

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

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Saudi Arabia

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Sept— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which falls on 23 September 2007. — MNA

True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee meets



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin delivers an address at 32/2007 meeting of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Sept — Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee held its coordination meeting 32/2007 at the hall of Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters, here, yesterday afternoon.

Patron of the Supervisory Committee Com-

mander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin delivered an address.

The chairman of the Supervisory Committee discussed enforcement of traffic rules during the week and traffic accidents. Those present took part in the discussions. After hearing the reports, the commander

attended to the needs.

Later, the commander instructed them to ensure declining of traffic accidents, give educative talks on traffic rules and knowledge to drivers and the people.

MNA

INSIDE



Shaping a better future with the strength of new generation

As there are 41,816 basic education schools, every three out of five villages have got schools. In other words, there is one school in every 1.5 miles. Rural children are now free from transport difficulties of the past due to shortage of schools.

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AUNG YE LIN

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 23 September, 2007

Towards development of Myanma tourism industry

Tourism is booming globally and different countries are extensively engaged in it. Economic development in the region, extended operation of airlines and creating more jobs are indispensable for development of tourism industry.

In Myanmar, there are archaeological regions that have existed since time immemorial, ancient cultural edifices and handicraft. And there are also a variety of lovely scenic views, snow capped mountains and beautiful seashores in the country.

Efforts are to be made for boosting tourism market in order that Myanmar tourism covering beautiful and interesting tourist destinations will attract international tourists.

Some tour companies of Myanmar will be participating in the tourism exhibition to be held in Moscow, Russia, during this month. This will make Bagan Cultural Region, Inlay Region and Seaside resorts internationally known and fascinate the tourists to visit Myanmar.

As open season will soon set in efforts are to be made for hotels in Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan Region and Inlay Region to provide services of international level and better transportation for foreign visitors.

All in all, officials of Myanmar Tourism Service are to try their utmost for international tourists to stay and travel from one place to another conveniently and ensure hotels to render services of global standard. Only then, will Myanmar tourism industry develop.



In memory of U Khun Tin, Daw Kun Kyi and family of Tekkatho Yeikmon on New University Avenue in Bahan Township, here, recently donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Executive Member U Chit Myaing of the Home.—H

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

Information Minister receives guests

YANGON, 22 Sept — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received General Manager Mr Jason Leong and party of Singapore-based Ntegrator Private Ltd at Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call were heads of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information.

MNA



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives General Manager Mr Jason Leong and party of Ntegrator Private Ltd of Singapore.—MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for PRC

YANGON, 22 Sept—A delegation led by Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, left here by air this morning to attend the 3rd China-ASEAN Media Cooperation Seminar and Interview Tour of Guangdong and Guanxi in the People's Republic of China from 22 to 29 September.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of the ministry and families of the members of the delegation.

The delegation members are General Manager U Zaw Min Oo of Printing and Publishing Enterprise and Assistant Director U Saw Myint Zaw of the Office of the Minister.

MNA



Myanmar delegation led by Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise seen at Yangon International Airport before its departure for the PRC.

MNA

All this needs to be known

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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Calif. deputies use stun gun on autistic teen

TUSTIN, California, 20 Sept — California sheriff's officials have defended their use of a Taser stun gun to subdue an autistic teenager who left a social services centre where he was being treated.

Sheriff's spokesman Jim Amormino says 15-year-old Taylor Karras was running in and out of traffic and is lucky to be alive. The teenager bolted from a social services centre Monday and had walked 24 kilometres when sheriff's deputies received a call about someone running in and out of traffic.

In Warren, Ohio, a police officer was shown on his cruiser's video jolting a woman with a Taser gun both before and after she was handcuffed.

The woman was arrested September 2 and the officer was placed on

paid leave last week.

Patrolman Richard Kovach's report says the 38-year-old woman, who had been ordered out of a bar, kicked at a rear window and tried to climb into the front seat once she was inside the cruiser. She was again Tasered during the transfer to the second car when she fell and was knocked unconscious by the impact.

An ambulance took her to a hospital. The woman has pleaded not guilty to resisting arrest and other charges.

Taser use by police drew attention this week after video surfaced on the

Internet of police shocking a university student in Florida who persistently questioned U.S. Senator John Kerry during a forum and refused to yield the microphone to others. The incident generated a fierce debate about free speech, use of force and the motives of the student, a known prankster.

Taser stun guns fire electrically charged darts that carry 50,000 volts for several seconds, temporarily immobilizing their targets. Taser International Inc. says about 11,000 US law-enforcement agencies use Taser technology. — *Internet*



Bird flu under control in Vietnam

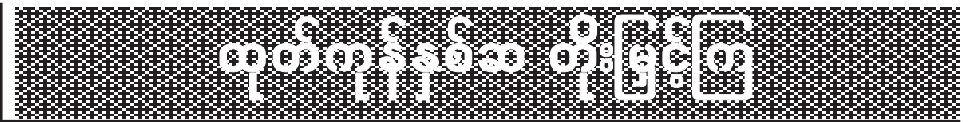
HANOI, 21 Sept — Vietnam has contained bird flu outbreaks among fowls, local newspaper *People* reported Friday.

Southern Tra Vinh Province on Thursday became the last locality in Vietnam meeting criteria for declaring its territory free of the disease (detecting no new bird flu outbreaks for at least three weeks), the paper quoted the Department of Animal Health under the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as reporting.

However, the country is encountering high risk of bird flu reoccurrence late this year, when cold weather conditions is more favourable for the development of the viruses, and the raising, transporting and trading of poultry are stronger to serve big traditional festivals, said the newspaper. Vietnam is intensifying disease surveillance, monitoring of poultry raising, transporting and trading, and vaccination among fowls nationwide.

MNA/Xinhua

A file photo on shooting with a 50,000 - volt Taser stun gun. INTERNET.



South Koreans are seen at Seoul's railway station on 21 Sept, 2007. The yearly exodus of South Koreans began on Friday with many travelling to their hometowns around the county for the upcoming Chusok holiday, the Korean version of Thanksgiving Day. — INTERNET

China denounces US criticism of religious freedom

BEIJING, 22 Sept—China on Thursday denounced a US report accusing it of curbing religious freedoms as groundless and an interference in its internal affairs.

In an annual report the US State Department accused China last week of persecuting Christians outside state-sanctioned churches, Tibetans, Buddhists and Muslim Uighurs.

"During the period covered by this report, officials continued to scrutinize, and in some cases, harass unregistered

religious and spiritual groups," the State Department said in the report posted on its website (www.state.gov).

Beijing expressed "strong dissatisfaction" and "firm opposition" to the report, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said.

"Respecting and protecting citizens' right to worship freely is a long-standing fundamental policy of the Chinese Government. It is a fact that could not be denied and distorted," Jiang said in a statement on the ministry's Web site

(www.fmprc.gov.cn).

"We demand the US side stop interfering in China's internal affairs in the name of issues like religion and do more things that would help boost mutual understanding and trust," she said.

While the US report listed cases of abuses, it also noted some "improvements and positive developments" in China's respect for religious freedom as the government emphasized the role of religion in promoting a "harmonious society". — *MNA/Reuters*

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 Sept —Two American soldiers were killed in two incidents in Iraq on Wednesday, the US military said on Thursday.

A soldier assigned to Multi National Division-

Baghdad was killed while conducting combat operations in an area west of Baghdad, the military said in a statement.

Another soldier died of a non-battle related cause in Salahudin

Province north of Baghdad, the military said in a separate statement without providing further details.

The latest deaths bring the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to about 3,790 since the outbreak of the Iraqi war in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua

A boat passes through Tam Coc in Ninh Binh Province, about 100 kilometres (62 miles) from Hanoi, Vietnam, on 19 Sept, 2007. Tam Coc, which means three caves, is also referred to as Halong Bay on Land. Tourists often used boats to explore the caves on the river.—INTERNET





A woman works near an art work during the first day of a contemporary art fair in Beijing, on 20 Sept, 2007. The art exhibition till 23 Sept displayed many art works from Chinese and overseas art galleries in a huge exhibition area of more than 20,000 square metres. —XINHUA

Businesses wasting water in Britain

LONDON, 21 Sept — British businesses are pouring profits down the drain by wasting water, according to the government’s business environmental advisory agency Envirowise.

A relatively modest water saving investment of just 25,000 pounds can yield actual savings of around 90,000 pounds a year, it calculates.

In total it estimates that British businesses are wasting 1.3 billion cubic metres of water every year — a total the country can ill afford given that some areas are already relatively short of water.

Turning off taps and reducing toilet flushes in offices are among some of the measures that can be taken with little cost but in total could save over 500 million pounds a year.

Envirowise is taking its “Big Splash” campaign around the country this week to promote Water at Work Week and persuade companies to sign up.

MNA/Reuters

Laos reports 970 victims of human trafficking

HANOI, 21 Sept — Laos has detected 970 victims of human trafficking, including 835 aged under 18, since 2001, Lao newspaper *Vientiane* reported Thursday.

Between May and July alone, 36 Lao women and children were victims of human trafficking, 16

others of domestic violence and four of rape, the paper quoted President of Lao Women’s Union Sisay Leudedmounsone as saying.

The union has called for strengthening publicity and education on preventing children and women from being trafficked in the community, intensifying fights against human trafficking, building up legal documents on the issue, and giving stronger support to victims.

MNA/Xinhua

Ancient temple collection discovered in S Egypt

CAIRO, 20 Sept — Egyptian restorers have accidentally discovered a collection of New Kingdom pillars, lintels and reliefs in the country’s southern tourist city of Luxor, Culture Minister Farouq Hosni announced on Thursday.

The collection was discovered within the internal walls of the Abul Hagag El-Luxory mosque, built on top of the open court of Luxor temple by restorers from Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) while restoring the mosque and its mausoleum, a SCA statement quoted Hosni as saying.

Meanwhile, SCA secretary general Zahi Hawas confirmed that the newly discovered collection, which revealed an important part of the history of Luxor Temple, dates back to the reign of King Ramses II in the nineteenth Dynasty from 1,304 BC to 1,237 BC.

According to the SCA statement, among the most important reliefs were those featuring Ramses II while offering god Amun Re’ two obelisks to be installed at the temples front facade, one of which is now at the Place de la Concorde in Paris.

Another relief shows three statues of Ramses II wearing his formal suit and white crown, while the other one shows a type of ancient Egyptian writing known as iconography. —Xinhua



Charley Arceneaux, owner of Whaler Customs signs and t-shirts, prints ‘Free the Jena 6’ T-shirts in his shop in New Orleans on 19 Sept, 2007. —INTERNET

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Bush’s AG secretary resigns

WASHINGTON, 21 Sept — US President George W Bush on Thursday said Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns will step down as Johanns considers a bid for a US Senate seat from Nebraska.

Johanns is the latest in a string of senior administration officials to leave in recent months, following Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and close Bush confidant and political strategist Karl Rove.

Bush said it was up to Johanns whether he would seek another political office, but added that he thought Johanns would “make an outstanding member of the United States Senate”.

Bush said Deputy Agriculture Secretary Charles Conner would

serve as acting secretary.

Three other Republicans already are in the race for the nomination to succeed Republican Senator Chuck Hagel, who is retiring. They include state Attorney General Jon Bruning, former Omaha mayor Hal Daub and a financial

adviser, Pat Flynn.

Among the state’s Democrats, former senator Bob Kerrey is also said to be considering a run.

Backers say Johanns, as a popular former governor of Nebraska, would be a formidable candidate.

MNA/Reuters



Olga Kapranova from Russia performs in the individual hoop final during the 28th Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships in the city of Patras, southern Greece, on 21 Sept, 2007. Kapranova won the bronze medal. INTERNET

Cuba, Zimbabwe to unite in resisting western blockades

HAVANA, 22 Sept — Cuba and Zimbabwe vowed on Thursday to

render support to each other to better resist the economic sanctions

imposed by western countries.

The will was expressed during a meeting here between the two countries’ foreign ministers. Simbarashe Mumbengegwi, Zimbabwe’s Foreign Minister, is visiting Havana to enhance bilateral cooperation.

Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque reiterated Cuba’s firm rejection of the US blockade.

Roque acknowledged Zimbabwean people’s rights of independence, sovereignty and control of their country’s natural resources, adding that Cuba will continue to support the African country. —MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

China's own regional jet may have first foreign order

SHANGHAI, 20 Sept — China's first independently developed commercial regional jet, the ARJ-21, may be ordered for the first time by a foreign company in the near future, an official with AVIC I Commercial Aircraft company said on Thursday.

The company signed a memorandum of understanding with Lao Airlines on 2 July in which Lao Airlines agreed to buy two jets, the official said. Both parties are working on details of the deal.

Seventy-one jets have been ordered by domestic companies so far this year

and another nine were expected for the remaining months of this year, the official added.

The maiden flight of ARJ-21, which is short for "advanced regional jet for the 21st century", is scheduled for March 2008 and mass production will begin in 2009.

AVIC I Commercial Aircraft company is soliciting names from the public for ARJ-21. It will stop accepting submissions on 28 Sept, and the name, which will have two to four Chinese characters, will be finalized and released at the end of December.

Chinese experts said the ARJ-21 has given China a late but powerful presence in its own commercial aviation market, which until now has been dominated by foreign aircraft manufacturers such as Boeing and Airbus.

Xinhua



Indian people stand in a queue outside the Vodafone office to book mobile connections in New Delhi. Global mobile provider Vodafone began using its own name across India on Friday following its purchase of an Indian firm, rolling out what the company called one of the world's biggest rebrandings.

INTERNET

China's wool imports surge 27% in first seven months

BEIJING, 21 Sept — China imported 202,000 tons of wool in the first seven months of this year, up 26.8 per cent on the same period of last year, the General Administration of Customs said on Thursday.

The imports were

valued at 1.13 billion US dollars, up 61 per cent, or 5,619 US dollars per ton on average, up 27 per cent.

Of the total imports, 128,000 tons, or 63.5 per cent, came from Australia, up 20.3 per cent. The European Union supplied

14,000 tons, up 90.7 per cent.

State-owned enterprises accounted for 86,000 tons, or 42.6 per cent, of the imports, while foreign-funded companies made up 64,000 tons, 31.8 per cent.

Customs sources said the increase in imports was largely due to short supply and mounting demand at home, as the global wool processing centre is shifting to China.

China processes more than 400,000 tons of wool a year, one third of the world's total.

MNA/Xinhua



Hong Kong actor Chow Yun-fat smiles as he attends the 3rd Fresh Wave Short Film Competition in Hong Kong on 19 Sept, 2007. — INTERNET

Brussels seeks power to vet non-EU energy entrants

BRUSSELS, 21 Sept — The European Commission asked EU member states on Wednesday to give it the power to vet and block attempts by non-EU companies to take big stakes or control of European gas and electricity networks.

In a move aimed at potential entrants such as Russian gas monopoly Gazprom and Algeria's

Sonatrach, the European Union executive proposed a safeguard clause making such purchases conditional on compliance with European policies.

"The package contains safeguards to ensure that in the event that companies from third countries wish to acquire a significant interest or even control over an EU network, they will have to demonstrably

and unequivocally comply with the same unbundling requirements as EU companies do," it said.

"The Commission can intervene where a purchaser cannot demonstrate both its direct and indirect independence from supply and generation activities," a Commission statement said.

MNA/Reuters



Construction work continues on new homes in Carlsbad, California on 18 Sept, 2007. While California suffers in the housing crisis, the economy of nearby Washington state is flourishing with strong job growth and some of the highest appreciation in home prices in the nation. — INTERNET



French sculptor Laury Dizengremel works on a terracotta warrior sculpture of Roger Federer in her studio in Shanghai in this picture released on 19 Sept, 2007. Dizengremel has been commissioned to create eight life-size terracotta warrior statues of the world's top eight tennis players.—INTERNET

British Airways suspends Harare-London flights

HARARE, 21 Sept — The British Airways said on Wednesday it will suspend its direct flight between Harare and Heathrow with effect from 28 October 2007, according to local media New Ziana.

The company's area commercial manager Steve Harrison cited viability challenges as the major reason for the withdrawal of the flight.

He told *New Ziana* that the airline would, however, continue to have a presence in Zimbabwe through Comair, which operates services from Harare and Victoria Falls to Johannesburg. "The route between Harare and Heathrow has been making a considerable loss over the past few years," he said. "We operate in a highly competitive global market and cannot afford to sustain these losses on the Harare route any longer."

Harrison said over the years, the passenger volumes had reduced while costs had continued to spiral in spite of increased revenues. He cited the economic situation in the country as having also contributed to the decline in market demand. Passengers who had already booked direct flights to Heathrow would be booked on alternative flights or be reimbursed, according to Harrison. — *MNA/Xinhua*

NGO released false facts on Cambodia's HIV-AIDS situation

PHNOM PENH, 21 Sept — Some statistics and facts in a news release about the HIV-AIDS situation in Cambodia, which was publicized by the Save the Children recently, were actually not true, the *Cambodia Daily* newspaper said Thursday.

The news release included two erroneous statistics, which said that the HIV-AIDS prevalence rate in Cambodia is the highest in Southeast Asia and an estimated 140,000 Cambodian children will be orphaned due to this disease by 2010, the newspaper said, adding that it also included two other incorrect facts, which said that 164,000 Cambodians are living with HIV-AIDS and an estimated 51,000 AIDS orphans are under the age of 15.

Save the Children Australia(SCA) Country Director Nigel Tricks apologized for the incorrect figures on Tuesday, saying they came from his organization's main office in Melbourne and had not been updated.

"Cambodia is one of the world's few success stories," Tricks was quote

as saying.

SCA estimates there are, in Cambodia, 65,000 people living with HIV-AIDS and 6,000 AIDS orphans are under the age of 15, he added.

According to the National AIDS Authority (NAA), the HIV-AIDS prevalence rate in Cambodia, which has been on a steady decline

since 1998, is the lowest yet at 0.9 per cent.

There is an estimated 67,200 people over the age of 15 living with HIV-AIDS in Cambodia and no one knows quite how many children have been orphaned as a result of the disease, NAA Secretary General Teng Kunthy said.

MNA/Xinhua

Egypt seeks to restore ties with Iran

CAIRO, 21 Sept — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit said Wednesday that his country sought to

normalize diplomatic relations with Iran through "constructive consultations," the official *MENA* news

agency reported.

Asked about the prospects of normalizing diplomatic relations to the ambassadorial level between Egypt and Iran, Abul Gheit said, "we seek to normalize relations with Teheran through constructive consultations"

On Tuesday, visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held talks with senior-Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials on boosting bilateral ties.

The two sides agreed on resuming dialogue, especially in terms of bilateral relations on the level of senior officials and then foreign ministers of the two countries, the Foreign Ministry said in a Press release following the meeting.

Abul Gheit said he would meet Iranian counterpart Manouchehr Mottaki at the deliberations of the Non-Aligned Movement or Group of 15 meetings or any others, but ruling out talks between them on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meetings.

"Until this moment, there is no plan for holding a meeting between me and my Iranian counter-part Manouchehr Mottaki on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meetings in New York," Abul Gheit was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua



This photo provided by Packard Children's Hospital shows Maria Elizabeth Arias, rear, and her conjoined twins Yurelia and Fiorella Rocha-Arias of San Jose, Costa Rica, on 30 July, 2007, in Palo Alto, Calif. Doctors at the hospital said on 20 Sept, 2007, they will attempt to separate the 2-year-olds girls conjoined at the chest and abdomen, a risky operation with a 50 percent survival rate.— INTERNET

Over 75% of child deaths in Vietnam due to injury

HANOI, 21 Sept— Over 75 per cent of fatalities among children in Vietnam are due to injury, according to local newspaper *Labour* on Wednesday.

Drowning, traffic accidents, and burns are main causes of death in children. Most of fatal cases among children at the age of 15-19 are because of injuries in traffic accidents, and among those under five years old are due to drowning. Vietnam is implementing an action programme for injury prevention from now

to 2010, which involves enhancing public awareness, establishing a nationwide injury surveillance system, improving first-aid systems and trauma care and functional rehabilitation, enhancing the injury prevention capacity for health staff, and implementing safety community models throughout the country.— *MNA/Xinhua*



Al-Nisoor Square is seen in Baghdad, Iraq on 20 Sept, 2007, four days after a shootout involving a Blackwater security detail protecting a US State Department convoy. Relations between the US and Iraqi governments remained strained in the wake of Sunday's shooting involving Blackwater USA security guards, which Iraqi officials said left at least 11 people dead. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki suggested the US Embassy find another company to protect its diplomats. — INTERNET

Shaping a better future with the strength of new generation

Aung Ye Lin

The government has been striving for flourishing of an education system that can create a constant learning society to face the challenges of the knowledge age.

The government raised the level of basic education schools in 2007, upgraded 49 technological colleges under the Ministry of Science and Technology to universities on 19-1-2007 and three degree colleges under the Ministry of Education to universities. It also opened a new lecture hall of Technological University in Monywa, Sagaing Division, and the main hall of Arts and Science University in Loikaw and the University of Public Health in Yangon.

All in all, it upgraded 52 colleges to universities, opened one university and one lecture hall and one main hall in 2007 in addition to upgrading basic education schools.

At present, the government is building a new peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state. Hence, the national peace and unity and the rule of law must prevail; national wealth and economic development are to be bolstered. In addition, people should be endowed with vision, knowledge and new and realistic ideas. The government has been implementing national education promotion plans to fulfill the requirement. Education reforms are being introduced to qualification and improve morale of students.

Thanks to the national education promotion programmes, the nation now has over 40,000 basic education schools where over seven million boys and girls are attending classes. Moreover, the nation has 161 institutions of higher learning and over

As there are 41,816 basic education schools, every three out of five villages have got schools. In other words, there is one school in every 1.5 miles. Rural children are now free from transport difficulties of the past due to shortage of schools.



The opening ceremony of the main hall of Loikaw University in progress on 5 August 2007.

700,000 students.

In accord with the aims of Education for All, formal, non-formal and informal education programmes have been launched.

The government has been opening new institutions of higher learning in various places of the nation including remote border areas to open equal opportunities for all. Now, all the students can pursue higher education in their own regions or even in their home towns.

Twenty-four special development zones have been set up in states and divisions, and now every zone has one Arts and Science University, one computer science university and one technological university. These institutions are the result of the goodwill and efforts of the government to develop human resources in all regions.

As there are 41,816 basic education schools, every three out of five villages have got schools. In other words, there is one school in every 1.5 miles. Rural children are now free from transport difficulties of the past due to shortage of schools. They are now pursuing education at their home village.

The government on its part is extending the education infrastructure and producing more and more teachers. The public is also providing financial and material assistance to the education sector on a broader scale.

Thanks to the government's endeavours and public assistance, the number of schools has markedly increased in the whole country, more school furniture can be provided to schools and rural libraries can be opened.

Wellwishers are helping all school-age children attend classes and providing stationery and uniforms for children of the poor. Thanks to those wellwishers, school enrollment rate of school-age children has reached over 97 per cent in 2007.

As the government has been launching education for all and adult literacy campaigns, the national literacy rate has reached 94.75 per cent.

Up to now, 55,717 rural libraries have been opened as part of post literacy campaign.

Myanmar education system is the root of the entire Myanmar society. Human resources with high education, intellectual and social standard are capable of shaping a better future. In this regard, the government is building sound foundations for both the basic and the higher education sectors for emergence of qualified human resources.

The number of schools increased to 41,816 at present from 33,747 in 1988. There are now 255,015 teachers, up from 173,772 in 1988. The total number of students now is 7,830,136, up from 5,239,878 in 1988.

Likewise, the number of institutions of higher learning has reached 161 at present, up from only 32 in 1988. The nation now has 11,873 faculty members, up from 5638.

The government has been implementing the task of promoting national education and launching literacy campaign with greater momentum. Thanks to its goodwill and practical efforts and public assistance, the task is gaining success and progress.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon: 21-9-2007



Technological University in Lashio will produce qualified human resources for the nation.

Spotlight put on traffic safety



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win addresses meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport. — MNA

YANGON, 22 Sept—Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held a meeting at Yangon Command at 5 pm yesterday.

Chairman of the committee Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win delivered a speech, calling for enforcement of traffic rules, measures for convenience of students and passengers, safety measures, prevention against touting at bus terminals, and repair to old drains.

Officials reported on ferry routes, traffic rules enforcement, and measures for traffic safety.

The commander fulfilled the requirements.—MNA

Prevention against bank erosion along Panhlaing River in Nyaungdon supervised

YANGON, 22 Sept — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected construction of the embankment along Panhlaing River in Nyaungdon this morning.

Deputy Director U Saw Aung Lwin of Water Resources and Improvement of River System Department reported on flow of water at the confluence of Panhlaing and Ayeyawady Rivers and construction of the embankment along Panhlaing River to prevent bank erosion.

Next, the minister inspected tasks of Nyaungdon Township Electrical Engineer’s Office and gave necessary instructions. Township Electrical Engineer U Tin Aung Lin reported on functions of the office.

Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise, Chief Engineer U Aung Khaing and Ayeyawady Division Electrical Engineer U Thein Htay gave supplementary reports.

In his speech, the minister instructed officials to place emphasis on full supply of power to the local people and seek ways to increase capacity of electricity in Ayeyawady Division. The minister urged personnel to always try hard to have efficiency in their respective fields and discharge duties conscientiously. After hearing the reports of the service personnel, the minister attended to the needs.

MNA

Banking services coordinated



Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe addresses 93rd meeting of the Banks Supervisory Committee and the executive committee of the Myanmar Banks Association.—MNA

YANGON, 22 Sept—The 93rd meeting of the Banks Supervisory Committee and the executive committee of the Myanmar Banks Association under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue took place at the Myanmar Banks Association this morning.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe in his speech called for harmonious cooperation for the improvement of banking services. The destructive elements at home and abroad who are jealous of successful completion of the National Convention are resorting to political and economic means, so all the staff are to be vigilant against such destructive activities, he said. Orders, directives and procedures are to be followed strictly for prevention against money laundering.

Secretary of the Banks Supervisory Committee and Chairman of the Myanmar Banks Association U Than Nyein discussed banking services. Officials of the Myanmar Banks Association presented reports.

MNA

Flash flood on some streets in Yangon

YANGON, 22 Sept—Some streets here were flooded due to the torrential rain yesterday.

Insein-Ywama Road, Thamaing Junction, Parami Road, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, near Micasa Hotel, Inya Lake, streets near the Inya Lake Hotel, Dagon Centre, Bagaya Road, East Race Course Road, the corner of Thitsa and Thanthuma Roads in South Okkalapa Township, U Chit Maung Road and Maugon-Lankyai Road and Banyadala Road, in front of Yuzana Plaza in Tamway Township were flooded. The water levels rose up to three to four feet.

A tree fell down on a Hilux driving along Pyay Road near Ady Road at 12.30 pm. U Zaw Win Aung, the driver, was injured on his forehead and his left temple. He died on the way to Yangon General Hospital.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attends prize-presentation ceremony for offspring of movie actors, technicians

YANGON, 22 Sept — Organized by Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, a ceremony to present prizes to the outstanding students, the offspring of movie actors and technicians, who passed the matriculation examination in 2006-2007 academic year with distinctions was held at the MMPA on Wingaba road in Bahan Township, here, this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were heads of departments and officials of the ministry, patrons, the chairman and members of the Asiayon, invited guests and others.

First, Chairman U Myint Thein Pe of the Asiayon spoke on the occasion and chairman of the committee for holding prize-presentation ceremony U Win Naing explained facts about the presentation of prize.

Next, Patron U Khin Zaw of the Asiayone presented prizes and K 50,000 for one distinction each to Ma Nway Nway

Tun Kyi, the six-distinction winner, daughter of U Tun Kyi of Sein Yadana Video Production, Patron U Nyunt Win to Ma Shwe Yamin Oo, the five-distinction winner, daughter of film director Malikha Soe Htaik Aung, Patron U Sein Tin to Ma Myat Pan Myint Moh, the five-distinction winner, daughter of supporting actor U Nyi Gyaw (a) U Nyi Nyi Swe, Chairman U Myint Thein Pe to Maung Tun Lin Aung, the four-distinction winner, son of U Maung Maung Swe of Jolly Swe & Son Film and Video Production, to Maung Zwe Thet Paing, the two-distinction winner, son of U Kyaw Tun of Mechanical Section and to Ma Pale Su Hlaing, the two-distinction winner, daughter of U Tin Hlaing (a) U Khin Zaw of Editing Section and Vice-Chairperson Daw Myint Myint Khine to Maung Pyae Thu Aung, the one-distinction winner, son of U Tin Htut of Mechanical Section and to Maung Aung Thura Myo, the



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan poses for documentary photo with prize winners.—MNA

one-distinction winner, son of U Win Naing (a) U Tun Shwe of Admin/Distribution Section.

Afterwards, the responsible persons of the Asiayon accepted K 500,000 each donated by Myatche Film and Video Production, Mingala Co Ltd and U Tin Aung, K 300,000 by Aung Kyaw Zaw Video Production, K 200,000 each by Da-we Film and Video Production and Kyaw

Production, K 100,000 each by family of U Pyone Maung Maung-Daw Khin Thida Tun, U Maung Maung Swe of Jolly Swe & Son Video Production, Actor Khant Sithu, One Four Five Video, family of U Win Kyi and Daw Yin Yin San, Actor Tun Tun (Examplez) and Daw

Ei Ei Khine and U Soe Thein of Mani Shwezin Film and Video Production, K 50,000 each by Actresses Tun Eindrabo, Soe Myat Nanda, Khine Thin Kyi, Daw Myo Myo Khine of Ki Ki Myanmar Co Ltd, Kyaung Kaba Video Production, Thukhamein

Video Production and U Phone Maw and cash donation by other wellwishers.

On behalf of the prize winners, Ma Shwe Yamin Oo spoke words of thanks.

The minister posed for a documentary photo with the prize winners.

MNA

Blood and medicines donated

YANGON, 22 Sept—Fifty staff members of Metta Mon Blood Donors Association (Shine Hope Co) donated blood to the Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) at the 50th ceremony of the association at the hospital in Mingaladon this morning.

An official dealt with the purpose of

the donation.

The representatives of the association handed over the cash donations to purchase medicines and medical equipment through Specialist Lt-Col Zaw Win Maw. Officials viewed the donating of blood by the members.

MNA



Metta Mon Blood Donors Association (Shine Hope Co) donates cash to Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) through Specialist Lt-Col Zaw Win Maw.—MNA

19th National Para Sports Competitions opened

YANGON, 22 Sept — The 19th National Para Sports Competitions 2007 commenced at Aung San Gymnasium, here, this morning.

After delivering an address, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin opened the competitions.

The athletes recited sports oaths.

The track and field event will be held at Aung San Stadium on 22 and 23 September, the swimming and table tennis events at the compound of National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road on

24 September, the volleyball event at Aung San Gymnasium on 25 September, the badminton event at the National Badminton Gymnasium on Kyongyi Street on 26 September and the golf event at South Okkalapa Golf Resort on 29 September.

A total of 10 contending teams namely the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Health, Khawegyan School for the Blind, the Ministry of Industry-1, the Ministry of Commerce, YCDC, Mandalay Division, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Eden and Ayeyawady Division will take part in the competitions. — MNA

School (branch) opened in Kyethamyar Village Pale Tsp

YANGON, 22 Sept—The inauguration of Kyethamyar Village Basic Education Middle School (branch) took place at the school compound in Pale Township, Monywa District, on 20 September.

Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Naing Aye and Township Education Officer U Tin Han formally opened the facility.

Patron of the committee for

constructing of the school Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gajira Buddhi (Sagaing Sitagu International Buddhist Academy) explained the purpose of the ceremony. U Naing Aye delivered a speech.

Officials reported on development of the education sector and follow-up tasks.

Schoolmaster U Tha Cho presented the historical background of the school.

MNA

Singapore’s franchising business promising

SINGAPORE, 22 Sept — The franchising business in Singapore continues to be promising with more than 30,000 franchisees operating in the country, said a senior official here Thursday.

Speaking at the second franchising and licensing conference of Asia, Lim Hwee Hua, Minister of State of Finance and Transport, said the industry is continuing to grow at a steady rate in the city-state.

“This diverse sector has in excess of 420 franchise systems, with more than 30,000 franchisees operating with an annual turnover of 5.48 billion Singapore dollars (about 3.63 billion US dollars),” she said.

Although a large number of franchised brands are still related to the food and beverages industry, she pointed out, other sectors such as education and childcare are fast catching up.

She added that Singapore’s strategic location, with its pro-business circumstances, offers a vantage point for existing and new franchisors, locally and overseas, who are seeking to expand into the fast growing Asian economies such as China, India and Vietnam. — MNA/Xinhua



Caps for sale are on display at a handicraft market in Havana on 20 Sept, 2007. — INTERNET

Four injured in Romania arms factory blast

BUCHAREST, 22 Sept — Four people were injured Thursday in an explosion at the Mija armaments factory in Romania’s southern county of Dambovita, local

Realitatea TV reported. The blast occurred at a pyrotechnical station when staff were attempting to defuse a device containing explosive powder. Reports said the device caught fire before exploding.

Three women and a man were taken to a Bucharest hospital. Three of them were said to be suffering from first and second degree burns, while the fourth was slightly injured.

The Inspectorate for Emergency Situations is investigating the incident at the factory, which belongs to Romania’s Romarm company and produces equipment for the defence industry.

MNA/Xinhua

1200 fishermen with over 100 trawlers missing in Bay of Bengal

DHAKA, 22 Sept — About 1200 Bangladeshi fishermen along with more than 100 trawlers are missing in Bay of Bengal following sudden storm that triggered 12-15 feet high waves since Thursday evening, according to local officials.

Bangladeshi southern Barguna District Trawler Owners Association Advisor Golam Mustafa Chowdhury told Xinhua some 500 trawlers went to the sea for fishing Thursday and 400 ones had returned to the shore till Friday evening.

He said the fate of 100 trawlers with 1200 fishermen could not be known. Each trawler usually sail to the sea with 10-14 fishermen.

Mustafa quoted some fishermen who could return to the shore from the turbulent sea as saying they have seen three trawlers sinking in the rough sea.

Fishermen who returned from the rough Bay of Bengal Friday afternoon said the sea waves rising 12-15 feet high prevented other trawlers and fishermen from returning to the shore. — MNA/Xinhua



American astronaut Sunita Williams, second right, dances the Garba folk dance during a felicitation function in Ahmadabad, India, on 21 Sept, 2007 Describing Indian-American astronaut Sunita Williams, who set a record for the longest stay in space, as a ‘role model’ for Indian children, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today said India feels proud of her achievement. Williams is on a week long visit to India. — INTERNET

UN says new push for peace in M-E holds genuine promise

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Sept — A new push for peace in the Middle East is being made and holds genuine promise, UN Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs Lynn Pascoe told the Security Council Thursday.

In his monthly briefing to council members on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, he said Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and President Mahmoud Abbas continued their bilateral dialogue and had agreed to set up negotiating teams to assist them in transforming their discussions into an agreed text.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was in the region. The Quartet’s

representative, Tony Blair, had recently completed his second visit to the region to develop his agenda on economic revival and institutional reform.

Besides, the upcoming meeting of the diplomatic Quartet at the UN Headquarters this Sunday, followed by meetings with a number of members of the Arab League, would provide an opportunity to advance the cause of a comprehensive regional peace, he said.

The united effort of the international community would be vital to ensuring that the renewed diplomatic effort produced something meaningful and durable, Pascoe said.

MNA/Xinhua



Children look at a one-day-old olive turtle (Lepidochelys olivacea) before releasing it into the water at Trisik beach near Yogyakarta, on 20 Sept, 2007. Indonesia is made up of over 17,000 islands and the waters are home to six species of the world’s sea turtles — the olive turtle (Lepidochelys olivacea), the green turtle (Chelonia mydas), the hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata), the loggerhead turtle (Caretta caretta), the leatherback turtle (Dermochelys coriacea), and the flatbacks (Natator depressus). — INTERNET

Spain arrests 2 for Islamist militant funding

MADRID, 22 Sept — Two Pakistani men were arrested in Spain on Thursday accused of channelling one million euros (1.40 million US dollars) to Islamist militants, Spanish police said.

Anar Muhammad Shan and Preces Mehmood Sandhu used money from drug trafficking to fund radical groups in Spain and abroad, a police statement said.

They were detained in Madrid and Barcelona after a three year operation by Spanish National Police and the US Federal Bureau of Intelligence.

Shan and Sandhu used the so-called hawala financial transfer system that allows funds to be exchanged with a handshake, piece of paper or on trust and leaves few clues, Spanish police said.

The arrests came on the same day as an al-Qaeda videotaped message

urging North African Muslims to “cleanse” their land of Spaniards and French.

Al-Qaeda’s second in command also called on supporters to restore al-Andalus, the Arabic name for parts of the Iberian peninsula formerly under Muslim rule.

In the past year police have arrested around 20 suspected Islamic militants in mainland Spain and the country’s North African enclaves.

A group inspired by al-Qaeda is thought to have carried out the 11 March, 2004, bombings of Madrid commuter trains that killed 191 people.

Spain has launched several major investigations into al-Qaeda activity and 28, mainly Moroccan suspects, face sentencing after going on trial this year for the Madrid bombings.

MNA/Reuters

Japan approves counterpart fund to Nepal

KATHMANDU, 22 Sept — Japan has approved utilization of the counterpart fund of 295 million Nepali rupees (4.5 million US dollars) to Nepal for the implementation of nine ongoing projects, *The Himalayan Times* reported on Saturday.

“The counterpart fund was established through the financial assistance extended by the government of Japan to increase agriculture production under KR2-the grant assistance for underprivileged farmers,” said a Press release issued here Friday by the Embassy of Japan.

MNA/Xinhua



Ophthalmologist Dennis Lam of Hong Kong examines a cataract patient inside a hospital in Xilinhot, Inner Mongolia on 21 Sept, 2007. Cataracts are a major cause of blindness around the world. In China, nine million people are blind, with half of them due to cataracts. Project Vision, a charity in Hong Kong, aims to create 100 centres around the country to perform cataract operations in places that need them most. — INTERNET

Quakes damage about 28,000 houses in Indonesia's Bengkulu

JAKARTA, 22 Sept — About 28,000 dwellings have been damaged in the series of powerful earthquakes that hit Indonesia's Bengkulu Province and nearby West

Sumatra in the past week, local Press said Friday.

Data from the Bengkulu Mitigation Agency coordinating unit showed 7,905 houses had been thoroughly

destroyed and 6,745 severely damaged. More than 13,000 houses suffered minor damage, according to the data published in national newspaper *The Jakarta Post's* website.

Damaged houses were found in seven regencies in the province, including hardest-hit North Bengkulu with 2,338 houses destroyed, 4,368 with major damage and 4,750 with minor damage.

In Muko-Muko regency 5,334 houses were destroyed, 709 suffered major damage and 3,369 suffered minor damage.

The quakes, which began Wednesday last week and measured up to 7.9 on the Richter Scale, killed 23 people and injured 88 others.

MNA/Xinhua

Six found dead in Russian helicopter crash

MOSCOW, 22 Sept — The bodies of six crew members aboard a helicopter that went missing earlier this month in central Russia had been found by rescue teams, news agencies reported on Friday.

The Mi-8 carrier was reported missing on 9 September, when it was on a geomagnetic survey flight from a Moscow-based research centre to a

district in central Russia's Komi Republic.

“This is the helicopter that went missing on 9 September,” *Interfax* quoted sources of the Volga-Urals regional centre at the Emergency Situations Ministry as saying.

The wreckage of the helicopter was found on Thursday near the Khanmei mountain. “The

bodies of all six people the helicopter was carrying were found. All of them are dead,” it said.

Another Mi-8 crashed last week in Russia's far east, killing three pilots and four passengers.

The Mi-8 is widely used for both civilian and military purposes. However, crashes involving the model in Russia have been quite frequent and are mostly blamed on poor maintenance and excessive service age.

MNA/Xinhua

NATO airstrike kills Afghan civilians

KABUL, 22 Sept — An airstrike of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) killed a number of civilians in southern Afghanistan, an ISAF statement said Friday.

ISAF soldiers were conducting Operation Palk Wahel to clear Taliban militants in the Upper Gereshk Valley of Helmand Province on Wednesday, the statement said.

Taliban fighters attacked ISAF from a compound and an airstrike was called in to eradicate the threat, it said.

“ISAF was unaware of civilians in the vicinity of the target and unfortunately it appears that a number of civilians were caught in the attack and killed,” the statement said.

It did not give an exact number of the civilian casualties. — MNA/Xinhua

Teacher's car hit by explosion in Liverpool

LONDON, 22 Sept — A device exploded in a teacher's car at a school in the northwestern English city of Liverpool on Friday, police said.

No one was injured in the blast but police said the device could have caused considerable damage and injury.

“There was no

indication whatsoever as to why anybody would target this vehicle or the person that owned the vehicle,” Superintendent Ian Pilling told reporters.

“If they had actually been inside the vehicle they would have been seriously injured or possibly killed,” he added.

MNA/Reuters

Medical lapses lead to preventable deaths in California prisons

LOS ANGELES, 22 Sept — As many as one in six deaths of California prison inmates last year might have been preventable, according to a new study published by *The Los Angeles Times* on Thursday.

The study revealed a broad pattern of delays in diagnosis, poor inmate access to doctors and tests, botched handling of medical records, and failure of medical staff to recognize and treat dangerous conditions.

Problems such as human error, staffing shortages and poor medical records contributed to unnecessary deaths, said

the report released by the court-appointed receiver Robert Sillen who is in charge of healthcare for the state's 173,000 prisoners.

There were 426 deaths in 2006, including 43 suicides, and the study examined 381 of them, according to the study.

Eighteen deaths were found to be preventable, meaning better medical management or a better system of care would have prevented deaths. An additional 48 were found to be “possibly preventable”, meaning better medical management of a system of care might have prevented death.

MNA/Xinhua

Six hundred die in state custody every year in England

LONDON, 22 Sept — Around 600 people die in state custody every year and some deaths could have been prevented, a newly formed campaign group said on Friday.

Data from the Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody, includes deaths from suicides, murders and natural causes in prisons, police stations, immigration detention centres, young offenders' institutes and secure mental hospitals.

The forum said some could have been prevented and called for a “more robust and joined-up approach to information-sharing between agencies”.

John Wadham, forum chairman and legal director of the incoming Commission for Equality and Human Rights, said the number of deaths in custody was a “measure of a civilized society” and that 600 a year was too many. — MNA/Reuters



A biologist examines the body of a dead loggerhead turtle at the Valencia's University in Valencia on 20 Sept, 2007. — INTERNET

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (183)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (183) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.9.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Bill Gates, America's richest for 14th year in a row

NEW YORK, 21 Sept — Microsoft founder Bill Gates is the richest person in America for the 14th year in a row, followed by investor Warren Buffett, according to *Forbes* magazine's latest list of the wealthiest Americans.

The pair's fortunes each grew by six billion US dollars in the past year, *Forbes* said on Thursday, with Gates' fortune 59 billion US dollars and Buffett 52 billion US dollars.

Buffett has pledged 85 per cent of his net worth to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and family charities.

Casino magnate Sheldon Adelson (28 billion US dollars), head of Las Vegas Sands Corp, and software tycoon Larry Ellison (26 billion US dollars), chief executive

of Oracle Corp, remain at No 3 and No 4 on the 25th annual ranking of 400 rich Americans, which now requires a minimum net worth of 1.3 billion US dollars for inclusion.

"The collective net worth of those listed on the 400 this year rose 290 billion US dollars to 1.54 trillion US dollars," *Forbes* said. "Despite market jitters, nearly half of the 45 new members come from hedge fund and private equity investments."

For the first time since 1989 there are no members of the Walton family, descendants of Wal-Mart Stores Inc, founder Sam Walton, in the top 10. Four members — Jim, Christy, Robson and Alice — slipped to 12th and 15th place.

MNA/Reuters

TEHERAN, 21 Sept — Iran said on Thursday it had "scared its enemies" by test flying two new generation, domestically-produced jet fighter planes and had shown its battle readiness, the latest riposte to speculation about a war over Teheran's nuclear plans.

"Two *Saegheh* jets were tested successfully by air force pilots ... The test scared Iran's enemies," Najjar told state television, adding that the two jets would officially join the country's fleet of warplanes on Saturday.

Armed Forces chief Ataollah Salehi also said of the test flights: "Iran, with its advanced equipment and capabilities, is fully prepared for any possible aggression."

Iran said in September

last year it had for the first time flown one of the *Saegheh* planes, describing it then as a modification of a warplane already in its fleet.

It did not say at the time on what plane the *Saegheh* was based, but images shown of its test flight suggested it might be based around a US-built *F-5*, a plane bought from the United States when Iran was a US ally before the 1979 Revolution.

State television said the

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Iran tests new jet fighters, says scares enemies

Saegheh jet was a new generation of the *Azarakhsh* (Lightning) fighter, which Iran said in August was now being built on an industrial scale. Teheran says it makes tanks, armoured personnel carriers and missiles and torpedoes.

"We have reached the cutting edge of designing new generation fighter jets," the Defence Minister said.

Teheran says the *Saegheh* has similar capabilities to the US

F-18 fighter but is "more powerful". The experts say Iranian weaponry, some of its modifications of equipment bought from China and others, would be no match for US technology but say Iran could still deliver a punch by hitting strategic targets, such as blocking the Gulf waterway.

An Iranian Air Force commander said on Wednesday Iran had plans for bombing Israel if the Jewish state attacked first.

MNA/Reuters

Rapper Snoop Dogg gets probation for airport bust

LOS ANGELES, 21 Sept — Rapper Snoop Dogg was sentenced to three years' informal probation and 160 hours of community service on Thursday, after pleading guilty to possessing a collapsible baton in his carry-on bag at a California airport.

The 35-year-old entertainer, whose real name is Cordozar Calvin Broadus Jr, must also

donate 10,000 US dollars to a children's charity under the terms of the deal hammered out at Orange County Superior Court in Santa Ana, California, about 34 miles (55 kilometres) south of Los Angeles.

He was arrested with the baton at John Wayne Airport in Santa Ana in September 2006.

Snoop Dogg's lawyer, Donald Etra, said the baton

had been used by his client in a musical sketch. Etra had advised him to plead not guilty, but said his client wanted to resolve the issue.

Snoop Dogg, who was acquitted of murder in 1993, was arrested on two other occasions in 2006 for marijuana and gun possession. He has since been denied entry to Australia and Britain.

MNA/Reuters



This undated handout image shows a skull of the small meat-eating dinosaur *Velociraptor*. In research published in the journal *Science* on 20 Sept, 2007, paleontologists said a forearm bone of *Velociraptor* found in Mongolia's desolate Gobi desert retained structures, or quill knobs, where a series of feathers were anchored to the bone with ligaments. The researchers said the discovery is a further indication that many carnivorous dinosaurs, and not just the very smallest, possessed feathers. —INTERNET

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Study shows asthma flares harm lung function

NEW YORK, 21 Sept — Intermittent periods of worsening airway inflammation, indicated by exacerbations in asthma, lead to excess lung function decline, according to a study published this month.

Dr T R Bai, of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, and colleagues examined the long-term impact of asthma flares on annual lung function

decline in 93 non-smoking asthmatic patients with moderate-to-severe asthma.

During a median of 11 years, 56 patients (60.2 per cent) experienced at least one severe asthma exacerbation — defined as being admitted to the hospital for worsening asthma or as a significant and reversible reduction in FEV1 — a standard measure of lung function.

Decline in lung function was much more pronounced in those individuals with frequent asthma attacks relative to individuals with infrequent asthma attacks, Bai and colleagues report.

It's been proposed, they note, that worsening of airway inflammation associated with asthma exacerbations fuel potentially harmful structural changes in the airway that occur as asthma progresses.

MNA/Reuters



Indonesians stand in line for inexpensive mobile phones provided by Bakrie Telecom in Jakarta, on 21 Sept, 2007. Indonesia's Bakrie group plans to expand its mining, plantations and telecom businesses, using debt and equity to finance growth, Anindya Bakrie, an executive of the Bakrie group and a member of the founding family, said on Friday. — INTERNET

Exercise on par with drugs for aiding depression

NEW YORK, 21 Sept — Regular exercise may work as well as medication in improving symptoms of major depression, researchers have found.

In a study of 202 depressed adults, investigators found that those who went through group-based exercise therapy did as well as those treated with an antidepressant drug. A third group that performed home-based exercise also improved, though to a lesser degree.

Importantly, the researchers found, all three groups did better than a

fourth group given a placebo — an inactive pill identical to the antidepressant.

While past studies have suggested that exercise can ease depression symptoms, a criticism has been that the research failed to compare exercise with a placebo. This leaves a question as to whether the therapy, per se, was responsible for the benefit.

The new findings bolster evidence that exercise does have a real effect on depression, according to the researchers.

MNA/Reuters



Veterinarians examine the 7-week-old Giant Panda cub at San Diego Zoo's Giant Panda Research Station on 20 Sept, 2007. — INTERNET

New cancer treatment taps immune cells from "cancer-resistant" people

LONDON, 20 Sept — Cancer sufferers could be treated with immune cells from donors resistant to the disease, say scientists who have been given the go ahead by the US pharmaceutical authorities to test experimental treatment on humans.

Zheng Cui and his colleagues at Wake Forest University of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, have received permission from the Food and Drug Administration to screen people for their ability to ward off cancer, the latest issue of New Scientist published Thursday reported.

Immune cells from the best cancer fighters will be given to cancer patients, after being matched for blood type, the scientists said.

The scientists have discovered that a much larger population of immune cells called granulocytes, which are already used to boost people's immune systems after they are depleted by chemotherapy, can also kill cancer and they have shown that immune cells from some people may effectively fight cancer in others.

The researchers took blood samples from more than 100 people and mixed their granulocytes with cervical cancer cells. Granulocytes from one individual killed around 97 percent of cancer cells within 24 hours, while those from another healthy individual only killed around 2 percent of cancer cells.

Granulocytes are already taken from donors and given to some patients whose immune systems have been depleted by chemotherapy, but they are yet to be used to treat cancer directly.

Xinhua

US astronaut visits ancestral home in India

AHMEDABAD (India,) 22 Sept — American astronaut Sunita Williams flew to India on Thursday to visit the home of her father's side of the family, and was welcomed and garlanded as a homecoming hero.

Williams became famous across India during her six-month stay

on the International Space Station beginning last December—the longest ever for a female astronaut.

Although she was born and raised in the US to an Indian father and a mother of Slovenian heritage, the Indian media treats Williams as a homegrown hero and a symbol of

national pride.

A scrum of journalists and fans greeted her arrival at Ahmedabad Airport in the western state of Gujarat on Thursday, which dominated the news for much of the day.

Williams, 42, has said she was humbled by the enthusiastic support she received from many Indians during her time in space. During that trip she took along with her a copy of the Bhagavad Gita, a sacred Hindu text, and some samosas.

MNA/Reuters

Russia's Bilyal Makhov, right, wrestles with Cuba's Alexis Bodriquez Valera during the men's Freestyle 120kg final bout against at the World Wrestling Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 21 Sept, 2007. Makhov won gold medal beating Valera. — INTERNET



SPORTS

Ferguson rues Mourinho exit, still wary of Chelsea threat

MANCHESTER, 22 Sept — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson believes Jose Mourinho’s shock departure from Chelsea will be a loss to the Premier League.

Mourinho was due to take Chelsea to Old Trafford on Sunday but Ferguson will not be locking horns with his great rival. “It is a disappointment for the game. He was terrific for football and terrific for Chelsea,” Ferguson told a news conference.

“I enjoyed the competition with him. He was something fresh and new to our game. I don’t know what I will do with my wine now. I wish him well.”

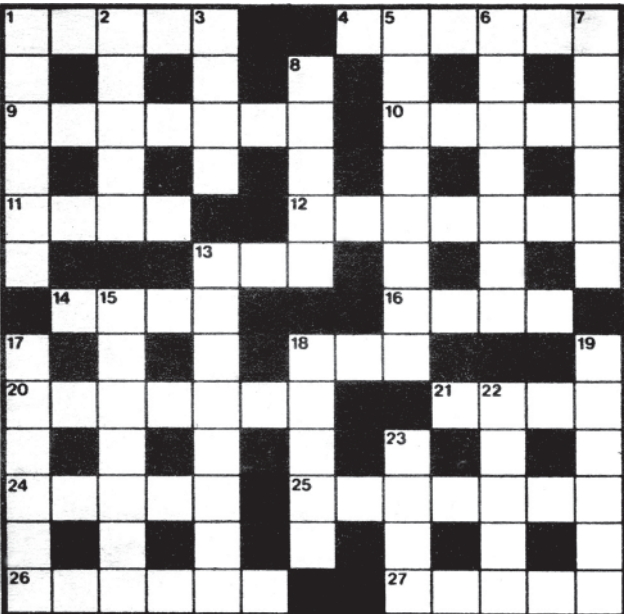
United wrested the Premier League title back from Chelsea last season following back-to-back championships for the London club under Mourinho.

MNA/Reuters



Australia’s Lleyton Hewitt reacts after his victory against Serbia’s Janko Tipsarevic, in their single match at the Davis Cup world group play-off, on 21 Sept, 2007, in Belgrade, Serbia.—INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Filch
- 4 Beam
- 9 Smoking accessory
- 10 Scour
- 11 Ripped
- 12 Ebb
- 13 Cravat
- 14 Masticate
- 16 Roue
- 18 Owing
- 20 Pardon
- 21 Dandy
- 24 Oscillate
- 25 Grave
- 26 Prairie-wolf
- 27 Anaesthetic

DOWN

- 1 Greet
- 2 Keen
- 3 Reluctant
- 5 Uncertain
- 6 Hoisting device
- 7 Eraser
- 8 Unrefined
- 13 Gloaming
- 15 Hurriedly
- 17 Sweet French wine
- 18 Thick
- 19 Light cavalryman
- 22 Era
- 23 Loyal



VfL Bochum’s Danny Fuchs (R) fights for the ball with Eintracht Frankfurt’s Junichi Inamoto of Japan during their German Bundesliga soccer match in Bochum on 21 Sept, 2007.—INTERNET

Demyanenko quits as Dynamo coach

KIEV, 22 Sept — Anatoly Demyanenko has quit as Dynamo Kiev coach following his team’s disappointing start in the Champions League.

The Ukrainian champions suffered a 2-0 defeat by Roma in their Group F opener on Wednesday.

“I accepted Demyanenko’s request with understanding. It was a hard decision to take,” Dynamo President Ihor Surkis said on the club’s Web site. “But in the end, he convinced me that he is doing this for the sake of the club.”

The former Soviet international, who led Dy-

namo to the league and cup double last season, was replaced by the club’s vice-president and former coach Josef Sabo.

MNA/Reuters

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.

MNA/Reuters



Hyung-Taik Lee of South Korea serves to Slovakia’s Martin Klizan during their Davis Cup World Group Play-off tennis match in Bratislava on 21 Sept, 2007.—INTERNET

Chelsea say Grant’s job as coach is permanent

LONDON, 22 Sept — Israeli Avram Grant has been appointed Chelsea’s new coach on a permanent basis although he has not yet signed a contract. “The appointment is permanent,” chief executive Peter Kenyon told a news conference on Friday.

Grant, 52, replacing Jose Mourinho who left the club on Thursday, said: “Everything has happened very quickly in the last 48 hours but I am happy to be here.

“I am my own man and I would not have taken the job if I did not think I could do it.”

Assistant coach Steve Clarke will continue in his role but Grant will bring in a new backroom staff after Mourinho’s four Portuguese colleagues also left on Thursday.— MNA/Reuters



Russia’s Vera Sessina competes in the rope portion of the individual final competition at the Rhythmic Gymnastics World championships in Patra, some 210km west of Athens on 21 Sept, 2007.—INTERNET

US military cemetery running out of space

OVERLAND PARK (Kansas), 22 Sept — A Kansas military cemetery has run out of space after two burials in the last week, including that of an Iraq war casualty, officials said on Thursday.

“We are full,” said Alison Kohler, spokeswoman for the Fort Riley

US Army post, home of the 1st Infantry Division.

US Senators Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts, both Kansas Republicans, on Thursday sent a letter to William Tuerk, the under secretary for memorial affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs,

urging for full funding for a new cemetery for Fort Riley.

“While a new cemetery would not be completed in time to alleviate this situation immediately, it is vitally important,” Roberts and Brownback, a Republican

presidential candidate, said in their letter.

“We truly owe our military members a debt of gratitude and the least we can do is provide them with an honourable burial ground,” the senators wrote.

MNA/Reuters

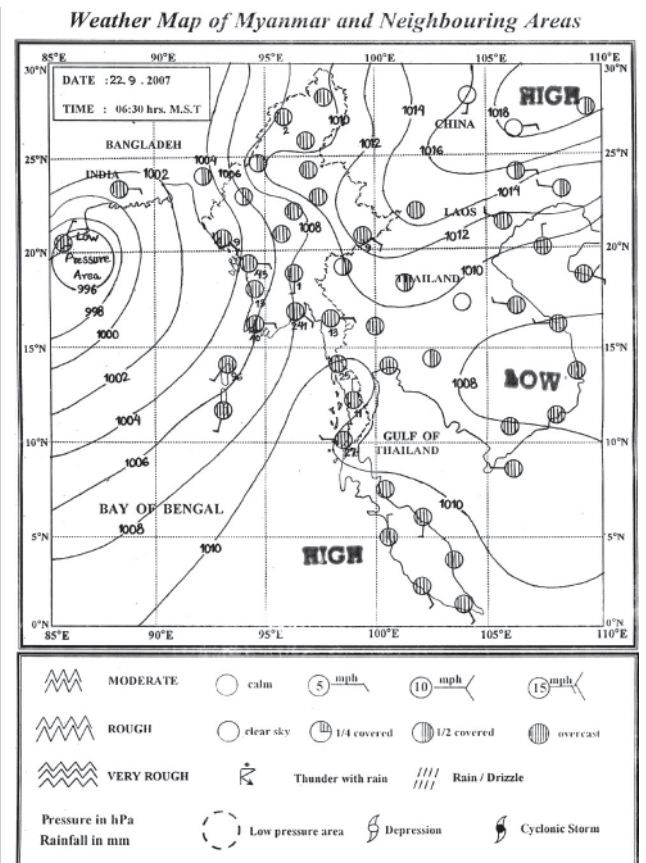
De Beers diamond air ship crashes in Botswana

GABORONE, 22 Sept — A high-tech Zeppelin that mining giant De Beers was using to explore for diamonds in Botswana crashed on Thursday, state media reported.

There were no immediate reports of injuries as a result of the crash, which occurred in the central part of the southern African nation, state television said, citing a police official.

De Beers, which is 45 per cent owned by Anglo American Plc and controls around half of the world's diamond supply, was using the leased Zeppelin to peer beneath the sands of Botswana's Kalahari Desert for overlooked diamond deposits.

MNA/Reuters



Japan's Chiharu Icho, right, wrestles with Ukraine's Irina Merleni in the women's 48kg final bout at the World Wrestling Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 21 Sept, 2007. Japan's Chiharu Icho won the gold medal beating Ukraine's Irina Merleni.

INTERNET

WEATHER

Saturday, 22 September, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hour MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Division, scattered in Kayin State and upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfalls in Yangon Division and isolated heavyfalls in Ayeyawady Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.08) inch, Yangon (Central) (11.54) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (9.57) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (8.43) inches, Khayan (5.24) inches, Phyarpon (4.45) inches, Hmawbi (4.06) inches, CoCo Island (3.78) inches and Gwa (1.81) inches.

Maximum temperature on 21-9-2007 was 76°F. Minimum temperature on 22-9-2007 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hour MST on 22-9-2007 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 21-9-2007 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 22-9-2007 was (8.43) inches at Mingaladon, (9.57) inches at Kaba-Aye and (11.54) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (121.42) inches at Mingaladon, (125.28) inches at Kaba-Aye and (130.20) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southeast at (06:30) hour MST on 22-9-2007.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hr MST today, the low pressure area over West Central Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay still persists. It is likely to intensify into a depression. 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 23-9-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated to scattered in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kayin State and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeyawady and Yangon 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-Taninthyai 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 23-9-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 23-9-2007: Intermittent rain which may be heavy at time. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 23-9-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Sunday, 23 September
View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်း ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဌာနရ၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘုရားတော် ဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

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. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ဖြာ မင်္ဂလာ

8:05 am

6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am

7. Musical programme

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Say it in English

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:10 am

2. Musical programme

11:25 am

3. Round up of the week's International news

11:40 am

4. “စိတ်၏စေရာ ၃၀၂” (အပိုင်း-၂)

(နေတိုး၊ မင်းထက်ကျော်စင်၊ ထူးခန့်ကျော်၊ အိန္ဒြာကျော်စင်)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်မောင်ဦး၊ စိုးသိမ်းထွဋ်)

12:40 pm

5. (၂၄) ကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင်အာရှ အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်မည့် မြန်မာအားကစားအဖွဲ့များ၏ ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ (တိုက်ကွပ်မို)

12:50 pm

6. Musical programme

1:10 pm

7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

1:25 pm

8. ကူးလူးဆက်သွယ် ချစ်ကြီးနွယ်(ကရင်၊မွန်)

1:40 pm

9. မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်

1:55 pm

10. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:10 pm

11. (၂၆) မိုင် ကြက်ဆူအထူးစုန် (စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်း)

2:25 pm

12. “တို့တရားလုံးချမ်းသာပြီ” (ဆန်းထွဋ်၊ သူသူဟံသာ၊ အကယ်ဒမီဇော်ဦး၊ မိုးဒီ၊ ငွေတောင်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဂွမ်းပုံ၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-တင်အောင်ရွှေ (သုတေသီ)

2:45 pm

13. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song for uphold national spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for everyday use

4:45 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)

5:00 pm

5. Song of national races

5:15 pm

6. ၂၀၀၇ခုနှစ်၊ (၁၅) ကြိမ်မြောက် မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီး ပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များလေ့လာနိုင်ကြရန် (ကာလပေါ်တေးနှင့် ခေတ်ဟောင်းတေး) (ဝါသနာရှင်(ပထမတန်း) အဆင့် (အမျိုးသမီး))

5:25 pm

7. Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm

8. Evening news

6:30 pm

9. Weather report

6:35 pm

10. သီရိဇောတာ

7:05 pm

11. (၂၄) ကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင်အာရှ အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်မည့် မြန်မာအားကစားအဖွဲ့များ၏ ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ (ရေကူး)

7:15 pm

12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “သမားတော်”(အပိုင်း-၆၁)

8:00 pm

13. News

8:15 pm

14. International news

8:30 pm

15. Weather report

8:45 pm

16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်စရာပျိုကညာ” (အပိုင်း-၆)

8:55 pm

17. The next day's programme

Mandalay District marks completion of paddy transplanting

YANGON, 22 Sept—Mandalay District marked the completion of monsoon paddy transplanting for 2007-2008 at the field of farmer U Myint Soe at Aung Chantha Village-tract in Patheingyi Township on 18 September.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw viewed the transplanting of Hsin Thwe Yin strain paddy. He met with the female transplanters and gave instructions on agricultural tasks to the officials.

He inspected paddy field No 446/447 and adding of fertilizers to the soil.

The commander observed sample paddy seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. Chairman U Soe Mya of Mandalay District PDC reported on land utilization, rainfall, and



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw views cultivation of paddy in Mandalay District.—MNA

progress of paddy cultivation regarding the ceremony. The commander presented cash awards to the female transplanters and growers, and cordially greeted the farmers.

So far, Mandalay District has cultivated 43,505 acres out of 44,830 acres and will complete the growing of the remaining acres by the end of this month.—MNA

Progress in all-round renovation of Hsutaungpyae Pagoda inspected in Kyaikmaraw

YANGON, 22 Sept —Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe inspected all-round renovation of Hsutaungpyae Pagoda in Kyaikmaraw recently and paid homage to the pagoda.

At Phayagyi Monastery in Kyaikmaraw, the commander and wife together with officials attended the ceremony to donate cash to the funds for all-round renovation of the pagoda.

Ovadaçariya Sa-

yadaw Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Varinda of the monastery administered the Five Precepts.

The commander and wife, departmental officials and wellwishers offered alms to the Sayadaws.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and wife donated K 300,000 to the funds of the pagoda through Chairman of the All-round Renovation Committee Commander of Mon State Police Force Police Col Tin Thein Han.

The commander

and officials accepted cash donations from the wellwishers including K 500,000 by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Varinda. The donations of the wellwishers totalled K 19.1 million.

Later, the Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation led by the commander shared merits gained. —MNA

NLD leaders incompetent, seeking political gain

49 members of Sagaing Township NLD quit

YANGON, 22 Sept — A total of 49 members including U Kyaw Tint of Bye Tayaw village, U Tin Gyi of Natma Naing village, U Nyo Aye of Sa Yay village, U Lone San of Pegatote village, U Hla Win of Ta Einte village, U Hla Win of Lin Talu village, U Tat Si of Kyaukka Ywama village and U Khin Maung Win of Ta Laingkyan village of Sagaing Township National League for Democracy of Sagaing Division resigned from NLD of their own accord on 9 September.

They sent their letters of resignation to NLD (Headquarters) and local authorities concerned.

They said in the resignation letters sent to Sagaing Division Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-commission that NLD had no exact political course and there was disunity within the party. In addition, party's leader were incompetent and seeking political gain. Therefore, they quit NLD of their own volition.—MNA

New Rainfall Records

(Issued at 12:30 hour MST on 22-9-2007)

The amounts of rainfall recorded at (09:30) hour MST today, at the following stations observed the (24) hours new maximum rainfall records for the month of September.

No.	Station	New rainfall Record		Previous Record		Late Rainfall Date	Record Period
		mm	(inches)	mm	(inches)		
1.	Central (Yangon)	293	11.54	160	6.30	8-9-1968	39
2.	Yangon (Kaba-Aye)	243	9.57	174	6.85	8-9-1976	39
3.	Yangon (Mingaladon)	214	8.43	149	5.87	8-9-1968	60

Weather Forecast for 23-9-2007

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas

One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon and neighbouring areas

Intermittent rain which may be heavy at time. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).