 2010 and the period between the end of the current season and the end of August 2010. Kakuta was banned from playing for four months and ordered to pay Lens 780,000 euros compensation. Chelsea will be liable for that amount and a further compensation payment of 130,000 euros to the French club.
Wenger: Formation suits Fabregas

LONDON, 4 Sept—Arsene Wenger feels captain Cesc Fabregas can enjoy the freedom of Arsenal’s new formation. The Gunners skipper is recovering from a hamstring problem which kept him out of the 2-1 defeat at Old Trafford, but should return alongside defensive duo Alex Song and Denilson after the international break.

Wenger has been impressed with how the fluid 4-3-3 set up has been implemented by the players. “Cesc likes to play deep when you have the ball first, and then join in later,” said Wenger. “He’s a bit like [Chelsea midfielder] Frank Lampard in that. He wants to structure the game.” Cesc likes to be at the start of things and then get on the end of things. And he can push forward more this season because he has two players around him who can defend.”

Casillas wants to break ‘curse’ at World Cup qualifier

MADRID, 4 Sept—Goalkeeper Iker Casillas, who has never won a match with Real Madrid at Deportivo La Coruña’s El Riazor stadium, hopes to break this “curse” when he plays for Spain there on Saturday.

La Coruña’s El Riazor stadium, hopes to break this curse with the national squad. After when I come with Real Madrid it will be another to break this curse with the national squad. After

Friday, 4th September, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Shan and Kayah States, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Sittway (3.70) inches, Paung (3.54) inches, Pyay (2.56) inches, Dawei (2.34) inches, Kyekinkhine (2.20) inches, Zaungtu (2.09) inches, Bago, Mawlamyine and Myeik (1.65) inches each, Aunglan (0.57) inch, Taungdwingyi (0.55) inch and Shwebo (0.36) inch.

Maximum temperature on 3-9-2009 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 4-9-2009 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 4-9-2009 was 96%. Total sun shine hours on 3-9-2009 was (0.6) hours approx. Rainfall on 4-9-2009 was (0.59) inch at Mingaladon, (1.14) inches at Kaba-Aye and (1.38) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (87.32) inches at Mingaladon, (99.53) inches at Kaba-Aye and (104.57) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mphp from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 3-9-2009.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon. Forecast valid until evening of 5th September 2009: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Shan and Kayah States, Magway Division, fairly widespread in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Rakhine and Mon States and Taninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon. Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 5-9-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Weather outlook for second weekend of September 2009: During the coming weekend, rain of thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Divisions, widespread in Yangon Division.
2nd Waning of Tawthalin 1371 ME
Saturday, 5 September, 2009

★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
■ We favour peace and stability
■ We favour development
■ We oppose unrest and violence
■ Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

Government fulfilling all requirements such as modern farm implements, quality strains and fertilizers to shift from manual farming to mechanized farming
Farmers, on their part, are to preserve local quality strains, grow quality crops in good demand, use systematic cultivation methods

Prime Minister addresses opening of workshop on cooperation between agriculturalists, trainees and entrepreneurs

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—The opening of workshop on cooperation between agriculturalists, trainees who attended agriculture courses abroad and entrepreneurs, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here this morning with an address by Prime Minister General Thein Sein. It was also attended by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Hray Oo, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, the director-general of the Government Office and departmental heads, officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the vice-president of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fisheries and executives, officials of agro-based associations, agriculturalists, trainees who attended agriculture courses abroad, entrepreneurs and guests.

(See page 10)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein addresses opening of workshop on cooperation between agriculturalists, trainees who attended agriculture courses abroad and entrepreneurs.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising members of local battalion and anti-drug squad combed the area near border post No (127) at China-Myanmar border in Laukkai Special Region (1), Shan State (North) on 2 September.

TNT factory in Laukkai region in Shan State (North) Special Region-1 seized

(See page 11)