Regional development activities inspected in Kawthoung

Kawthoung District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Pyoe and members, departmental officials.

Li-Gen Maung Bo met with district/township level departmental officials and businessmen at Bayint-naung Hall, Kawthoung Station, on 23 September morning.

Lt-Col Kyaw Pyoe reported on matters related to Kawthoung in detail.

Departmental officials also presented reports on tasks being carried out by their respective bodies. Officials of ministries concerned also gave additional reports. Next, businessmen reported on the requirements for their industries.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that with the active participation of all national people, the Government is making all-out efforts to ensure parallel development nationwide. To accomplish this goal plans for the five rural development tasks are being implemented after the establishment of 24 development zones as part of border area development measures.

The region is undergoing progress on account of regional stability, the enforcement of law and order, the construction of roads and bridges. Owing to the extended cultivation of paddy to ensure food sufficiency in the region, the percentage of rice sufficiency is on the rise year by year. Measures are to be taken for the extension of sown acreage, the employment of high-yield strain and the enhancing of double cropping.

He continued that rural development plays the most fundamental role in the progress of a region. And the Government is also rendering every necessary assistance. Border trade is also to be conducted to earn foreign currency.

(See page 9)
The roadmap— key to national development

In support of the Prime Minister’s clarification on the seven policies and programmes of the State (roadmap), a mass rally, organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association, was held at Thiri ground in Hpa-an, Kayin State, on 23 September.

In supporting the Prime Minister’s speech, Sports Coach U Myint Naing of Hpa-an University said that in any circumstances, the people cannot accept the act to disrupt the development momentum and peaceful condition of the State and the entire people are to ward off anyone who tries to undermine peace and stability of the State.

Development of a country or a region depends much on peace, stability and tranquility of that country or region. Only when there is regional stability, can development drives be carried out with might and main. With this in mind, the Government has paid special attention to regional stability and national reconsolidation. Nowadays, national brethren are taking part in nation-building endeavours hand in hand with the Government.

Except for the very distant and remote areas, peace prevails throughout Kayin State. Local people in Kayin State, who had faced difficulties in travelling from one place to another, are now enjoying the fruits of easy transportation in the state.

Nearly 200 small and major bridges have been built in areas where transportation was difficult due to barriers posed by rivers and creeks. Thanlwin river crossing bridge (Hpa-an), Giayng-Zathabyin bridge, Hpa-an-Gyiayng bridge and Dawlan bridge are now contributing much towards the transport sector of Kayin State.

Hpa-an University, Hpa-an Education College, government technological college, government computer college and Nurses’ Training School reflect the goodwill of the Government which is striving for human resource development.

For the convenience of local people in the communication sector, microwave stations have been built in all townships of Kayin State. And there exists TV relay station. Auto telephone lines have been installed in the respective townships. The Government has spent over K 397.7 million on development undertakings in Kayin State.

At present, the Government and the entire people are striving for development of the whole Union. The seven-stage roadmap has been laid down for emerging modern, developed and democratic nation.

All the national brethren are urged to take part in the endeavour for successful implementation of the roadmap while safeguarding peace and stability of the State.

Regional development inspected in Seikkyi-Khanaungto Township

YANGON, 25 Sept — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Commander of No 4 Military Region Col Yan Naing Oo, local authorities and departmental officials, inspected regional development tasks and gave necessary instructions to officials yesterday morning.

First, the commander and party met with township level departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsmen at the office.

The commander made an address saying that Seikkyi-Khanaungto Township is one of the townships included in the area under Yangon City Development Committee.

Now, upgrading works are being undertaken for Yangon City to be clean and pleasant one. Similarly, upgrading works are to be carried out for the development of Seikkyi-Khanaungto Township like other townships in Yangon City, he added.

Next, Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Tin Naing reported on development works and agricultural sector. The commander fulfilled the requirements.

The commander and party inspected the construction of Basic Education Middle School (Batch 2) in Seikkyi East Ward and gave necessary instructions.

At the construction site of Kamaranung Creek Bridge linking Myoma and East Arrazgyi Wards in Dala Township, U Bo Htay, Head of Engineering Department (Road & Bridge) of YCDC, reported to the commander on construction works. The commander gave instructions on timelapse completion, meeting the set standard and work site safety.

The 190-foot-long Kamaranung Creek Bridge has a 12 feet wide motorway with 2 feet wide pedestrian walkway on both sides. It is being constructed with the contribution of local people and YCDC.

Ministry of Transport holds prize presentation ceremony

YANGON, 25 Sept — The Ministry of Transport held a prize presentation ceremony for outstanding students, staff and athletes at the meeting hall of the ministry this morning.

It was attended by Ministers for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and wife, Deputy Minister U Pe Than and others.

The minister presented prizes and certificates of honour to the outstanding students who won distinctions in the matriculation examination in the 2002-03 academic year.

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe presents prize to six-distinction-winner Ma Khine Thet Hsu. — TRANSPORT

YANGON, 25 Sept.— The Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Surakart Sathirathai, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, arrived here by air this morning.

He was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu, responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Oum Maolanon and embassy officials.

At the invitation of Singapore National Wushu Federation, Myanmar Wushu new generation team led by U Tan Myint, secretary of MWF will participate in Wushu display in Singapore.

Thai Foreign Minister Dr Surakart Sathirathai, the Special Envoy of the Thai Prime Minister being welcomed at the airport by Myanmar Foreign Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Thai Foreign Minister Dr Surakart Sathirathai, the Special Envoy of the Thai Prime Minister, at Zeyathiri Banman Hall on Komsyntha in Yangon. (News on page 16). — MNA

Special Envoy of Thai PM arrives

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu hosted luncheon in honour of Dr Surakart Sathirathai at the Traders Hotel here. Afterwards, Thai Foreign Minister visited Shwedagon Pagoda at 2.30 pm. In the afternoon, he left here by special aircraft and was seen off at the airport by U Kyaw Thu and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Oum Maolanon and embassy staff. — MNA

The road map — key to national development
Jacques Chirac

United Nations, 23 September—Sergio Vieira de Mello personified the honour of the United Nations. Murdered on 19 August along with members of his staff, we shall long remember him. Let us dedicate this session to this great servant of peace.

The United Nations has just weathered one of the greatest trials in its history. The debate turned on respect for the Charter and the use of force.

The war, embarked on without Security Council approval, has undermined the multilateral system.

Having taken stock of this crisis, our organisation can now resume its onward march. For it is above all in this forum, which is the crucible of the international order, that it behoves us to exercise our responsibilities to the world of today and to future generations.

An open world, no one can live in isolation, no one can act alone in the name of all, and no one can accept the anarchy of a society without rules. There is no alternative to the United Nations.

But in the face of today’s challenges, this fundamental choice, as expressed in the Charter, calls for a far-reaching reform of our organisation.

Multilateralism is the key, for it ensures the participation of all in the management of world affairs. It is a guarantee of legitimacy and democracy, especially in matters regarding the use of force or laying down universal norms.

Transfer of sovereignty

The transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqis... is essential for stability and reconstruction.

Multilateralism works: in Monterrey and Johannesburg it has allowed us to overcome the clash of North and South and to set the scene for partnerships with Africa notably bearing promise for the future.

Multilateralism is a concept for our time: for it alone... it has the will to act.

And now it is up to the United Nations to give the mandate to a multinational force, commanded naturally by the main troop contributor, in order to ensure the security of Iraq and all those helping with the country’s reconstruction.

In this way the international community and the Iraqi people, united around a common project, will together end the tragic decades of this great country’s history.

Key challenge

In the Middle East, undermined by despair and hate, only firm political resolve to apply, on both sides, the law as formulated by the United Nations will pave the way to a just and lasting solution.

Political impetus

France has proposed the creation of a permanent corps of inspectors under the authority of the Security Council. We need to give fresh impetus to this policy.

Are we capable of nurturing a form of globalisation founded in solidarity... in response to the globalisation of the economy?

Council role

Chief responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security lies with the Security Council. It is therefore essential to its legitimacy that its membership reflect the state of the world. It must be enlarged to include new permanent members, for it needs the presence of major countries.

It is the role of the Council to set the bounds to the use of force... No one is entitled to arrogate to himself the right to utilise it unilaterally and preventively.

France is thinking, naturally, of Germany and Japan, but also of some leading countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America. It needs additional elected countries as well, in order to make the Council more representative still.

Under the resolute impetus of the five permanent members, each of us must take up this discussion with the general interest in mind.

Strengthening of Council’s authority

This reform should be accompanied by a strengthening of the Council’s authority. It is the role of the Council to set the bounds to the use of force. No one is entitled to arrogate to himself the right to utilise it unilaterally and preventively.

Conversely, in the face of mounting threats, states must have an assurance that the Council has appropriate means of evaluation and collective action at its disposal, and that it has the will to act.

We all place a high premium on national sovereignty. But its scope can and must be limited in cases of gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law.

The Security Council is taking steps in that direction, and France supports this development.

We now realise that globalisation demands stronger economic, social and environmental governance.

New political forum

To that end, France proposes the creation of a new political forum representative of the present state of the world economy in all its diversity.

This council would be entrusted with the responsibility for providing the necessary impetus to the international institutions, for improving their co-ordination, and for anticipating and tackling global problems more effectively.

Effectiveness also depends on increased financial resources. France calls for two changes.

First, a reversal of the trend toward raising voluntary contributions at the expense of mandatory contributions.

Failing that, we will end up with a pick-and-choose United Nations, an outdated vision, and a harmful one.

Second, we need to make progress in harnessing funds for development. France wants to meet the official development assistance target of 0.7% of gross national income by the year 2012.

End of address

Jacques Chirac

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 26 September, 2003

Russian President Vladimir Putin

America’s failure to stabilize Iraq has left Russian President Vladimir Putin convinced he was right: The war was a bad idea. The Russian leader insisted over the weekend that the United Nations “must have a real role, not a decorative role” in Iraq.

Musharraf

Musharraf, in New York for the annual session of the UN General Assembly, said the US-led invasion of Iraq had hurt the United States badly in the Muslim world, making it hard for Muslim Pakistan to support the United States.

“...As far as Iraq is concerned, it is difficult to come to a solution of contributing troops at the moment under the present environment,” he said.

“Under United Nations cover, the situation would be much easier,” he added.

Mahathir Mohamad

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Wednesday that US President George W. Bush’s offer for the United Nations to play an expanded role in Iraq’s reconstruction was “too late.”

We know that a country, even though a superpower, cannot resolve problems by itself.” Mahathir, who was an uncting opponent of the war in Iraq, said during a visit to Sweden. “That’s why right from the outset, there should have been cooperation from the other countries.”-- Internet

In an open world, no one can live in isolation, no one can act alone in the name of all.

There is no alternative to the United Nations.
Iraqis sceptical Bush speech means brighter future

Baghdad, 25 Sept—Iraqis reacted with scepticism on Tuesday to a call from President George W Bush for more international help in rebuilding Iraq, saying the United States was looking after its own interests at their expense.

"Bush is afraid for the future of his forces inside Iraq because of the resistance, and in the end what he wants is to get international troops to protect his interests," said Hadi Hassan, a labourer in Baghdad.

Musab Abdullah, a coppersmith, said Bush was trying to get others to do the United States’ work for it.

"Bush is contracting others to protect him, and in the end it’s the Iraqi people who foot the bill," he said.

Bush said a speeding transfer of Iraqi sovereignty, which had been urged by some key allies, saying he wanted to set aside past differences and crippling airports and trains, officials said.

Power went out in the early afternoon, apparently after a storm hit transmission lines in Sweden. The likely duration of the outage was unclear. The blackout, highly unusual in Scandinavia, follows the huge outage that left 50 million North Americans without power for up to two days in August.

At least three nuclear power stations with combined capacity of about 3,000 megawatts in Sweden went off stream, and power was cut throughout the Zealand Island where the Danish capital Copenhagen is located.

"We can reckon that a couple of million consumers are hit," technical director Sture Larsson at Swedish grid operator Svenska Kraftnät said.

"Bush should back the Iraqi Army with the exception of the Baathists, and leave them to police the country," the President said.

The United States has disbanded the Iraqi Army and is setting up a small corps of Iraqi troops. Many Iraqis said more foreign troops even if they were part of a multinational force—were not the answer.

"It will create chaos and will not solve America’s predicament in Iraq," he said.

Street vendor Ali Hussein said more international involvement would only prolong Iraq’s occupation. "It’s an excuse to stay in Iraq... It will create chaos and will not solve America’s predicament in Iraq," he said.

"We can reckon that a couple of million consumers are hit," technical director Sture Larsson at Swedish grid operator Svenska Kraftnät said.

Half of Australians believe Iraq war not justified

Canberra, 25 Sept—About half of Australians believe the US-led war on Iraq was not justified and 68 per cent think Prime Minister John Howard misled the country over his reasons for joining the conflict, a survey showed on Wednesday.

But almost half of those who felt they had been misled believed Howard’s deception had been unintentional and he had been misled by others, the ACNielsen AgePoll showed.

Controversy has raged in the United States, Britain and Australia over claims those governments manipulated intelligence on weapons of mass destruction Iraq was said to possess to justify the war. No weapons of mass destruction have been found. Inquiries are being held in Britain and Australia into the handling of pre-war intelligence by those governments. The Australian inquiry is due to report back to Howard’s conservative government in December.

Howard has said he made the right decision to send a 2,000-strong force to the Gulf to join the United States and Britain despite initial public qualms. But he has also said intelligence could not have provided absolute proof of the Iraqi threat.

The debate surrounding Australia’s case for war has failed to dent Howard’s record popularity, which has been built on his strong stance on security and a robust economy.

IOM against trafficking in minors

GENEVA, 25 Sept—The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Paris is organizing a two-day international conference on trafficking in unaccompanied minors (UAMs) in EU member states on Sept 25 and 26. IOM spokesperson Jean-Philippe Chazouty told the Press here on Tuesday that the conference will bring together representatives and policy makers from the European Commission, international organizations, government authorities, and various public institutions working on children, migration and refugee issues.

He said the conference will focus on the issues of trafficking in UAMs in EU member states, dynamics of trafficking, living conditions of UAMs, and efforts to provide protection and assistance to victims of trafficking.

FAO says millions of Iraqis desperately hungry

ROMA, 25 Sept—Several million Iraqis remain desperately hungry despite a better crop and the lifting of economic sanctions, UN food agencies said on Tuesday.

"While starvation has been averted, chronic malnutrition persists among several million vulnerable people," the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said in a statement about a new report on Iraqi food supplies and nutrition.

"The situation of mothers and children in central and southern Iraq is of particular concern," Rome-based FAO said. It said the report published by FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN food aid agency, said nearly half of Iraq’s 26.3 million people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian aid despite a better cereal harvest and the removal of sanctions.

China’s grid giant gives shares to Huaneng Company

BEIJING, 25 Sept—The State Power Grid Corporation signed a memorandum of understanding here Tuesday with the China Huaneng Group Co, Ltd, agreeing to give for free all the shares it holds in 13 power plants.

These power plants have a total capacity of 4.642,500 kilowatts.

The State Power Grid Corporation is the largest state-owned grid operator that was established as part of the Chinese Government’s reform scheme for the country’s mammoth power industry.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Friday, 26 September, 2003

A US Army soldier looks out from the balcony of a building during a search for weapons in Baghdad. An interim report on Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction by former weapons inspector David Kay is not expected to reach any firm conclusions or rule anything in or out, the CIA said—Reuters

MNA/Reuters

Two American soldiers from the 4th Infantry division stands guard over a suspected Iraqi during an early morning raid in Tikrit, Iraq on 25 Sept. 2003. The raid was conducted after intelligence was gathered with one suspect being held for questioning.—MNA/Reuters

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US UNDER INTENSIFIED IRAQ RESISTANCE

Iraqis look into a commuter bus which was damaged in a bomb in Baghdad on 24 September, 2003. US troops struggled with yet more bomb attacks in Baghdad Wednesday, hours after President George W Bush appealed for help to rebuild Iraq. A roadside bomb apparently aimed at US troops tore through two commuter buses in the capital, killing an Iraqi and wounding about 20.

British soldiers on patrol. A British soldier serving in southern Iraq has died following an incident with a firearm, the Ministry of Defence said.

A US soldier digs out a hidden machine gun during a raid on a farmhouse near Tikrit, Iraq on 24 September, 2003. A machine gun and ammunition were found during the raid.

An American soldier from the 4th Infantry division stands guard over a suspected Saddam loyalist during an early morning raid on a village outside Tikrit, Iraq, Wednesday, on 24 September, 2003. The raid was conducted after intelligence was gathered with a cache of weapons being found buried in an orchard close to houses that were targeted for the operation.

American soldiers from 4th Infantry division drive through an orchard during an early morning raid on a village outside Tikrit, Iraq, Wednesday, on 24 September, 2003. With most of Iraq being desert, such green overgrown vegetation such as the orchard is few and far between. The raid was conducted after intelligence was gathered with a cache of weapons being found buried in an orchard close to houses that were targeted for the operation.

Iraqi workers clear the remains of the International Baghdad Exhibition Hall building, which was bombed during the US-led war on Iraq.
The UN must not let itself be used as a dustbin for failed American adventures

(As a reproduction of the article by Sunday Times, dated 26 August 2003.)

The US government’s problem is that it has built its foreign policy on two great myths. The first is that it is irresistible; the second is that time advances, life improves. In Iraq it is trapped between the two. To believe that it can be thwarted, and that its occupation will become better rather than easier is an illusion time goes by, requires that it disbelives all that holds to be most true.

But those who oppose its foreign policy appear to have responded with a myth of equal standing: that unilaterism cannot solve, multilateralism can. The United Nations, almost all good liberals now argue, is a more legitimate force than the US and therefore more likely to succeed in overseeing Iraq’s reconstruction and transition. If the US surrendered to the UN, this would, moreover, represent the dawning of a fairer, kinder world.

These propositions are scarcely more credible than those coming out of the Pentagon.

The immediate and evident danger of a transition from US occupation to occupation is that the UN becomes the dustbin into which the US dumps its failed adventures. The American and British troops in Iraq do not deserve to die any more than the Indian or Turkish soldiers with whom they might be replaced. But the govern- ments that sent them, rather than those that opposed the invasion, should be the ones that have to answer to their people for the consequences.

The vicious bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad last week suggests that the jihadis who now seem to be the only ones with a coherent strategy for toppling the US in Iraq will make little distinction between khaki helmets and blue ones. Troops sent by India, the great liberal hope, are unlikely to be received with any greater kindness by western forces.

The UN will swiftly discover that occupation-lite is no more viable than occupation-heavy. Moreover, by replacing its troops, the despised UN could, in one of the ironies of our time, provide the US government with the escape route it may require if George Bush is to win the next election. We can expect him, as soon as the soldiers have come home, to wash his hands not only of moral responsibility for the mess he has created, but also of the duty to help pay for the country’s reconstruction.

Most importantly, if the UN shows that it is prepared to mop up after him, it will enhance its incentive to take the pernicious war to other nations.

It should also be pretty obvious, that as tough as it is for both the American troops and the Iraqis, pinned down in the safest place for the US army to be. The Pentagon remains reluctant to fight more than one war at a time. One of the reasons is that it has neither the soldiers nor the resources to launch an attack until it can be sure it can be achieved, and that its occupation will be disentangled from Iraq.

Pentagon remains reluctant to fight more than one war at a time. One of the reasons is that it has neither the soldiers nor the resources to launch an attack until it can be sure it can be achieved, and that its occupation will be disentangled from Iraq.

Until the US, controlled by the five permanent members of the security council, has itself been democratised, it is hard to see how it can claim the moral authority to oversee a transition to democracy anywhere else. This problem is compounded by the fact that Britain, which is hardly likely to be perceived as an honest broker, is about to assume the council’s presidency. A UN mandate may be regarded by Iraqis as blue-water; an attempt to grant retrospective legitimacy to an illegal occupation.

None of this, of course, is yet on offer anyway. The US government has made it perfectly clear that the UN may operate in Iraq only as a subcontractor. Foreign troops will take their orders from Washington, rather than New York.

America’s occupation of Iraq affords it regional domination, control of the second biggest oilfields on earth, and, as deputy defence secretary Paul Wolfowitz has hinted, the opportunity to withdraw its troops from Saudi Arabia and install them in its new dependency instead.

Republican funders have been feasting on the lucrative reconstruction contracts, and the Russians and the French, shut out of the banquet, are being punished for their im- patience.

Now that the US controls the shipping lanes of the Middle East and the oilfields of central Asia and West Africa, it is in a position, if it so chooses, to turn off the taps to China, its great economic rival, which is entirely dependent on external sources of oil. The US appears to be seeking to ensure that when the Iraqis are eventually permitted to vote, they will be allowed to choose any party they like as long as it is pro-American. It will give up its new prize only when forced to do so by its own voters.

So, given that nothing we say will make any differ- ence to Bush and his people, we may as well call for a just settlement, rather than the diluted form of injustice represented by a UN occupation. This means the swiftest possible transition to real democracy.

Troy Davis of the World Citizen Foundation has sug- gested a programme for handing power to the Iraqis which could begin immediately, with the establishment of a con- ceptual neighbourhoods were killed in picks. The US military said they killed nine Iraqis on one of the bloodiest days in weeks.

In many ways, Iraqi women are worse off than before US forces attacked Saddam Hussein and are too afraid to play a big political role for fear of being a target of ex- tremists, a senior UN offi- cial said on 23 September, 2003.

In Baghdad, communist parties, who are careful to avoid giv- ing the impression that they condone the violence.

In Indonesia, whose coun- try is the world’s most popu- lous mainly Muslim nation, spoke more blantly than many other Muslim leaders, who are careful to avoid giv- ing the impression that they condone the violence.

In Indonesia, where the opposition, called the United Nations, want the resolu- tion to give the United Na- tions a greater voice in the political process, and a speedier move, in “months, not years,” to full Iraqi sober- sanity — that is, to ending American and British occupation. — Internet

US forces kill nine in heavy Iraq clashes

BAGHDAD, 25 Sept—Bombs rocked a teeming quarter of Baghdad and a sex-film heater in Mosul on Wednesday, reportedly killing at least three Iraqis and wounding dozens. In a string of ground clashes, the US military said they killed nine Iraqis on one of the bloodiest days in weeks.

The nine deaths were all in the region around Tikrit, Saddam Hussein’s home- town. US troops aborted two ambushes by anti-American forces, killing five Iraqis, and came under fire elsewhere in exchanges that left at least four Iraqis dead.

The surge in attacks came as world leaders worked to end agreement in New York on how to restore stability to Iraq.

Early Thursday, two sus- pected Iraqi resistance lead- ers accused of organizing and financings attacks against US soldiers were arrested and killed in a raid in Tikrit. Saddam Hussein’s birthplace was arrested in raids. Their identities were not released.

In Tikrit’s affluent neigh- bourhoods were part of an intensified cam- paign against people believed responsible for a string of deadly attacks against US troops.

In Baghdad, communist leader Hamid Majid Moussa said he and other members of the US-appointed Iraqi Gov- erning Council, want to move toward national sovereignty “as fast as we can.” But coun- cil members refused to be drawn into the debate over a specific timetable.

“We don’t want to be come involved in fruitless discus- sions,” said Moussa, one of four council representa- tives in whose nomination the US disagreed.

The debate among the United States and other gov- ernments over Iraq’s future continued this week as world leaders met in New York, where the Bush administration sought to strengthen the participation of other governments and Arab leaders.

In Indonesia, the world’s most populous nation, civil society nursing the idea that the war is a success, is still feeling the impact of the decision encouraging other nations to contribute troops to the Iraq security force. In exchange, the US is offering a promise to consult with the world’s top powers before making the decision encouraging other nations to contribute troops to the Iraq security force.
Life insurance coverage for Myanmar seamen

Win Myint Han

Like her neighbours, Bangladesh and Thailand etc, some Myanmar people also work as seamen on foreign ocean-going vessels. As one allotment for sea service usually takes at least 1½ to 2 years, those seamen are at all times overseas before their present assignment ends. After staying together with their families back in Myanmar for 3, 4 months when one assignment ends, they again join their vessels for another allotment in an endless cycle. The income derived from such sea service is so considerable that in any young and healthy Myanmar men are desirous of becoming seamen aboard those foreign vessels.

But the life of a Myanmar seaman on board a foreign ship is not always a path covered with roses. There had been cases of racial discrimination and risks to which seamen are exposed are worse than one could imagine especially while they are at sea.

Deaths and injuries sustained by Myanmar seamen were not unheard-of. What makes matters worse is the unreasonable delay which always accompanies each case of a deceased seaman where compensation from his employer is finally received by the beneficiary thereof only after at least 6–7 months have elapsed. As some ship owners have not effected insurances with sufficient sums for their seamen, there were instances in which the beneficiaries of the deceased seaman were not paid full compensation which they deserve.

In order to address the problem as much as possible on one hand and to incite the general public to be more insurance-minded on the other, a new product in the form of “Seaman Life Insurance” was very recently introduced by Myanna Insurance in consultation with Department of Marine Administration based on the Industrial Life Insurance prevalent in the West. Under the scheme a seaman is covered up to one year from the date of departure from Myanmar or the date he signs on and if death occurs to him during that period of one year irrespective of any other cause than suicide, the beneficiary would be paid the whole sum insured of Kyats 5 million for a mere premium of kyats 25000/- only.

As that facility was introduced with a view to settling a valid claim as soon as possible every precaution has been taken to enable the settlement of a valid death claim within as short a time as one week after receipt of the death claim forms which also are reduced to a minimum.

Since that insurance was launched on 1.7.2003, 1003 seamen who joined their vessels have been covered as of 3.9.2003. The Seaman Life Insurance is one of the new products together with Mining Employer’s Liability Insurance, Sportman Accident Insurance and Tourist Accident Insurance which were introduced by the Myanna Insurance in order to meet the diversified insurance needs of the Myanmar people.

US activists ask Congress to withhold Iraq funds

WASHINGTON, 25 Sept — US anti-war activists launched a national advertising campaign on Wednesday urging Congress to withhold new funds for Iraq unless the White House agrees to transfer authority to the United Nations.

Tom Andrews, a former Democratic representative from Maine and director of the Win Without War coalition group, said the television and print advertisements were designed to force lawmakers to address public unease over the US role in Iraq.

“Our base of support as a coalition is very angry and very eager to be active in turning this around. And clearly public opinion has turned against this invasion and occupation,” Andrews said in an interview with the New Light of Myanmar.

The advertising campaign, unveiled at a National Press Club news conference, uses the White House funding request as a hook to demand a transfer of power in Iraq and the dismissal of US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

One print advertisement features a photo of Larry Syversen, a Virginia resident with three sons in the US military, next to the quote: “Donald Rumsfeld betrayed my sons and our nation. It’s time for him to go.”

US WMD report to reach no firm conclusion

WASHINGTON, 25 Sept — An initial report from former US weapons inspectors David Kay, who has been leading the hunt for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, will “reach no firm conclusions,” a CIA spokesman said on Wednesday.

“Dr Kay is still receiving information from the field. It will be just the first progress report, and we expect that it will reach no firm conclusions, nor will it rule anything in or out,” CIA spokesman Bill Harlow said.

It was uncertain when Kay, who has been at the CIA this week working on the report, would brief members of Congress about the progress made, but some congressional aides said it could be as early as next week.

“I’m unaware of any major surprises,” one Democratic congressional aide said.

When Kay briefed lawmakers at the end of July, he said there could be “surprises” uncovered but declined to describe what those might be.

Quarter of Peruvians still live in extreme poverty

LIMA, 25 Sept — About one quarter of Peruvians live in extreme poverty, while more than half of the population lives in poverty, a study released by the National Statistics and Informatics Institute (INEI) showed Tuesday.

The proportion of the people living in extreme poverty has fallen to 23.9 per cent, from 24.4 per cent in 2002, and the proportion of those living in poverty has decreased to 54.3 per cent from 54.8 per cent last year, the INEI study said.

The slight decrease was due to greater agricultural production which improved the income level of Peruvians and reduced food prices, allowing some of the extremely poor to have greater purchasing capacity, said INEI Director, Farid Matuk.

INEI figures pointed out that between 2001 and 2002 the income of Peruvians in extreme poverty rose from 16 to 18 US dollars a month, while the income of those in poverty increased from 42 to 46 dollars. — MNA/Xinhua
The border area (Palaung region)

Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)

At first, I thought that a honeymoon would be a very happy vacation for a newly-wed couple. But as for the Tatmadaw members, let alone going on a honeymoon, it was not easy for them even to have an ordinary vacation. After a brief wedding ceremony in Yangon, I took my wife together with me to Lashio. Short visits to Kyaukse, Mandalay and PyinOoLwin along the journey from Mandalay to Lashio would be a honey moon trip for both of us.

We had to wait for the convoy to travel to Tanyang from Lashio. The tactical operations command, and my family and general staff officer (third-grade) and his family were living in the houses on the hillock in the command compound, since before I arrived at Lashio. The general staff officer (grade-two) and his family were living in the officers quarters. They had never travelled a long journey together with the tactical commander, except for short trips. But my case was different from theirs.

About a couple of days after I arrived at Tanyang, there came a directive, ordering the whole command to transfer to Namsang. As it was a new area, and we had military duties, we were not allowed to take our families together with us to the new tactical operations command area. When I arrived in Lashio, I asked Major Nay Myo Kyaw and family and signals officer Ko Nyan Hlut and family to take my wife together with them to Mandalay. She would have to travel from Mandalay to Yangon on her own. How much my mother-in-law would be angry when she saw her daughter coming back to her house with a suitcase, after leaving the hometown not more than seven days.

I had never been to Namsang then. But I had been to Namsans in southern Shan State often. I also mistook Namsang for Namsans very often. I was a stranger to the Palaung peace group which is called the Palaung State Liberation Army (PSLA), although I was familiar with the ethnic Palaung people living in Laikha and Mongkai. I had lived closely with them.

We gathered our troops in Hsipaw. We went to the Myoma Monastery and the goodwill of the State. Through the loving kindness of the abbot Sayadaw of the Namsang Monastery, we were welcomed by the sweet smell of pumpkins and squash which are grown in the field. We could not miss to pick the leaves in the season. The morning we could not see anything. Only when daybreak came, I could know that a deep valley lied in the forest. We set up our tactical operations command office at the entrance to Namsang. As we arrived at the town at night we could not see anything. Only when daybreak came, did I come to know that a deep valley lies in the backyard of our barrack. In the valley were fields of tea stretching as far as the eye could see. I also saw long rows of houses in the town. As almost every household was doing tea business, the smell of the leaves was spreading through the whole town. At the other end of the town lied the Zayangyi Ward. The leader of the ward people’s militia was an ethnic Kayin. What a coincidence! Our tactical operation commander was also a Kayin. Two ethnic Kayins met in a place far away from their homeland.

Our command started to launch the military operations in the region in the early January. The commanding officer was continuously receiving the information on the enemy movement, but other junior leaders had no information about the armed groups. Our military operations in Namsang region lasted for only three months. And the duration of three months was important time for the Palaung people as it was the tea picking season. They could not miss to pick the leaves in the season.

But soon, we could see the rays of peace thanks to the loving kindness of the abbot Sayadaw of the Namsang Myoma Monastery and the goodwill of the State. Through the peace negotiators, the representatives of the Military Intelligence met with the PSLA men at the specific places. There were four or five meetings between the two sides. In the meetings, the PSLA men were met by the MI representatives in Namsang. It was the time during which our tactical operations command, the MI, the peace negotiators, and the townswomen, were busy finding ways to restore peace in the region.

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 14 September 2003
Regional development …  
(from page 1)

He called for extension of paddy cultivation, livestock breeding and growing of oil palm and rubber.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to Pulontontone Kyunzu Village and viewed the study of schoolchildren at the monastic education school of Yangyiung Monastery. They paid reverence to member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Presidency Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pamhavamsa and presented offerings and exercise books to him.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo met townsmen and local people at the monastery. At the meeting, he briefed them on the measures being taken by the government for rural development and attended to their needs. They inspected thriving paddy fields in Chaungwa Village and departmental offices in Khamaukkyi. There, they also met service personnel and fulfilled their needs.

Next, they visited the Yanaung Adivati Piyanchha Pagoda in the town. They went to the oil palm farm of Shwe Khamauk International Ltd. Managing Director of the company Dr Ko Ko Htwe gave an account on palm oil production, strength of the company, construction of a palm oil mill. General Manager of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise U Tin Hsaung gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Maung Bo called on the company to boost oil production so as to achieve the objective — Taninthayi Division must be the oil bowl of the nation. He gave instructions on cooperation with respective departments for necessary assistance. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party viewed production process and construction of the palm oil mill. — MNA

Yangon Command Commander inspects dams in Yangon South District

YANGON, 25 Sept — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yagon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Commander of No 1 Military Region Col Tin Oo Lwin, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and departmental officials, this afternoon inspected dams in Thilawa, Thaungyay and Kawthoung townships in Yangon South District.

First, Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party went to Zamani Dam where they were welcomed by Director of the Yangon Division Irrigation Department U Kyaw Thein, Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Sein Hlaing and officials.

Next, the commander and party saw over conduit pipe and tower at the dam and condition of irrigated land. Officials concerned reported on facts about the dam, arrangements for supply of water to cultivate summer paddy. Next, the commander gave instruction on extended cultivation of summer paddy, supply of irrigation water and systematic digging of water course.

Afterwards, the commander and party proceeded to Thilawa Dam in Thaylin Township and also inspected inflow of water into the dam and urged to officials to cultivate summer paddy using excess water. Later, they arrived at Bantawgon Dam in Kyaytun Township. At the briefing hall, Director U Kyaw Thein of Yangon Division Irrigation Department briefed him on the facts about the dam and its irrigated land. He also reported on condition of Zamani and Thilawa dams in Thaylin Township. Next, the commander heard reports on extended cultivation of summer paddy and condition of main canals in the township.

After hearing the reports, the commander gave instructions on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, beans and pulses, edible oil crops and vegetables all the year round to keep the 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport green and pleasant, and measures to be taken for extended cultivation of summer paddy and winter crops.

The commander and party also inspected the inflow of water into the Bantawgon Dam and gave instructions to officials. Later, the commander and party proceeded to the Nyawngawng agricultural camp in Kyaytun Township, where he looked into the employment of fertilizer so as to meet the targeted 100 baskets of paddy per acre and trial plantations of high-yield strains. At the camp, the commander met with local farmers and explained matters related to assistance to be rendered to the supply of irrigation water for extended cultivation of summer paddy in Thaylin.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo looks into thriving monsoon paddy plantations in Kyaytung Township on 23 September. — MNA

Agricultural and poultry...

(from page 16)

Bayintnaung Bridge at the Kawthoung Port, and gave instructions on tasks to be carried out for beautifying the surrounding areas of the port. He also inspected the Ngayon Elephant Viewpoint.

Later, he arrived at the poultry farm undertaken by Toe Tet Aung Trading and Cooperative Ltd in Thaylin Township, where he oversaw the breeding of layers. Kawthoung District can produce a total of 25,000 eggs every day. He also inspected the shrimp breeding industries of the company and gave instructions, saying the region, with favourable geographical conditions, is suitable for aquabusiness as well as for fisheries and livestock breeding industries.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party also visited Ake A Soe poultry farm and U Myint Oo poultry farm in the region.

MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 26 September, 2003
Bwetgyi Dam to benefit 10,000 acres of cultivable land

Being well convinced that irrigation facilities are a major requirement of anya (Upper Myanmar arid) region, the government gives priority to the projects for supply of sufficient irrigation and potable water in the region, reflecting its goodwill for raising the economic and social life of local people. Water resources play the most fundamental role in agriculture, the major industry of the nation.

The Bwetgyi Dam Construction Project is located in Aunglan Township, Thayet District, on east bank of Ayeyawady River. On completion, the dam will benefit around 10,000 acres of cultivable land, and so, local farmers will not have to mainly rely on rain in growing crops.

Thanks to the Nine Arid Zones Greening Project adopted in the interest of the anya region and collective efforts of the government and the people, Aunglan region, which was a barren plain in the past, has been lush with trees.

The project was launched in April 2001 and now the embankment and the spillway have been constructed. The dam can now store 40 per cent of its maximum water storage capacity, irrigating some 800 acres of monsoon paddy. And arrangements are being made for cultivation of 1,000 acres of summer paddy with the use of water from the dam. Construction of the dam helps prevent flooding on the farmland downstream of Bwetgyi Creek to some extent.

In the past, local residents of 36 village-tracts and 101 villages could not travel to Aunglan in the rainy season because of the rapid current of the creek. But, now construction of the dam has contributed towards better transport in the region. Almost all of the irrigated areas around the dam are only farmland. So far, about 3,000 acres of farmland have been transformed into paddy land. Plans are under way to change more farmland into paddy land.

In Magway Division, due to the construction of Saddan and Sunchaung dams, the farmland around the dams was completely transformed into paddy land. Respective departments are making arrangements for cultivation of summer paddy on the areas where no crops could be cultivated in summer in the past, and for transformation of all the farmland in 47 villages of 17 village-tracts around the dam into paddy land.

With an area of 176-square-mile water surface, Bwetgyi Dam is situated near Dandaunt Village, 26 miles east of Aunglan Township, Thayet District, Magway Division. The earthen embankment is 113 feet high and 4,620 feet long. Its maximum water storage capacity is 73,190 acre feet. The dam was built at an estimated cost of K 2,457 million. Up to now, altogether 26 dams have been constructed in Magway Division.

The Bwetgyi Dam is going to be inaugurated as the 152nd irrigation facility of the nation in the very near future. Therefore, local people in the division utilizing the water resources created by the government can cultivate monsoon and summer paddy and other crops on all the cultivable land, thereby contributing towards greening of not only Magway Division but also the entire arid region.

(Translation: MS)  
Kyemon: 24-9-2003

Grade II & III course for government employees concluded

YANGON, 25 Sept — The grade II and grade III course No 75 for the government employees was concluded at a ceremony held at the training school of the auditor-general’s office yesterday morning. Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Thin, Deputy Director-General of the auditor-general’s office, presented gifts to them. The parents and board of trustees also presented gifts to them.

The deputy auditor-general made a speech on the occasion. The 18-week course was attended by 150 employees from departments and business organizations under 30 ministries.

MRTV holds children's singing contest

YANGON, 25 Sept — The singing contest of primary school children, jointly organized by Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information and No 3 Basic Education Department under the Ministry of Education, was held at the studio B of MRTV this morning.

In the contest, No 2 Basic Education High School of Sangyoung Township won the first prize, No 4 BEHS of Botataung Township the second prize, No 2 BEHS of Yankin Township the third and No 2 BEHS of Dagon Township the consolation prize.

Officials of MRTV presented prizes to the prize winners. The parents and members of the school board of trustees also presented gifts to them.

Yangon Division special farm inspected

YANGON, 25 Sept — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected Yangon Division Vegetable Breeding Special Zone near Hmaubay Township, Yangon Division Vegetable B of MRTV this afternoon.

The commander first inspected sample vegetables, auto exchange office. The commander inspected vegetable patches of national entrepreneurs, breeding of temporary wooden bridges, vegetable patches of national entrepreneurs, breeding of tomatoes, cultivation of vegetables, and thriving tomato, cabbage, musk melon, centronella and bitter gourd at the zone No 1. Respective ministries and national entrepreneurs are involved in the special zone. In this monsoon, the special zone has cultivated 4,035 acres of vegetables and bred over 970,000 layers and broilers. Among them, over 700,000 broilers have been distributed to the people. It is also breeding around 1.2 million fishes.

Sports Minister's cup soccer

YANGON, 25 Sept — The Sports Minister’s cup soccer, organized by Myanmar Football Federation, continued at the Youth Training Centre in Thawwunna this afternoon.

In the match, the banner team beat the home affairs team 1-0 and the man of the match award went to Ya Wai Zin of the former team.

A scenic beauty of Bwetgyi Dam, 26 miles east of Aunglan Township, Thayet District, Magway Division.  
TIWNO AYE (KYEMON)
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

The Ye Nwe multi-purpose dam project is located on the Ye Nwe Creek near Myochaung Village in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Division. The earthen type dam will be 1,050 feet long and 251 feet high. It can irrigate 118,500 acres of land. The two 12.5-megawatt generators will generate 25 megawatts of electricity and, on completion it will generate 123 kilowatt hours per year. — PHOTO: MNA

There will be three 20-megawatt generators to generate 60 megawatts of electricity at Kun Chaung hydropower station project about nine miles to the south-west of Pyu in Toungoo District in Bago Division. On completion, it will generate 190 kilowatt hours per year. — PHOTO: MNA

Yangon-Mandalay Highway is crucial for the State. Bridges on the highway were upgraded into new modern ones. The new Kwinchaung Bridge, with the length of 300 feet, in Pyu, Toungoo District, Bago Division, on Yangon-Mandalay Highway, can bear 60 tons of loads. — PHOTO: MNA
Abdullah urges media to present balanced, fair reports

Analyses must be well thought out and provide an in-depth insight into the issues of the day, Abdullah said at the launch of Media Prima in Bandar Sunway near here.

Media Prima brings together two Malaysian media institutions — the New Straits Times Group and the country’s first commercial television station, Television 3.

Abdullah expressed, however, his confidence that the Malaysian media are aware of this and would actively play their role in shaping a society that was educated, well informed and progressive.

“The events, opinions and values that are served by the media can shape the hearts and minds of the people,” he said.

“This is a great power, one that must be exercised in concord with the principles Malaysia has championed, which is the principle of mutual respect, understanding and tolerance,” the Deputy Prime Minister said.

He believed that Malaysian media groups have the ability to spread their wings and establish a regional presence.

“We have often complained long and hard that certain international media outlets champion certain narrow agendas and take delight in running down developing countries like Malaysia,” he said.

“In my opinion, the formation of Media Prima offers the possibility of addressing this issue. After all, it brings into existence a media group that can utilize the benefits of scale,” Abdullah noted.

Malaysia has scores of newspapers in Malay, Chinese and English besides several television and radio stations.

Vajpayee holds talks with Karzai

New Delhi, 25 Sept — Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Tuesday met Afghan President Hamid Karzai and exchanged views on the development in the war-torn country where India is engaged in the rebuilding process.

New Delhi has voiced its serious concerns over the regrouping of Taliban and al-Qaeda elements who had taken refuge in Pakistan during the US-led war to oust the Taliban forces.

Vajpayee is understood to have extended India’s ‘continued support for the ongoing rebuilding efforts.

India calls for access to affordable medicines to combat AIDS

United Nations, 25 Sept — India has called for increased international assistance to developing countries, access to affordable medicines to combat AIDS which has devastated societies, during the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on AIDS held a day before the start of the high level segment.

While primary responsibility for dealing with AIDS rests with the governments, “we believe there is greater need for international solidarity and burden sharing by the world leaders,” Sinha told the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on AIDS.

The Bush administration, as reported by the New York Times, on Tuesday, good nutrition helps ward off infections which can be fatal to a person with HIV.

“At the same time, hunger can force people to take risks so ensuring a stable supply of food in homes and the community is one form of HIV prevention,” said the WFP report.

India is one of the countries which suffers the most from the AIDS epidemic.

Bush urges states to make proliferation a crime

United Nations, 25 Sept — US President George W Bush urged an effort against the spread of weapons of mass destruction on Tuesday, pressing the United Nations for a modest initiative designed to make the transfer of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons technology a crime.

Addressing the UN General Assembly, Bush asserted a determination to keep the world’s most destructive weapons “out of the hands of our common enemies” and emphasized the need for the “broadest possible cooperation” to achieve that. The UN Security Council should pass an “anti-proliferation” resolution urging member states to “criminalize the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,” Bush said.

The resolution would also call on states to enact strict export controls consistent with international standards and to secure sensitive materials with additional security, he added.

It is evident that political intervention and the adoption of national strategies are not enough. We must ensure that countries are consistent with our nuclear, chemical and biological non-proliferation regime,”Bush said.

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**Studies find Gulf vets risk paralyzing disease**

WASHINGTON, 25 Sept — Veterans of the 1991 Gulf War may have an unusually high risk of a deadly and incurable nerve disease called ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease, according to two US studies published on Monday.

While ALS is far from common among the veterans, it has appeared more than expected, and at younger-than-usual ages, the separate studies found.

One of the studies was done by Dr Robert Haley, of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre at Dallas — who has found much if not most of the published medical evidence supporting the idea of Gulf War Syndrome.

A second study by the US Department of Veterans Affairs and National Institutes of Health reaches similar conclusions. Both were published in the journal Neurology.

Haley said the finding was significant because it was likely the third real cluster of ALS cases that’s ever been documented.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also called ALS or motorneuron disease, attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, leading to muscle weakness, difficulty speaking, swallowing and breathing, and eventually total paralysis. About 30,000 Americans are diagnosed with ALS each year, and is named after baseball Hall of Fame member Lou Gehrig, who died of ALS.

About 5 per cent of cases are inherited but most are unexplained. But because ALS occurs at about the same rate globally, experts believe there must be a genetic weakness that underlies the disease. Haley identified 17 Gulf War veterans under 45 who were diagnosed with ALS between 1991 and 1998, 11 of whom had ALS.

None had a family history of ALS or similar diseases. Haley calculated the expected rate of ALS among this age group and found 38 cases of ALS per year would be expected in the Gulf War veteran population in 1998. He found five cases that year — MNA/Reuters

**Russia, Canada hold summit talks on bilateral ties**

MOSCOW, 25 Sept — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday called the visit of Canadian Governor General Adrienne Clarkson to Russia “an important landmark in bilateral relations and an indication of our high standard of cooperation”.

During their summit talks held in the Kremlin, Putin said although Russia and Canada lie quite far away from each other, they are “neighbours across the Arctic.”

“In the world today distances play an ever smaller role, while the unity of views on current key issues plays an ever increasing role. The views of Russia and Canada on these questions are very close and sometimes coincide, which would have been difficult to imagine even five years ago,” Putin said.

The visit will bring benefits to both countries, he added. Clarkson expected her visit would help further deepen understanding between the two countries and peoples.

The cultural makeup of the two countries are very much alike and it is the half by political, business and art communities, she said.

Clarkson said that Canada is ready to offer Russian advice on building a federation.

Putin, who expressed satisfaction with Clarkson’s first visit to Russia, urged the two countries to seek new ways and spheres for cooperation.

Clarkson, the representative of British Queen Elizabeth II, who arrived in Russia for a 10-day visit to Russia, will also visit Russia’s Far North and the Yamalo-Nenets region, as well as the country’s second largest city of St Petersburg. MNA/Xinhua

**Tanzania calls for more investment from Germany**

DAKAR, 25 Sept — Tanzania President Benjamin Mkapa has called on German investors to put more money and attention on Tanzania, saying opportunities exist in the Eastern African country.

Mkapa made the remarks in Germany on Tuesday when giving his introductory remarks at the Tanzania Trade and Investment Conference in Hamburg.

In his speech, Mkapa said the government now focuses on a number of issues including export-oriented investment geared for regional markets within the East African Community and the Southern Africa Development Community.

The government is particularly interested in agro-processing, as the country has abundant and large idle, arable land, which is suitable for ranching. MNA/Xinhua

**Italian underground economy produces 17% of GDP**

ROME, 25 Sept — Italy’s underground economy accounts for almost 17 per cent of gross domestic product, Italian national statistics bureau Istat reported Tuesday, confirming that the phenomenon is most common in agriculture and in the south.

Working with figures from the year 2001, the IMF said in February that the “black economy” in Italy was 27 per cent of GDP, a little lower than Greece’s 30 per cent.

But the Bank of Italy has said Italy’s underground economy is getting smaller as a proportion of GDP. Its own latest estimate, based on the situation in 2000, put it between 12.8 per cent and 14.2 per cent of GDP.

The centre-right government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has said that drawing the underground economy into the open is a priority. It launched a number of initiatives last year aimed at doing this.

According to the central bank, the size of Italy’s underground economy is due to a drop in tax evasion, as well as tax controls enforced in the past. It is difficult to estimate just how much.

But last month, Italian tax police announced they had caught more than 50,000 tax dodgers in the past eight years. About 35,000 of the tax evaders nabbed since 1995 had never paid a cent in taxes and were completely unknown to the tax office. MNA/Xinhua

**OPEC consensus for no change in oil output**

VIENNA, 25 Sept — OPEC producers said on Wednesday they would not take any immediate action on tighter oil supplies despite jitters about falling crude prices.

Speaking ahead of a 10:00am (0800 GMT) policy meeting, ministers said they saw no cause for change in the oil market, with prices likely to remain steady in December to consider first quarter cuts.

“I don’t think anyone is talking about change,” said Algerian Oil Minister Chakib Khelil.

“I don’t think that there’s any need to change,” said Venezuelan Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez.

And Kuwait also said they were on board to keep output limits steady at 25.4 million barrels a day for the fourth quarter.

The Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries last year aimed at doing this. MNA/Xinhua

**Researchers uncover mother, child cancer risk link**

COPENHAGEN, 25 Sept — Women whose children develop breast tumours early in life are more likely to suffer from breast cancer, scientists said on Wednesday.

New research presented at the ECCO 12 European Breast Cancer Conference showed that if the child is diagnosed with certain cancers before the age of five, the mother had double the normal risk of breast cancer in the first 10 years after the birth.

If the child is a boy the mother’s risk was much lower but worries are that growth in non-OPEC production could cause a counter-seasonal stockbuild this winter.

“We are worried about stocks in the first quarter,” said Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad al-Sabah. — MNA/Reuters

**Quake hits Algeria**

ALGIERS, 25 Sept — A tremor measuring 4.0 on the Richter Scale hit the quake-torn region of eastern Algeria on Tuesday, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, official media said.

State news agency APS quoted experts as saying the tremor struck at 0757 GMT near the coastal town of Zemmouri, epicentre of a May 21 earthquake that killed 2,300 people and injured more than 10,000. MNA/Reuters

**German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder speaks at the 58th United Nations General Assembly on 24 September, 2003 at UN headquarters in New York**

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**SPORTS**

**Myanmar, Qatar win 800m in Asian athletics**

**MANILA, 25 Sept—** Qatar and Myanmar won the men’s and women’s 800-metre gold medals respectively on the last day of the 15th Asian Athletics Championships here on Tuesday.

In the men’s 800 metres, Adam Abda Adam Ali from Qatar claimed the title in one minute and 46.20 seconds, renewing the Asian record of 1:47.37 set by Malaysia’s B. Rajkumar in 1985 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Ali’s compatriot Albadri Salam Ameer beat Bahrain’s Rashid Mohamed 1:46.95-1:47.09 to win the silver.

In the women’s 800 metres, Myanmar’s Yin Yin Khine clocked 2 minutes and 19.96 seconds to win the second gold for her country. She topped the women’s 400 metres final on Sunday in 52.96 seconds.

Kazakhstan’s Tatjana Roslanova took the 800 metres silver in 2:02.41 minutes while Uzbekistan’s Zamira Amirova got the bronze in 2:02.84.

**Seongnam held 1-1 by Tigers in K League**

**SEOUL, 25 Sept—** Ulsan Tigers missed the chance to close the gap on leaders Seongnam Ilhwa as the top two teams drew 1-1 in the K-League on Wednesday.

Brazilian forward Sandro da Costa put the visitors ahead in 38th minute only seconds after defender Yoo Kyung-ryol heading into his own net under pressure from Seongnam striker Sasa Drakulic.

Seongnam, chasing a third successive K-League title, preserved their nine-point lead, improving to 72 points from 32 matches and with Lars Ricken sealing victory in the 67th minute.

**Dortmund gain edge with 2-1 win in Vienna**

**VIENNA, 25 Sept —** Struggling Borussia Dortmund received a much-needed boost of confidence with Wednesday’s 2-1 win over Austrian champions Austria Vienna in the first leg of their UEFA Cup first round tie.

Ukrainian forward Andriy Shevchenko got the visitors’ equalizer with a powerful close-range shot high into the net, the Argentine scored two minutes later on Tuesday.

The trip to Vienna was a welcome respite for the beleaguered 2002 UEFA Cup finalists who have been plagued by a rash of injuries to top players including strikers Jan Koller and Marcio Amoroso, defender Evanilson, and midfielder Torsten Frings.

The 1997 European champions have not won an away game in the Bundesliga for six matches and languished third from bottom at their 60,000-capacity World Cup Stadium.

Many clubs were forced to field weak teams, with several players on South Korean duty in Asian Cup qualifying over the next week.

**Spurs win 3-0 in first match since Hoddle sacking**

**LONDON, 25 Sept—** Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper Neil Sullivan said that lack of man-management skills had contributed to Glenn Hoddle being sacked as the club manager.

Sullivan told BBC radio on Monday that Hoddle’s tactic of freezing players out of his squad had backfired and resulted in growing discontent in the dressing room.

“There were a lot of players who were not happy at the club, which did not help when they went out to play on a Saturday,” said Sullivan.

“One minute the manager is not talking to players when they are out of the side, and then with injuries you need them to play for you — it is not a great way to manage a club. If you give someone 100 per cent backing from the players behind the management, it makes your job very difficult,” he said.

**Real beat River 3-1 in di Stefano tribute match**

**MADRID, 25 Sept—** Real Madrid beat River Plate 3-1 at the Bernabeu on Tuesday in an entertaining match held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Alfredo di Stefano’s debut for the Spanish club.

A virtuoso goal from Santiago Solari and a neat double from Javier Portillo ensured Spanish champions Real of victory in the 25th edition of the Bernabeu Trophy, an annual invitation match named after the Real president who brought di Stefano to the club.

Before the match the 77-year-old Argentine, who played for River at the start of his career, was presented with a commemorative plaque displaying replicas of the trophies he won as a player at Real including five European Cups and eight league championships.

Although Real rested several first team players for the match, several of di Stefano’s modern-day counterparts were on show including Zinedine Zidane, David Beckham and Roberto Carlos.

And appropriately enough it was former River Plate midfielder Solari who opened the scoring with a brilliant solo goal 10 minutes into the second half.

Playing one defender with a neat drag-back, checking his way past another and finishing off with a powerful close-range shot high into the net, the Argentine scored a goal worthy of the occasion.

Five minutes later reserve striker Portillo, who was deputising for the absent Ronaldo, headed in at the far post to make it 2-0 and then nodded in his second after a neat exchange of passes with defender Raul Bravo.

The Argentine champions grabbed a consolation goal 10 minutes from time when midfielder Luis Gonzalez rifled past keeper Cesar with a rasping shot from the edge of the area.

Di Stefano, born in Buenos Aires in 1926, moved from River to Colombian side Millonarios in 1948, joining Real five years later following a lengthy transfer tug-of-war with Barcelona.

He went on to transform Real Madrid’s fortunes, helping them to successive European Cup wins in the first five editions of the tournament from 1955 to 1960 and scoring in each of the finals.

The Argentine-born forward, who also helped steer the club to eight Spanish league titles, was named European Footballer of the Year in 1957 and 1959 and was appointed honorary president of Real Madrid in 2000.

**Knee operation for Hoddle**

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**Hoddle blamed for lack of man-management skills**

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**Sullivan, former Scotland goalkeeper, moves to Chelsea earlier this season following a lengthy spell on the bench after American Kasey Keller arrived at the White Hart Lane.**

Hoddle was fired by Spurs on Sunday after the London club suffered its worst start to an English Premier League season. They collected no more than four points from six matches and languished third from bottom at the 20-team league table.

Sullivan also accused Hoddle of making too much of Spurs’ injuries as an excuse for their poor results.
4. Musical programme
7. The mirror images of the city
4. Nice and sweet song
2. To be healthy exercise
8:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by
9:45 am
29/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable News, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296864, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296611, Production 297032 (Office) 297028 (Press).
Special Envoy of Thai PM calls on Prime Minister

YANGON, 25 Sept — The Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Surakiart Sathiratkhai, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, called on Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinttha in Yangon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Oum Maolanon.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Thai Foreign Minister Mr Surakiart Sathiratkhai, the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Thailand, at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinttha in Yangon. — MNA

Agricultural and poultry farms inspected in Kawthoung

YANGON, 25 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence inspected agricultural and livestock breeding undertaking in Kawthoung yesterday morning.

First, Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected thriving plantations of monsoon paddy undertaken by Thida Co Ltd in Shwe-ye-soe Village, Kawthoung Township. At the temporary briefing hall, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on the reclamation of vacant and virgin land, cultivation of monsoon paddy, and conditions of paddy harvested.

Then, Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Coastal Region Command Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and General Manager of the Myanmar Agriculture Service Dr Min Aung presented supplementary reports.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on more cultivation of crops to ensure regional food sufficiency and the reclamation of farmland. A total of 747 acres of farmland have been put under monsoon paddy in Kawthoung District.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party went to the construction site of Kawthoung 150-bed hospital, where he heard progress reports on construction of the hospital. After giving necessary instructions, he inspected the hospital building.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo also looked into the finished retaining wall between the Myoma Bridge and the (See page 9)

Track and Field team arrives back

YANGON, 25 Sept — Myanmar Track and Field team which took part in the 15th Asia Championship Track and Field tournament held in Manila, the Philippines, on 20-23 September arrived back here yesterday evening.

The team led by executive of Myanmar Track and Field Federation Director of the Myanmar Olympic Committee U Nyan Tun was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by General Secretary of MOC Director-General of SPED U Thaung Htike and officials, President of Myanmar Track and Field Federation U Myint Tun and officials.

Track and Field athlete Yin Yin Khaing of Myanmar secured two gold medals — one in 800 metres event and the other one in 400 metres event. — MNA

Yin Yin Khine of Myanmar (381) seen overtaking her rivals and breaking the record in the 800m final of the 15th Asian Championship Track and Field held in the Philippines on 20 September. She also won gold in the 400m final setting a new record with 52.96 seconds not only in Myanmar but also in Southeast Asia. Myanmar rated sixth among 40 Asian countries. — MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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