Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

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Objectives of the 15th Myanma Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— To vitalize patriotism and nationalism that is based on strong Union Spirit.
— To ensure uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and integrity.
— To ensure flourishing of Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts.
— To nurture spiritual development of the youths.
— To prevent the influence of alien culture.

Commander looks into maintenance of Kengtung-Lwemwe Road, development of Lwemwe region

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept — Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by departmental officials, inspected maintenance of Kengtung-Lwemwe Road on 13 September morning.

At the site, the commander heard reports on progress of tasks presented by officials and gave necessary instructions.

At Lwemwe Apple Farm of Myanma Agriculture Service, the commander viewed thriving of apple, tea and perennial crops and nurturing of 2,400 tea saplings. After hearing the reports of officials, the commander gave necessary instructions.

The commander inspected TV re-transmission station and the trunk-call telephone station. He instructed officials to always provide servicing of machines for long-term use.

While in Lwemwe, the commander visited Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery and Caturatha Thumingala Monastery and donated provisions and bags of rice to members of the Sangha. Next, he paid homage to Çaturattha Sumangala Pagoda.

At the Lwemwe Border Area and National Races Development Training School, the commander viewed hostels of trainees and the mess hall. After hearing the reports of officials, the commander attended to the needs and presented cash assistance to the trainees.

The commander also looked into thriving 10-acre tea plantation at the local battalion and the temporary nursery of Shan State (East) Forest Department.

On 15 September afternoon, the commander attended the meeting of Lwemwe Region Development Committee of Shan State (East) at the combined office in Kengtung. Also present at the meeting were staff officers of the command headquarters, the Chairman of the Development Committee, chairmen of the work committees and members, Shan State level departmental officials, officials of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department and guests.

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INSIDE

All-weather roads linking one rural area with another, and rural areas with urban areas are necessary for a nation. Only with a sufficient number of fine roads, will it be possible to raise the living conditions of rural people. And smooth transport contributes to the improvement of the education, health and business of local people.

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AUNG SI

Rural roads help improve living conditions of rural people

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 22 September, 2007

Accelerate anti-drug movements through public participation

The world now faces a wide range of problems stemming from abuse of narcotic drugs. In consequence, there occur social problems in relevant societies related to the drug-addicts.

So, every country and region have taken it seriously to fight the menace of narcotic drugs.

Myanmar is now cooperating actively with its neighbours, regional countries and international organizations in anti-narcotic drug campaigns.

Thanks to the participation of its people, Myanmar has achieved considerable success in the 15-year Drug Elimination Plan it has launched since 1999. In addition, it is accelerating the drive for supply elimination, demand elimination and law enforcement.

In order to expedite the plan, it is taking all possible steps such as exposing drug-related cases and taking punitive action against the offenders. In August this year, 167 drug-related cases were exposed owing to collaborative efforts of the Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department, and action was taken against the culprits under the law.

Now, as a result of the New Destiny Project, local farmers are growing poppy-substitute crops such as rubber, honey orange, sugarcane, sunflower and corn on a commercial scale in former poppy-growing regions. Greater success will be achieved in this regard if the movements are implemented with added momentum in exposing cases on production of drugs including stimulant tablets, and transport and dealing of drugs with enthusiastic participating of the entire people.

People's Desire

*** Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views**
*** Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation**
*** Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State**
*** Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy**

UNHCR Resident Representative calls on Minister for SWRR

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept —Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe received UNHCR Resident Representative Mr Jean Francois Durieux, who had completed his tour of duty, at his office, here, this morning.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Director-General U Maung Maung Than of Immigration and National Registration Department, Director-General U Than Oo of Relief and Resettlement Department, Deputy Director-General Daw Khin May Aung of Population Department, Head of Office U Than Naing Tun of the Ministry of Immigration and Population and officials.

MNA

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe receives Mr Jean Francois Durieux, Resident Representative of UNHCR, who has completed his tour of duty in Myanmar. — MNA

Eighth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference 19-20 November

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Sept—The meeting of the Working Committee for Organizing the Eight Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference took place at the National Health Committee in the Ministry of Health here this afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe in his address said that the conference helps promote Myanmar's traditional medical science, cement unity among Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners and improve Myanmar traditional medicines in quality and quantity.

He said that the conference will be held with the aim of promoting the standard of Myanmar traditional medicines, improving Myanmar traditional medical science, enhancing the dignity of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners and winning reliance and trust of the people. As a salient point is that a paper reading session will be conducted at the conference, he said, urging those responsible to compile quality papers.

He called for arrangements for exhibition, reception and accommodations for the convenience of the practitioners.

Secretary of the Work Committee Director-General of the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Department Dr Tin Nyunt presented a report saying that plans have been drawn to hold the conference on 19 and 20 November in Yangon with 315 representatives. He gave an account of formation of 10 subcommittees for smooth operation of the conference.

Departmental officials reported on the functions of their departments. The Deputy Minister gave concluding remarks.

MNA

Record rainfall in Pyapon

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept — The amount of rainfall (210) mm (8.27 inches) observed at 09:30 hours MST on 21 September, 2007 in Pyapon is the 24 hours new maximum rainfall record at the station for the month of September during last 7 years. The former record was (109) mm (4.29 inches) on 5 September, 2006.

MNA

In memory of U Win Lwin of 93rd street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon, Daw Ni Ni and family recently donated K 100,000 to the Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Treasurer U Aung Than of the Home.—H

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe addresses meeting of the Working Committee for Organizing the Eighth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference. — MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Long-term US Iraq bill to be US$25 billion a year: Congress

WASHINGTON, 21 Sept—A decade-long US presence in Iraq would cost around 25 billion dollars a year in combat conditions, and up to 10 billion even in more peaceful times, a new congressional report said.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) tallied up the price-tag for a long stay in Iraq after the White House said in May the half-century US military presence in South Korea could be a model for future Iraq deployments.

Upfront costs for a combat force of 55,000 US troops, modelled on the current US mission in Iraq, would mean a one-time payment of "four to eight billion dollars and annual costs of approximately 25 billion dollars".

Even a US force of the same size in a less exposed non-combat role, would entail up-front costs of eight billion dollars and an annual outlay of up to 10 billion dollars, the report said.

The report by the CBO, which provides non-partisan budget and economic costings for Congress, was commissioned by Democratic Senator Kent Conrad.

Internet

Chinese President Hu Jintao (L) and Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno (R) review the honor guards made of the three services of the Chinese People's Liberation Army during the welcome ceremony for the latter on Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, capital of China, on 20 Sept, 2007. —XINHUA

Actors Shah Rukh Khan (C) and Deepika Padukone (L) and director Farah Khan pose during a news conference to launch the soundtrack of their forthcoming movie "Om Shanti Om" in Mumbai on 18 Sept, 2007.
INTERNET

US soldier killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 20 Sept—An American soldier was killed by small arms fire during combat operations in southern Baghdad on Tuesday, the US military said in a statement on Wednesday.

The unit of the killed soldier was conducting operations in southern Baghdad to combat the al-Qaeda fighters in Iraq to reduce the threat of roadside bomb along the main routes, the statement said.

The latest deaths bring the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to more than 3,785 since the outbreak of the Iraqi war in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Iraq's humanitarian crisis grows despite US surge

LONDON, 20 Sept—Iraq's humanitarian crisis is getting worse and more Iraqis are fleeing their homes despite the recent surge of US troops, aid workers say, with donors reluctant to fund support for millions of displaced.

Last week, President George W Bush presented a relatively upbeat picture of conditions in Iraq and said forces could be cut by around 20,000 by next July. He linked the reduction to improvements on the ground particularly in Baghdad where the surge was centred and the volatile Anbar governorate. The United Nations estimates 4.2 million Iraqis have fled fighting and other violence, roughly half of them fleeing to neighbouring countries and half remaining displaced within Iraq.

Most stay with host families and in inadequate accommodation such as schools or abandoned buildings but with increasing numbers in tented camps.

Having taken so many, Iraq's neighbours have effectively closed their borders to new arrivals, complaining they have received little funding to help them cope with the influx. It remains one of the world's fastest-growing refugee crises, with almost twice as many of people displaced as by the conflict in Sudan's Darfur Region.

"Everyday life is a nightmare for Iraqis and that is why they flee," said International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) spokeswoman Dorothea Krimitsas. "It is very difficult to say what will happen but it looks very bleak. What we see is clearly a deteriorating humanitarian situation."

MNA/Reuters

Buffalos tussle during a buffalo fighting festival in Vietnam's northern Do Son resort town on 19 Sept, 2007.—INTERNET

Members of an elite force of the Philippine Coast Guard prepare to take part in an anti-terrorism drill at the Coast Guard headquarters in Manila Bay, Manila,on 20 Sept, 2007.
INTERNET

Suspected insurgent shot dead, another arrested in Thai south

BANGKOK, 20 Sept—A suspected insurgent was killed and another arrested following a gunfight with security officials in southern Thailand's province of Pattani Wednesday morning.

The gunfight took place at 6:00 am (2300 GMT) when about 100 police and soldiers laid a siege to a house in Kuning Village in Tambon Khao Toom of Yarang District, according to local newspaper *The Nation's* website.

Acting on tip-off that some suspected insurgents were hiding in the house, the security officials surrounded the house and demanded the suspects to surrender but they opened fire at the officials.

The two sides exchanged gunfire for about 15 minutes and two suspects ran out of the back of the house. One of them was later captured and the other managed to flee the scene. Police found a suspect shot dead inside the house. He was identified as Ma-iso Kalong, 44, a former imam of a local mosque.— *MNA/Xinhua*

US Senate bars bill to restore detainee rights

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept— The Senate voted on Wednesday against considering a measure to give Guantanamo detainees and other foreigners the right to challenge their detention in the US courts.

The legislation needed 60 votes to be considered by lawmakers in the Senate, narrowly controlled by Democrats; it received only 56, with 43 voting against the effort to roll back a key element of President George W Bush's war on terrorism.

The measure would have granted foreign terrorism suspects the right of habeas corpus, Latin for "you have the body", which prevents the government from locking people up without review by a court.

Congress last year eliminated this right for non-US citizens labelled "enemy combatants" by the government. The Bush Administration said this was necessary to prevent them from being set free and attacking Americans.

The move affected about 340 suspected al-Qaeda and Taleban captives held at the Guantanamo Bay naval base in Cuba. It also affects millions of permanent legal residents of the United States who are not US citizens, said one of the sponsors of the bipartisan measure, Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont.

"Any of these people could be detained forever without the ability to challenge their detention in federal court" under the changes in law Congress made last year, Leahy said on the Senate floor. This was true "even if they (authorities) made a mistake and picked up the wrong person".

"This was a mistake the last Congress and the (Bush) Administration made, based on fear," Leahy said.

MNA/Reuters

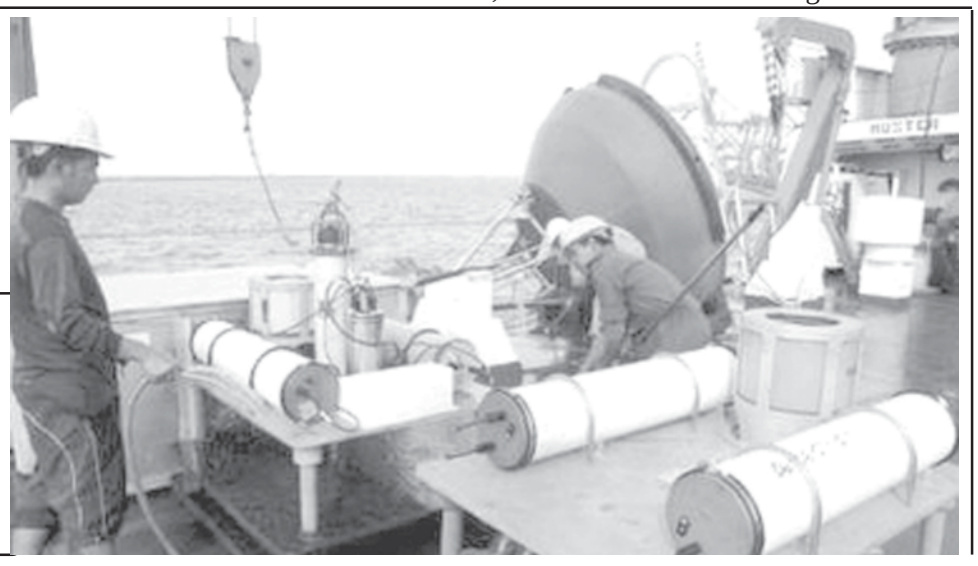
Staff member Jimmy Tan (L) massages the legs of patient Tan Hee Siong, 77, as a physiotherapist checks Tan's case notes at the HCA Day Care Centre in Singapore on 19 Sept, 2007. — INTERNET

Stolen Danish gilded horns recovered

COPENHAGEN, 20 Sept— Danish police recovered a pair of gilded horns late on Tuesday, a day after the national heirlooms were stolen from a museum in the former Viking capital of Jelling in Jutland. Police said on Wednesday they had arrested four people, two men and two women, after a tip and had recovered the horns and some other stolen artefacts. At least one item was still missing, police said.

The horns were reproductions of two 5th Century solid gold horns that were stolen 205 years ago and melted down, despite being national treasures. The reproductions of the Golden Horns of Gallehus were made in the mid-19th Century. The original horns were made of about three kilo-grammes (6.6 pounds) of solid gold and were covered with soldered figures and carvings of beasts believed to be from Celtic mythology.

MNA/Reuters



Workers prepare a tsunami early warning system buoy on the search vessel Baruna Jaya III, off Jakarta's harbour, on 19 Sept, 2007. —INTERNET

စက်မှုစွမ်းအား ဒေတံကျော်လွှား

A dentist teaches children how to brush their teech in the correct way in Xinyuan Xincun Kindergarten in Hefei, capital of East China's Anhui Province on 19 Sept, 2007. 20 Sept is China's Teeth Care Day. —XINHUA

British supermarkets guilty of price-fixing: government watchdog

LONDON, 20 Sept— The British competition watchdog accused British supermarkets and dairies on Thursday of colluding to fix prices, resulting in customers being overcharged 270 million pounds (386 million euros, US$542 million) for dairy products.

The Office of Fair Trading said it had provisionally found that a price-fixing agreement was in place between 2002-2003, with supermarket giants Asda, Morrisons, Safeway, Sainsbury's and Tesco involved.

The OFT added that dairy processors Arla, Dairy Crest, Lactalis McLelland, The Cheese Company and Wiseman were also involved in artificially fixing the price of milk, cheese and butter.

"This is a very serious case," OFT executive director Sean Williams said in a statement.

"We believe supermarkets have been colluding to put up the price of dairy products. Consumers have lost out to the tune of hundreds of millions of pounds."

Williams added that the watchdog would use its powers to punish such behaviour and "deter other businesses from taking such actions."

By sharing commercially sensitive information, including details of the levels of price increases over a two year period, the fixing was in breach of the Competition Act, the OFT noted.

Internet

Mass protest in US town against "unfairly" charges against six Black teens

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept— A small town in Louisiana witnessed an unprecedented crowded scene Thursday as thousands of people gathered here to show their support to six black teenagers who were charged with attempted murder of a white classmate.

Shown in the CNN footage, thousands of demonstrators wearing in black converged on the local courthouse and a park and thousands more marched on the streets, chanting "Free the Jena Six," "Black Power" and "No justice, no peace."

As of noon, there were still buses of people coming to Jena and many others walked into the town by foot. Due to the mass demonstration, many residents left for the day and most government offices, businesses and schools were shut off.

The racist tension in Jena was originated from August last year. A day after black students were allowed to sit under a tree where white students usually congregated, three white teens hung nooses in the tree, evoking a scene in which black people were punished in Old South and, however, were let go without any charge.

The tension escalated on 4 Dec when six black students were accused of beating a white classmate to unconsciousness. Five of the accused were originally charged with attempted murder and conspiracy but reduced to battery for all but one, who is set to be arraigned late Thursday.

The sixth teen, only 14 when the beating occurred, was charged as a juvenile.—*Internet*

ECONOMIC NEWS

Americans worry about economy, despite rate cut

CINCINNATI, 20 Sept—Americans are worried about the economy and fear housing woes and war spending could spark a recession, despite the interest rate cut this week that sent stock markets soaring.

Many people interviewed echoed findings of a *Reuters*/Zogby poll released on Wednesday that showed one in three Americans expects a recession in the next year, with some even raising the specter of a 1930s-style Depression.

"We're beginning to use the D-word, not just the R-word," said Chris Gibbons, 63, a housing finance consultant enjoying a morning coffee outside a Cincinnati Starbucks.

"An interest rate cut at this point is the worst thing they could do. You can't convince us inflation isn't going crazy. Starbucks has raised prices twice lately. Ever try to buy orange juice? Prices are going up and up," Gibbons said. "The economy is in the toilet."

While US and global stock markets rallied after the Federal Reserve's half-point rate cut on Tuesday, recent reports show the US economy lost jobs in August and housing markets continue to suffer amid a subprime mortgage crisis.

"It's getting worse," said Colleen Domain, a Boston administrative assistant. "My daughter just bought a house and we're worried about that. The cost of living in Boston is just unbelievable."

She added: "Things are not going to get better while we're spending all this money in Iraq."

The cost of the war was a common complaint.

"The war in Iraq is definitely hurting," said Miami Beach high school student Keala Flores, 17, who works part-time at a clothing store.

MNA/Reuters

A screenshot of Think.MTV.com, taken on 20 Sept, 2007. Viacom Inc's MTV will launch a new Internet social network sponsored by foundations operated by the founders of Microsoft and AOL to encourage youth activism.—INTERNET

Oil hits new high of over 83 dollars

NEW YORK, 20 Sept—Crude futures closed above 83 dollars a barrel Thursday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, marking another record high for a benchmark contract.

Crude oil for October delivery closed at 83.32 dollars a barrel, up 1.7 percent, or 1.39 dollars over the previous closing.

Crude oil rose to a record 83.90 dollars a barrel in intraday trading after the United States said that production in the Gulf of Mexico was shut because of a storm threat.

The October oil contract expired Thursday.

A weak low-pressure system with the potential to become a named subtropical storm as early as Thursday has formed in the eastern Gulf, the US National Hurricane Center said.

More than 360,000 barrels, or 28 percent, of daily oil production was idled, the US Minerals Management Service said Thursday in a statement.

Prices already went higher on signs that US interest-rate cuts and a falling dollar will bolster demand. The price of New York crude has hit a series of record peaks in recent days, including Wednesday after the US Department of Energy said crude oil reserves had tumbled last week, underscoring global supply tightness.

Internet

Gulf states take half of UK bourse

LONDON, 21 Sept—The Qatar Investment Authority has acquired a 20 per cent stake in the London Stock Exchange to become the largest stakeholder in the bourse.

The announcement on Thursday came as Borse Dubai unveiled a deal to acquire 28 per cent of the London bourse as well 20 per cent of America's Nasdaq. Qatar ruled out a takeover bid for the London exchange for the time being, but reserved the right to change that position if someone else made a bid for it.

Saying it intended to be a long-term shareholder, Qatar said it saw itself "as a shareholder that will provide stability and support for the board's strategy of developing further its business".

The London Stock Exchange (LSE), which has fought off a multitude of bids in recent years, welcomed the Qatari investment. It said it had a long-standing relationship with Qatari investors based on plans to develop the market in Gulf state.

"The exchange believes that, given the strength of Qatar's economy and the development of Doha as a major financial centre, there are significant opportunities to build further this relationship to the mutual benefit of both parties," Europe's largest exchange said.

The LSE sale was part of a flurry of cross-border activity on Thursday that promised to reshape the already shifting landscape of global stock exchanges.

The Qatar Investment Authority also announced on Thursday that it had acquired 9.98 per cent of OMX AB, Sweden's leading stock market.

In a separate, complex agreement, Nasdaq completed a deal with Borse Dubai that would leave the US firm in overall control of OMX and give the Dubai company firm footholds in Nasdaq and the London bourse.

Borse Dubai will complete its $4bn takeover of OMX but will then sell all of its interest to Nasdaq.

In return, Borse Dubai will receive a 19.99 per cent stake in Nasdaq and most of its stake – 28 per cent—in the LSE.

Internet

Actor Sachiko Hara performs on stage during a dress rehearsal of Feridun Zaimoglu's and Guenther Senkel's "Schwarze Jungfrauen" (Black Virgins) at Vienna's Kasino theatre on 20 Sept, 2007.—INTERNET

A model poses next to the Sony Computer Entertainment's PlayStation at the Tokyo Game Show 2007 on 20 Sept, 2007. —XINHUA

Russia business, lawmaker attack EU energy plans

MOSCOW, 20 Sept — The head of Russia's powerful business lobby attacked European Union proposals to vet foreign ownership of EU energy assets on Wednesday and a senior Moscow lawmaker promised retaliation.

The EU's executive commission earlier adopted proposals to open energy markets to greater competition but tabled a clause requiring third country firms to comply with European policies before they could buy significant stakes in EU energy networks.

This move is seen as targeting countries like Russia, whose giant state gas monopoly Gazprom has been actively pursuing EU energy assets.

MNA/Reuters

Rural roads help improve living conditions of rural people

Aung Si

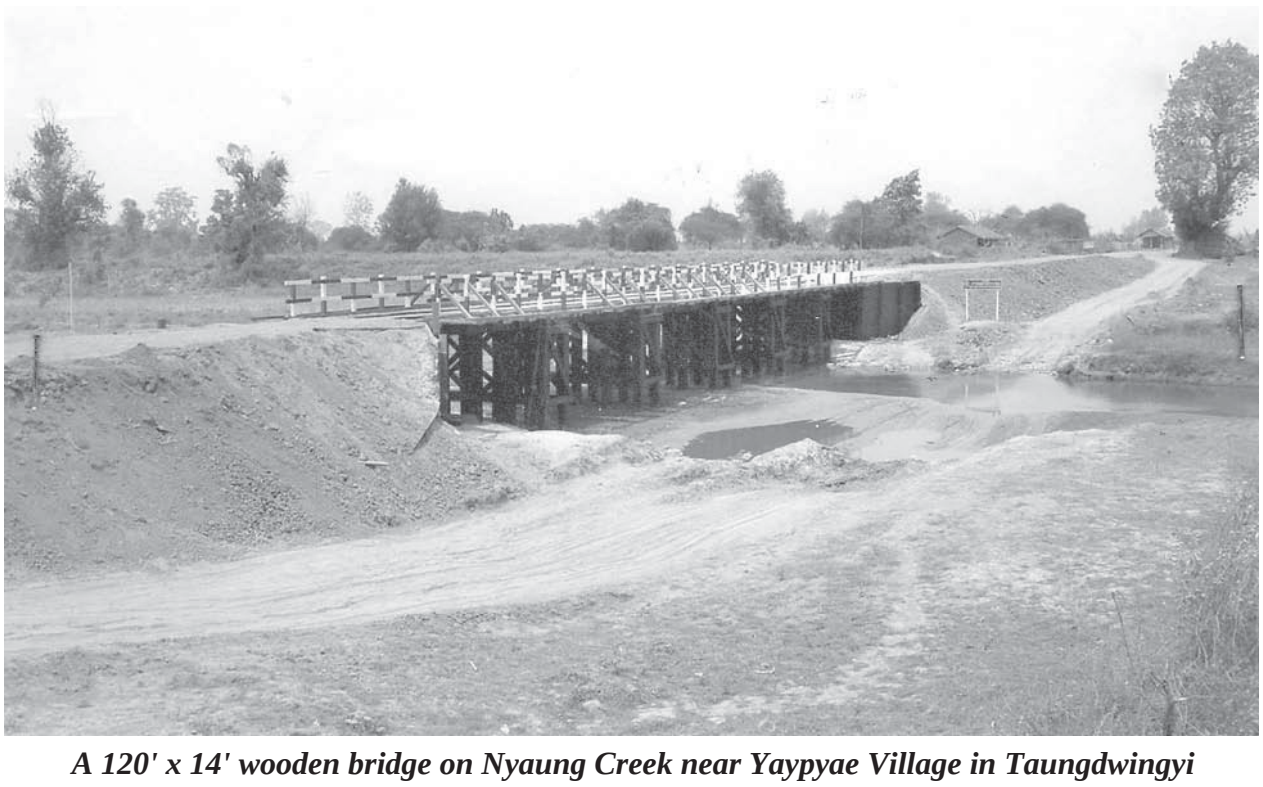
The government is in pursuit of the five rural development tasks for improving the living conditions of rural folks. The ministries concerned are implementing steadfastly the projects the government has laid down to achieve the goal. In this regard, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs has to take responsibilities to ensure secure and smooth transport and supply of clean water along with the promotion of the education, health and economic sectors in rural areas.

The Development Affairs Department of the ministry is discharging duties for development and sprucing up of rural areas, supply of safe water, ensuring better transport and establishing of rural housing.

Despite being rich in natural resources, Myanmar lacked proper transport. So, it lagged behind in development. For nearly 20 years after it regained independence, it did not see any new roads but had to repair and use the old ones built in the pre-war period.

A 700' x 18' Phayonchaung Bridge near Konbo Village in Hsinbaungwe Township.

All-weather roads linking one rural area with another, and rural areas with urban areas are necessary for a nation. Only with a sufficient number of fine roads, will it be possible to raise the living conditions of rural people. And smooth transport contributes to the improvement of the education, health and business of local people.



A 120' x 14' wooden bridge on Nyaung Creek near Yaypyae Village in Taungdwingyi Township.

Then, it constructed Pathein-Monywa-YeU Road. The State Peace and Development Council has been taking steps with added momentum to maintain the existing roads for ensuring smooth transport and swift commodity flow between urban and rural areas, and to build new roads wherever needed.

In the year 2007, the government has constructed 20 miles of roads linking urban and rural areas.

All-weather roads linking one rural area with another, and rural areas with urban areas are necessary for a nation. Only with a sufficient number of fine roads, will it be possible to raise the living conditions of rural people. And smooth transport contributes to the improvement of the education, health and business of local people.

A good road helps save time, damage to machines, and fuel. In the past, people had to spend a long time to travel between urban and rural areas because there was no means other than going on foot, by bullock-cart or by pony-cart. In consequence of poor transport, their living conditions were very poor.

So, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, having goodwill and sympathy for the plight of rural people, initiated the five rural development tasks. The government is now taking measures

(See page 7)

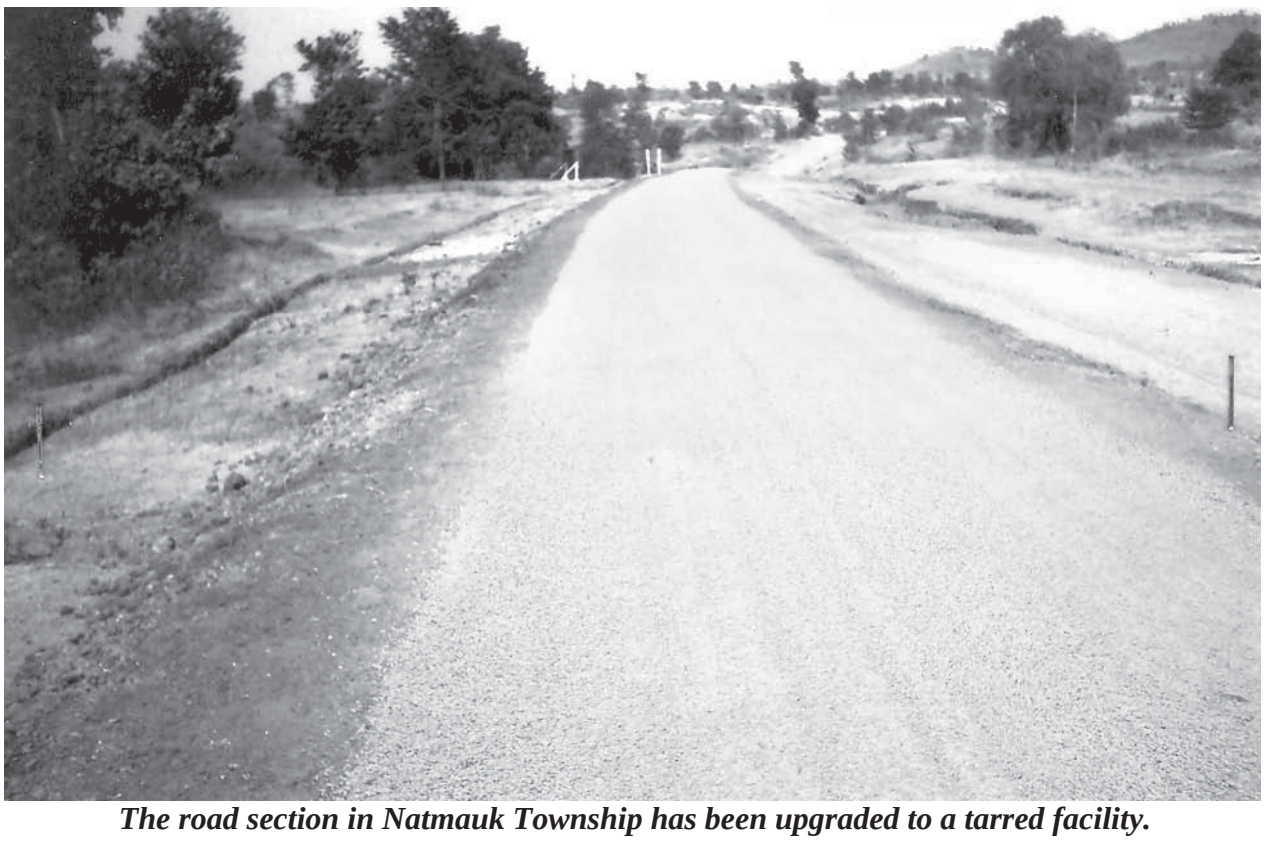
Rural roads help improve…

(from page 6)

throughout the nation so that villages and townships in the states and divisions have equal access to smooth transport. It is building long and straight district-to-district roads and roads linking one region and another with momentum. In particular, it ensured that the roads passed through the villages in the fringes of townships that lagged behind in development.

In 2002-2003 fiscal year, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs launched the District-to-District Road No 1 Project that passes through the fringes of Yangon, Bago (West), Magway and Mandalay Divisions in order that Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyine will be easily accessible from rural areas.

So far, the total length of the roads linking rural and urban areas across the nation has increased from 13,635 miles in 1988 to 19,041 miles, up 5406 miles.



The road section in Natmauk Township has been upgraded to a tarred facility.

Thanks to the emergence of district-to-district roads, rural people are enjoying the taste of rapid development. Many rural areas that were totally impassable to vehicles have seen various brands of motorcycles and automobiles in a large quantity.

So far, the total length of the roads linking rural and urban areas across the nation has increased from 13,635 miles in 1988 to 19,041 miles, up 5406 miles.

As a result of smooth transport, more and more rural people are visiting urban areas, and staff, merchants and brokers from urban areas have visited rural areas more than ever. Moreover, rural folks have an opportunity to broaden their horizons especially in the education, health and economic spheres along with a prosperous future.

Better living conditions rural people are now enjoying reflect the Head of State's benevolence towards them. People who have witnessed the newly-built transport facilities are pleased with such fruitful results. The staff of the Development Affairs Department engaging in district-to-district road projects are urged to work hard to help further improve the living standard of rural people.

(Translation: MS)

Myanma Alin: 21-9-2007

An undated photo shows a craftsman from Jiangxi is planning to use 130,000 toothpicks in a painting, forming the shape of Kwan-Yin, a goddess from Chinese folklore.— INTERNET

Japan's quake-hit nuclear plant catches fire, no leakage

TOKYO, 21 Sept — A fire broke out Thursday morning on the roof of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant in Niigata Prefecture and was put out half an hour later, *Kyodo News* said.

The fire started from a power cable of a makeshift air conditioner at the building of the No.1 reactor around 10:50 am local time (0150 GMT), the report said, quoting Tokyo Electric Power Co.

According to the company, the fire was extinguished around half an hour later by employees. No one was injured and there were no radiation leaks.

The power plant attracted much attention after a major quake shook the area in July, which led to fire and radioactive material leakage in the plant and raised safety concerns among the public.

MNA/Xinhua

Bush, Congress at record low ratings

WASHINGTON, 21 Sept — President George W Bush and the US Congress registered record-low approval ratings in a *Reuters*/Zogby poll released on Wednesday, and a new monthly index measuring the mood of Americans dipped slightly on deepening worries about the economy.

Only 29 per cent of Americans gave Bush a positive grade for his job performance, below his worst Zogby poll mark of 30 per cent in March. A paltry 11 per cent rated Congress positively, beating the previous low of 14 per cent in July.

The *Reuters*/Zogby Index, a new measure of the mood of the country, dropped from 100 to 98.8 in the last month on worries about the economy and fears of a recession, pollster John Zogby said.

"Since the last time we polled we have had the mortgage crisis, and we are hearing the recession word a whole lot more than we've heard it in the past," Zogby said.— *MNA/Reuters*

Int'l conf, exhibition on ICT finance open in Vietnam

HANOI, 21 Sept — The application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Vietnam's finance sector, and solutions, policies and orientations on developing its finance services are the main topics of the international conference and an exhibition named Vietnam ICT in Finance 2007 kicking off here Thursday.

"The government has defined a development model for the finance sector, which is based on advanced ICT. The sector has already applied ICT in such areas as Customs, taxation and public services," Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Finance Nguyen Cong Nghiep said at the conference and exhibition.

The government should have more effective policies on developing its financial market, especially the bond market, Noritaka Akamatsu, Lead Financial Economist of the World Bank, said at the two-day event, noting that Vietnam's State Securities Commission and the Ho Chi Minh City Stock Exchange should improve its operation mechanism, human resources and infrastructure.

Some 4,000 foreign and local officials, experts, entrepreneurs and visitors are expected to participate in the conference and exhibition.

MNA/Xinhua

Commander looks into maintenance…

(from page 1)

The commander instructed the work committees to expedite their tasks.

Chairman of the Development Committee Additional Commissioner of Shan State (East) General Administration Department U Mya Aung reported on formation of the work committees and development tasks being carried out for Lwemwe region.

In his concluding remarks, the commander instructed officials to cooperate with local authorities in carrying out development of Lwemwe region and its surrounding areas.

MNA

Final matches of the 13th Inter-State/ Division Sepak Takraw held

YANGON, 21 Sept—The final matches of the 13th Inter-State/ Division Sepak Takraw was held at the Aung San Stadium here this afternoon.

After the final matches, the prize-presentation ceremony followed.

Officials presented medals and cash awards to the prize winning men's and women's double regu divisions and men's and women's regu teams.

After that, General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik presented the championship shield and replica shields to Ayeyawady Division that stood first in women's double regu division and men's double regu division as well as in women's regu division and Sagaing Division that stood first in men's regu division.

MNA

Workshop on Advanced Livestock Breeding Technology organized

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept — A workshop on Advanced Livestock Breeding Technology jointly organized by Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Welcome General Trading Co Ltd (Myanmar) and Inve NUTRI-AD Belgium Co was held at the ministry, here, yesterday.

U Pyae Phyo Aung of Welcome General Trading Co Ltd discussed matters related to utilization of veterinary medicines, Nutritionist Mr Jan Maarten Persyn on livestock nutrition and the attendees took part in the discussion.

Next, U Pyae Phyo Aung donated veterinary medicines to the departments concerned and Prof Dr Aung Than (Retd) spoke words of thanks.—*MNA*

Course on crop information and post-harvest technology concludes

YANGON, 21 Sept—Course on crop information and post-harvest technology No 1/ 2007 concluded at the Post-harvest Technology Application Centre (Hlegu) on 15 September with an address by Managing Director of Myanma Agriculture Produce Trading U Kyaw Htoo.

Experienced persons from Myanma Agriculture Entrepreneurs Association, Gram and Sesame Merchants Association and Rice Merchants Association gave lectures concerning information on crops, dangers of the residues of insecticide, crop quality control, post-harvest technology, potentials of crop market, value-added production.

The four-week course was attended by 41 members of staff under the Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading.

MNA

Managing Director U Kyaw Htoo addresses conclusion of course on crop information and post-harvest technology No 1/2007.

AGRICULTURE

***Social Welfare Department Director U Sein Win donates K 100,000 and medicines to Shwe Thanlwin Home for the Aged.*—MNA**

Cash, medical equipment donated

YANGON, 20 Sept — As a preliminary movement for International Day for Older Persons which will fall on 1 October, a ceremony to donate cash and medical equipment took place at Shwe Thanlwin Home for the Aged in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan Township) this morning.

Social Welfare Department Director U Sein Win, also Secretary of the Work Committee for observance of International Day for Older Persons, explained facts about the occasion and donated K 100,000 plus medicine to the home through the management committee vice-chairman Col Tin Tun (Retd).

As a gesture of hailing International Day for Older Persons, a ceremony to donate cash and medicine will be held at the International Business Centre here at 1 pm on 29 September.

Those wishing to contribute can dial 662590, 662591 or 662586 (Social Welfare Department).

MNA

NLD not taken part in nation-building endeavours

12 members quit Meiktila Tsp NLD

YANGON, 21 Sept — A total of 12 members including U Kyaw Sein, U Than Win, Daw Htar Htar Aye, U Khin Maung Aye, U Than Naing Aye, U Kyaw Soe and U Tin Maung Oo of Meiktila Township National League for Democracy, Mandalay Division resigned from NLD of their own accord on 9 September.

They sent their resignation letters to National League for Democracy (Headquarters) and local authorities concerned.

In their letters sent to Meiktila Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-commission, they said NLD had not taken part in the nation building endeavours. They were no longer interested in and trusted the party. Therefore, they resigned from the party of their own volition.—*MNA*

No 2 BEHS of Latha holds annual meeting

YANGON, 21 Sept — The parent-teacher association of No 2 Basic Education High School in Latha Township held its second annual meeting at the school, here, this morning.

Headmistress of the school Dr Daw Theingi Kyaw addressed the meeting and responsible persons also spoke on the occasion.

The responsible persons of the association read annual report for 2006-2007 and financial report. Later, the meeting came to an end.

MNA

Ayeyawady River in flood

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—The Meteorology and Hydrology Department today announced that according to the observation conducted at 6.30 am today, the water level of Ayeyawady River in NyaungU has been as high as 2178 cm, accounting for 58 cm over the danger level. The water level is forecast to subside under the danger level of 2120 cm in 72 hours upwards this noon.

The water level of Ayeyawady River is now 1790 cm in Minbu, 1780 cm in Magway and 2556 cm in Aunglan, exceeding the danger level by 90 cm in Minbu, 80 cm in Magway and six cm in Aunglan. It is forecast to remain higher than 1700 cm in Minbu and Magway and 2550 cm in Aunglan.—*MNA*

Belgium detains 16 for India-Britain trafficking

BRUSSELS, 21 Sept — Belgian prosecutors detained 16 people suspected of trafficking Indian illegal immigrants destined for Britain, the assistant prosecutor on the case said on Wednesday.

Forty-six illegal immigrants, smuggled into Belgium and kept in safe houses ahead of transit to Britain, were also detained in raids carried out overnight in and around Brussels.

Belgian justice services said they believed the suspects were part of a larger trafficking ring.

"They (the immigrants) don't just arrive in Brussels. Someone else has been taking care of them and there could be lots of organizations involved," assistant prosecutor Tim De Wolf told *Reuters* by telephone.

Prosecutors raided 11 addresses across Brussels where an Indian organization had been harbouring the immigrants. Seven Indian nationals and one Bulgarian were detained on charges of human trafficking and 30 immigrants were found.

A second organization, of largely Iraqi Kurds, had placed the immigrants in parking lots on the outskirts of Brussels where lorries would pick them up and take them on the last leg of their journey to Britain.

Police, who have been working closely with their British counterparts, raided the parking lots where they had previously intercepted many illegal immigrants and detained seven Iraqi Kurds and one Belgian woman.

MNA/Reuters

An Iraqi traffic policeman inspects a car destroyed four days ago by a Blackwater security detail in al-Nisoor Square in Baghdad, Iraq on 20 Sept, 2007. Contractors protecting a US State Department convoy reportedly opened fire, killing a man, his wife and baby. — INTERNET

Flood death toll reaches 970 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 21 Sept — The flood death toll climbed to 970 from 954 in the flood-affected areas in Bangladesh in the last 24 hours till Wednesday morning, while the flood situation has improved obviously.

According to Health Department of the country, 16 more deaths of flood-related incidents like drowning, snakebites and waterborne diseases were reported in the last 24 hours, raising the death toll to 970 since late July.

Official sources said 61,510 people have taken shelters at 167 centres in the flood-hit areas.

The devastating flood caused by incessant rain and upstream waters has affected 46 out of the country's 64 districts since late July, leaving over 16 million people marooned, over two million houses damaged and hundreds of millions dollars economic loss.

MNA/Xinhua

2007

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS
1st OCTOBER 2007

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Indonesia proposes ASEAN initiative to support UNFCCC

JAKARTA, 21 Sept — Indonesia has proposed that the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) take the initiative in drafting a declaration to support the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in Bali on December 2-14 this year, a Foreign Ministry official said.

"Indonesia has proposed an ASEAN initiative to work out a draft declaration on its support for the Bali conference. (ASEAN) ministers are expected to approve it," *Antara* news agency quoted I Gede Ngurah Swajaya, the ministry's director of ASEAN political and security cooperation, said on Thursday.

The regional grouping would also support parties to the UNFCCC to reach a post-Kyoto Protocol agreement after the Bali conference.

"The draft declaration also contains support to implement all agreements to be reached at the Bali conference under the frame of UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol," he said.

In addition to the declaration, Indonesia had also proposed that ASEAN leaders adopt a special declaration which would link climate change to energy security, he said.

"By doing so, the climate change that has already occurred will encourage each country to intensify energy security efforts by among others developing renewable energy," he said.

It was expected that the UNFCCC would press the Indonesian Government, particularly relevant parties to make the community aware of the danger of the global climate change, he said.

"Given the UNFCCC and ASEAN support, Indonesia's programme to reforest six million hectares of arid and barren land by 2009 could hopefully be implemented," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Security forces foil suicide car bombing in northern Iraq

MOSUL (Iraq), 21 Sept – Iraqi security forces thwarted a suicide car bomb attack which targeted an Iraqi Army base in the northern city of Mosul on Wednesday, killing 14 gunmen, an Army source said.

"Gunmen in five cars, including an explosive-laden car, approached the concrete barricades before the entrance of an Iraqi Army base in the Ekha District in eastern Mosul before midday," Brigadier Ahnad al-Zebari, head of media office of the 2nd Iraqi Army Division, told *Xinhua*.

Iraqi security forces guarding the base opened fire on the convoy near the barricades and blew up the suicide car bomb, killing 14 of the attackers and wounding three, Zebari said.

The soldiers of the base confiscated the remained four cars, he said.

Also in the district, a roadside bomb struck a military vehicle that came to reinforce the troops in the base, destroying the car, killing a soldier and wounding three others aboard, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Report says UK "must do more" to stop child-traffiking

LONDON, 21 Sept — Britain is not doing enough to protect children who are trafficked into the country to work in the sex industry or as slave labour, two rights groups said in a report on Thursday.

Care and protection of such children is inconsistent across the regions and in some cases non-existent, they said.

Compared with other countries, Britain was being slow to stamp out the crime of trafficking.

The report called for trafficked children to be given renewable residence permits so that they can stay in the country to recover from abuses.

David Bull, executive director of UNICEF UK one of the co-authors of the study, said trafficking of children is a global problem and that every year 1.2 million of them become victims of the crime. "They are secretly transported across borders and sold like commodities or trafficked within countries for the sole purpose of exploitation," he said. Once in Britain, some were destined to work as sex slaves and others as domestic servants or in sweatshops.

Despite government action on child trafficking, UNICEF and the children's rights organization End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT) said there was still much more that could be done.— *MNA/Reuters*

***An aerial picture shows the port in Helsinki in 2006. Nordic countries take the greatest care of their environment and their people, according to a ranking published on Thursday by the publication Reader's Digest.*— INTERNET**

***A peasant looks at the crater caused by a meteorite crash in the southern Peruvian town of Carangas, near the border with Bolivia, on 16 Sept, 2007.* — INTERNET**

US guard chief says billions more needed for equipment

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept — The US National Guard has been strained by multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and faces equipment shortfalls totalling tens of billions of dollars, the Guard's top general said on Wednesday.

Lieutenant-General Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said the Army National Guard needs 13.1 billion US dollars through 2013 to boost equipment levels and the Air National Guard needs 8.8 billion US dollars for equipment in that time.

That funding would give Guard units in each US state 90 per cent of the equipment they are authorized to have, he said, up from the current average of 50 per cent. Historically, states have had about 70 per cent of their authorized equipment and the current shortfall is due in part to war-zone deployments.

Blum dismissed arguments that the Guard should operate with less equipment because of agreements among states to share resources in times of crisis.

Each US state and territory has a Guard force with both federal and state responsibilities.

"There's no time to start moving from neighbouring states and start drawing from consolidated sites, as some people have suggested," Blum told reporters in Washington.

"My problem is not with predictable events. My problem is how do we get the Guard ready for no-notice events that will happen, like an earthquake or a tornado or a terrorist event or a combination of all three."

"That's where I think we, by having an under-equipped National Guard, ... are assuming at least some significant risk in that area, more than I think is prudent," Blum said.

MNA/Reuters

***A Lebanese woman walks in front of destroyed cars at the site of a car bomb in a Christian suburb of Beirut, which killed anti-Syrian deputy Antoine Ghanem recently.*— INTERNET**

China, India pledge further promotion of bilateral relations

BEIJING, 20 Sept — Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan met with special envoy of the Indian Government Shivshankav Menon here Tuesday, saying China hopes to further promote the bilateral relations.

Tang said China and India have solid basis and broad prospect to develop their friendship and cooperation.

He hopes the two countries can further implement consensus reached by leaders of the two nations, keep exchange of high-level visits and strengthen strategic mutual trust.

China and India should promote exchanges and cooperation in various fields, increase coordination and cooperation in international and regional affairs, so as to promote the bilateral strategic partnership toward peace and prosperity, Tang said.

Menon, also foreign secretary, said China and India share much consensus and common interest in many fields. He said India is willing to work with China and further push forward the bilateral relations.

The two sides also exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern.

MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka's exports up in July

COLOMBO, 20 Sept— Sri Lanka's exports grew by 33.9 per cent to 690 million US dollars in July as against the 516 million dollars in the same month of 2006, the Central Bank said here Tuesday.

The persistently strong demand for apparel has continued to provide the basis for the strong trade performance in July 2007, said the bank in a statement.

"Apparel exports rose by 38.5 per cent in July 2007 and were complemented by the expanded market access in the EU countries," the statement said.

The cumulative exports during the first seven months of the year had grown to 4.26 billion dollars from 3.68 billion dollars during the same period of 2006.

Sri Lanka's economy is being affected by the ongoing civil war in the north and east of the island.

The Asian Development Bank in its 2007 outlook made public on Monday said that the island country's economy would grow by 6.1 per cent in 2007, which is below the government's anticipated target of over 7 per cent. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Rescue workers talk with the Russian survivor (C), identified as Alexander Zverev, in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on 21 Sept, 2007. — Xinhua

Peruvian archaeologists find 40 mummies dating back 12,000 yrs

LIMA, 21 Sept — Archaeologists in Peru have found 40 mummies dating from the 1,200-year-old Chachapoyas culture in the Amazon fortress of Kuelap, project leader Alfredo Narvaez told local media on Wednesday.

He said the mummies were discovered alongside Inca pottery, and that they showed signs of being affected by a fire in the archaeological complex, some 1,409 kilometres northeast to the nation's capital.

He said the bodies had been buried under a platform of 24 metres in diameter in the El Tintero structure during a dig of the Kuelap Archaeo-logical Complex Restoration and Conservation project.

El Tintero contained six circular buildings, which appeared to be homes to residents of that time. The mummies, both men and women of all ages, were found both inside and outside the buildings, Narvaez said, noting it seems there was no time to bury them.

The mummies may have been victims of an epidemic or a violent invasion which ended in a massacre and the burning of the stone fortress, Narvaez said.

The Chachapoyas, one of the higher cultures of ancient Peru, had settlements from the Mara and Urubamba River to Abiseo Basin with a capital in the Utcubamba Basin, in the current Amazonas region.

The Chachapoyas stone fortress, which is some 3,000 metres above sea level, was built in the year 800 A.D. It occupies six hectares and has three defense platforms.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam's woodwork export rises in first 8 months

HANOI, 21 Sept— Vietnam gained woodwork export revenues of nearly 1.5 billion US dollars in the first eight months of this year, a year-on-year surge of 23.3 per cent, according to the country's Wood and Forest Products Processing Association on Wednesday.

The country's woodwork export turnovers are estimated to increase to 2.5 billion dollars in 2007 and nearly 5.6 billion dollars in 2010 from over 1.9 billion dollars in 2006, said the association.

Besides such key markets as the European Union, the United States, Japan and Taiwan, woodwork firms in Vietnam are intensifying exportation of their products, including tables, chairs, beds and wardrobes, to potential markets such as Canada, Russia and East Europe, and seeking more material suppliers.

The woodwork firms should establish material wholesale markets in the northern, central and southern regions, and join hands with one another to involve in a specific phase of the process of manufacturing a certain finished product, the association said.

Vietnam's wood-based products are now available in over 120 countries and regions, the association said.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing to ban smoking in cabs

BEIJING, 21 Sept — Beijing will enforce a smoking ban in cabs from 1 October in a move to help create a "non-smoking" Olympic Games in 2008.

Passengers and drivers both face fines if they are caught smoking in taxis, but the penalty amount is yet to be announced by municipal transportation and traffic administrations.

Local authorities, including the Health Bureau, Transportation Administration Bureau, and Transportation Law Enforcement General Team, would jointly launch the public promotion of smoke-free cabs on Sunday, said Zhang Junru, of the Beijing Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.

The municipal government has drafted a set of regulations, currently open to public submissions, banning smoking at Olympic venues, athletes' accommodation areas, and within vehicles designated to serve the event.

Sales of cigarettes would also be banned in all venues, and training and accommodation areas.

However, implementation of the ban faces hurdles in Beijing, where almost half the male population are cigarette addicts, according to a survey conducted by Horizon Research Consultancy Group.

The survey showed that every smoker in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Wuhan consumes an average of 17 cigarettes every day.

Some Beijing cabbies fear passengers will ignore the ban and their advice against smoking, and they say they lack the authority to stop passengers from smoking.

MNA/Reuters

Mexico finds smuggling tunnel into Arizona

MONTERREY (Mexico), 21 Sept — Mexico has discovered a major smuggling tunnel linking a Mexican border town with Arizona after a tip off by the United States, Mexican authorities said on Wednesday.

The tunnel, which runs from a house in the town of San Luis Rio Colorado in Sonora State into Arizona, was uncovered when US Border Patrol agents noticed a sinking in the road on the US side, officials at the state attorney general's office told Mexican broadcaster Televisa.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia not worried by oil prices

JAKARTA, 21 Sept — The Indonesian Government does not yet consider the recent rise in oil prices to over 80 US dollars a barrel as adversely affecting its budgetary position and the overall economy, local Press said on Thursday.

Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said that no revisions were planned to the oil price assumption used in the budget, as higher fuel-subsidy spending would be cancelled out by higher revenues. — *MNA/Xinhua*

US lawmaker seeks data in Iraq corruption prove

WASHINGTON, 21 Sept — A senior US lawmaker on Thursday made public a threat to subpoena the US State Department for documents and the testimony of two of its officials as part of an investigation into corruption in Iraq.

The panel's investigation is part of increased oversight of the Republican Bush administration since the Democrats won control of both Houses of the US Congress last year, largely because of popular opposition to the war in Iraq.

In a letter to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, House of Representatives oversight committee Chairman Henry Waxman, a California Democrat, said her agency refused to turn over reports on the Iraqi Commission on Public Integrity prepared by the State Department's Office of Accountability and Transparency.

The letter, which was released by Waxman's office, said the State Department refused to allow interviews with two officials in its Office of Accountability and Transparency. Waxman had wanted to interview the officials ahead of a planned hearing on corruption in Iraq that has been put off one week to 27 September.

MNA/Reuters

*File photo shows International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) soldiers standing guard on the outskirts of Kabul. The UN Security Council on Wednesday voted overwhelmingly to extend for one year the mandate of the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Afghanistan, but Russia abstained.—*INTERNET

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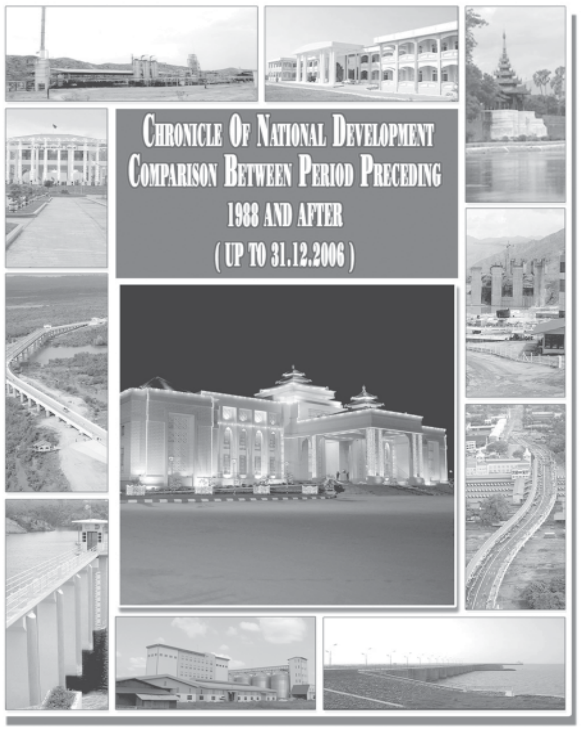

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EU, West Balkan nations sign visa facilitation agreements

BRUSSELS, 20 Sept—The European Union (EU) and five West Balkan nations signed here on Tuesday nine agreements on visa facilitation and readmission, which will bring the two sides closer in cooperation in migration and movement of persons.

The five West Balkan nations are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia.

At the signing ceremony at the EU headquarters, European Commission Vice-President Franco Frattini spoke highly of the agreements.

Under the agreements on visa facilitation, the visa handling fee will stand at 35 euros (some 45 US dollars) instead of 60 euros for West Balkan citizens, with a total exemption from the visa fee for certain categories of applicants. Furthermore, for certain categories of applicants, including business people, students and journalists, the necessary documents requested for supporting a visa application are simplified.

For certain categories of frequent travellers, the issuing of multi-entry visas with long periods of validity is provided for. Finally, the holders of diplomatic passports are exempt from the visa obligation.

The agreements on readmission set out clear obligations and procedures for the authorities of both West Balkan nations and EU member states as to when and how to deport people who are illegally residing in their territories.

EU citizens are already exempt from the visa obligation by all West Balkan countries. The EU launched the negotiations on visa facilitation with the West Balkan nations on November 30, 2006 in Brussels.

MNA/Xinhua

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Lightning kills seven pupils in western Uganda

KAMPALA, 20 Sept—Lightning struck a primary school in western Uganda, killing seven pupils and injuring 17 others as the new school term began on Monday across the country. The tragedy occurred around 1 pm local time on Monday at Bujogo Primary School, which registered over 580 pupils, in Hoima District, western Uganda. The injured were rushed to Hoima Referral Hospital in a critical condition, some of them unconscious.

Alexander Sabiiti, a teacher, was quoted by the state-owned *New Vision* on Tuesday as saying the majority of the victims were from Primary Three and Four, who had been studying in an incomplete classroom block. A downpour started around noon which was followed by strong wind and lightning, then the accident occurred, according to him.

"In a flash of a moment, I saw pupils lying unconscious outside the classroom. I wondered how and where they had passed to get there. I rushed outside, only to find them struck. Some had their skins peeled off."

MNA/Xinhua

Sperm whale found dead on Zanzibar beach

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 20 Sept—A male sperm whale has been found dead on the beaches in eastern Zanzibar, to post a third dead sperm whale on the isles beaches in the past two months.

The dead whale, scientifically known as Physeter macrocephalus, measured 9.7 metres in length.

Local English broadsheet *Daily News* newspaper on Tuesday quoted a University of Dar-es-Salaam researcher as suggesting that diseases of a type might have caused the death of the ocean mammal.

"The cause of death was not evident but (the whale) may have died due to disease as it was full of parasites just beneath the blubber," said Omar Amir, a marine mammals PhD student with the Institute of Marine Sciences of the University of Dar-es-Salaam.

Sperm whales, found in warm waters of all the oceans in the world, usually migrate to around Zanzibar for breeding between July and November.

It is the largest of all toothed whales and is the largest toothed animal alive, measuring up to 18 metres long. —*MNA/Xinhua*

900,000 hectares of crop land damaged by floods in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 20 Sept—Crops cultivated in about 900,000 hectares of land in Bangladesh have been damaged by the devastating flood since late July, local newspaper The Financial *Express* reported Thursday.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) under the country's Ministry of Agriculture, crops and seedlings of different kinds of vegetables covering 550,000 hectares of lands in 39 out of the country's 64 districts were inundated by flash floods caused by heavy rainfall and onrush of waters from upper stream in July-August period. The damaged crops are worth 22 billion taka (about 314 million US dollars).

Following a second spell of floods in early September, crops on about 350,000 hectares of land were totally damaged in the country. Sources said the flood damaged paddy and different kinds of vegetables in 33 districts.

The government is yet to assess the total losses of agriculture caused by the successive floods. The DAE is preparing rehabilitation programmes for the crops losses.

MNA/Xinhua

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Jonathan Ive, left, Apple Computer's vice president of design, and Jon Rubinstein, Apple's senior vice president of engineering, pose behind five iMac personal computers,in this 19 March, 1999 file photo at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, California.
INTERNET

Breast tissue enlargement in men more common than thought

BEIJING, 20 Sept — Half of all men experience the enlargement of breast tissue at some point in their lives, media reports quoted an article as saying on Thursday in *The New England Journal of Medicine.*

The article was authored by Glenn Braunstein, chairman of the department of medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

The "embarrassing condition" is most common during adolescence, and about 65 percent of boys have it at the age of 13 or 14, although some cases will be so mild that they go unnoticed, said Braunstein.

The syndrome comes when bodies of boys in mid-to-late puberty may produce relatively too much estrogen, before testosterone output ramps up to adult levels.

And it will disappear within a few months.

He said he wanted to familiarize other doctors and men that most of the cases are not "gynaecomorphous" and there is no need to be mortified.

Even if people do care about it, treatment options, including medication and surgery, are very effective.- But there are indeed some cases persisting.

Especially for older man, declining testosterone can enlarge breasts with no hope of their going away. Most the cases are harmless except the rare chances of breast cancer.

Internet

S Korea's teenagers 2 to 3 cm taller than 10 years ago

SEOUL, 20 Sept — The average height of South Korea's teen students rose 2 to 3 cm over the past decade, while their average weight is on the decline in many age groups, the Education Ministry said on Thursday.

According to the ministry, the height increases over the past decade amounted to 3.32 cm for male sixth graders (12-13 years old), 3 cm for female sixth graders, 3.14 cm for male ninth graders (15-16 years old), 1.08 cm for female ninth graders.

Compared with data filed two decades ago, the Korean teen students' average heights rose by up to 8.05 cm, the ministry said. By contrast, the average weight of local teen students marked a downturn in year-on-year increases, while an outright year-on-year decline was witnessed in some age groups, said the ministry.

Xinhua

NBC says free TV programme downloads coming soon

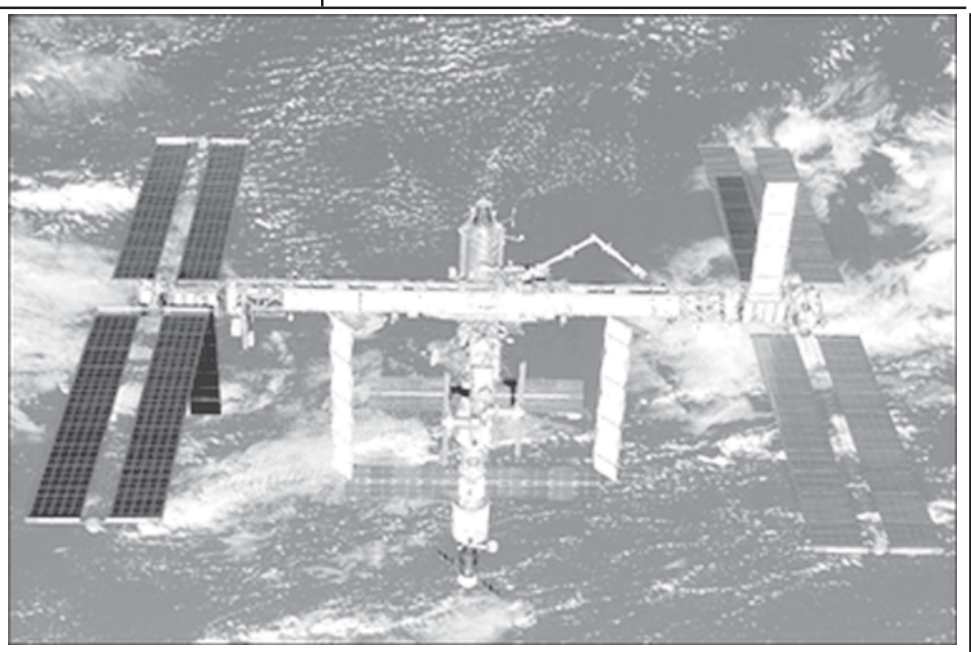
BEIJING, 20 Sept — NBC said Wednesday you can soon watch some of its most popular shows for free on your PC the week after the programmes originally air. It's the first phase of a new video on demand service called "NBC Direct."

The shows that will become available immediately include "Heroes," "The Office," "Life," "Bionic Woman," "30 Rock," "Friday Night Lights," "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" and "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." The new service will allow users to download episodes to computers running Microsoft Windows software. The file will contain embedded advertising that cannot be skipped. Upcoming versions to be introduced by year's end will also allow viewers to move the file to a portable viewing device or watch them on a Mac computer.

NBC says it'll begin beta testing the new service in October. In later versions, NBC Direct will automatically download your favorite shows to your PC after they air on TV, NBC says.

High-definition shows will eventually be available through peer-to-peer technology, which will speed the download of larger files, NBC said. A special software player with filtering technology will prevent users from playing illegally downloaded videos.

Internet



The International Space Station with Earth in the background is seen from the Space Shuttle Endeavour in August 2007 file photo. — INTERNET

Halliburton to expand HQ in Dubai

ABU DHABI, 20 Sept — US energy services giant Halliburton will expand its corporate headquarters in Dubai to target the Eastern Hemisphere market, local newspaper *Gulf News* reported on Wednesday.

Halliburton expects some 80 contracts in oil drilling services will be awarded over the next three to four years in the Middle East, Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe/Eurasia, each of which will be valued at 100 million US dollars or higher, according to the report.

"More and more and year after year, our investments are heading towards the Eastern Hemisphere," the company's regional senior Vice-President Ahmad Lofty was quoted as saying.

With the moving of its corporate headquarters from Houston to Dubai in March, Halliburton is having "an extreme focus on the Middle East" and determines to "take on a bigger scope for the Eastern Hemisphere", he said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Stem cell cultures are held up in a US lab. A man's testicles could one day provide a plentiful and accessible supply of adult stems cells to help him fight off disease or regenerate damaged organs, according to a study published on 18 Sept, 2007.— INTERNET

SPORTS

Mourinho says love affair with Chelsea is never ending

LONDON, 21 Sept — Jose Mourinho has spoken of a "never ending love story" with Chelsea fans in his first public comments since parting company with the club in the early hours of Thursday morning.

In a heartfelt letter on the team's website (www.chelseafc.com), the Portuguese coach said he was proud of his achievements since taking over in 2004.

Mourinho's reign, which brought two Premier League titles, two League Cups and an FA Cup, ended because, in the club's words, their relationship had "broken down".

"I am very proud of my work with Chelsea and I think my decision to come to England was an excellent one," said Mourinho, who never lost a home league game at Stamford Bridge.

"It was a beautiful and rich period of my career. I want to thank all Chelsea supporters for what I believe is a never ending love story.

"I wish great success to the club, a club that will be forever connected to me for some historic moments. I wish the players happiness in their football and in their family lives."— *MNA/Reuters*

China's Ma Xiaoxu (2nd R) vies with players of New Zealand during the last round match of Group D at the FIFA 2007 Women's Football World Cup in Tianjin, a coastal city in north China on 20 Sept, 2007. China won the match 2-0. — XINHUA

Wins for Bayern, Ajax in UEFA Cup, Spurs hit six

LONDON, 21 Sept — Former European champions Bayern Munich and Ajax Amsterdam started their UEFA Cup campaigns with 1-0 wins in Thursday's first-round matches.

Watched by a crowd of 64,000 at the Allianz Arena, Italy striker Luca Toni scored the only goal for Bayern against Belenenses, smashing the ball home from close range after a lob by Dutch midfielder Mark van Bommel in the 34th minute.

The winning margin means Belenenses will have everything to play for against the four-times European champions in the second leg in Portugal in two weeks.

Bundesliga rivals Bayer Leverkusen fared better in another Germany/Portugal clash, beating Uniao Leiria 3-1 at home.

Ajax also look in better shape than Bayern after winning at Dynamo Zagreb. Dane Dennis Rommedahl went round keeper Georg Koch to score the winner from a pass by strike partner Klaas Jan Huntelaar just after the hour mark.

It was a mixed time for the money-spinning English Premier League clubs.— *MNA/Reuters*

Italy regain top sport in FIFA world rankings

ZURICH (Switzerland), 21 Sept — World champions Italy have returned to the top of FIFA's world rankings after leaping above Argentina and former leaders Brazil. The Italians benefited from a 2-1 away win over Ukraine in a qualifying match for next year's European Championship and also picked up points for a 0-0 home draw with France.

Brazil enjoyed three wins out of three over Algeria, the United States and Mexico but still dropped from top spot to third place, since the matches were friendlies carrying less rankings points than Italy's games.

World Cup runners-up France have fallen two places to sixth following their shock 1-0 home defeat by Euro 2008 qualifying rivals Scotland.

Scotland are the biggest climbers in the top 20, leaping nine places to 14th thanks to the France win and a 3-1 qualifying victory over Lithuania.

England have returned to the top 10, going above European Championship qualifying Group D rivals Croatia to claim ninth spot.

Croatia still lead England in the race for Euro 2008 but gained less rankings points last month following wins over lower-ranked opposition.

England chalked up 3-0 victories over Israel and Russia while the Croatians beat Estonia 2-0 and handed out a 6-0 thrashing to Andorra.

Top 20 rankings

1. (3) Italy
2. (2) Argentina
3. (1) Brazil
4. (5) Germany
5. (7) Netherlands
6. (4) France
7. (8) Spain
8. (10) Portugal
9. (12) England
10. (6) Croatia
11. (8) Czech Republic
12. (13) Romania
13. (11) Mexico
14. (23) Scotland
15. (14) Greece
16. (20) Poland
17. (15) Ukraine
18. (17) USA
19. (21) Uruguay
20. (19) Sweden

MNA/Reuters

Australia's Collette Mc Callum (L) vies with a player of Canada during the last round match of Group C at the FIFA 2007 Women's Football World Cup in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province on 20 Sept, 2007. The match ended 2-2.— XINHUA

Brazil coach Dunga criticizes Maracana pitch

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Septe — Brazil coach Dunga has criticized the state of the pitch at the Maracana stadium where his side face Ecuador in a World Cup qualifier next month.

"I understand a series of matches has contributed to this but the truth is the pitch is in bad condition, it needs to be repaired," he told reporters after visiting the ground on Thursday.

"When I was a player the Maracana always had an excellent pitch."

The playing surface was used a lot during the Panamerican Games in July, hosting the opening and closing ceremonies as well as the men's and women's soccer tournaments.— *MNA/Reuters*

Chonbuk fall to Reds in Asian Champions League

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Sept — Choi Jin-cheul scored an important away goal in the final minute as champions Chonbuk Motors lost 2-1 to Japan's Urawa Reds in the first leg of their Asian Champions League quarterfinal in Saitama on Wednesday.

The Korean side, making their first appearance in this year's competition, fell behind to a fourth-minute goal from Makoto Hasebe before Tatsuya Tanaka added a second for the Japanese champions in the 59th minute.

Knowing that a 2-0 deficit would be almost impossible to overcome in the second leg, Chonbuk fought back in a desperate attempt to limit the damage.

Their efforts were rewarded when Choi scored with a low shot from a corner in the dying minutes.

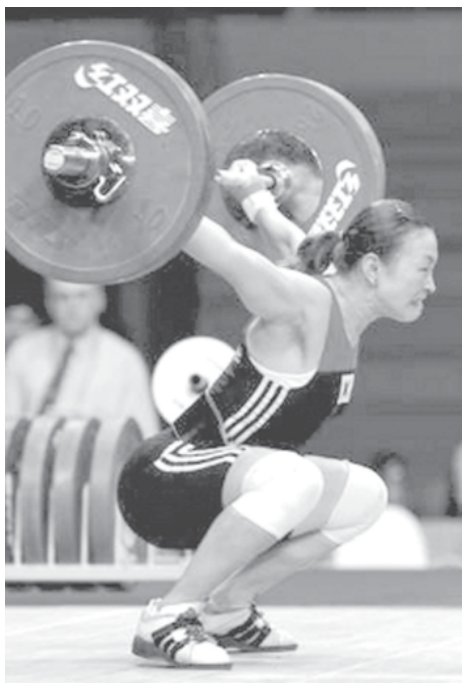
Chonbuk's Korean rivals Seongnam Ilhwa fared better, overcoming slippery conditions at home to fight back from 1-0 down and beat last year's runners-up Al Karama, of Syria, 2-1.

Senegalese striker Senghor Koupouleni stunned the favoured home team when he headed home a rebound on nine minutes after Zyad Chaabo's shot crashed against the bar. Seongnam's substitute striker Kim Min-ho inspired his team's comeback in the 72nd minute by scoring the equalizer only two minutes after coming on for midfielder Kim Cheol-ho.

Karama had barely recovered from the shock before Cho Byung-kuk gave the Koreans the lead within 90 seconds by heading in Kim Do-heon's corner.

The other quarterfinal matches both finished goalless.

Iran's Sepahan failed to make the most of home advantage when they were held 0-0 by Japanese side Kawasaki Frontale, who are now favourites to advance to the next round. — *MNA/Reuters*



South Korea's Yoon Jin-hee fails during her first attempt at 90kg at the women's 53kg snatch at the World's Weightlifting Championships in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 20 Sept, 2007. —INTERNET

Owen has precautionary scan on groin injury

LONDON, 21 Sept — Newcastle United and England striker Michael Owen has undergone a precautionary scan on his groin after being substituted early in the second half of his side's Premier League defeat at Derby County on Monday.

"We sent him for a scan as a precaution," Newcastle manager Sam Allardyce said on the club's website. "But he's absolutely fine and will be fit to play on Sunday." Media reports said Owen may need a hernia operation.

Owen has been in sparkling form since returning to full fitness after missing virtually the whole of last season with a cruciate ligament injury.

After another injury setback before the start of the season, he has returned to score five goals in his last five starts for club and country.

Newcastle host West Ham United on Sunday. — *MNA/Reuters*

Civil rights protesters converge on south US

JENA (Louisiana), 21 Sept — Tens of thousands of Black Americans descended on a small town in central Louisiana on Thursday to protest what they say is injustice against six Black teenagers charged over a high school fight.

Protesters arrived in buses and cars from cities as far away and apart as New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles and New Orleans for a rally in support of the "Jena 6".

The case has become a symbol for many African Americans of a wider struggle against racism and perceived discrimination against Black males by the criminal justice system.

"I came because enough is enough. I am tired of the way the courts have been treating African Americans historically," said Doug Martin, a computer analyst from New Orleans.

Most of the demonstrators were dressed in black. Some held banners reading "Free the Jena 6" and chanted "no justice, no peace, no racist police", while others lounged in lawn chairs or took pictures of each other.

By mid-afternoon, scores of buses departed the town as protesters began long journeys home.

Many said the rally, which was peaceful, was a success and gave young people an opportunity to participate in the activism associated with the civil rights era of the 1950s and 1960s.

The case stems from an incident in August of last year when three nooses were found hanging from a tree at the high school in the town of 3,000 northwest of New Orleans. Nooses have been seen as a symbol of racial lynchings of Blacks.

Black residents said that incident stoked tension in the town and in December the teenagers were charged with assault after a White schoolmate was beaten up.

Charges against some of the boys were later raised to attempted murder, drawing accusations from protesters that they had been excessively charged. Those charges have since been reduced.

For many Blacks the "Jena 6" has attained the status of a modern-day version of the incidents that punctuated the US civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Word about it has spread through the Black community partly through syndicated radio shows by civil rights leader Al Sharpton and popular disc jockey Michael Baisden.

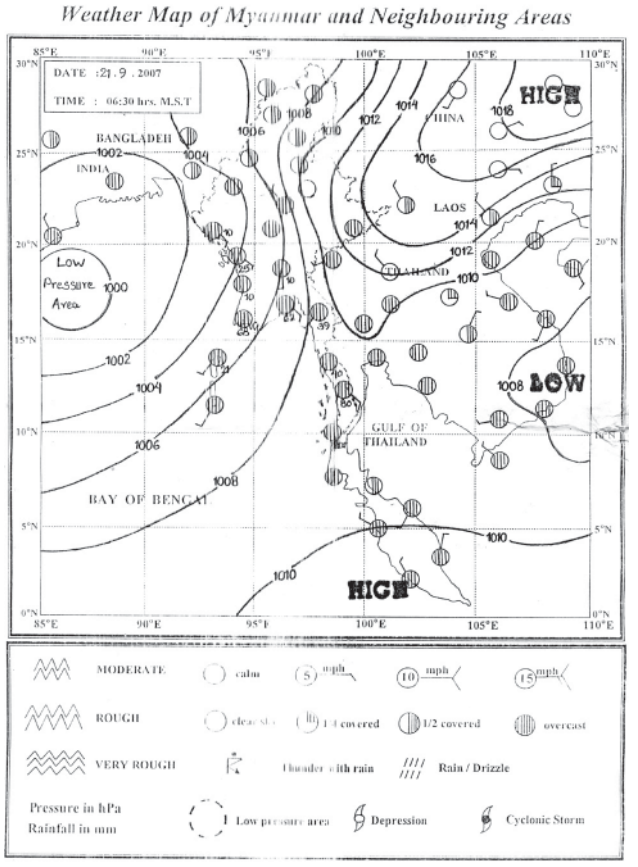
Several candidates for the Democratic nomination for president including Senators. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama and former senator John Edwards issued statements urging justice in the case. The candidates are vying for Black votes.

The protest was originally timed to coincide with the sentencing of one of the students, Mychal Bell, convicted on charges including aggravated second-degree battery.

He was tried before an all-White jury which civil rights leaders said is itself evidence of discrimination.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 21 September, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hour MST: During the past 24 hours, Southwest monsoon had withdrawn from the Central Myanmar areas. Weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State and Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan and Kayah States, scattered in Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfalls in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated heavyfalls in Bago and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.16) inch, Phyarpon (8.27) inches, Yangon (Central) (5.00) inches, Myeik (4.80) inches, Pathein (3.78) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (3.07) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (3.31), Thayawady (3.03) inches and Khayan (2.84) inches.

Maximum temperature on 20-9-2007 was 82ºF. Minimun temperature on 21-9-2007 was 71ºF. Relative humidity at 09:30 hour MST on 21-9-2007 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 20-9-2007 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 21-9-2007 was (3.70) inches at Mingaladon, (3.31) inches at Kaba-Aye and (5.00) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (112.29) inches at Mingaladon, (115.71) inches at Kaba-Aye and (118.66) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from East at (9:30) hour MST on 21-9-2007.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hr MST today, a low pressure area has formed over West Central Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay. Weather is cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 22-9-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated to scattered in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin State and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Daltaic, Gulf of Mottama, Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) to (45) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 22-9-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 22-9-2007: Intermitted rain which may be heavy at time. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 22-9-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for last weekend of September 2007: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon Division, isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.

TV Myanmar

Saturday, 22 September
View on today

7:00 am
1. Recitation of parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
8:15 am
6. Musical programme
8:30 am
7. International news
8:45 am
8. Grammar made easy
11:00 am
1. Martial song
11:15 am
2. Musical programme
11:30 am
3. News
11:40 am
4. Games for children
12:05 pm
5. "စိတ်၏စေရာ ၃၀၂" (အပိုင်း–၁) (နေတိုး၊ မင်းထက်ကျော်ဇင်၊ ထူးခန့်ကျော်၊ အိန္ဒြာကျော်ဇင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–ခင်မောင်ဦး၊ စိုးသိမ်းထွဋ်)
1:05 pm
6. Musical programme
1:20 pm
7. ၂၀၀၇ခုနှစ်၊ (၁၅)ကြိမ်မြောက် မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီး ပြိုင်ပွဲ (ရုပ်သေးပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆွေးနွေးခန်း)
1:30 pm
8. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
1:45 pm
9. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ (နန်းမြင့်ကျေးရွာမှ လက်ရက်ကန်းချည်ထည်များ)
1:55 pm
10. Dance of national races
2:15 pm
11. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး
2:20 pm
12. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
2:30 pm
13. မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်
2:45 pm
14. International news
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Song for uphold national spirit
4:30 pm
3. အဝေသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ –တတိယနှစ် (သချိုင်္ကာအထူးပြု) (သချိုင်္ကာ)
4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
5:00 pm
5. ၂၀၀၇ခုနှစ်၊ (၁၅)ကြိမ်မြောက် မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီး ပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များလေ့လာနိုင်ကြရန် (ကာလပေါ်တေးနှင့် ခေတ်ဟောင်းတေး) (ဝါသနာရှင်(ပထမတန်း) အဆင့် (အမျိုးသမီး))
5:10 pm
6. Games for children
5:35 pm
7. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
6:00 pm
8. Evening news
6:30 pm
9. Weather report
6:35 pm
10. အလှရှာမယ်လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်
7:00 pm
11. (၂၄)ကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင်အာရှ အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်မည့် မြန်မာအားကစားအဖွဲ့များ၏ ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ (ကရာတေးဒို)
7:15 pm
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သမားတော်"(အပိုင်း–၆၀)
8:00 pm
13. News
14. International news
15. Weather report
16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်စရာပျိုကညာ" (အပိုင်း–၅)
17. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Saturday, 22 September
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music:
-Paradise
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music:
-All that I need
8:50 am National news
9:00 am Music
-Cover me
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music
-There you'll be
1:30 pm News /Slogan
1:40 pm Music at your request / music
-Open your heart
-Broking my heart
9:00 pm ASEAN news Exchange news from ASEAN membercountries
9:20 pm Myanma culture … Dr Khin Maung Nyunt "Myanmar traditional boat race"
9:30 pm Souvenirs
-Moody river
-Smile a little smile for me
9:45 pm News /Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

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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

Flood lookout posts, construction of roads supervised in Monywa

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, accompanied by officials, inspected sluice gates and flood lookout posts along the Strand Road in Monywa on 10 September morning.

After giving necessary instructions to officials, the commander inspected construction of a speed boat.

The commander also inspected progress in construction of four-lane Bogyoke Road being undertaken by Sagaing Division Public Works at the entrance to Monywa. Departmental officials conducted the commander round the construction site.

In the afternoon, the commander viewed construction of Laygyun Sekkya standing Buddha image in the precinct of Maha Bawdi Tahtaung Monastery in Monywa and gave instruction of the construction task.

Afterwards, the commander looked into tarmacking of Pyidaungsu Road being carried out by Sagaing Division Public Works. After hearing the reports of officials, the commander instructed them to supervise durability of the road and timely completion of construction tasks meeting the set standard. Later, the commander fulfilled the requirements of personnel. — *MNA*

Prizes presented to winners in Performing Arts Competitions of Mon State

YANGON, 21 Sept — The prize presentation ceremony for the 15th Myanma Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions of Mon State was held at Mon State Hall in Mawlamyine on 3 September.

Chairman of the Organizing Committee Secretary of Mon State Peace and Development Council U Aung Win explained the prize presentation matters.

Chairman of Mon State PDC Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe presented prizes to the winners.

Officials also gave prizes to respective winners in the contests.

The commander awarded championship trophy to Mawlamyine Township team.

Later, the commander, wife and party enjoyed entertainment of the prize winning contestants.

MNA

Low pressure area appears

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Sept—The Meteorology and Hydrology Department today announced that according to the observation conducted at 6.30 am today, a low pressure area has come into existence over the central part of the west and northwest of Bay of Bangal.—*MNA*

Portugal Federation to hold emergency meeting on Scolari

LISBON, 21 Sept — The Portuguese Soccer Federation said on Thursday it will hold an emergency board meeting next week to discuss coach Luiz Felipe Scolari's four-match suspension by UEFA.

Brazilian Scolari, who was banned earlier on Thursday, has apologized for lashing out at Serbian player Ivica Dragutinovic after their 1-1 draw in a Euro 2008 qualifier on 12 September.

Federation president Gilberto Madail said in a statement to reporters he had not yet received UEFA's explanation for the punishment.

"However, to suggest a four-game suspension, which Scolari will appeal, according to his rights, if confirmed, is a heavy sanction for the Portuguese team that is playing to qualify for the final phase of the Euro 2008," Madail said.

"I met with Scolari for about two hours to share some thoughts on the problem and decided to convene an emergency meeting of directors for Monday.

"I am not the owner of the Federation and will accept, like Scolari, any decision that comes from the board of directors."

Scolari, who sat next to Madail during the meeting with reporters, said: "Although I have recognized with all honesty my mistake, I think the sanction is excessive. — *MNA/Reuters*

Sanitation tasks for proper drainage inspected

YANGON, 21 Sept — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin together with committee members U Kyaw Soe and U Nyi Nyi, heads of department, deputy heads of department and officials inspected tasks for beautifying Yangon, proper flow of drainage, road safety and traffic jam yesterday morning.

First, the mayor looked into construction of box culvert and instructed officials concerned systematic tasks to be carried out and occupational safety measures. Next, he checked solar traffic lights and safe run of vehicles and sanitation tasks at the junctions of Banyadala and Kyaikkasan Streets in Tamway Township, and Laydauntkan and Waizayanta Streets in Thingangyun Township, and Parami and Kaba Aye Pagoda Roads in Mayangon Township.

Afterwards, the mayor and party inspected sanitation tasks at the junction of Parami and Pyay Roads in Mayangon Township.

MNA

***Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects construction of box culvert in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.*—YCDC**