Ma Sein-Kyauk Sin suspension bridge in Kalewa of Sagaing
Division contributing to smooth transport for local people

Our media crew of Myanma Alin daily were on our way to Kalewa from Kalay. Both sides of the road were green and lush paddy fields, some under transplanting, and some under ploughing. On the motorway were a stream of bicycles, three-wheelers and vehicles running to different directions.

Myitha river was flowing at the right side under the motorway on Yesangyun road. We had passed an enormous number of iron frame iron truss bridges and iron frame wood truss ones on our way to Kalewa.

We interviewed Chairman of Kalewa Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Zin about development undertakings of the region. He took us to Ma Sein model village to witness the progress of the village.

It was a 1:45 hr-boat ride to Ma Sein model village from Kalewa jetty upstream Chindwin river. We drove past the houses on the banks, enjoying the stunning views of mountain ranges under the bright sunshine.

As soon as we arrived at Ma Sein model village, we saw Youth Hostel on the bank. Ma Sein model village, which is situated on the east bank of Chindwin river, has an area of 34 acres and is 18 miles north of Kalay. Waterway is the major transportation mode for the village to the town.

As we passed through the village to our destination, we saw bazaar, playground, garden, police station, residence of the doctor of the station hospital built by the village on self-reliance basis.
PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 8 October, 2009

Nurture the youth to become precious gems of the nation

Being a member nation of ASEAN, Myanmar is working in concert with other member nations in education, culture, economic and social fields.

A ceremony to open the meeting of the 15th ASEAN Youth Day, organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, was held at Shwenandaw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone on 4 October.

Regional peace, stability and development have been gaining a good momentum thanks to the united efforts of the Association. Moreover, due to the emergence of the ASEAN community, ASEAN people are now able to enjoy the fruits of peace, stability, prosperity and social and cultural development.

The 15th ASEAN Youth Meeting plays an important role in implementation of ASEAN social culture, and the ASEAN youth are a major force in the present as well as in the future.

Prize presentation ceremonies are held every year for the emergence of brilliant youth in the ASEAN region. It is necessary for the ASEAN youth to try to be the architect of their own life by promoting their self-esteem, discernment and capacity, realizing their full potential and respecting and recognizing one another.

Myanmar is creating a sound foundation and a modern network system for education so that its future generations will become a major force of the nation. Myanmar will always participate actively in ASEAN youth affairs and nurture its youth in order that they will become precious gems of the nation.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be bolstered whenever flat-footed
* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Prize winning books in circulation

YANGON, 7 Oct—Sarpay Beikman under Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information published the prize-winning books recently.

These were the Sarpay Beikman manuscript award winning book in the youth literature genre written by Maung Kyi Thant, the first prize winning book in the collective short stories genre by Thwe Htar Nyo (Thakkala), the third prize winning book in the novel genre by Myaylatt Min Lwin and the second prize winning book in the youth literature genre by Maung Soe Htay (Thonze).

The above books are available at Sarpay Beikman bookshops at Ta’-55, Thabyegon Market, Nay Pyi Taw, Tel: 067-414681, at 529/531, Merchant Street, Yangon; Tel: 01-249031 and in Mandalay, Tel: 02-62931 and book agents from the countryside of Sarpay Beikman.

Win Sein read the report of Myanmar on 29 September. The meeting was attended by delegates from 72 member countries of the executive committee, and delegates from 42 countries including Myanmar as observers, representatives from UN agencies and 35 NGOs.

Led by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein, the Myanmar delegation to the meeting comprised Counsellor of Myanmar office at UN in Geneva U Win Thein, Director of Immigration and National Registration Department U Htay Hlaing, First Secretary Daw Khin Thida Aye and First Secretary Dr Htoo Maung.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein held a meeting with high Commission for Refugees Antonio Gutierrez on 29 September. Also present at the meeting were Charge d’affaires at U Kyaw Myo Htut, U Win Thein, U Htin Lin, Dr Htoo Maung and U Htay Hlaing.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the chief of UNHCR on 2 October after the new executives were selected and approved at the meeting.

Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein arrived back here yesterday. — MNA
Militant rocket hits Afghan civilian bus, kills two

KABUL, 7 Oct—An militant rocket ripped through a bus driving on a highway in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing two people aboard and wounding about 25, the government said.

The militants appeared to have been aiming for a nearby police checkpoint, but the rocket fell short of the target and hit the busload of civilians instead, the Interior Ministry said.

The deaths in Ghazni province’s Qarabagh district are part of a growing civilian toll from roadside bombs, battles and suicide attacks this year.

A UN report issued last month said August was the deadliest month of 2009 for civilians because of violence from the insurgency. A total of 1,500 civilians died in Afghanistan between January and August, up from 1,145 for the same period of 2008. About 68 percent of the deaths were due to the militants, the report said.

Military clashes have also intensified. On Wednesday, American and Afghan forces battled militants in neighboring Wardak province, killing a number of insurgents. US forces spokeswoman Capt Regina Gillis declined to say exactly how many militants were killed, but said it was fewer than 10. No casualties were reported among American or Afghan forces. —Internet

Nine killed, 31 injured in car bombing in west Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 7 Oct—At least nine people were killed and 31 others injured in a car bomb explosion at a busy marketplace in Iraq’s western city of Fallujah on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

At least nine people were killed and 31 others injured in a car bomb explosion at a busy marketplace in Iraq’s western city of Fallujah on 6 Oct, 2009.—Xinhua

The powerful blast destroyed several nearby cars and many stalls selling vegetables and fruits, the source said.

The attack came a day after a suicide car bomb blast killed six mourners and wounded 15 others at a funeral in the city of Hadiitha Iraq’s once insurgent stronghold of Anbar province, where Fallujah is located.

A booby-trapped car ripped through an outdoor popular market at sunset in the town of Amriyat al-Fallujah, near Fallujah city, some 50 km west of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The death brings to 220 the number of Afghan civilians killed and 37,881 injured seriously as from the day when the NATO troops led by the US invaded Afghanistan to 7 October.

According to the Internet news, a total of 32,268 Afghan people were killed and 37,881 injured seriously as from the day when the NATO troops led by the US invaded Afghanistan to 7 October.

The total number of casualties as from the day they invaded the country to 7 October reached 698,883 and the total number of seriously injured people reached 1,259,853 according to the news on the internet.

Soldier killed in Afghanistan to be named

LONDON, 7 Oct—A soldier killed in an explosion while on patrol in southern Afghanistan will be named on Wednesday, a report said.

The soldier, from 1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards, was killed Monday on a foot patrol in the Nad Ali area of Helmand Province, the Press Association said MoD said.

The death brings to 220 the number of British troops who have died since operations against the Taliban extremists began in October 2001. Of these, at least 188 were killed as a result of hostile action.

Task Force Helmand spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Nick Richardson said: “Our deepest and heartfelt sympathies go out to his bereaved family, to his friends and to the many comrades of this proud and brave Guards soldier.”

Six militants killed in W Afghanistan

KABUL, 7 Oct—Afghan and NATO-led forces have killed six militants, including three Arabic trainers, in Herat Province of western Afghanistan, military spokesman in the region Abdul Basir Ghori said Tuesday.

“A joint operation of Afghan and NATO forces was kicked off in Gazara district since Monday to clean up the area from rebels and so far six militants including three Arabs have been eliminated,” Ghori told Xinhua.

These Arabic fighters, he added, had provided military training to Taleban insurgents in the area. The military official also stressed that the operation will go on until all the militants are swept out and the durable peace is ensured.

Taleban militias who are fighting the Afghan government and international troops, have yet to make comment. —Xinhua

Casualties of Afghan people in invasion of NATO troops led by US

KABUL, 7 Oct—The NATO troops led by the US have invaded Afghanistan and they are there for a long time.

A number of Afghan people are killed and injured due to invasion of the NATO troops led by the US.

Roadside bomb kills 10 Afghan soldiers in South

KABUL, 7 Oct—Militants in the militancy plagued southern region of Afghanistan detonated a roadside bomb, leaving 10 soldiers dead, a senior military commander said Tuesday.

"The rebels detonated a remote-controlled mine in Popalzai area, a suburb of Laskar Gah, the capital of Helmand province Monday afternoon, damaging three vehicles and killing 10 soldiers," General Shir Mohammad Zazi told Xinhua.

Xinhua
British Airways jets are parked at London's Heathrow airport, 2006. British Airways (BA) is facing the threat of a strike action after angry workers protested against the airline’s plans to cut 1,700 jobs and freeze pay in order to stem losses.—INTERNET

**Unions protest British Airways job cut plans**

**London, 7 Oct**—British Airways (BA) is facing the threat of a strike action after angry workers protested against the airline’s plans to cut 1,700 jobs and freeze pay in order to stem losses. “This inevitably brings a strike closer. We have been working flat out to find a negotiated solution with this company but they are clearly not interested in compromise, preferring conflict instead,” a senior union leader told the Press Association. “They are holding a gun to the heads of our members. We will not stand by while they push fewer and fewer people to do more and more work on less pay and turn our premium airline into a low-cost operator,” he added. The cuts will reduce the total number of cabin crew-related jobs from 14,000 to 12,300, it said, noting that the move involves cabin crew managers rather than cabin crew themselves. “These changes will take place from the end of November. They will not reduce the number of working crew on board,” said a BA statement of the job cuts.

**World economy on road of recovery but still precarious**

**ISTANBUL, 7 Oct**—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank concluded their annual meetings here on Wednesday, calling for continuous policy support as the world economy is still precarious.

“Recovery” became the main theme of delegates’ speech in this year’s annual meetings. In its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO), the IMF predicted that the global economy would grow by 3.1 percent in 2010, 0.6 percent higher than its prediction in July, saying the global recession “is ending.”

Global financial stability has also improved following a forthcoming policy actions and signs of economic recovery, the IMF said in the Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR).

The IMF lowered its estimate of losses from the global financial and economic crisis to 3.4 trillion US dollars, around 600 billion dollars lower than its last report in April, largely due to rising securities values, the report said.

Asia is leading the world economy out of the crisis, Anoop Singh, Director of the IMF’s Asia and Pacific Department, told reporters. “These changes will take place from the end of November. They will not reduce the number of working crew on board,” said a BA statement of the job cuts.

**Palestinians to sign reconciliation agreement late October**

**AMMAN, 7 Oct**—Feuding Palestinian factions will sign a reconciliation agreement on Cairo on 25 Oct, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abu Gheit said in Amman, according to the report of Jordania News Agency Petra on Tuesday.

In a joint press conference with his Jordanian counterpart late Monday, Abu Gheit said after the facions sign the agreement on 25 Oct, another meeting will take place on 26 Oct between the Arab Follow-up Committee and heads of Palestinian factions to sign on the agreement as witnesses. He said representatives of non-Arab countries are also scheduled to attend the October 26 meeting as witnesses to the signing of the reconciliation charter.

**Swiss unemployment rate climbs in September**

**ZURICH, 7 Oct**—Switzerland’s unemployment rate climbed to 3.9 percent in September, up from 3.8 percent a month earlier, official figures showed Wednesday. The number of people registered as unemployed reached 134,499, or 3,578 more than in August, said the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs in a statement. Unemployment among 15 to 24-year-olds also continued to swell, with some 29,999 youths registered as jobless in September, up 701 compared to a month ago. Against September 2008, the month’s jobless numbers was a jump of some 74.9 percent. The Swiss government expects overall unemployment rate to reach an average of 3.8 percent in 2009 and 5.2 percent in 2010 due to the economic crisis, up sharply from 2.6 percent in 2008. Bern approved a third stimulus package in June which includes measures to tackle growing unemployment.

**Iran to launch research rocket into space**

**TEHERAN, 7 Oct**—Iran’s Aerospace Research Center official announced on Tuesday that the country will launch its research rocket called Kavoshgar (Explorer) into space by the end of March 2010, the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

“Iranian Kavoshgar rocket will be sent into the space by the end of the current (Iranian) year (ending on March 20) to do research studies,” Head of Iran’s Aerospace Research Center Mohammad Ebrahimni was quoted as saying.

Talking at a ceremony marking the World Space Week, Ebrahimni said that “The rocket can be sent to altitudes of more than 150km which is not a fly zone for aircraft and satellites ... it can be employed in different research and studies.”

Earlier in February, Teheran announced that the Omid lightweight telecommunication satellite, its first home-made satellite, was successfully sent into space by the Iranian-produced satellite carrier Safir 2, evoking the West’s concern over its potential military purposes.

In late November, Iran launched successfully a space rocket which was called “Kavosh 2” (Explore 2). “The rocket was launched into the space and after completing its mission returned to the earth using parachutes,” Iran’s state TV IRIB said.

**China urges intensified int’l efforts in nuclear non-proliferation**

**UNITED NATIONS, 7 Oct**— China on Tuesday called on the international community to intensify its efforts to address the potential threat posed by nuclear non-proliferation.

Speaking at the General Debate of the First Committee of the 64th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Wang Qun, Chinese ambassador for disarmament affairs, said that nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing and supplementary to each other. “To achieve complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons for a nuclear-weapon-free world, the international efforts in nuclear non-proliferation must be vigorously intensified in eliminating the risk of nuclear weapon proliferation,” Wang said.

The ambassador called for the international nuclear non-proliferation regime to be consolidated and strengthened, and emphasized that non-proliferation issues be resolved peacefully through political and diplomatic means within the framework of existing international law. Wang said that China has made unremitting efforts in seeking peaceful resolution to the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula and Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiation.—Xinhua

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Brazil, Belgium sign space cooperation agreement

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 Oct—Brazil and Belgium signed a cooperation agreement on space technology in the Belgian city of Liege on Tuesday, the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology announced.

The accord was signed between the Brazilian Space Agency and the Belgian Space Center of Liege, ministry sources added. A ministry statement quoted Brazilian Space Agency President Carlos Ganem as saying that “despite not producing rockets or satellites, Belgium is an important partner of countries with space programs for its quality of the services offered in its universities and of its optic and space projects.”

The four-year agreement also includes cooperation in education of space science and techniques, apart from cooperation in such fields as earth observation, conception and proof of space instruments, satellite payloads, university nano-satellites, optic techniques and specific technologies for the space sector.—Xinhua

Italy’s floods death toll finally rises to 35

ROME, 7 Oct—Italy’s civil protection chief Guido Bertolaso said on Tuesday that final death toll from floods in northeastern Sicilian town of Messina finally reached 35 since there was no hope of finding survivors from 10 people still missing. “We know the full names of the people who are missing and are at work to find their bodies,” Bertolaso said during an address to the Italian Senate, where he was asked to give an assessment of the tragedy.

Some 730 evacuees had been moved into hotels while over 2,300 workers were involved in 24-hour relief efforts, Bertolaso told parliamentarians. The civil protection chief said he had no information regarding reports of unregistered immigrants also said to be missing after the floods.—Xinhua

Boeing expects billion dollar charge

CHICAGO, 7 Oct—Chicago-based Boeing Company announced Tuesday it is expecting to report a one-billion dollar charge because of a delay in producing a new version of the 747 freighter jet.

In a written statement, Boeing blames most of the billion-dollar charge on increased production costs of one of its freighter airplanes. The company adds the market conditions are not helping either.

Business analysts here believe that Boeing’s problems are not limited to just the freighter plane program. Boeing is having problems across almost its entire commercial aircraft operations as it looks like the 787 program is absorbing a lot of the resources in the company.—Xinhua

Economists warn of hot money danger in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 7 Oct—Economists said that Indonesia should be alert to incoming hot money to its financial instruments amidst uncertain global economic situation, Kompas daily reported on Wednesday.

Indonesia’s central bank, Bank Indonesia, reported that the country’s forex reserves as of third quarter 2009 have reached 62.3 billion US dollars.

Meanwhile, positive economic growth, controlled inflation and relatively high portfolio return have been triggering foreign fund to enter Indonesia. According to Bank Indonesia, as of the third quarter, foreign fund to the Certificate of Bank Indonesia reached 1.58 billion dollars or equal with 15 trillion rupiah and to the country’s bonds worth 620.25 million dollars or about 6 trillion rupiah.

In the capital market, foreign investors recorded net buy of 608.7 million dollar, pushing the market index to climb to level of 2,528.

Economist Iman Sugema from the Institute for Development Economy and Finance (INDEF) said that flood of short term foreign fund (hot money) to Indonesia and other developing countries is due to recovering global economy.—Xinhua

Vietnam unlikely to meet economic growth target for 2006-2010 period

HA NOI, 7 Oct—Vietnamese Ministry of Planning and Investment said the country would not meet the average economic growth target of between 7.5 percent and 8 percent a year in the 2006-2010 period, local newspaper the Vietnam Investment Review reported on Wednesday.

The ministry forecast that Vietnam’s economic growth rate would be about 6.9 percent a year during this period, said the newspaper.

The negative impacts of global economic downturn and the country’s internal difficulties from 2008 to 2010 were to blame for the failure, said the ministry.

Kuwaiti oil minister expects oil prices at $60-80 per barrel till year end

KUWAIT CITY, 7 Oct—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah said on Tuesday he expected the oil prices to range between 60 to 80 US dollars per barrel till the end of this year, the official KUNA news agency reported.

It was premature to speculate on the oil prices of next year, the minister said after addressing Kuwait’s Third International Energy and Petrochemicals Exhibition.

Kuwait sits atop 10 percent of the world’s proven oil reserves and contributes three million barrels of crude per day.

Due to higher-than-expected oil prices, Kuwait has earned around 80 percent of its projected annual income in the first five months of this fiscal year and is expected to witness the 11th straight year of budget surplus.

The oil minister added on the same occasion that the ambition to lift the daily output to four million barrels by 2020 was amended to 2030.

The Gulf Arab emirate is the fourth largest exporter of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).—Xinhua
Iran to sue US over illegal treatment of detained Iranian diplomats

TEHERAN, 7 Oct — Iran’s Majlis (Parliament) Speaker Ali Larijani said on Tuesday that the parliament will sue the United States over the illegal treatment of detained Iranian diplomats in Iraq, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported.

Majlis will take the complaint to the international bodies and to the United Nations, Larijani was quoted as saying.

“The Americans have committed crimes due to the physical and spiritual pressures they have inflicted on the Iranian diplomats and due to the long and lonely imprisonment of them, the Foreign Policy and National Security Committee of Majlis will sue (the US) by taking the complaint to the United Nations,” said Larijani.

He made the remarks in a meeting with the freed Iranian diplomats who were captured by the US troops after a raid of the Iranian Liaison Office in Iraq’s Kurdish city of Arbil on 11 Jan. 2007.

Xinhua

Brazil to continue reducing deforestation

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 Oct — Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Tuesday that Brazil will continue its efforts to reduce deforestation rate by 70 percent by 2017, and by 50 percent by 2020. Lula made the remarks during a one-day EU-Brazil Summit in Sweden, the country holding the EU presidency.

But Lula said the goal of zero deforestation was impossible to achieve in Brazil.

“It is a goal which will demand an incomensurable effort from the Brazilian society,” Lula said, adding that in 2009, Brazil would register the lowest deforestation rate in two decades.

Jose Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission, considered Brazil’s deforestation targets ambitious, and urged other countries with tropical forests to commit to the same effort.

Xinhua

36 people killed in landslides, floods in western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 7 Oct — At least 36 people were killed in western parts of the country on Tuesday due to landslides and floods triggered by incessant rain since the last couple of days, The Kathmandu Post reported on Wednesday.

According to the daily, 12 people, including seven children, were killed at the Ghorkhagon settlement in Dadeldhura district, some 525 km west of Kathmandu, when a landslide buried two houses in the area. The landslide has rendered the settlement inhabitable, said police personnel involved in the rescue. Besides Ghorkhagon, the other parts of Dadeldhura were also struck by landslides but no human casualties occurred.

The unceasing rain, meanwhile, destroyed a large area of farmland in different villages. Similarly, floods at the Ranigaon River and Panitura have deluged three inner-tara Village Development Committees (VDCs) in the district. Hundreds of people have been displaced.

In Achham district, some 330 km west of Kathmandu, 18 people in three VDCs were killed in landslides. At least two people died in Bajhang district, some 450 km west of Kathmandu, when a house was buried in a landslide, police said.

Xinhua

Man wins lottery prize during embezzlement case

A former Kansas radio executive who admitted that he embezzled to support an addiction to scratch-off lottery tickets won a $96,000 lottery prize.

Prosecutors say the prize money will go toward paying restitution to Paul W Lyle’s former employer, American Media Investments.

Lyle pleaded guilty on Thursday to felony theft for embezzling an estimated $88,000 from American Media.

It was during his preliminary hearing 21 Sept that Lyle was notified he had won a prize in a second-chance lottery drawing. The prize includes a boat, cash and tickets to a NASCAR race at the Kansas Speedway.

Lyle will be sentenced 30 Nov. His conviction carries a sentencing range of five to 17 months in jail or prison. But prosecutors say Lyle likely will get probation because he has no previous felony convictions.

Two arrested with ‘cocaine sandwiches’ at Dutch airport

Dutch police have arrested two people at Amsterdam’s Schiphol airport for allegedly having hidden three kilograms (6.6 pounds) of cocaine in sandwiches, authorities said on Thursday. Inspectors found the drugs last week in 33 sandwiches in the luggage of the two, a 30-year-old man from Suriname and a Dutch woman, 56.

“With the unpacking of the sandwiches... it transpired that they were not fit for consumption,” said a military police statement. “They were filled with about 100 grams of cocaine each.”
**Energy Minister inspects progress of laying natural gas pipeline**

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi on 5 October viewed the laying of 24-inch diameter natural gas pipeline across Twantay Canal being undertaken by Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise.

Officials of MOGE reported on matters related to laying the natural gas pipeline. The minister gave necessary instructions. Over 2,010 feet long natural gas pipeline will be laid under 31 feet underground of Twantay Canal.

In Kungyangon Village of Kawhmu Township, the minister inspected stockpiling of 24-inch diameter pipelines to be used in laying of natural gas pipeline at Kungyangon-Twantay Twantay Canal being undertaken by Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise.

**HK food test shows 13 unsatisfactory samples**

HONG KONG, 7 Oct—Hong Kong’s Center for Food Safety Wednesday reported on matters related to laying of natural gas pipeline. The officials of MOGE reported on matters related to laying the natural gas pipeline. The minister gave necessary instructions. Over 2,010 feet long natural gas pipeline will be laid under 31 feet underground of Twantay Canal.

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These days, a hot news item is the US’s possible new direction for its relations with Myanmar. Media are broadly reporting that economic sanctions cannot fulfill the political requirements, so the US will impose economic sanctions and engage with Myanmar simultaneously as its new policy towards Myanmar. It has not been clear yet how it will do to achieve its goal. My opinion in this context is that economic sanctions against Myanmar have adverse effects on the people, from all strata of life and they will not be able to bring their objectives to fruition.

It is not fair that economic sanctions are imposed as a tool to put political pressure on Myanmar. Economic sanctions do not contribute to the drive for ensuring human rights and democratic process, but they hurt economic and social development of the people on a large scale. Myanmar, a small nation, still has to cope with internal armed insurgency triggered by the evil legacy of the colonialism. So, economic sanctions also disrupt the projects for progress of border areas. In consequence, far-flung areas were behind other regions in development, and that has a direct strong impact on ongoing anti-narcotic drugs campaigns which are very demanding.

Economic sanctions are more of a hindrance than a help in anti-narcotic drugs programmes. However, the government is determined to keep on trying hard with self-reliance basis to be able to ward off the menace of narcotic drugs that pose dangers to the whole mankind and that should not be associated with political issues. Certain western powers have not viewed Myanmar’s objective conditions as they really are, and instead they on purpose show total disregard for the dramatic success Myanmar has achieved in a fight against narcotic drugs.

According to the broadcasts aired by some radio stations, the US government issued the list of 20 narcotic drugs producing and distributing countries on 15 September 2009, claiming that in the last 12 months, Bolivia, Venezuela and Myanmar failed to cooperate with the international community in a fight against narcotic drugs production and illicit trafficking, and it might impose sanctions against the three.

If its words into deeds, there will be nothing more than its imprudent pressure, turning a blind eye and a deaf ear to Myanmar’s anti-narcotic drugs campaigns. Imposing sanctions under the pretext of narcotic drugs elimination for political gains instead of rendering assistance is like fueling the problem. Although our government constantly issue news stories with profound evidences, attacks are made against Myanmar unusually regarding her anti-narcotic drugs programmes. So, that can be considered strange. What it should do in this regard is that it should render as much assistance as it can to Myanmar because Myanmar shows a sense of responsibility by putting great efforts into preventive and control measures to wipe out the dangers of narcotic drugs in the interest of the entire human beings.

Despite economic sanctions, Myanmar is trying to be the best of its ability to combat narcotic drugs, using its all possible sources to the highest degree. It is global knowledge that the country is cooperating with the international community through friendly relations to expedite the onerous tasks. For instance, Myanmar takes an active part in the drive jointly implemented by five Mekong Region countries and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes (UNODC). In addition, she is working together with China, Thailand, Laos, India, Bangladesh, the Russian Federation, Vietnam and the Philippines through a large number of agreements, memorandums of understanding and bilateral cooperation deals on anti-narcotic drugs.

Besides, Myanmar has joined the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) and shares news on narcotic drugs and experiences of drug elimination with other members. Due to its active cooperation and agreements with international organizations and neighbouring countries, Myanmar recently won recognition of the UN agencies that her anti-narcotic drugs campaigns worked beautifully. It also managed to expose worldwide famous cases got involved by international drug lords such as Operation “Soe San Zone” in which it seized 591.05 kilos of heroin blocks and the operation in which it seized 496 kilos of heroin blocks.

Thanks to cooperation for exchanging narcotics-related information with Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), China, and Thailand, Myanmar anti-narcotic drugs squads managed to seize 761.95 kilos of heroin blocks and 340,000 stimulant tablets with a street value of 7877.55 million kyats at Lwe Taw Kham checkpoint in Tachilek Township on 10 July 2009. Moreover, they exposed 10.368 million stimulant tablets, 819.35 kilos of heroin and 10 kilos of ICE and precursor chemicals and arms and ammunition with a total face value of 39.068.15 million kyats.

Recently, servicemen and members of the Myanmar Police Force launched an operation at risk to life to storm Laukkai for narcotic drugs, and seized 10.168 million stimulant tablets, 86.57 kilos of stimulant powder, 0.131 kilos of heroin, 0.19 kilos of ICE, 1371.37 kilos of ephedrine, 0.24 kilos of morphone, 14.1 kilos of ephedrine tablets, 34.32 kilos of caffeine, 0.8 kilo of raw opium, 3211.4 kilos of chemical powder, 2818.19 gallons of acid, 1392.89 gallons of chemical liquid, and 170 gallons of spirit with a current value of 16,149.58 million kyats and a lot of arms and ammunition.

These events show that Myanmar has achieved great success in a fight against narcotic drugs, and that should not lose international attention. Such an impressive achievement is largely due to the government’s correct policy and decisive aims.

In order to achieve such great success, the government formed the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, and laid down two strategies, three tactics and two methods. The two strategies are to fight narcotic drugs in all aspects as a national duty, to improve socio-economic life of national races in border areas, and to eradicate poppy growing. The three tactics are supply elimination, demand elimination and law enforcement. In order to speed up the two strategies and three tactics, the government is applying the three methods to uplift the belief, concept and morale of poppy growers and drug users, to ensure easy communication between hill and plain regions and between national races; and to improve the livelihoods and socio-economic life of local residents in far-flung areas.

Furthermore, Myanmar is in pursuit of the 15-year narcotic drugs elimination plan (1999-2014) with the target of freeing from narcotic drugs by 2014 in it. Under the plan, the government is encouraging cultivation of poppy-substitute crops apart from the supply elimination, reduction of demand, and law enforcement. In 2008-2009 poppy season, Myanmar could destroy 101,000.65 acres of poppy fields. In the meantime, it rendered assistance to the highlander poppy growers to engage in growing of alternative and other businesses. Farming of poppy-substitute crops is necessary for establishment of narcotic drugs-free zones, and that calls for huge funds. The government accelerates giving educative talks on dangers of narcotic drugs to artless, poor poppy cultivators, improving their living conditions, implementing poverty alleviation work to fulfill their basic needs, and bridging the development gap between hill regions and plains. The nation needs a great deal of international aid to realize those tasks. Nevertheless, it is the West Bloc countries that are imposing economic sanctions instead of providing assistance, thus forcing former poppy farmers to relapse into the bad livelihoods.

Now, the 15-year plan is in its third phase. The government is seeking all possible ways and means to mobilize international cooperation in the supply elimination, demand elimination and law enforcement tasks. However, the drug production and trafficking has not met its end yet in border areas where

No one shall be privileged on any ground and action will be taken against anyone according to the law if he gets involved in drug-related crimes. The government has to give punitive punishment to any organizations or individuals in terms of narcotic drugs crimes.

Aung Shin
Profound evidences of Myanmar’s…

(from page 8)

insurgents are still active. The government prioritizes combating narcotic drugs in line with the law in cooperation with international community in the tasks in order that the whole nation becomes a drug-free one on schedule.

No one shall be privileged on any ground and action will be taken against anyone according to the law if he gets involved in drug-related crimes. The government has to give punitive punishment to any organizations or individuals in terms of narcotic drugs crimes. That reflects the policy the government adheres to in connection with drug elimination tasks. Like other countries, Myanmar is effectively tackling such cross-border crimes as narcotic drugs production and distribution, and laundering the money gained through such businesses.

A review of the government’s policies and approaches and cooperation with international organizations in respect of narcotic drugs have made it very clear whether Myanmar is ignoring narcotic drugs crimes, or is constantly implementing the tasks with a sense of national duty. Therefore, the accusations associated with political issues are totally unreasonable. In conclusion, I would say that instead of lodging groundless accusations against Myanmar, they should all participate in and encourage the tasks Myanmar is implementing for drug elimination, reduction of poppy growing, provision of technical assistance and aid for cultivation of poppy-substitute crops, and the programmes to alleviate poverty of poppy growers.

**Translation MS **********

Cash donated second time for 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct—On behalf of Chairman of Leading Committee for Organizing the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2009 Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Chairman of Subcommittee for Raising Funds and Prize Presentation Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe attended the second-time cash donation ceremony for the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. Also present on the occasion were Secretary of Subcommittee for Organizing the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, Secretary of Sub-committee for Raising Funds and Prize Presentation Secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Tun Kyi and officials of 12 ministries, 24 private companies and four banking services.

First, Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe made a speech on the occasion, saying that the government held Myanmar traditional performing arts competitions spending a large sum of money every year with the aim of turning out polite and gentle citizens who valued Myanmar traditions. The competition has now turned the 17 times. The deputy minister expressed thanks to wellwishers. He stressed the need to make efforts paying special attention to realizing the objectives of the competition.

Next, the wellwishers donated cash and then the secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and the secretary of Subcommittee for organizing the competitions presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

Afterwards, a wellwisher Managing Director of KTM Purified Drinking Water U Kyaw San and Head of Office U Kyaw San and Head of Office Office U Wishu.

Next, Chief Justice U Aung Toe met the delegation led by Mr Ngo Duc Manh at Supreme Court, here, at 10.00 am today.

Also present at the meeting were Director-General of Supreme Court U Mya Thein, Director (Research) of the court U Myint Thein and Head of Office U Myint Nyunt.

Attorney-General U Aye Maung received the delegation led by Mr Ngo Duc Manh at the Attorney-General’s Office (Nay Pyi Taw), here, at 11.00 am. Present on the occasion were Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing, Deputy Director-General Daw Kyin San, Director U Kyaw San and Head of Office U Wishu.

Afterwards, the delegation left for Yangon at 1:20 pm by air and were seen off by CEC member of USDA Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and party at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

Chief Justice, Attorney-General receive Vietnamese delegation

Chief Justice U Aung Toe receives goodwill delegation led by Vice-Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly Office and Chairman of Vietnam-ASEAN Congressperson group Mr Ngo Duc Manh.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct—A visiting delegation led by Vice-Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly Office and Chairman of Vietnam-ASEAN Congressperson group of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Ngo Duc Manh arrived at here by air at 9.30 am today. They were welcomed by CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and party at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

Attorney-General U Aye Maung receives goodwill delegation led by Vice-Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly Office and Chairman of Vietnam-ASEAN Congressperson group Mr Ngo Duc Manh.—MNA
Stimulant tablets, chemicals seized in Laukkai

**Byline and Photos : Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)**

Kyaukse District, greening with trees

Kyaukse District of Mandalay Divisions is formed with Kyaukse, Myittha, TadaU and Singaing Townships. Kyaukse Township is located on Yangon-Mandalay motor road and rail road. It is well-known as nine motor road and rail road. Kyaukse Township is located on the northern part of Mandalay Divisions and is being used as an effort to preservation of natural forests, supplying water and use of firewood substitute fuel. Kyaukse and Kyaukse District was abundant with dams, creeks and lakes since the past. It stood at the highest position in paddy growing in Mandalay Division. Kyaukse District is now greening due to growing trees on the plains and hills, preservation of natural forests, supplying water and use of firewood substitute fuel.

**Kyaukse District**

Kyaukse District is one of the 13 districts under the arid zone greening project. Efforts are being made for greening Kyaukse District. On arrival at Kyaukse District Dry Zones Greening Department, the assistant director of the department explained our news crew about dry zone greening tasks in Kyaukse District. The road snakes itself to the summit of Mount Shwetharlyaung and in many sites the road goes downhill and uphill steeply. We saw Banyan trees along the road. The road has an area of 975 feet in height and has an area of 1,136 acres. We, Kyemon news crew took train from Nay Pyi Taw to Kyaukse in order to observe greening tasks of Kyaukse District. In 2005-2006, 13,000 acres in Kyaukse, 13,000 acres in Myittha and 11,000 acres in TadaU have been preserved as natural forests. Powered-stove is being used in an effort to substitute firewood with fuel. Small lakes were dug in the district in order to supply water and there are 69 small lakes in three townships. In addition, altogether 78 sediment-filtering dams have been built for exploration of underground water.

In 2005-2006, 13,000 acres in Kyaukse, 13,000 acres in Myittha and 11,000 acres in TadaU have been preserved as natural forests. In 2007, 78 sediment-filtering dams have been built for exploration of underground water. More than 50,000 trees were also planted. Altogether 427 trees were grown from 2000 to 2005 and more than 100 plants in 2006-2007. During the period of 1998 to 2004, 1,435 acres were put under plants in Kyaukse Township, 2,229 acres in Myittha Township and 2,260 acres in TadaU Township. Up to 1995, altogether 6,644 acres were covered with various species of trees.

Kyaukse District greening with trees

Nowadays, with the emergence of Kintar, Minye, Zetaw and Thinkwe dams to the townships in the arid zone. In the time of King Bodawphaya, districts were formed with four Panlaung districts and five Zawgyi districts were constituted in the time of King Bodawphaya, who founded Amrapura in Konbaung Period. Kyaukse is situated in the arid zone. In the time of King Anawratha, dams were built to ensure that there was no shortage of irrigation and drinking water. Nowadlys, with the emergence of Kintar, Minye, Zetaw and Thinkwe dams the township is in a position to grow a variety of crops.

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Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of Ministry of Defence attends …

Dhammayon, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and wife, the commander and officials offered robes, umbrellas, slippers and fans to Presiding Nayaka of Heyawama Shwebontha Monastery member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vepull-abhivamsa and members of the Sangha.

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and party watched semifinals and finals of Intha traditional 46-oar, student 46-oar, women’s 26-oar and over 100-oar boat races. Officials presented consolation prizes to the winners in the respective boat races. The commander presented first and second prize winners in 46-oar boat races. Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing awarded first prize winning Kelar Village boat team and second prize winning Ywagyi Village boat team in the men’s over-100 oar boat race.

After the ceremony, they cordially greeted the winners. Later, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and party paid homage to Presiding Nayaka of Nyaungshwe Sasana Weiponla Shwegu Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Vilash-abhivamsa.—MNA

Ma Sein-Kyauk Sin suspension bridge in Kalewa of Sagaing Division contributing to smooth transport for local people

Chairman U Kyaw Zin of Kalewa Township Peace and Development Council.

(From page 1)

“As Ma Sein has got 16-bed station hospital, BEHS (Branch) and police station, we had the bridge constructed so that health, education and social matters of the 12 village-tracts could be without delay and accident. He said that water flow Ma Sein creek is rough, and it would be unwise to cross the creek in hastiness; that sometimes, it is difficult to get to the other bank even with boat that they had to form bridge construction committee and had wooden bridge constructed; that the 7-feet wide and 570-feet long bridge was funded by cash assistance of well wishers and grant of the government.

Chairman U Aung San of Balaktha village PDC said “We had to cross the creek on foot previously. And we found that when it comes to rainy season, adults could manage to cross the creek. But, children and school boys faced difficulties in crossing the bridge alone. I am very glad to see the bridge.”

We also had an opportunity to observe the customs of the villagers who live on either sides of Ma Sein creek that is if somebody fall ill, every household sends its one family member to take care of the patient. Soon, as the bell rung, we saw students walking back home through Ma Sein-Kyauk Sin suspension bridge, and interviewed a student who said he was Maung Thein Zaw of Balaktha village studying at eighth grade. The boy also said that they have to cross the creek in water before the existence of the bridge; that they crossed the creek with boat when water level is rising; that they do not have to worry the tide now as the bridge had emerged.

Local people of Kalewa now are enjoying better transportation owing to the emergence of Ma Sein-Kyauk Sin suspension bridge resulted from assistance of the State and goodwill of well wishers.

Translation: TKK

Myanma Alin: 7-10-2009

Maung Thein Zaw
Student
Balaktha village.

Picturesque view of Kalewa in Sagaing Division.
About 400 children die annually in Fiji from preventable diseases

SIVU, 7 Oct—It was revealed this week by health authorities in Fiji that about 400 children under the age of five die from preventable or curable diseases annually. In 2008 alone there were 259 cases of syphilis in children according to statistics released Tuesday from the Ministry of Health.

This was mainly attributed to the fact that most of the clinics in Fiji were not family health clinics and that the majority of the mothers failed to attend ante natal clinics in their initial stages of pregnancies. Fiji Ministry of Health official and national adviser for family health, Josua Samuela, made this revelation based on annual statistics.

He said because some mothers had not undergone pregnancy checks in the first three months, conditions developed which could have been preventable if they had attended the clinics.

An emerging issue in the island nation with the potential of becoming a major public health problem is sexually-transmitted infections such as HIV/AIDS, syphilis and gonorrhea.

The infection of so many newborns with syphilis is because infected mothers booked very late or simply ignored antenatal care resulting in the passing of the infection to the unborn child, Dr Samuela said.

New findings about brain proteins suggest possible way to fight Alzheimer’s

WASHINGTON, 7 Oct—The action of a small protein that is a major villain in Alzheimer’s disease can be counterbalanced with another brain protein, researchers at the University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical Center have found in an animal study. The findings, available online this week in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, suggest a promising new tactic against the devastating illness, the researchers said.

The harmful protein, called beta-amyloid, is found in the brain and, when functioning properly, suppresses nerve activity involved with memory and learning. Its normal function can be likened to a red traffic light, restraining nerve cells from getting overexcited when they receive stimulating signals from neighboring cells. People with Alzheimer’s disease, however, accumulate too much beta-amyloid — the traffic light gets stuck on “red” and nerve cells become less responsive.

Another brain protein, called Reelin, acts as a “green light,” stimulating nerve cells to respond more strongly to their neighbors’ signals.

The new study shows that applying Reelin directly to brain slices from mice prevents excess beta-amyloid from completely silencing nerves.

Three Cambodians die of flu A/H1N1

PHNOM PENH, 7 Oct—The Cambodian Health Ministry said on Tuesday that two more Cambodians died of A/H1N1 virus so far, raising the total death number to three in Cambodia. A 24-year-old pregnant woman and a 41-year-old Cambodian man became the second and third person that died of the flu A/H1N1 after a 40-year-old woman died late last month.

“We all regret for those persons who died of the disease,” Mum Bun Heng, health minister said in a news conference at the Calmette Hospital here.

He also called all local people to take care of themselves from this flu and to live with hygiene and vaccination.

“we should be cautious in the upcoming Royal Water Festival which falls on 31 Oct to 3 Nov because people are crowded at that time, he said, calling on people who have infected with the flu should not go out this festival to avoid spreading it to other people.”

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Xinhua
Moms-to-be can pass on asthma to baby

MONTREAL, 7 Oct — Expectant mothers who have asthma but are not treated during pregnancy, heighten the risk of their babies having asthma, Canadian researchers said. Lead author Dr. Lucie Blais, a professor at the Universite de Montreal and researcher at the Hopital du Sacre-Coeur de Montreal and colleagues at the Sainte-Justine University Hospital Research Center examined a decade of health records for 8,226 children — from birth to age 10 — born to asthmatic mothers.

Parents of these children were also mailed questionnaires requesting additional facts concerning familial medical history, lifestyle habits and environment.

The study, published in the European Respiratory Journal, found 32.6 percent of children born to mothers who neglected to treat their asthma during pregnancy developed the respiratory illness themselves.

"Uncontrolled maternal asthma during pregnancy could trigger a trans-
England turn to Cahill and Hart

The duo replace Blackburn goalkeeper Paul Robinson, who has a hip injury, and Everton defender Joleon Lescott (calc), respectively.

For Hart, currently on loan at Birmingham from Manchester City, the call-up represents a chance to force his way into contention for a trip to the World Cup finals in South Africa next year. He joins fellow keepers Portsmouth’s David James and West Ham’s Robert Green in a squad from which Ben Foster was conspicuously absent.—Internet

Centreback Gary Cahill

LONDON, 7 Oct—Goalkeeper Joe Hart and centreback Gary Cahill have won late call-ups to England’s squad for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Ukraine and Belarus.

Gulbis upsets Stepanek at Japanese Open tennis

TOKYO, 7 Oct—Unheralded qualifier Ernests Gulbis of Latvia showed his potential by upsetting sixth seed Radek Stepanek in the first round at the Japan Open tennis tournament on Wednesday.

The 21-year-old Latvian, ranked 98th against Stepanek’s 16th, used his serve to score a solid 6-4, 6-4 victory over the Czech player.

Gulbis fired a total of 13 aces and saved all five break points against him 13 aces and saved all five break points against him.

The second halftime ended when the result was 1-1, so the referee gave two periods of extra time.

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Queiroz counting on fit Ronaldo for World Cup qualifiers

Buenos Aires, 7 Oct—Portugal coach Carlos Queiroz expressed his confidence on Tuesday that Real Madrid striker Cristiano Ronaldo would be fit for key World Cup qualifiers against Hungary and Malta on October 10 and October 14 respectively.

Ronaldo missed Real Madrid’s first Liga loss of the season at Seville last weekend with an ankle injury.

But Queiroz believes he will be fit and included him along with Rangers midfielder Pedro Mendes and Malaga striker Edinho among his 24-man squad.

Queiroz put his side through their paces at Obidos on Tuesday with six players missing because of fitness worries.

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Real estate trading in Jordan down 38% during January-September

AMMAN, 7 Oct—Trading in real estate sector in Jordan during the first nine months of 2009 plummeted by 38 percent compared with the same period in 2008, according to figures by the Lands and Survey Department on Wednesday.

The figures showed trading in the sector during the January-September period dropped to 3.1 billion Jordanian dinars compared with 5 billion dinars in the same period of 2008. Of the total amount of transactions during the first nine months, 3,595 deals were registered by non-Jordanians with a total value of 185.5 million dinars. Iraqis came first in the list of investors in terms of the total value of transactions with 89.99 million dinars, followed by Americans and Saudi Arabs.

Head of Jordan’s Housing Investors Society Zuhair Omari said the drop is not unexpected because of the global financial crisis, noting that the decline is much better than expected. "We expected a decline by 50 percent during the first three quarters of 2009 and the 38 percent drop is less than what expected. This is good and ushers in a imminent recovery in the sector," Omari told Xinhua.

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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

VOA, BBC—sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB—generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Relations Minister U Aung Kyi meets Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Yangon, 7 Oct—Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi, who is assigned duties as Relations Minister to communicate with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at Seinle Kantha Guesthouse, here, from 1 pm to 1.26 pm today.

Relations Minister U Aung Kyi meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at Seinle Kantha Guesthouse in Yangon.

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct—Donor U Maung Maung Lwin-Daw Aye Aye Hla (Ministry of Rail Transportation) and family presented various kinds of publications totalling 365 books to Director U Than Tun of Information and Public Relations Department (Head Office), here, for village libraries yesterday.

Those publications will be distributed to village libraries in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe and Nay Pyi Taw Taikon Townships.—MNA

Publications donated to village libraries

PROFOUND EVIDENCES OF MYANMAR’S DRUG ELIMINATION TASKS

Instead of lodging groundless accusations against Myanmar, they should all participate in and encourage the tasks Myanmar is implementing for drug elimination, reduction of poppy growing, provision of technical assistance and aid for cultivation of poppy-substitute crops, and the programmes to alleviate poverty of poppy growers.

AUNG SHIN