Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Towards successful realization of future policies and programmes of the State

The State Peace and Development Council, since its assumption of the State duties, has always been working in the interests of the nation and the people. Now, it has drawn up the roadmap to put the country back on the road to democracy. It is also in the interests of the Union and the people living in it and for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on 30 August delivered a speech on the future policies and programmes of the State. A mass rally in support of the Prime Minister’s speech was held at the Bahtoo Sports Ground in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Division.

At the mass rally, Rector of Mandalay Institute of Medicine Dr Soe Thin urged the entire national people including all those present at the rally to actively and unitedly take part in the tasks for the successful realization of the seven future policies and programmes of the State, to join hands to make the National Convention a success and to prevent undesirable disturbances and obstacles in the realization of the roadmap. Daw Tin Win, Professor of Archaeological Department of Mandalay University expressed her enthusiastic support, presenting the development of all sectors being witnessed by the people of Mandalay Division.

The Government has been working day and night for all-round development of the Union. As a result, the whole Union is now able to enjoy the fruits of the Government’s efforts. In the past, there were only 2.5 million acres of farmland in Mandalay Division but now there are more than 3.5 million. The thirty-seven dams that have been constructed in the division have been benefitting the farmers. The Paunglaung multi-purpose dam and Yeywa hydroelectric power projects are being implemented with added momentum to supply not only water for agricultural purposes but also for generating electricity.

As the Government is encouraging the emergence of industrial zones, there are altogether 9,211 State- and private-owned factories and workshops all over the nation. The education, health and transport sectors in the division are also experiencing development. A total of four major bridges and 1,300 small ones has been built in Mandalay Division. These are the fruits of development and programmes of the State and colleges. These are the fruits of development and programmes of the State and unitedly work for the people in Mandalay Division.

In the afternoon, Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Chairman U Aung Thaung went to Nawarat Sugar Factory in Pyigyaung Township, Mandalay, and also saw over raw materials and production process.

Drug trafficker gets jail term

Yangon Special Anti-drug Squad, acting on a tip-off on 6 March searched his dwelling of No 84, Thuka Street, Ywama Ward in Insein Township and seized 57.15 grams of marijuana.

In connection with the case, Insein Police Station filed him by the law.

Earthquake report

A strong earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter Scale struck with its centre some 220 miles north of the Kaba Aye Seismological Observatory at 00:46:37 Myanmar Standard Time yesterday, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology under the Ministry of Transport.

Filling stations in Mandalay inspected

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman of Electricity and Fuel Use Supervisory Committee Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint and officials, inspected Filling Station No 0631 in Aungmyethazan Township and attended to the needs this morning.

They went to Aungpungle Sub-Power Station. Officials reported on supply of electricity.

Li-Gen Kyaw Win presents prize to Ma Waing Yu Ya Naing, who emerged as one of the Roadmap’s implementers in Mandalay Division.

Coord meeting of MNCWA held

The coordination meeting 2/2003 of the Myanmar National Committee for Women Affairs was held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this afternoon. Present on the occasion were the Myanmar National Committee for Women Affairs President Social Welfare, Relief and Rehabilitation Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, MNCWA MNWCWA Vice-president Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Advisers to the MNWKAWC Daw Khin Thar Nwe, Daw Khin Tay Thet, Daw Thun Than Nwe and advisers, member of Panels of Patroning of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, and members, patrons, the MNWKAWC members, members of the work committee for holding national seminar on women and sports, sub-committee members and invited guests.

President Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint made an opening speech. Then, member of the work committee for holding national seminar on women and sports Professor Daw Mya Mya presented a report on arrangements for holding the seminar to be held on 28 and 29 September. Sub-committee members briefed on tasks of the respective sub-committees to be done.

Afterwards, those present on the occasion took part in the discussions and the meeting came to a close with concluding remarks by the deputy minister.

Industry-1 Minister inspects No 3Soap Factory

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung yesterday inspected No 3 Soap Factory of the Myanmar pharmaceutical Industries in Mandalay and gave instructions on distribution of quality soap at fair price.

Cash and medicines donated to Muslim Home for the Aged

As part of hailing “International Day for Older Persons”, which falls on 1 October, trust funds were raised and medicines were donated at a ceremony held at the Muslim Home for the Aged on Pyithaya Street, Thingangyun Township, here, this morning.

Vice-Chairman of the work committee for observance of “International Day for Older Persons” Director of the Social Welfare Department U Bo Than thanked the Government for taking up the issues of older persons. He also thanked the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Muslim Home for their cooperation.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe addresses the work coordination meeting of the Working Committee for the MNWCA.

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Two killed in suicide car bomb near UN Iraq HQs

Baghdad, 23 Sept—A suicide attacker detonated a car bomb in the car park of the UN headquarters in Baghdad on Monday, killing himself and a security guard, a month after a huge truck bomb at the building killed more than 20 people.

“This is a suicide bomb,” Captain Sean Kirley, a US officer at the scene, told Reuters. He said more than eight people had been wounded in the blast.

The explosion came on the eve of the UN General Assembly in New York, which an Iraqi delegation was due to attend. One of those due to represent Iraq at the assembly, Iraqi Governing Council member Akila al-Hashemi, was critically wounded on Saturday when gunners attacked her car in Baghdad.

Kirley said the blast happened about 8:10 am (0410 GMT), around 250 metres from the United Nations headquarters, and destroyed at least six other vehicles. He said the car bomber drove into the car park and was stopped by an Iraqi security guard before reaching the parking lot’s main checkpoint.

“The driver and the guard engaged in conversation and the bomb was detonated from inside the vehicle,” Kirley said.

The damage to the office and its contents, he said, was caused by the explosion and the subsequent fire. There was no US casualties, Kirley said.

Washington has said last month’s truck bombing was probably the work of Saddam Hussein loyalists or militants linked to Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda network.

The rising death toll in Iraq is putting more pressure on President George Bush at home as he seeks a new UN resolution to create a multinational force for Iraq.

But France and Germany, opponents of the US-led war that toppled Saddam, are demanding that the United States agree to a fast handover of power to Iraq. The United States believes a speedy power transfer would lead to failure.

Leaders of France and Germany stood firm on their demand at weekend talks in Berlin with Britain’s Tony Blair, casting doubt on whether talks with the United States this week will make progress. Bush, who is to address the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, said he did not consider it essential to grant the United Nations a larger political role to obtain a new resolution backing the multi-national occupation force.

“I’m not so sure we have to, for starters,” he said.

Poll shows for first time, majority of Britons oppose Iraq war

London, 23 Sept—Support for the Iraq war among British voters continues to plummet with a majority being against it for the first time that the conflict was unjustified, a poll showed.

A total of 53 percent of voters believe war was unjustified with 38 percent backing the conflict, according to the ICM poll published in The Guardian.

Immediately after the Iraq war in April, British public support for the war stood at 63 percent, falling to 51 percent in July. The latest poll’s findings are a further blow to Prime Minister Tony Blair, who is facing the biggest crisis of his six-year tenure over the suicide of David Kelly, the British scientist at the centre of a BBC report that London exaggerated the threat posed by Iraq.

The fallout from Kelly’s suicide and opposition to the invasion of Iraq has resulted in the lowest voter support for Blair’s ruling Labour party in more than a decade, according to The Guardian. Only 35 percent of voters are willing to back the party in the next general election, due mid-2006 at the latest, according to the ICM survey.

However, Labour has managed to hold on to its five percentage point lead over the opposition Conservatives since last month. Britain’s third main party, the Liberal Democrats, have made significant gains following victory last week in a key London by-election, which saw them wipe out a large Labour majority.

According to ICM, support for the Liberal Democrats is up six percentage points on last month — standing at 28 percent — two points behind the Conservatives and their lowest in the poll for four years.

The telephone survey of 1,002 adults was conducted last weekend, following Labour’s humiliating defeat in the by-election.

HK people enjoy longer

Hong Kong, 23 Sept—The life expectancy at birth of Hong Kong people is about 10 years longer, compared with that of 30 years ago, local Press reported Saturday.

According to statistics made by Hong Kong’s Department of Health, the life expectancy at birth reached 78.6 years among males and 84.5 years among females in 2002, compared with approximately 67 among males and 75 among females in the early 1970s.

Consultant of the Department of Health Tse Lai Yin was Saturday quoted as saying that apart from the life expectancy, other major health indices, including the infant mortality rate, maternal mortality ratio have been all remaining consistently at a highly satisfactory level over the past three decades.

Pakistan, China to enhance cooperation in “IT” sector

Islamabad, 23 Sept—Pakistan and China Saturday agreed to expand cooperation in information technology (IT) sector, according to Radio Pakistan.

Pakistani Minister of Information Technology Awasilah Khan Leghari and the visiting 12-member Chinese delegation led by Vice-Minister of Information Industry Lou Qinjian discussed IT cooperation in Islamabad Saturday.

Awasilah Leghari invited Chinese companies to invest in IT sector in Pakistan and said both countries should take practical steps to boost business relations and long-term basis.

Chinese, Russian economic cooperation grows rapidly

Beijing, 23 Sept—Bilateral trade volume between China and Russia is hopefully to reach 14 billion US dollars, a new high for the fifth consecutive year, said sources with the Chinese Ministry of Commerce here Sunday.

Statistics with the General Administration of Customs of China show that bilateral trade volumes over the past four years were 5, 72, 8, 10 and 11.92 billion US dollars respectively.

Gao Zhongyi, a research fellow of the Development Research Centre of the State Planning Commission, told MNA/Xinhua that the two nations can also cooperate in fields like energy resources and chemical industry, the Chinese media reported Sunday.

Statistics show that bilateral trade volumes over the past four years were 5, 72, 8, 10 and 11.92 billion US dollars respectively.

Gao said that China has a large market and a strong ability to absorb foreign capital, while Russia has abundant energy resources and a stable political situation. He added that the cooperation in the two areas will bring the greatest economic benefits to the two countries.

Mr. Gao said cooperation in the field of IT would provide a strong foundation for the bilateral economic cooperation.

His visit was at a crucial period for building up China and Russia’s IT cooperation, he said.

Gao said that the cooperation in the IT sector indicates the economic cooperation has entered a new stage.

Guatemalan police seize 1.4 tons of cocaine

Mexico City, 23 Sept— Guatemalan police seized 1.4 tons of cocaine in the northern province of Peten, reports from Guatemala City said Sunday.

Police and security forces conducted a search late Saturday night near a village in Peten, after being tipped off the landing of a light airplane from Colombia, which carried the drug valued at 17.6 million US dollars, Guatemalan authorities said. The suspected drug traffickers escaped, they said.

Guatemala has stepped up anti-drug efforts since the start of this year, and has seized more than 8 tons of cocaine so far this year.

The first batch of passengers taking Shanghai’s magnetic levitation train built with German technology have a close look at the carriage at a metro station in Shanghai, China, on 20 September, 2003. The train, linking Shanghai Pudong Airport and the city’s financial district with a maximum speed of 420 kilometers (260 miles) per hour, will run on Saturday and Sunday as well as on the National Day holidays from Oct. 1 to 7, 2003 ahead of beginning of regular service scheduled for late this year. — Reuters

The New Light of Myanmar Wednesday, 24 September, 2003
Annan urges global unity on Iraq's future

UNITED NATIONS, 23 Sept—After a year of bitter division, Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged world leaders Tuesday to bury the hatchet over the US-led invasion of Iraq, and unite to ensure the creation of a democratic nation at peace with its neighbours.

In his prepared address to the opening of the UN General Assembly’s ministerial meeting, Annan said “a successful outcome in Iraq” was a top priority and if the international community needs extra time to forge agreement on a policy that is workable, “I for one would regard that time as well spent.”

The secretary-general’s strong support for global unity on Iraq’s future was almost certain to win strong support from President Bush, who is expected to make a similar appeal when he addresses the annual meeting soon after Annan.

US Ambassador John Negroponte said Bush will make “a call to action” for the international community to work together “to support the emergence of a democratic, peaceful and free Iraq which is at peace with itself and with its neighbours. We think the international community needs extra time to forge agreement on a policy that is workable.”

Annan virtually echoed those words in his prepared text. Whatever view each of us may take of the events of recent months, it is vital for all of us that the outcome is a stable and democratic Iraq — at peace with itself and with its neighbours, and contributing to stability in the region,” he said.

Last year, Bush came to the General Assembly to challenge its member states to confront the “grave and gathering danger” of Saddam Hussein’s Iraq — or stand aside as the United States acted alone.

In the months that followed, France, Germany, Russia and other nations opposed the war and were incensed when the United States attacked Iraq without Security Council approval. —Internet

Mahathir says no policy change in Malaysia after change of top leader

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Sept—Malaysia will not change its current policies when Minister Mahathir Mohamad said on Saturday. “At the end of October, I will relinquish the post hopefully because there is a successor. There is no power struggle among us,” Mahathir said in his speech when launching the 50th anniversary of the Barisan Nasional (BN) Power Sharing Excellence at the Merdeka Stadium here. Mahathir announced his decision to step down from top posts of the government and the ruling party in June last year and later he appointed Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as his successor.

“We are a group of government with joint responsibilities and believe in the policies of BN,” he said, adding “that’s why when Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi takes over, he openly pledges to continue with the BN struggle.”

BN, Malaysian ruling coalition consisting of 14 political parties, was founded in 1974. Its predecessor, the Alliance Party, was set up 50 years ago.

He said BN members and the people need not worry about Abdullah’s commitment to the BN cause.

MNA/Xinhua

US Air Force leaders lashed in academy sex report

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept—Congressional investigators on Monday attacked a “chasm in leadership” in the US Air Force for its failure to halt a decade of sexual assaults against female cadets at the elite Air Force Academy.

In a scathing report, an independent panel appointed by Congress to probe a scandal that has rocked the service said former top Air Force officials and those who led the academy should be made to answer for allowing the problem to continue.

It recommended that the Pentagon inspector general investigate the failure to respond to clear signals of a culture against women at the school that trains Air Force officers. But it did not call for punishment, saying that was up to the Pentagon.

The seven-member group said allegations of 142 sexual assaults against women had been made at the Colorado school over the past 10 years. It said the Air Force had been to hold the pattern or punish those guilty until earlier this year when the issue became public.

“The sexual assault problems at the academy are real and continue to this day,” former Republican Representative Tillie Fowler of Florida, who headed the panel, told reporters.

“In examining the evidence … we found a deep chasm in leadership during the most critical time in the academy’s history—one that led to misconduct on its campus in Colorado Springs,” she said at a news conference.

“Sadly, we believe that this chasm in leadership helped create an environment in which sexual assault became a part of life” at the 4,000-student school at the footloths of the Rocky Mountains — MNA/Reuters

Survey shows debt becomes biggest worry for young Britons

LONDON, 23 Sept—One-in-three of young Britons say debt is their biggest worry and believe they will be paying off what they owe for years to come, according to the latest survey by a leading bank in the country.

Student loans, credit cards and cheap borrowing will focus on the promotion of hi-tech products and goods aimed at cracking down on the production and sale of fake products and shoddy goods across China. As a national annual inspection campaign is jointly launched by the State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, and China Association for Quality Promotion.

Professor Changchung, deputy director of the administration, spoke at the ceremony, saying that this year’s campaign will focus on the promotion of hi-tech products and goods of famous brands. — MNA/Xinhua

A police officer keeps an eye on a group of protesters demonstrating against British involvement in the Iraq war in London's Parliament Square Saturday.

The longest pizza in Indonesia attracts customers at the Carrefour Supermarket in Jakarta on 21 Sept, 2003. The pizza was cooked with 150 kilogrammes of flour, 60 kilogrammes of cheese and 70 kilogrammes of vegetables with a length of 50.05 metres and a width of 0.55 metres.—Xinhua

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Student loans, credit cards and cheap borrowing are the biggest financial burden in the future, compared with just 13 per cent across all age groups, said the report.

Clearing debts, often run up at university, is seen as an even bigger worry among young people than getting a job, according to the report. 24 per cent of people thought paying for their children’s education would be their greatest concern 10 years’ time.

At the same time, 17 per cent of people thought their greatest concern would be putting aside enough money for retirement. Around 13 percent of Britons think paying for healthcare will be the biggest drain on their finances and 11 per cent are worried about buying their first home.

MNA/Xinhua

China launches nationwide quality inspection campaign

China launches nationwide quality inspection campaign

A police officer keeps an eye on a group of protesters demonstrating against British involvement in the Iraq war in London's Parliament Square Saturday.
Leaders tackle “AIDS”, terror amid Iraq wrangle

UNITED NATIONS, 23 Sept—World leaders debate ways to fight two global scourges — AIDS and terrorism — on Monday at the start of a week of top-level United Nations diplomacy to be dominated by differences over Iraq.

At twin conferences in New York on the eve of the annual high-level segment of the UN General Assembly, presidents and prime ministers discuss the root causes of terrorism and seek more funds to fight the spread of AIDS in developing nations.

“Terrorism can have an environment where we have failed states, where we have a misuse of religion and where also in the upbringing of children, hate is exploited. You have some of these elements in the Middle East today,” Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik told CNN television.

The leaders of France, Pakistan, Brazil, Nigeria and Spain are on the podium, but the Israeli and Palestinian foreign ministers may inject a note of acrimony at a time when violence has again shattered efforts to revive Middle East peace talks.

France, Germany and to an extent Russia, which opposed the invasion of Iraq, want a bigger political role for the United Nations and a timetable for handing sovereignty to Iraq on a new UN resolution to underpin the reconstruction effort.

Although they do not plan to offer troops, their support could provide diplomatic cover for states such as Turkey, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh to contribute peacekeepers, despite domestic political opposition in those countries.

Paris is not threatening to veto the US text or seek confrontation, and UN diplomats say the real issue is framing a resolution that will give Iraqis a path to self-rule and convince other countries to put in troops and money.

“A weak resolution may command 15 votes, but it may not have any real outcome in terms of changing the situation in Iraq,” said Chilean Ambassador Heraldo Munoz, whose country has a seat on the 15-nation Security Council.

MENA/Reuters

Turkey sends liaison team to US headquarters in Baghdad

ANKARA, 23 Sept—A Turkish liaison team has been sent to the US headquarters in Baghdad to coordinate activities between Turkish and US units in northern Iraq, the Turkish military announced Monday.

The move was taken according to an agreement reached between Turkish and US officials, said a statement issued by the Turkish General Staff.

The Turkish liaison team left for Baghdad on Sunday after completing all necessary preparations.

Washington has asked Ankara to send about 10,000 peace keepers to bolster efforts to secure postwar Iraq.

The US side recently agreed at last that it would cooperate with Turkey in launching battles against outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) militants who are active in northern Iraqi mountainous areas.

But Ankara was reported to be waiting for concrete US plan to wipe out PKK rebels, a precondition for a decision to despatch Turkish soldiers to Iraq.

MENA/Xinhua

Seven people killed in US helicopter crash

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept—The seven people aboard a sightseeing helicopter that crashed in Grand Canyon, Arizona, on Saturday were all dead, authorities said Sunday.

The French-made Aérospatiale helicopter, carrying a pilot and six passengers including at least four foreigners, had taken off from the Grand Canyon West Airport for the bottom of the canyon, Federal Aviation Administration operations officer Larri Frelow said.

The helicopter crashed after noon Saturday in rugged terrain, and burst into flames upon impact, a spokesman of the Mohave County Sheriff’s Office said.

Two of the passengers were Japanese and at least two others were German, he said. He added that the pilot was also a Japanese, and the helicopter was owned by a Las Vegas-based company.

The National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration were investigating the incident.

MENA/Xinhua

Study says forestry waste could help meet Kyoto targets

TORONTO, 23 Sept—European countries could help meet their Kyoto emissions requirements by using forestry waste products like leaf-topped trees, stumps and foliage to produce energy, scientists said on Sunday.

Stumps, branches, tree tops and other foliage left in forests by logging firms release carbon dioxide over time as they decompose. Using the material as fuel to produce electricity, or processing it into pulp and paper, could cut down on greenhouse gas emissions, the scientists said in a report released before a World Forestry Congress meeting in Quebec City.

“The idea is economically feasible and has a lot of potential,” said Peeka Kauppi, a professor of environmental science and policy at the University of Helsinki.

Kauppi is one of about 150 scientists worldwide who have worked on a report on global forest issues for United Nations University, which, in collaboration with the Finnish Forest Research Institute and the European Forest Institute, started the project in 1996.

“Te’s already clear that a number of countries will have great difficulty meeting their Kyoto emissions targets,” said

Professor Hans van Ginkel, UN undersecretary-general and rector of Tokyo-based United Nations University.

The report shows that using just a third of the leftover wood from logging could allow the European Union, for example, to cut its carbon dioxide emissions by between 4 per cent and 6 per cent.

The report estimates that the leftovers could produce the electricity equivalent of 8 million tons of oil, roughly the amount used each year in Ireland, Finland and Denmark.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, the European Union is required to slash by 2010 its combined emissions of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases, blamed for global warming, to an average of 8 per cent below 1990 levels.

MENA/Reuters

UNODC says drugs fuelling terrorism

NEW YORK, 23 Sept—Warning that drug trafficking bankrolls global terrorism, the head of the United Nations anti-narcotics agency has called on Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to step up the war on illicit drugs, especially in view of large-scale opium production in nearby Afghanistan.

The trafficking in opium, in the territories of CIS has a negative effect on the health of the population, like the current catastrophic scale of HIV/AIDS in the region.

Executive Director of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Antonio Maria Costa, told a CIS foreign ministers’ meeting in Yalta, Ukraine.

Besides, he stressed, it also nourishes organized crime, laundering of enormous profits from narco-trafficking, and the resulting spread of corruption, illicit trafficking in firearms and human beings. All this together is financially fuelling global terrorist operations.

Costa said — MNA/PTI

Bill Gates donates $168m to fight malaria

CAPE TOWN (Mozambique), 23 Sept—The world’s richest man donated $168 million US dollars to fight malaria on Sunday, and urged the world to intensify its battle against a disease which kills more than one million people a year, mainly in Africa.

“It’s time to tackle Africa’s malaria epidemic like the crisis it is,” said Microsoft chairman Bill Gates during a visit to the southern African country of Mozambique.

“Malaria is robbing Africa of its people and its potential — beyond the extraordinary human toll, malaria is one of the greatest barriers to Africa’s economic growth, draining national budgets and deepening poverty,” he told reporters.

Malaria is the biggest killer in Africa alongside HIV/AIDS, killing about 3,000 children a day and costing the world’s poorest continent around 12 billion US dollars a year in lost income. — MNA/Reuters

Bill Gates donates $168m to fight malaria

Contestants wear Qipaos, or traditional dress, during the final rehearsal for the Miss China beauty pageant in Sanya on Hainan Island in Southern China on 20 September, 2003. The winner represents China in the Miss World beauty pageant to be held in Sanya in November.—INTERNET

Study says forestry waste could help meet Kyoto targets
**Bush has tough task convincing UN to help on Iraq**

**United Nations, 23 Sept—**President Bush faces stiff UN criticism of the policy of pre-emptive strikes on Tuesday when he tries to convince the nations to share the burden of occupying and rebuilding Iraq.

The president returns to the 191-member General Assembly a year after telling the United Nations it risked becoming irrelevant if it did not take a stand against Iraq. But he has no plans to apologize for the chaotic situation in Iraq and the failure to find the promised weapons of mass destruction, given as the main reason for the war, US officials said.

Minutes before he addresses the assembly, Secretary-General Kofi Annan takes an unusual swipe at the world’s only superpower, saying that unilateral military action without UN authority risks returning the world to the law of the jungle.

"My concern is that, if it were to be adopted, it could set precedents that resulted the world to the law of the jungle," Annan warned in his prepared text.

According to Annan, sidestepping the United Nations in waging war calls into question the entire structure of collective action forged when the United Nations was created on the ashes of World War II.

“We have come to a fork in the road. This may be a moment no less decisive than 1945 itself, when the United Nations was founded,” Annan said.

But he cautioned against just denouncing unilateralism without trying to understand what motivates countries to feel "uniquely vulnerable.” And he announced to the UN's high-level panel to rethink UN security structures.

Bush, whose job approval ratings have been in a deep slide due in part to his Iraq policy, also plans to call on the United Nations to solve such global challenges as weapons proliferation, Afghanistan reconstruction, the AIDS crisis, hunger and slaverty.

**Tehran, 23 Sept—**Iran does not believe a standoff with the United Nations nuclear watchdog over its nuclear programme will lead to sanctions, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Sunday.

The government of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), following intense US lobbying, passed a resolution earlier this month that could pave the way for sanctions if Tehran failed to prove by Novem ber that its nuclear activities were "totally transparent" and for peaceful ends.

"I do not believe Iran will reach a dead end which could lead to sanctions," Hamid Reza Asefi told reporters in Tehran, adding that Iran’s nuclear activities were “totally transparent” and for peaceful ends.

"We welcome any country that wants to cooperate with us," he said.

**London, 23 Sept—**Prime Minister Tony Blair met Sunday with his Spanish counterpart Jose Maria Aznar for talks on rebuilding Iraq and a wide range of European issues.

During the meeting at Blair’s country retreat of Chequers on Sunday afternoon, Blair and Aznar discussed efforts to forge a new international consensus on Iraq, European issues including defence, as well as Afghanistan and Middle East, a Downing Street spokesman said.

Blair and Aznar, both allies on the US-led war against Iraq, also discussed plans for an international donor’s conference to finance the rebuilding of Iraq, which was expected to take place from October 23 to October 24 in Madrid, the spokesman said.

**Web approves $18.5b loans to developing countries in 2003**

**Dubai, 23 Sept—**The World Bank said on Sunday that it has continued to support developing countries by approving loans and grants, amid tough economic situation, global uncertainty over the conflict in Iraq and the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

The loans and grants, which were used for financing 240 projects in developing countries, total 18.5 billion US dollars in the fiscal year ending on July 30, 2003, the World Bank said in a press release.

Among the total, 11.2 billion US dollars was approved by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and 7.3 billion US dollars by the International Development Association (IDA), which offers grants and soft loans to the world’s poorest countries.

The loans approved by both IBRD and IDA during the past fiscal year ending in June 2002 totalled 19.5 billion US dollars.

During the past year, the international community sharpened its focus on aid effectiveness, donor coordination, environmental sustainability and progress toward the meeting of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, the press release said. It noted the fact that more than 1 billion people now are living on less than one dollar a day.

**British, Spanish leaders discuss Iraq, EU issues**

**BOGOTA, Colombia, 23 Sept—**A Boeing 707 US-backed counter-narcotics mission was hit by a suicide attack on Monday while spraying drug crops over a Marxist rebel combat zone.

Colombian and US officials said a US Embassy spokesman in Bogota declined to speculate on the cause of the crash of the light propeller aircraft—the fifth downed plane so far this year in Colombia’s war against the world’s largest cocaine industry.

But President Alvaro Uribe told local television that there had been fighting between counter-narcotics forces and Marxist rebels in the northeast zone where the accident took place.

**Pilot killed on anti-drug mission in Colombia**

The pilot, Mario Alvarado, was identified by Colombian authorities as a Costa Rican national working for US Government contractor DynCorp. The United States has poured more than two billion US dollars in mainly military aid into Colombia in recent years.

**Fossilized skull of Peking Man exhibited in Beijing**

**BRUNO, 23 Sept—**A fossilized frontal bone of Peking Man, who lived about 500,000 years ago in what is now Zhoukoudian area of suburban Beijing, went on show Sunday for the first time since its discovery 37 years ago.

The frontal bone, discovered in 1966 by Pei Wenzhong, the late Chinese archaeologist, is the only piece of skull fossil of Peking Man in China. The frontal bone will be displayed at the Zhoukoudian Peking Man Site Museum from Sunday till October 7.

**An elderly woman stands next to a poster promoting Nokia handphone which features sending images via the Multimedia Message Services (MMS) at the financial district of Singapore. —INTERNET**

MNA/Xinhua

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**MNA/Xinhua**
Secretary-1 inspects factories in... (from page 16)
She said Myanmar national- owned Earth Group was est-
lished at the end of 1997. First, a factory was estab-
lished to produce transform-
ers and choke coil used in TV, video, refrigerator, air-
conditioners, camera and cellular phones. Based on
progress, thermal cut-offs factory was built in 1999 and
printed circuit board assem-
ly factory that produces adap-
tor, phone charger, fax
adaptor, phone charger, fax
printer in 2000.
She said the factory got
international recognition due
and printer in 2000. She said the factory got
international recognition due
and received certificate
of recommendation on safety
standard. The electronic
goods are exported to
ASEAN nations and the Peo-
ple’s Republic of China.
Next, quality control en-
gineer Mr. Kyaw Min reported
production of high qual-
ity electronic goods, progress
of the factory and products.
Managing Director of the
factory Daw Khang Zaw re-
ported on establishment of the
factory based on modern
science and technology with
the strength of the citizens,
transfer of technology from
abroad, nurturing skilled in-
telligence; arrangements for
establishment of more indus-
tries and requirements.
The Secretary-1 said the
government would give en-
couragement to similar indus-
tries that had good prospects.
He said necessary assistance
would be given after asking
about the requirements. The
Secretary-1 and party in-
spected production process,
testing and packaging at the
transformer and choke coil
factory, printed circuit board
assembly factory and ther-
mal cut-offs factory.
The Earth Group Co can
produce 3.5 million pieces
of 120 electronic items a
month with over 1,300 em-
eployees. The printed circuit
board assembly factory is
capable of producing over
120,000 pieces of ten elec-
tronic goods per month.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects electrical appliances produced by Texcel Co Ltd in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-2 on 22-9-2003. — MNA

Myanmar gets two gold in
Asia Track & Field
YANGON, 23 Sept — The
15th Asia Championship
Track and Field tournament
for 2003 continued in Ma-
nila, the Philippines, today.
Yin Yin Khang
(Myanmar) clocked 2 min-
utes 1.8 seconds in the 800
metres final (women) and
earned the gold medal. She
also secured the gold medal
in the 400 metres final (women) on 21 Septem-
ber.
Accompanied by Chair-
manship of Mandalay City De-
velopment Committee Man-
daly Mayor Brig-Gen Yan
Thein, Deputy Commander
of Central Command Brig-
Gen Nay Win and officials,
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected
construction of the retaining
wall of the approach road and
driving of bore piles on Paleik
bank of Myitnge Bridge Con-
struction Project on Yangon-
Mandalay Highway in Singaing Township, Manda-
lay Division. Officials re-
ported on work progress, sup-
ply of construction materials
and future plans. Lt-Gen Ye
Myint gave instructions on
meeting the set standard and
timely completion of the
project and inspected the driv-
ing of No 5 bore pile, laying
concrete foundation and con-
struction of the approach
structure on Mandalay bank.
Across the Myitnge River,
the reinforced concrete bridge
is 80 feet wide and 400 feet
long and its clearance is 80
feet wide and 8 feet and six
inches high. It can withstand
75-ton loads.
Lt-Gen Ye Myint and
party proceeded to Sagaing
and inspected Ayeyawady
Bridge (Yadanarbon) Con-
struction Project on Sagaing
bank. Officials reported on
progress in construction of
the approach road and ar-
rival of construction materi-
als, fuel and machinery. Lt-
Gen Ye Myint looked into
construction of the approach
road on Sagaing bank and
left necessary instructions.
Next, they inspected
driving of piles No RP-2 and
RP-3 on Mandalay bank.
Officials reported on
progress in construction of
the 1,140-foot main bridge
and the 1,928-foot approach
bridge. Lt-Gen Ye Myint
was given instructions.
In the afternoon, Lt-Gen
Ye Myint inspected Manda-
lay-PyinOoLwin Road Up-
grading Project. The project
manager reported on
progress of work and future
plans. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave
instructions to the officials.
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected
maintenance tasks and grow-
ing trees along the road.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint looks into the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanarbon) Construction Project on Mandalay bank. — MNA

Web Master Training Course
concludes
YANGON, 23 Sept — The
closing ceremony of the Web
Master Training Course, or-
anized by Myanmar Com-
puter Federation and assisted
by Center of the International
Cooperation for Computeri-
zation (CICC), was held in
MICT Park on 12 Septem-
ber.
It was attended by Vice-
Chairman e-National Task
Force U Aung Myint, Rep-
resentatives of the CICC Mr
Nagatani and Ms. Beida, CMC
President U Thein Oo, Vice-
Presidents Dr Kyaw Thein
and U Tin Win Aung, Chair-
man of Myanmar Computer
Scientists Association U
Thuang Tun and Vice-Chair-
person Prof Daw Nwe Nwe
Win, Chairman of Myanmar
Computer Industry Associa-
tion U Aung Zaw Myint and
Vice-Chairpersons Daw
Thaw Wah Tun and Daw Than
Than Tint.
MCFA Chairman U Thein
Oo and Mr Nagatani made
speeches. Course instructor
Mr Ryozi Hirasuka ex-
plained facts about the
course. Altogether 25 train-
eers attended the 20-day
course. — MNA

Myanmar wins Nation Cup
Golf qualifier
YANGON, 23 Sept.—The
Nation Cup Golf qualifier
for World Golf Tourney to be
held in USA in November
2003 was held at the Laguna
National Golf and Country
Club in Singapore from 18 to
21 September.
Kyi Hla Han and Aung
Win of Myanmar took part in
the tournament and stood first
with 227 strokes, having the
right to participate in the
World Golf Tourney.
Kyi Hla Han and Aung
Win of Myanmar stood first
with 66 strokes in the first
day 18-hole event, 70 strokes
in the second day event, 66
strokes in the third day event,
and 73 strokes in the fourth
day event ending total of 277.
In
and the People’s Repub-
ic of China finished 282
strokes each; and Hong Kong
third with 284 strokes.
Leading golfers from 16
countries participated in the
tournament.

Myanmar golfers Kyi Hla Han and Aung Win seen together with the championship Nation Cup. — MNA

Myanmar gets two gold in Asia Track & Field

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ic of China finished 282
strokes each; and Hong Kong
third with 284 strokes.
Leading golfers from 16
countries participated in the
tournament.
I was transferred to Homein and Monetha regions for the whole year in 1996, after I had discharged the duties of the Working Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Kokang and Wa regions in 1995. When I arrived back from Homein, I got the opportunity to video-tape the developments of the Shan State (East) Special Region 4 in cooperation with the Myanmar TV. It might be that because of my artistic desire, a wish came into my mind to feature a poem at the end of the video footage. The one who composed the poem was Myinnun Maung Naing Mo (Mined La-Col Ohn Maung). He too had discharged duties in Ma-yoe-yan near Homein on the bank of the Thanlwin River for a certain period. It might be that because he had sensed the taste of peace in the breeze that came from the Thanlwin, he gave the heading of his poem — The flower that blooms on Thanlwin. He gave the poem to me as a present.

Since then, all the national races in the whole northern Shan State have been enjoying peace in unity. They included the members of the Kokang, Wa, SSA, KDA, FSLA, SSNA, SSNA (splinter group), MTA (Manpan) and MTA (Monetha/Moneha) national races and armed groups. Except from the Kokang groups, I was no stranger to those groups. I had faced with those groups in various positions and situations.

Some of us became friends after a quarrel, they have been more friendly and intimate. The Wa people returned to the legal fold on 9 May 1989. I was in Loi-in Camp, when they returned to the legal fold. The Wa troops were launching military operations in all the places in the southern Mongyaung, Monetha/Moneha, and up to Monetaung, Monema, Nonghlaing, Manpan, Loiwo, Patan, Myaw and Monkyaw regions in the north of Tagnyan. Thus, the Loimaw group had to move to the places along the Thanlwin in the north-east regions, and there it encountered with Wa troops. On a certain day near the end of 1990, I had to welcome about 20 persons of the brass of the Wa army at Takaw-et jetty, and took them to Tagnyan on a raft and continued to Panphein and Weinkaung regions. Although there was a road for military use, there were no cars to transport them. The military units had to make arrangements to provide rations. They had to walk to Tagnyan to get medical supplies. They loaded the medical supplies on the mules and carried some by themselves though there was a road for military use, and crossed the river from the jetty, and continued to Tangyan to get medical supplies. They loaded the medical supplies on the mules and carried some by themselves.

Having been transferred to No 1 tactical operations command, the Wa troops did no get angry, instead, they understood the situation. Our tactical operations commander who never smoked, was smoking cheroots the Wa presented to him. He also enjoyed the spicy food cooked by the Wa troops.

In 1990, the border area development drive was gaining momentum in Wa region. Our tactical operations command was giving supervision and assistance to the troops. They then crossed the Thanlwin on a raft and continued to Panphein and Weinkaung regions. Although there was a road for military use, there were no cars to transport them. The military units had to make arrangements to provide rations. They had to walk to Tagnyan to get medical supplies. They loaded the medical supplies on the mules and carried some by themselves.

During an encounter, we met over 200 Loimaw men on a ridge. The command commander asked for air support. Coordination was made between the Tatmadaw and the Wa troops to stay within the restricted areas during the aerial bombing of the enemy. But, the Wa troops were so anxious and climbed up the mountain range and cleared the enemy. Thus, some of them were wounded as they were in the targets of the aerial raid. But the Wa troops did not get angry, instead, they understood the situation. Our tactical operations commander who never smoked, was smoking cheroots that were introduced by the Wa presented to him. He also enjoyed the spicy food cooked by the Wa troops.

His poem — The flower that blooms on Thanlwin. He gave the poem to me as a present. I was transferred to No 1 tactical operations command, and the Wa troops were staying within the restrictions areas during the aerial bombing of the enemy. But, the Wa troops were so anxious and climbed up the mountain range and cleared the enemy. Thus, some of them were wounded as they were in the targets of the aerial raid. But the Wa troops did not get angry, instead, they understood the situation. Our tactical operations commander who never smoked, was smoking cheroots that were introduced by the Wa presented to him. He also enjoyed the spicy food cooked by the Wa troops.

I had faced with those groups in various positions and situations.

Some of us became friends after a quarrel, they have been more friendly and intimate.

### Efficient use of electricity

- Use daylight as the main source of light
- Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

### Efficient use of fuel

- Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US $5.5 million in a year
- The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

### All this needs to be known

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appeased

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**Myanmar Wushu team leaves for China**

**YANGON, 23 Sept —**

Myanmar Wushu team headed by President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay left here by air this morning to participate in the Second Asia Youth Wushu Championship to be held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, from 5 to 12 October. The team was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Sports and Physical Education Department and Paloktok Journal.

**Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Rehabilitation Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint presents a prize to a child, who won an award at the painting competition at nursery school level, jointly organized by the Social Welfare Department and Paloktok Journal. — NLM**

**Myanmar Wushu team seen at Yangon International Airport before their departure for China. — NLM**
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets departmental staff in Htantabin Township

YANGON, 23 Sept — State Peace and Development Council Chairman U Tint Naing Oo reported yesterday to the command yesterday and inspected the incubator there which can give heat for 10,000 eggs and hatch 6,800 eggs. He then arrived at Thiri Mingala Hall in Htantabin and met departmental staff, townsenders, social organization members and War Veterans Organization members there. Htantabin Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Tint Naing Oo reported on matters related to agriculture, livestock breeding, economic, education and health sectors. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made a speech. He said Myanmar is a country which relies on agriculture and livestock breeding. For the development of economic sector of the State, traditional methods as well as sophisticated methods are to be used in carrying out agriculture and livestock breeding tasks.

The State has already designated to extend growing 10 major crops, three perennial plants and three new fruits. It is needed to grow the crops suitable to the region. Particularly monsoon paddy, summer paddy, Mateo, PediSein, Pesingon, oil crops such as groundnut, sesame, sunflower and Thitseint. Growing of three new crops, pepper, tea and coffee are to be extended. For sufficiency of livestock breeding sector, officials concerned are to live in accordance with the six qualities of a superior. In addition, it is needed to make efforts with care for security and development of the region. Work for development of the region are to be done in accord with the five rural development tasks. In conclusion, he urged all to strive for successful implementation of the tasks for the township.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party visited Farmer U Maung Pu’s monsoon paddy field in the township where Division Myanma Agriculture Services Manager U Win Maung reported on completion of agricultural tasks. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on extended growing of paddy and educating the farmers for producing 100 baskets of rice per acre. It is targeted to grow 62,651 acres of monsoon paddy in the township in 2003-2004 and altogether 63,759 acres of land have been put under paddy up to date. So the percentage of completion is 100.77.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at the local battalion in Toungoo and met Tatmadawmen and their families there. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party visited Kyauktaing Coffee nursery of Extended Coffee Growing Project Office, Myanma Farms Enterprise on the Toungoo-Leiktho road.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects tasks for upgrading of the Kandawgyi Garden. (News on page 1) — MNA

Entries invited for colour photo competition

YANGON, 23 Sept — The committee for holding national motto, literature and photo competitions today announced that it will organize the 14th colour photo competition. The chosen title for the competition is “Our National Culture”. Contestants may send up to four prints measuring at least 10” by 12”. Entries are to be own creation and should not be prize-winning works. The complete caption relevant to the photo should be written. When sent, entries are to be enclosed with a brief biography and two passport-size photos of the contestant. Photos taken with digital camera will not be considered.

Entries should be sent to U Tun Min, Director, Information and Public Relations Department, Pansodan Street, Yangon, not later than 15 October. The list of winners will be announced in the first week of November, and winners will be awarded with handsome prizes. MNA
Enjoying peace, modernization and development in all aspects

It has been 15 years since Myanmar is seeing gradual progress in multi-sectors, with the restoration of peace and stability in the entire Union as the foundation of all restoration stories, ensuring the country on the correct way towards the goal — a democratic nation enjoying peace, modernization and development in all aspects.

But we have been able to follow the correct way to the goal only through hard work, unity and much sweat till arriving at the present stage of progress and prosperity.

We now have infrastructure needed for national development and further enhancing national unity.

Since its assumption of the State duties, the Government has been striving with might and main for the nation to see a well-rounded development in all sectors, and at the same time it is finding the best means to serve the interest of the people and fulfill their wish — the democratization of the nation and the adoption of the market-oriented economy.

The Government has introduced the political reforms and adopted the market-oriented economy, encouraging the private sector to emerge as a major force.

Tirelessly, it has been running the daily State functions, while building infrastructures needed for the nation-building task in all sectors, with the participation of all available forces — the people, the local authorities, the non-governmental organizations, the departments and the Tatmadaw — as the main driving force.

Knowing that nothing can be fully achieved without regional peace and stability, the Government has given priority to making peace negotiations with the armed national races groups in the jungles. And because of its sincerity, goodwill and hard work, 17 major armed groups have returned to the legal fold, thereby paving a smooth way for the national development drive to cover every part of the Union. As peace and stability is prevailing in the whole nation because of the success achieved in the national reconsolidation task, progress and prosperity have reached the entire Union including the less developed border areas where modern towns, large stretches of crop fields, schools, hospitals, bridges and roads and other facilities have taken over the place of the past battle grounds.

Because of the collective endeavours of the Government, the people, the NGOs, the local authorities, the departments and the Tatmadaw, within a short span of time, the whole Union is enjoying peace and stability and progress and prosperity, and the nation is on the correct road towards a democratic nation enjoying peace, modernization and development in all aspects.

Smooth transportation — key to national development

Our relatives had come to bid farewell to us when we left our native village for Pakokku. We left the village on a bullock cart and it was almost dawn. Although it was only two miles from our village to Pakokku, the motor road, it took a long time to reach the road. After reaching the road, we had to take an old Chevrolet motor car for four hours to reach Pakokku.

Later, we moved from Pakokku to Yangon. The journey was not a smooth one. We had to face many difficulties along the journey. But, at that time, I could not express my opinion of the journey.

Nowadays, there emerged a network of roads all over the country. People living in the rural areas are witnessing the emergence of village to village roads and village to town roads. In the past, the journey from Pakokku to Yangon took one night and two days but now one can reach Yangon from Pakokku overnight through Ayeyawady Bridge (Chauk). After setting in Yangon, we had no chance to take some vacation. At least, we could not pay homage to Zalun Pyawthuym Image although it is not far from the capital. Then, I have read an article on Bo Myat Tun Bridge. It would be worthwhile to know the future situation.

The 8,549 feet long Bo Myat Tun Bridge spanning the Ayeyawady River.

The 8,549 feet long Bo Myat Tun Bridge spanning the Ayeyawady River.

Diversion tunnels (outlet) of the Yeywa Hydropower Project being implemented as part of national development process.
The State has been striving for the development of the industrial sector based on agriculture. Many factories have been built across the country. The photo dated 5-9-2002 shows the cement plant of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Kyaukse Industrial Zone. — PHOTO: MNA

Only well-qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia can build a modern developed nation. With this end in view, the government is building many educational institutions in the country. The photo shows the Magway Institute of Medicine in Magway. PHOTO: MNA

A network of roads and bridges have been built across Ayeyawady Division. The photo shows 4,088 feet long Ayeyawady River (Dadaye) Bridge linking Kungyangon Township in Yangon Division and Dedaye Township in Ayeyawady Division. — PHOTO: MNA
Sino-Russian nuke plant to operate commercially next year

Nanjing, 23 Sept — The Tianwan nuclear power plant, a Sino-Russian cooperation project under construction on the east China coast, will see its No 1 generating unit connected to the local power grid next May.

An engineer in charge of the construction said the No 1 generating unit would begin commercial operation in December 2004. Tianwan nuclear power plant, in Lianyungang, a port city in east China’s Jiangsu Province, would eventually have six generating units and be commissioned in three stages.

Key technology for the power plant has been modelled on that of nuclear power stations in Russia and other countries. Tianwan power station will have four Russia-made pressurized water reactors.

The first phase of construction will include the installation of the No 1 and No 2 generating units with a combined capacity of 1.06 million kilowatts. Construction of the two generating units started in 1999 and 2000 respectively. The engineer said major equipment for the No 1 generating unit was all installed, with the installation of auxiliary equipment being finalized.

Civil engineering with the No 2 generating unit is completed. Equipment installation with this unit had begun and proved much faster than the No 1 unit, said the engineer, who was confident the No 2 unit would start commercial operation in 2005.

The fuel needed by the two generating units in the first three fuel replacement cycles would be made in Russia. The generating units would have to rely on domestically made fuel from the fourth fuel replacement cycle, said the engineer.

The first batch of fuel to Tianwan nuclear power plant would be delivered by Russian equipment being finalized.

Construction of the two generating units has been completed in three stages. The Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am and 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up 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
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Flood situation in Bihar improves further
New Delhi, 23 Sept — The overall flood situation in Bihar, northeast India, improved further Saturday with major rivers including Ganga maintaining a receding trend, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI).

However, the death toll shot up to 177 with seven more deaths reported from flood-hit Begusarai District, PTI said. The district administration has distributed one week’s rations to the flood affected people living below poverty line.

Putin sees no reason for Iran not signing IAEA protocol
Moscow, 23 Sept — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Saturday that Iran has no excuse of not signing the additional protocol with the UN nuclear watchdog if it does not attempt to produce nuclear weapons.

If Iran is not pursuing to develop nuclear weapons, it should have “no reason not to sign the special protocol with the IAEA”, which would allow snap inspections to all of Iran’s nuclear sites, Putin told American reporters during an interview.

The Russian leader denied claims that Russia has been assisting Iran’s alleged efforts in making nuclear weapons, calling the world community to “stop blabbering and use real facts”.

Russia, a steadfast cooperator with Iran in the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant in defiance of the allegation from the United States that Iran may use the project to develop nuclear technology, has urged Tehran to sign the additional protocol to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty that may help to rebut the suspicion.

Putin pointed out that Russia’s intelligence departments have got information that many West European and American companies are co-operating with Iran in the nuclear industry, “including the dual-purpose technology”.

The information needs to be checked and Russia will not “completely monopolize it” and will share it with other countries. Putin noted.

India, Turkey to constitute Working Group to boost trade
Estambul, 23 Sept — In a significant step to boost trade between them, India and Turkey decided on Friday to constitute a special bilateral Working Group drawn from economic ministries to lift the trade turnover between the two countries to one billion dollars in the next two years.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who wound up his four-day visit to Turkey with an address at the India-Turkey Business meeting, said the long history of friendly contacts should be translated into a vibrant, revitalized economic partnership based on respective strengths. “This should cover not only trade in goods and services, but also two-way investment, third country projects, scientific research collaboration, joint commercialization of new technologies and many other areas,” Vajpayee said.

He said both the countries have agreed that they would constitute a special bilateral Working Group to further this agenda, which should identify areas of strategic importance and examine how both could best be developed. — MNA/PTI

At least 7 die in Nigeria’s boat mishap
Lagos, 23 Sept — At least seven persons have been feared dead in a boat mishap which occurred at Ekeremor, a riverine community in the Ekeremor Local Government Area of Nigeria’s southern state of Bayelsa, local radio reported Saturday.

The incident reportedly occurred at about 8 pm (1900 GMT) on Thursday night when the deceased and others were on their way to distribute relief materials to victims of a community clash at Ekeremor. Some survivors told reporters that the capsized boat conveying the deceased persons had a head-on with another boat conveying some traders from the market due to poor visibility.

Augustine Lugbenwe, commissioner of Bayelsa State for Special Duties confirmed the incident, saying that divers had been sent to recover the corpses.

Five killed, 21 kilos of gold robbed in northern Philippines
MNLN, 23 Sept — Five mining employees have been killed in a daytime road robbery in the northern Philippine province of Benguet, where 21 kilos of gold onboard the vehicle was carried away.

A pickup of the Lepanto Mining Company (LMC), manned by an unidentified number of LMC employees, were attacked on Saturday by at least seven armed bandits in Mankayan Town in the province, the Philippine Daily Inquirer online news Sunday quoted military public information officer Lieutenant-Colonel Daniel Lucero as saying. — MNA/Xinhua
India can continue to play active role with space missions

BANGALORE, 23 Sept — A mission to moon and subsequent planetary programmes by India would help it play an active international role as new issues and challenges confront the future law making process related to outer space, former Indian Space Research Organization Chairman, K Kasturirangan said Sunday.

Delivering his address at the 11th Annual Convocation of the National Law School of India, Kasturirangan said, “India, which has made a success of a number of space missions, will be in a position to make a meaningful contribution to the law making process in the future and to play a significant role at the international level.”

Kasturirangan said, “The 2008 report of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the 1982 Vienna Convention on the Law of Outer Space states that the role of the private sector in law making, before law, is issues of regulation of debris, legal work and other international endeavours by India, Kasturirangan said, will go a long way in consolidating India’s rightful place to participate in future legal works and other international endeavours for exploration of planets.

Regarding outer space, big challenges before law are issues of regulation of debris, private sector participation in law making particularly bodies like International Telecommunications Union which regulates use of orbit and spectrum resources, issues of intellectual property rights acquired in space, the question of arms race and policies on distribution of high resolution and their impact on national sovereignty and privacy of citizens, he said.

“The Treaty on the Moon, while it may be limited in form and was not ratified by major space powers, there are several open questions on the rights of states regarding the exploitation of natural resources on moon,” Kasturirangan said.

A mission to moon and subsequent planetary programmes by India, Kasturirangan said, will go a long way in consolidating India’s rightful place to participate in future legal works and other international endeavours for exploration of planets.

World Bank lauds performance of PRIs in India

DELRAY, 23 Sept — The World Bank on Sunday said elective self-government at grassroots level in India, called the Panchayati Raj, and universal Pulse Polio Immunization programme have contributed in a big way in the rural development of the country.

“As someone who has been associated with the region for a long time, I can say the performance of the Panchayati Raj Institutions have been impressive,” the chief economist of the World Bank Nick Stern told reporters after releasing the World Development Report on “Making Services for Poor People” here. However, the director of the report, S Devarajan noted that the public spending by and large in developing countries including India has been helping the rich and not reaching the poor.

While India increased its per capita income by as much as 40 per cent over the past two decades, the poor have gained access to the public health system and development programmes, and in India too, the figure was quite close to that, Devarajan, who will soon take over as the Chief Economist of the World Bank in South Asia, said.

In some rural areas in India, people had to pay more than five times the money for getting potable water as they had no access to metered pipe water. — MNA/PTI

UNICEF says 3,500 children die every year in developed nations

NEW YORK, 23 Sept — Almost 3,500 children under the age of 15 die every year from physical abuse and neglect in developed nations, according to a new report on maltreatment published by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

The UNICEF Innocent Report Card, which brings togetherness data on the abuse of youngsters from 27 developed countries, indicates that a small group of countries — Greece, Italy, Ireland, Norway and Spain — have an exceptionally low rate of child maltreatment death.

The United States, Mexico and Portugal have rates that are between 10 and 15 times higher, while Belgium, the Czech Republic, New Zealand, Hungary and France reach levels that are twice as high, the report said. “This is a wake-up call for parents and community leaders, who have long been aware of the problem of child abuse and the broader spectrum of violence against children. The countries with the lowest rates of child deaths from maltreatment also have low rates of adult deaths from assault.

Factors such as poverty, stress, drugs and alcohol abuse are clearly linked with the thousands of children who die each year from violence in their homes, their schools and communities, the report said. — MNA/PTI

US study says cloned cells cure brain disease in mice

WASHINGTON, 23 Sept — US researchers said on Sunday they had used cloned cells to treat a Parkinson-like disease in mice and said it provided a “good experimental basis for testing whether so-called therapeutic cloning will work.”

While they did not clone each individual mouse, the cells they used were from cloned embryos and relieved the symptoms of artificially induced Parkinson’s, they reported in this week’s issue of the journal Nature Biotechnology.

Cloning is highly controversial but many scientists believe therapeutic cloning will one day provide a cure for a host of diseases. The idea is for a patient to provide a single cell that could be manipulated and grown into new tissue or even organs.

Theoretically, it could cure juvenile diabetes, severe injuries and diseases such as Parkinson’s, which is caused when the body mistakenly destroys healthy brain cells.

Lorenz Studer of Memo- rial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York and colleagues were working with embryonic stem cells — the body’s master cells, valued because they have the potential to become any kind of cell in the body.

The cells were directed to become several different types of brain cell — includ- ing the dopamine-producing cells that are destroyed in Parkinson’s. — MNA/Reuters

Cambodians commemorate International Peace Day

PHNOM PENH, 23 Sept — In the capital of Phnom Penh to commemorate the “International Day of Peace” held on September 21st, many senior government officials and representatives of UN agencies and international organizations in residence in Cambodia attended the meeting presided over by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Hun Sen said that “Cambodia has won the peace and stability through decades of persistence of hard heart and bloody struggle of the whole people and the support of the international community. So we highly valued the peace we have achieved.”

The Royal Government of Cambodia determines to make further efforts to maintain the nation and world peace and against the war and violent acts in whatever forms,” the Premier stressed.

He also appealed to the international community to continue supporting and helping Cambodia in maintaining the peace and stability, reestablishing the democracy, as well as the economic development and the improvement of people’s living standard.

It is Cambodia’s first time to commemorate the world day. On 28 September, 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution fixing 21 September as an exact day for commemoration of the “International Day of Peace” every year. This resolution has been implemented since September 2002.

Chinese hold positive views on Internet

BEIJING, 22 Sept — Most Chinese would welcome the Internet into their homes and their lives, according to a new survey.

The survey, published on September 17 in Beijing, aimed to gauge the influence of the Internet on the Chinese society, and Chinese attitudes towards the Internet. Conducted by the Social Research Center and CES, a unit within the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), it showed 62 per cent of people said the Internet was helpful in their work or study.

Nearly 34 per cent of those polled said the Internet had no clear influence, while a mere 4 per cent said the Internet hampered their work or study.

Responding to a multi-choice questionnaire, 52 per cent of Chinese liked the Internet to the library as a source of information and material, while 46 per cent compared it to an amusement park, which offered games and other entertainments.

The survey also showed that 83 per cent of internet users were not bothering to use the Internet experience of surfing among polled netizens on the content of Internet, nearly nine in ten Chinese agreed that it was necessary for the authorities to supervise and manage the Internet. — MNA/Xinhua

Thai rice export increases 6% in first nine months

BANGKOK, 23 Sept — Thai rice export in the first nine months of this year increased about 6 per cent, according to the Thai Chamber of Commerce.

Pornpinit Pornprapha, secretary-general of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying that export of Thai rice from 1 January to 15 September, 2003 totalled 4,919 million tons, an increase of about 286,945.4 tons, or 6.19 per cent over the same period last year.

During the period, the export of Hom Mali rice alone reached 1,488 million tons, 96.61 per cent increased over the same period of last year, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

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Aimr steers Valencia to top of the table

Madrid, 23 Sept.— Valencia midfielder Pablo Aimr orchestrated a 3-0 win over Atletico Madrid that sent his side top of the First Division on Saturday.

Argentine international Aimr turned in a masterful performance as he set up all three Valencia goals, two of which were scored by substitute striker Mista.

Saturday's results left Valencia top of the table on 10 points, one point ahead of Deportivo Coruna.

Just as Atletico looked to be getting on top at the Calderon, Valencia midfielder Aimr burst into action.

He exchanged a neat one-two with Mista before cutting back a pass to the advancing Vicente who crashed home high into the net on 68 minutes.

Less than 10 minutes later he provided the scoring pass for Mista to rifle home side's second and he capped a magnificent performance with a perfect through-ball to set the striker up for another well taken goal deep into extra time.—MNA/Reuters

PSV Eindhoven on top after 3-1 win over Feyenoord

Amsterdam, 23 Sept.

PSV Eindhoven took over the Dutch First Division lead from Ajax Amsterdam after they won 3-1 at Feyenoord and the Ajax lost 4-2 at NAC Breda on Sunday.

PSV have 13 points after five matches, one point ahead of Ajax. AZ Alkmaar are third on 10 with Feyenoord languishing 10th six points off the pace.

PSV, who lost 2-1 at home to Monaco in the Champions League this week, took the lead after seven minutes through Marcella Kezman.

Belgian international Thomas Buffel equalised after 20 minutes, pushing a Dirk Kuyt cross behind Ronald Waterreus.

After 10 minutes of the second half Kezman scored his eighth goal of the season beating Edwin Zoetebier from close range.

With 16 minutes left Jan Vennegor of Heerenveen equalled it, receiving the ball from Young-Pyo Lee and rounding Peter van de Berg for his first goal this season.

At Breda, Nordin Boukhart, on loan at NAC from Ajax, opened the scoring after seven minutes. Johan Elmander doubled the lead for NAC early in the second half and looked to have tied it up 11 minutes later.

Ten-man Hamburg claim first Bundesliga win

Bremen, 23 Sept.— Hamburg fought with 10 men to beat Hansa Rostock 2-1 on Sunday and move off the bottom of the German Bundesliga standings.

The 1983 European champions recorded their first league win in the season in their final warm-up for the first leg of their UEFA Cup first-round tie, at home to Dinipro Dnipropetrovsk of Ukraine on Thursday.

Visiting Rostock opened the scoring on five minutes courtesy of striker Martin Max’s seventh goal this season and Hamburg lost defender Nico-Jani Hoogma for a second bookable offence in the 57th minute. The northerners, desperate to bounce back from a poor start, scored twice after their captain’s sending-off through Argentine striker Bernardo Romeo in the 69th minute and substitute Bastian Reinhardt with five minutes remaining.

Hamburg moved up a place to 17th, leaving the bottom spot to promoted Cologne.—MNA/Reuters

Late Zebina strike gives Roma draw at Juventus

Milan, 23 Sept.— French defender Jonathan Zebina struck an 87th-minute equaliser to earn AS Roma a 2-2 draw at champions Juventus as Italy’s title challengers all dropped their first points of the season on Sunday.

After three games Roma, Juventus, Parma, Milan and Inter are all level on seven points at the top of the table. Roma’s trip to face Juventus at the Delle Alpi was the first head-to-head clash between title hopefuls this season and Juve’s hopes of an early title run away when Alessandro Del Piero limped off injured just 14 minutes later.

But the man who replaced him, striker Marco di Vaio, rose to the occasion, blasting Juve into the lead in the 21st minute after David Trezeguet’s header was parried by Roma keeper Ivan Pelizzi.

Roma drew level just four minutes later through Romanian defender Cristian Chivu, who curled in a free kick for his second goal in as many games since arriving from Ajax.

Ten minutes before the break, though, Di Vaio restored Juve’s advantage, sticking out a foot to divert a low free kick from Pavel Nedved past Pelizzi.

Juve failed in the second half and, after Francesco Totti brought a good save out of Gianluigi Buffon with a long-range strike, Zebina grabbed the equaliser with a rasping 25-metre shot, which took a slight deflection. Totti might have even claimed an injury-time winner but he was foiled by Buffon and neither side could complain at sharing the points.— MNA/Reuters

Deportivo maintain perfect start with 3-0 win

Mara, 23 Sept.— Deportivo Coruna recorded their fourth win in four games with an efficient 3-0 victory over bottom club Albacete that saw them return to the top of the First Division on Sunday.

Two goals in two minutes at the start of the second half, one from defender Norredire Nabayet and one from forward Albert Luque plus a trademark header from leading striker Walter Pandiani in injury time made sure that the Galicians retained their 100-per-cent record.

The result means that Deportivo lead the table on a maximum 12 points, two ahead of Valencia and four ahead of Barcelona, who dropped one point on Saturday. Fourth-placed Real Madrid make the trip to goal-shy Mala-

aga in one of Sunday’s late games.

Deportivo’s Galician neighbours Celta Vigo were unable to record their first win of the season after they were held to a 1-1 draw by Villarreal at the Madrigal.

Russin midfielder Alexander Mostovoi put Celta into the lead with a sharp bullet header in the second half, but Villarreal were back on level terms two minutes later when defender Eduardetto Bertizzo nodded into his own net.

Albacete, who had lost all three matches since their return to the top flight, started strongly against Deportop at the Raizor and twice went close with stinging shots from Uruguayan striker Antonio Pacheco in the opening 20 minutes.

It looked as though it would not be Deport’s day as Pandiani spurred two clear chances late in the half and substitute Lionel Scalonii was sent off while he warmed up on the sidelines for his comments to the touch judge.

But the incidents only served to spark the Galicians into life and they put the game beyond doubt in two minutes at the start of the second half.

The opener came when Moroccan international Nabayet crashed in at the far post after Albacete’s defence misjudged an orientation to the second corner. Deportop played some fluent passing football for the rest of the match and it came as no surprise when Pandiani added a third two minutes into injury time following a great cross from substitute Pedro Munmif.

This time Luque clipped in at the far post after the Albacete defence misjudged another orientation to the second corner. Deportop played some fluent passing football for the rest of the match and it came as no surprise when Pandiani added a third two minutes into injury time following a great cross from substitute Pedro Munmif.

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Prime Minister inspects tasks... (from page 1)

YANGON, 23 Sept—Chairman of Industrial Development Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, arrived at the electrical goods factory of Texcel Co Ltd on Kanaung Minthayi Road in Hlinethaya Industrial City yesterday afternoon.

Managing Director of Texcel Co Ltd U Yin Htwe Thet reported on background history of the factory, production of import substitute electrical goods, sale in market, investment and requirements. The Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions and inspected electrical goods manufactured in the factory. The factory manufactures electrical switch board, cable trunking, cable tray and cable ladder.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected the factory of Reliance Fire System Co Ltd, a branch factory of Texcel Co Ltd. It produces devices used in firefighting and fire extinguishers.

The Secretary-1 and party went to GP Battery Factory on Min Theikdi Kyawswa Road where Managing Director of the factory Daw Rosy Rao reported on establishment of the factory, production of battery, water and acid used in the battery, raw materials, local and foreign markets, machines used for producing battery, lead and sulphuric acid.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected production process at the factory which can produce between 5,000 and 10,000 per month. Arrangements are being made for export.

The factory also produces acid container and water used in battery and they are sold in local and foreign markets. The Secretary-1 and party went to electronic factory of Earth Industrial (Myanmar) Co Ltd on Yaukkaw Road in South Dagon Industrial Zone-1. Officials of the company reported on production of electronic goods with the use of CMP system. Director Daw Yin Nwe Myint explained about the factory. (See page 7)

 Secretary-1 inspects factories in Hlinethaya and Dagon (South) Industrial Zones

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

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