Lt-Gen Aung Htwe looks into agriculture and livestock breeding farms in Shan State (East)

Yangon, 16 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, senior military officers and officials, inspected the poultry farms of the command on 14 September morning.

Officials reported on the breeding of local species of chicken. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe left necessary instructions. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected the farm and gave instructions on extended breeding of fish and ducks and agriculture. A total of 332 local species of chicken are being raised at the farm. They proceeded to Yanhla agricultural farm of the command. Officials reported on planting of Thitseint (beleric myrobalan), rubber and pigeon pea at the farm. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions. He inspected the thriving pigeon pea plantations. The farm has grown 213 acres of Thitseint, 40 acres of rubber, 39 acres of garden peas and 300 acres of pigeon pea.

They went to the Government Computer College (Kengtung) of the Advanced Science and Technology Department of the Ministry of Science and Technology. Officials reported on construction of the main building of the college. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on the project. The college is located on Kengtung-Mongla Road near Yanhla Village about four miles from Kengtung with an area of 30 acres. The three-storey reinforced concrete building, 633 feet long, 51 feet wide and 45 feet high, is being constructed by Naung Ton Construction Co, and so far 65.52 per cent of the project has been completed. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected the work progress and gave instructions.

They headed for the project for construction of the office and shops of Shan State (East) War Veterans Organization on Kengtung Airport Street. There, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe heard reports on the project.

Together with Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein, senior military officials and officials, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe went to the high-yield monsoon paddy field of farmer U Kyaw Win of Mayan Village, Phannin Village-tract, Tachilek District.

Officials reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy on 400 acres for the year 2003 in Tachilek District, paddy strains, use of pesticides and fertilizers and progress. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on the use of high-yield paddy strains suitable for the local climate, pest control and boosting per acre yield reaching up to at least 100 baskets, and inspected the thriving paddy fields. A total of 108 farmers from nearby villages cultivate Hsin Ayekari hybrid strain paddy on the 400-acre land.

They arrived at the power station in Tachilek. Officials reported on power production capacity of the station, progress in installation of unit system. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on ensuring full power supply to the villages round the clock and extended installation of metre boxes. The station is situated on the 24.42-acre land on Polo Street in Haungleik Village-tract, Tachilek. Measures are being taken for extended power supply to the region. The project for ensuring all-day power supply to the town was launched on 17 April 2003. Up to 9 September, 528 metre boxes have been installed.

Future policies and programmes Page 8
The symbol of peace and unity Page 10

Regional development activities inspected in Wakema

Yangon, 16 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, together with Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, arrived at the Yadanaungmye agricultural education camp in Hsamalauk village, Nyaungdon Township on 14 September afternoon.

At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on cultivation and production of crops in 2002-2003, cultivation of monsoon paddy in 2003-2004, assistance rendered to the promotion of per acre yield of monsoon paddy, and condition of 135-day paddy strain. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing gave additional reports.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on the conducting of educational talks on 100 basins per acre yield of paddy and the employment of the four agricultural methods. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected thriving trial plantations of Manawbukha paddy strain on 14 acres of farm-land belonging to farmer U Su Win. They also inspected the plantations of monsoon paddy on both sides of Maubin-Hsamalauk road and Yangon-Pathein road.

On arrival at the Shwelwang Bridge on Pantanaw-Shwelwang road in Wakema, Myaungmya District, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on matters related to the bridge and gave instructions on maintenance of the bridge for durability.

The Shwelwang Bridge is 1,900 feet long and is of Bailey type, spanning Shwelwang river and linking Myeinn village of Pantanaw Township with Shwelwang village of Wakema Township.

In Shwelwang village, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsmen. On the occasion, the commander extended greetings. Speaking at the get-together, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said no effort is spared to narrow down the development gaps.

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* National reconciliation
* 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

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* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation

* 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

* Establishment of unity 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

* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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**PERSPECTIVES**

**Wednesday, 17 September, 2003**

**Boost exploration and production of oil and natural gas to meet demand of growing industries**

The State Peace and Development Council, with the intention of strengthening the national economic life and raising the living standard of the people, has been striving, in every way possible, to bring development to all sectors of the State. In doing so, the Government chiefly relies on natural resources and human resources of the nation as they are the key factors for the national development.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party on 14 September visited the liquefied gas plant of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy. In meeting with responsible personnel, the Prime Minister said that they were to seek ways and means that benefit the State in the long run, to make efforts with added momentum for extended exploration of oil and gas and to nurture and produce technicians who are proficient in their respective sectors.

The liquefied gas plant was built to produce propane, butane, naphtha petrol and lean gas from natural gas. The gas can be used in industries and in vehicles. Moreover, they can be used as wood-substitute fuel and instead of electric energy in manufacturing enterprises to save electricity and to prevent air pollution.

Natural gas is being explored in Nyaungdon, Pantanaw and Maubin oil fields for the liquefied gas plant to produce liquefied gas. The plant has the capacity of producing thirty tons of liquefied gas per day. Ayeawady Division has a lot of potential for natural gas and so it is necessary to increase the exploration and production of the gas.

As the energy sector is one of the key sectors for the development of the nation, we would like to urge all the responsible personnel of the sector to expand their exploration work for natural gas and to boost the production of fuel oil and other liquefied gas to meet the demand of growing industries in special development regions and industrial zones.

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**Information Minister receives Chinese Cultural Counsellor**

**Yangon, 16 Sept —** Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Cultural Counsellor of the People’s Republic of China Mr Pan Feng this afternoon at his office here. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Than, the directors-general and managing directors of the departments under the ministry and officials. — MNA

**Yangon, 16 Sept —** A ceremony to collectively present cash and kind to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Department, Yangon Division Police Force, and social organizations in Pazundaung Township, was held at the Central Hotel on Bogyoke Street here this morning, with an opening address by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung. On behalf of wellwishers, Haj U Khan Maung Than explained the purposes of the donations. Then, the minister spoke words of honour. Wellwishers presented K 200,000 to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, K 150,000 to the Religious Affairs Department, K 200,000 to Yangon East em People’s Hospital, two bicycles worth K 100,000 for security of Maha Bandoola park, K 100,000 each to Yangon Division Police Force, Yangon East District Police Force and Pazundaung Township Peace and Development Council, K 50,000 each to Township Police Force, Township Development Affairs Department Office, Township Women’s Affairs Work Committee, No 2 Ward Peace and Development Council in the township, Township Auxiliary Fire Brigade, township Immigration and National Registration Department, township Red Cross Society and No 2 BEPS in the township. Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Tin Hlaing spoke words of thanks and the ceremony ended. — MNA

**Cash and kind donated to organizations**

**Yangon, 16 Sept —** The SARS Control Working Committee held the second quarterly meeting to review work and to coordinate future work programmes at the meeting hall of Ministry of Health on Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Street.

**Yangon, 16 Sept —** Dagon Township this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Working Committee Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo. Also present on the occasion were the Chairman of the SARS Control Working Sub Committees, the Secretaries and members, the medical superintendents and physicians.

In his address, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo said that the instructions of Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt given at the ninth meeting of the NHC will have to be implemented, adding task for controlling and monitoring of SARS is meeting with success. Continued efforts are to be made with added momentum.

In case of recurrence of SARS, the sub-committees are to take the respective measures for control of SARS. Knowledge about SARS are to be given to the public through mass media and school health activities. Preventive measures are to be taken in anticipation of influenza that occurs in the cold season.

Next, the Secretary of the Committee reported on tasks being implemented by the Working Committee in the first three months, followed by a general round of discussions. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the deputy chairman. — MNA

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**Cash, medicine donated to home for the aged**

**Yangon, 16 Sept —** Hailing the International Day for Older Persons - 2003 which falls on 1st October, cash and medicine were donated to Muslim women home for the aged in Thingangyun Township this morning. Older Persons - 2003 which falls on 1st October, cash and medicine donated to the home for the aged and cordially greeting aged women. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party on 14 September visited the liquefied gas plant of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy. In meeting with responsible personnel, the Prime Minister said that they were to seek ways and means that benefit the State in the long run, to make efforts with added momentum for extended exploration of oil and gas and to nurture and produce technicians who are proficient in their respective sectors.

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IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

Seventy-five US soldiers have been killed by forces loyal to ousted president Saddam Hussein or foreign militants since an end to major combat operations was declared in May, the US military said on Sunday. Including casualties from Sunday, a further 667 troops have been wounded in action, while another 98 troops have died through accidents or in non-combat related deaths. — Internet

An Iraqi girl sits outside as US soldiers of 720 Military Police Battalion of the Fourth Division search her house during a joint raid with the Iraqi police on a tiny settlement 30 km (19 miles) north of Tikrit on 14 September, 2003. Seven persons were arrested during the raid, which was aimed at catching criminals and armed robbers. — Internet

A young boy holds a rifle’s bayonet during a funeral held for eight of the ten policemen killed the previous night by US forces in the restive Iraqi town of Falluja, on 13 September, 2003. Hundreds of Iraqis chanting “America is the enemy of God” and shooting in the air began burying on Saturday 10 local guards killed by US troops who mistook them for anti-American rebels. — Internet

As a small boy sleeps on the floor, American soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 22nd infantry regiment, 4th Infantry division in Tikrit, Iraq, Monday, on 15 September, 2003, search for weapons at a suspected Saddam loyalist houses during a raid in the early hours of the morning. Five men were taken into custody and a large cache of weapons and money were found during the raid. — Internet

US Army Sgt Christopher Baldwin of the 101st Airborne Division holds confiscated AK 47 as others search a house during a raid in Mosul, 400 kms (250 miles) north of Baghda, Iraq, Sunday, on 14 Sept, 2003. Two persons were arrested during the raid. — Internet
US soldier killed in Baghdad by rocket-propelled grenade

The 1st Armoured Division soldier died of his wounds early Tuesday morning, a day after he came under an attack in the western part of the city.

Prime Minister Surya Kant Bahadur Thapa for the SAARC meeting, told reporters on Saturday.

Kasuri said the entire SAARC process should not be held hostage to bilateral issues. Pakistan's Prime Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri has said and expressed confidence that India's Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee would break part the 12th Summit of the regional grouping to be held in Islamabad in January.

Kasuri said the entire SAARC process should not be held hostage to bilateral issues. "It has been clearly mentioned in the SAARC Charter that the Summit should be held every year," he said, adding “the Charter also does not allow any country to impose any pre-conditions for the Summit.”

The Pakistan Government will do all it can to facilitate the holding of the Summit and to create a cordial atmosphere for its success, he said. — MNA/PTI

Gunmen assassinate Iraqi Police Chief

KHALIDIYA, 16 Sept — Three gunmen, their faces covered with red and white Arab headdresses, assassinated the police chief of this Sunni Triangle town Monday in an ambushed at a traffic circle.

Col Kheder Mekhalif Ali, 48, the Khalidiya police chief, was shot at least 25 times, according to his driver, who was wounded in the attack along with Ali’s bodyguard. Ali was driving to his home in Fallujah, about 50 miles west of Baghdad, when the assailants ambushed his vehicle as it slowed at the traffic circle.

The three attackers opened fire with a machine gun, shot one of the tires of the chief’s car and then approached the vehicle and shot him, said his driver, 47-year-old Rabia’a Kamash. He spoke to The Associated Press at the Fallujah General Hospital were he was being treated for wounds to his head and shoulder.

Bodyguard Fouad Issa, 40, wounded in the shoulder and back was also being treated at the hospital. He said police have frequently come under attack because they are seen as being associated with the American occupation force. American forces withdrew from Khalidiya two months ago, leaving local police to provide security.

“Lately the colonel had been actively pursuing a gang of car thieves who had repeatedly threatened to kill him,” said Khalidiya police officer Ahmed Joma’a. — Internet

Cancun trade talks end in vain

CANCUN (Mexico), 16 Sept — Trade talks critical to the health of the world economy collapsed in Mexico Sunday after poor states refused to bow to a demand from some rich countries for new rules on foreign investment.

Agriculture had been the main bone of contention during the five-day World Trade Organization meeting, but in the end the negotiations crumbled over the insistence of the European Union and some others on writing four new sets of trade rules. The breakdown of the talks dramatically underscored the growing clout of developing countries, which make up three-quarters of the Geneva-based WTO’s membership. "We are elated that our voice has now been heard," said Philippine Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas.

Poor states, which already felt existing trade laws were rigged against them, had served notice that they could not contemplate new rules that they said would impose unacceptable burdens and impinge on their freedom to make economic policy. But Malaysia’s Trade Minister, Rafidah Aziz, said rich states had simply refused to heed the warnings. "We have always alerted people that unless they listen to the developed countries… this is what will happen," she said. "They kept demanding things that others couldn’t deliver." — MNA/Reuters

Pakistan FM confident that India will attend SAARC summit

KATHMANDU, 16 Sept — The SAARC process should not be held hostage to bilateral issues, Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri has said and expressed confidence that India’s Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee would break part the 12th Summit of the regional grouping to be held in Islamabad in January.

The 3 am raid also captured assault rifles, pieces of an RPG and ammunition.

Electric vehicles planned for Beijing streets

BEIJING, 16 Sept — About 20 electric vehicles will make their national debut on the streets of Beijing at the end of the year, says the Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Commission.

In an exhibition hall of the on-going sixth China Beijing International Science and Technology Industrial Expo, a chic new electric vehicle attracted attention from many visitors.

An Expo staff member said the vehicle, which uses electric batteries as a power source and generates no pollutants, is expected to help improve the city’s air quality.

According to the Beijing municipal government’s overall city management programme, about 1,000 electric vehicles will be used at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. — MNA/Xinhua

Jack Straw said to have warned Blair off Iraq war

LONDON, 16 Sept — Prime Minister Tony Blair, braced for a critical week as an inquiry into the death of a weapons expert returns to action, faced claims on Sunday that his foreign minister urged him not to wage war on Iraq. Blair’s public trust ratings have shrivelled, with most Britons doubting the case he made for attacking Iraq and many blaming his government for scientist David Kelly’s suicide.

His standing took a further blow on Sunday when a new book claimed that just days before Iraq was invaded, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw asked Blair to opt out.

According to experienced political journalist John Kampfner, Straw urged his boss to tell Washington that Britain would offer political and moral support but no troops.

"Jack Straw had cold feet with the failure to get the second resolution at the UN," Kampfner told BBC Television.

Neither Blair’s Downing Street office nor the Foreign Office would comment on his claims.

Supachai Panitchpakdi (L), General Director of the World Trade Organization, gives Mexican Foreign Affairs Minister, Luis Ernesto Derbez, the symbolic hammer, during the closing ceremony of the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference at the Cancun Convention Centre in Cancun, Mexico, on 14 Sept, 2003. — XINHUA

Peddlers sell living items on a street near Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf, south Iraq, on 14 Sept, 2003. Local residents’ life comes back to normal two weeks after the blast that occurred on 29 Aug, 2003 killing more than 100 people, including Shiite Muslim cleric Ayatollah Mohammad Baquer al-Hakim. — XINHUA
295 US soldiers killed since beginning of war in Iraq

Baghdad, 16 Sept — As of Monday, 15 Sept, 295 US soldiers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense. The British military has reported 49 deaths. Denmark’s, military has reported one death. On or since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 157 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defence Department figures.

The latest deaths reported by US Central Command: A 1st Armored Division soldier was killed Monday when the soldier’s patrol was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade round in central Baghdad. The latest identification reported by the military:

US Army soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division ready to break into a house during a raid in Mosul, 400 kms (250 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq. Two persons were arrested during the raid. — Internet

Howard Straw under fire over claim he opposed war

London, 16 Sept — Jack Straw was under intense pressure to clarify his position over the war in Iraq last night after it was claimed he had advised Tony Blair against sending British troops days before the invasion began.

The Foreign Secretary wrote a secret memo to Mr Blair, proposing a “Plan B”, under which Britain would not join combat operations but instead offer “political and moral” backing for war.

The memo, written after the Azores summit in March, urged the Prime Minister to consider alternative strategies to war without the backing of a second UN Security Council resolution.

The memorandum instead proposed "against Iraq war" a new book serialized Sunday in the British Mail newspaper. Straw sent the private memo just days before the coalition forces bombed Baghdad on 20 March, according to the book written by John Kampfner, political editor of the left-wing magazine The Spectator.

Excerpts from Blair’s War claimed that Straw urged Blair to tell US President George W Bush that Britain would offer moral and political support for the conflict, but no combat troops. After Blair received Straw’s memo, “He (Blair) asked him to clarify whether or not he would support the war, now that it was definitely going to happen,” Kampfner wrote in the book. — MNA/Xinhua

New book claims British Foreign Secretary “against Iraq war”

London, 16 Sept — British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw launched a last minute plea to British Prime Minister Tony Blair not to join the United States in the military campaign against Iraq, said a new book serialized Sunday in the British Mail newspaper.

Straw sent the private memo just days before the coalition forces bombed Baghdad on 20 March, according to the book written by John Kampfner, political editor of the left-wing magazine The Spectator.

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Turkey bids for UN Security Council membership

Ankara, 16 Sept — Turkey has put forward its candidacy for UN Security Council membership in 2009-2010 after an interval of nearly half a century, the Anatolia news agency reported on Sunday.

Turkey voiced its desire during the UN Economic and Social Council meetings and it also informed UN authorities concerned of its desire, the report said.

According to the UN procedures, verbal expression is enough for UN Security Council candidacy. The state-run Anatolia quoted UN sources as saying that two members from the West Europe group would change in the period when Turkey would put forward its candidacy. MNA/Xinhua

Americans against Bush’s spending request for Iraq, Afghanistan

Washington, 16 Sept — Six in 10 Americans disapprove of US President George W Bush’s request to Congress for an additional $87 billion US dollars to fund military and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, a poll released Sunday showed.

If Congress decides to approve the additional money, they said, lawmakers should roll back the President’s tax cuts to pay for the increased spending, rather than add to the federal budget deficit or cut government spending, the Washington Post-ABC News survey showed.

The survey findings send a clear signal that many Americans are unwilling to give the administration a blank cheque on peacekeeping efforts in Iraq, despite continued strong backing for Bush’s decision to go to war and public support for stay there to help stabilize and rebuild that nation, The Washington Post reported. Slightly more than half — 53 per cent — approve of the President’s policies abroad, a precipitous fall from 67 per cent barely two months ago, and barely half — 52 per cent — said they approve of the way the President is handling the situation in Iraq, down slightly from a 40 per cent and a 23-point decline since the war ended in April. On many domestic issues, however, Bush’s approval ratings have fallen to the lowest point of his presidency. Fifty-six per cent disapprove of the job Bush is doing handling the economy — the highest negative rating since he took office, and nearly six in 10 disapprove of his handling of the federal budget, which is likely post a record deficit next year of at least $480 billion dollars. Rounly six in 10 said jobs and the economy are more important among issues also including education, federal spending, homeland security and health care that top the list. The survey, covering a total of 1,104 randomly selected adults, were carried out between 9, 10 and 13 September, with the margin of sampling error for the overall results at plus or minus 3 percentage points. — MNA/Xinhua

A child who has been just vaccinated against polio cries in a government-run school in New Delhi on 14 Sept, 2003. Children, under 5, in Delhi area received vaccination against poliomyelitis on Sunday in response to a call by the local government. Xinhua

Hong Kong to host next WTO ministerial meeting

Cancun (Mexico), 16 Sept — The sixth ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) will be held in Hong Kong, Chairman of the fifth WTO ministerial meeting in Cancun and Mexican Foreign Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbez said here on Sunday.

The date of the meeting has not yet been decided. But analysts said that it might be held sometime in 2004 although such meeting is normally held biennially.

They said that the fact of the Cancun meeting ended on Sunday without reaching any agreement poses a big challenge for the Doha Development Agenda, which was launched in 2001 in the Qatari capital and is supposed to complete by the end of 2004.

A Hong Kong delegate said Hong Kong has received support from all its major trade partners to host the next WTO ministerial meeting. — MNA/Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 17 September, 2003 5
Iraqi official laments US troops action

MAHARR, 16 Sept—Most US troops in Iraq treat civilians with “violence and contempt,” a member of the US-appointed Governing Council said Monday.

Dr Rajaa Habib Khuzai, one of two women on the Governing Council, was speaking at a joint Press conference with Spanish Foreign Minister Ana Palacio.

“There is considerable discontent with the coalition forces, the majority of whom treat the Iraqi people with violence and contempt,” Khuzai said. The doctor said US troops’ behaviour contrasted with that of the 1,300 Spanish soldiers sent to south-central Iraq. “The Spanish are seen in a friendly light and not as an occupying force, said Khuzai, in Spain to meet with heads of several hospitals to discuss ways in which Spain may help Iraq rebuild its health services. But Khuzai distinguished between the irritation she said Iraqis felt toward US troops and the growing number of incidents of armed violence against the troops in Iraq since the battle to Saddam Hussein ended.

“These are attacks carried out by the remnants of Saddam Hussein’s regime and some members of al-Quida,” said Khuzai, a Shiite Muslim and one of three women on the 25-member council. “These are acts of sabotage, not resistance.”

Palacio said that in the final weeks of the Saddam Hussein regime some 130,000 criminals were freed from jail, many with terrorist connections. Khuzai also criticized the US refusal initially to hand over responsibility for security in Iraq to the Governing Council. She said that this attitude had changed in recent weeks because of the increasing attacks and that there was agreement to share this task. As of Monday, 156 US soldiers have died in Iraq since President Bush declared an end to major combat on May 1. In heavy fighting before that date 138 soldiers were killed. Despite her criticism of the US army, Khuzai stressed Iraq’s gratitude for having been liberated from Saddam, who she said committed “uncountable crimes.”

“Spain was one of the most fervent supporters of the US invasion of Iraq in March,” Palacio said.

Citing unidentified officials, ABC said the report by the civilian leading the search for hidden weapons will detail Iraq’s effort to maintain the capability to produce biological, chemical or nuclear weapons.

Before ordering the invasion that toppled Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on 20 March, US President George W Bush referred to an immi- nent threat posed by Iraq weapons of mass destruction as a prime justification for war.

The Iraq Survey Group, headed by Maj Gen. Keith Dayton of the Defence Intelligence Agency, has led the search since June, with guidance from former US weapons inspector David Kay. A US intelligence official said Kay’s report on the search was not finished and the ABC report was mere speculation.

A senior Pentagon official said Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had stressed that Kay was extending an interim report in the coming weeks, but the official was not aware of the receipt of any initial report.

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No solid evidence in draft on Iraq arms search

WASHINGTON, 16 Sept— A draft report on the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq provides no solid evidence that Iraq had such arms when the United States invaded the country in March, ABC News reported on Monday.

It is expected that this draft report will be published Monday, the paper said, but the official was not aware of any other reports on such weapons in the country, the British Sunday Times newspaper reported on Sunday.

Efforts by the Iraq Survey Group, an Anglo-American team of 1,400 scientists, military and intelligence experts, to scour Iraq for the past four months to uncover evidence of chemical and biological weapons have so far ended in failure, the paper said.

It has been expected that a progress report would be published Monday, the paper said, but some British lawmakers on the parliament’s security and intelligence committees have been told that this has been delayed and may not necessarily even be published.—MNA/Xinhua

United States Army troops investigate the scene of a fatal blast as a destroyed Humvee vehicle is towed away near the restive central Iraq town of Fallujah on 14 September, 2003. US Secretary of State Colin Powell confronted the cost of the US-led occupation head-on when he flew into Iraq on Sunday just an hour after a bomb attack killed another US soldier.—Reuters

British, US shelve report on Iraq banned weapons

LONDON, 16 Sept—Britain and the United States have decided to delay the publica- tion of a full report on Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction after inspectors found no evidence that any such weapons exist in the country, the British Sunday Times newspaper reported on Sunday.

Efforts by the Iraq Survey Group, an Anglo-American team of 1,400 scientists, military and intelligence experts, to scour Iraq for the past four months to uncover evidence of chemical and biological weapons have so far ended in failure, the paper said.

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China prepares for First Higher Education Software Expo

BEIJING, 16 Sept.—The first International Higher Education Software Exhibition will open in Beijing from September 19 to 21, with thousands of projects from 69 universities, 31 domestic and overseas companies and educational administrations.

Sources with the Ministry of Education (MOE) said it was the first of its kind in

Iranian official says Teheran will cooperate with IAEA

Tehran, 16 Sept — Iran will continue to cooperate with the UN’s nuclear watchdog, a senior official was quoted as saying on Sunday, despite hardliners’ calls for Iran to reject a UN deadline to prove it has no atomic arms programme.

Using softer language than in recent days, Iran’s Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Ali Salehi said Teheran would not make “nervous and tough reactions” to a tough IAEA resolution last week on Iran’s nuclear programme.

“We will continue our cooperation with the IAEA as before and our clear criticism does not mean we will sever our coopera- tion with the agency,” the state-run Iran newspaper quoted him as saying.

But he added that Iran would follow North Korea’s lead by expelling IAEA inspectors for good and pulling out of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The IAEA has accused Teheran of fail- ing to provide full and accurate information about its nuclear programme. Iran says its nuclear facilities are solely geared to gener- ating electricity.

A resolution passed by the IAEA’s gov- erning board on Friday called on Iran to clear up lingering doubts by October 31 and suspend all uranium enrichment activities.

The resolution implied that if the IAEA still had concerns about Iran’s nuclear activi- ties in November, it could declare Teheran in breach of international obligations and re- port it to the UN Security Council for possi- ble economic sanctions.

Iran insists it has no nuclear arms ambi- tions and accuses Washington of seeking a pretext to invade the Islamic Republic, as it has its neighbours Afghanistan and Iraq.

Several hardline Iranian commentators have said Iran’s foreign minister’s lead by expelling IAEA inspectors for good and pulling out of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi on Sunday said Teheran’s future cooperation with the IAEA was under re- view. “The relevant authorities are discuss- ing it and our decision will be made public in future. We haven’t made a concrete decision on how to continue cooperation with the IAEA,” he said.—MNA/Reuters
Roles of veterinarians and veterinary public health issue are alarming globally. The art and science of veterinary medicine should be utilized for food safety and food security. Food safety is an essential public health issue for all countries.

The professions of veterinary medicine, and the individual veterinarians are continually evolving with the discovery of new technologies, knowledge and veterinary public health issues. Veterinary professionals have successfully filled most scientific, technical and leadership positions in Myanmar, yet their contributions remain unrecognized and their future role remains ill-defined. To meet this mandate for the 21st century, veterinarians must better utilize the skills and talents of its current veterinary workforce and enhance efforts to retain highly qualified and motivated veterinarians in the future.

Veterinarians in food animal practices are first line promoters of the production of animals that are healthy, free of voluntary residues and other public health hazards (ie zoonotic diseases). Veterinarians should bring a broad combination of knowledge and skills to the inter disciplinary farm-to-table public health team.

What are the roles of veterinarians concerning veterinary public health?

1. What veterinarians bring to the food safety table?

(a) To obtain a Bachelor of Veterinary Science Degree (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in other countries), they usually completed five years of academic course. Their education includes extensive knowledge of microbiological, chemical and physical hazards of foods and animals. Upon graduation, they have the basic foundation for building advanced public health and preventive medicine skills in risk assessment, management and communication.

(b) They have an in-depth understanding of production practices and animal diseases and the linkages between them.

(c) Some veterinarians are attending to obtain advanced degree such as Master of Veterinary Science (MVSc) in University of Veterinary Science, Malaysia and Master or PhD abroad such as Malaysia, Japan, Germany and Thailand. Furthermore, PhD programme will be opened in University of Veterinary Science, Yezin.

(d) To upgrade the teaching skills and improve technology for both students and lecturers, the authorities of University of Veterinary Science have agreed MOU with Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University Putra Malaysia, Malaysia.

(e) Veterinarians of Government services under Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries are participating in International Conference, seminar, symposium and training courses to achieve wide knowledge and become expert.

2. How Doctors of Veterinary Medicine bring critical skills to ensuring the safety of foods of animals origin?

(a) Veterinarians have knowledge and experience in pathology, microbiology and toxicology to evaluate human health hazards during the slaughtering process (at postmortem). They will be able to evaluate and certify risks that may impact food safety all the way to the consumer (eg Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy — BSE, anthrax, foodborne pathogen etc.)

(b) Veterinarians have trained to assess lesions, microbial and chemical residue finding and other laboratory recommendations to advise animal and human health authorities and industry on production, decontamination and product recalls.

(c) The scientific training and diagnostic skills of veterinarians can help them to identify and solve the problems. They will overcome those factors, which contribute to food safety from farm-to-table. Their perspectives will enable them to assess and verify HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) plans and systems at production, processing and distribution levels.

(d) As public health sector authorities, veterinarians must commit to study and understand HACCP and should lead the workforce to fully understand all its provisions.

(e) Veterinary roles can be expanded to fully utilize their skills with the HACCP environment. Meat inspectors must detect the pathological lesions in slaughter plants, testing and sampling for chemical drug and pesticide residues. Cull animal slaughter facilities also provide a source of animal disease information that could help improve herd and flock resistance and ultimately food safety. Thus they should monitor the impact of antibiotic residues and microbiological contamination in slaughtering facilities before they leave the processing plants. Such duties of veterinarians will evaluate the food safety and verify HACCP plan verification. Using multiple data sources and visual observations, veterinarians will make professional judgment about HACCP system.

3. What is HACCP system?

(a) HACCP is a modern approach to ensure quality assurance and safety of food products, from raw materials to the end product. It will help to prevent food contamination and safe food processing.

(b) HACCP system is widely established in food processing plant and in food service establishment.

(c) HACCP should be used in production activities, such as farm level, slaughterhouses and abattoir level.

4. Leadership of veterinarians

- Provide leadership for food safety initiatives to meet established local and international standards.
- Veterinarian roles can be expanded to fully utilize their scientific, technical and leadership positions in food safety and verify HACCP plan verification.
- Educate in food safety and verify HACCP plan verification. Using multiple data sources and visual observations, veterinarians will make professional judgment about HACCP system.

5. Leadership role

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The future policies and programmes

Aung Moe San

Without thoroughly studying the clarifications made by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt concerning the different stages of the nation-building project (the future policies and programmes of the State) on 30 August 2003 in essence as well as in form, there come out voices of discontent from inside and outside the country, with the sole intention of opposing everything the Government does. The acts of opposition, holding the opinion to consider everyone who is different in any aspect as the enemy, and to always go against the other side, are just the hostilites in the anarchic form, and counter to democracy. The democratic way of launching an opposition means the presentation of a criticism or a suggestion from the positive point of view in the interest of the nation. The seven stages of the future programme the State has laid down are the policy of restoring national reconciliation, ensuring progress in a peaceful way and the democracy cause.

The future programme precisely states the following stages:

1. Reconstituting of the National Convention, that has been adjourned since 1996, for the national forces to meet and lay down decision in the interest of the State; the step by step implementation of the process necessary for the emergence of a genuine and disciplined democratic system; drafting of a new constitution in accordance with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention; adoption of the constitution through national referendum; holding of free and fair elections for the Pyithu Hluttaw (Legislative body) according to the new constitution; convening of the Hluttaw members in accordance with the new constitution; and building of a modern, developed and democratic nation by the state leaders elected by the Hluttaw, and the government and other central organs formed by the Hluttaw.

The future programme is the only way in Myanmar society to overcome all the current difficulties. It is also the least painful way the Myanmar society will have followed without fail in building a democratic nation. Furthermore, collective efforts for the fastest realization of the programme as well as the duty of the entire people of Myanmar. The task of laying down a political programme must be based on a situation and position of the socio-economic and political life of a human society. A correct political programme cannot be laid down according to the degree of spiritual desire. It can be laid down based on the practical vision of life. The modern science of political economy said that the human know ledge on the social relations did not create the human life of social relations; that only the human life of social relations created the human knowledge on the social relations.

The policies and programmes drafted and laid down, based on desire, and contrary to the objective conditions of the material life, usually fail after facing a lot of painful experiences in practical life. The breakdown of the popular policy to install the socialist haven at once in certain countries of the world stands as proof to the fact. At present, the countries are starting to transform from socialism to capitalism (market-oriented economic system) in accord with the requirements of their social life. In that case, we can see that the wish to reach the socialist haven at once was the desire; and that all the impossible conditions to reach the goal was the social life. Thus, one needs to have the objective vision of the true situation of the social life from the human historical-evolution point of view. Besides his vision must be free from all corrupt practices — desire, anger, fear and ignorance.

If we analyze the situation of the different classes of the Myanmar society in the process of the national democratization drive, we can see that the capitalists are only in their infancy, and the industrial workers have not developed yet. It is a society mostly formed with a great mass of peasants. In that situation, some quarters of the community are usually expecting a leapfrog success of democracy and miracles in the changes. And based on the situation, some political parties and organizations are laying down and demanding the democratic programmes with unrealistic revolutionary ideas and desires. Especially, the desire to copy the democratic practices of the West European countries comes into the minds of the persons from these bodies. But such ideas are the visions under the influence of the desire that does not take root in the social life of their own race. Such ideas and visions will push the nation into the evil sufferings the old East European socialist countries had faced during their transformation period. If we look into world history, we can see that there are a number of countries whose material lives ascended from the old way to the life of a modern industrialized democratic nation. They are Germany and Japan, and the Republic of Korea, the Chinese Taiwan and the ASEAN nations, which emerged as developed and democratic nations during the post-World War II period. The People’s Republic of China also is seeing changes in such manner.

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, writing 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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

The Objectives of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— to vitalize patriotism and nationalism in all citizens
— to preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage
— to perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts
— to preserve Myanmar national character
— to nurture spiritual development of the youth
— to prevent influence of alien cultures
Lt-Gen Aung Htwe...  
(from page 1)

installed. Arrangements are being made for generating electricity with the use of the current of Mehek Creek 20 kilometres from Tachilek.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected the station. They spent the night in Tarlay.

Yesterday morning, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party attended the opening of Nantmyaw Bridge in Tarlay Township.

They arrived back here in the evening the same day.

MNA

Minister inspects factories

YANGON, 16 Sept — Accompanied by departmental officials, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung yesterday morning arrived at No 3 Brick Factory of Myanmar Ceramics Industries in Madaya, PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Division. MCI Managing Director Col Soe Yi and Factory Manager Capt Myint Tun reported on production of bricks and acquiring of clay as raw materials.

The minister gave instructions on production of quality bricks and sites to be chosen for construction of new brick factories and inspected the production line at the factory.

The minister and party went to Wundwin Textile and Garment Mile of Myanmar Textile Industries and inspected the production process. At the briefing hall, factory manager U Nay Lin Kyaw reported on production tasks and Managing Director U Thein Maung gave a supplementary report.

The minister gave instructions on extended production of quality items at fair prices and exceeding the targets.

The minister also inspected Win Thaza Shop in Meiktila. — MNA

Industry-1 Minister

U Aung Thaung inspects No 3 Brick Factory in PyinOoLwin District. — INDUSTRY-1

Rules for painting and sculpture competitions announced

YANGON, 16 Sept — As a gesture of hailing the 59th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, which falls on 27 March 2004, the subcommittee for holding the painting and sculpture competitions under the work committee for holding poem and sculpture competitions today announced that the painting and sculpture competitions will be held with the following rules.

The painting competitions will be divided into six categories—the pre-primary school level, the junior primary school level (kindergarten to second grade), the senior primary school level (third grade and fourth grade), the middle school level (fifth grade to eighth grade), the high school level (ninth grade to technologically and agricultural high schools) and the professional level. There will be only one category in the sculpture competition, the wood sculpture and the plaster sculpture at professional level.

In the painting competition from kindergarten to high school levels, the size of the entry must be 15" x 20", and 20" x 30" for professional level. Name, NRC No, class, school, township, date of birth, father’s name, address must be expressed on the back of the painting, with three 1.5” x 2”-size photos attached. For students, the endorsement of the school head is needed.

For the sculpture competition, the height of the entry must not be over 36" and its circumference not longer than 24". At the foot of the sculpture, name, NRC No, date of birth, father’s name, address must be shown, with three 1.5” x 2”-size photos attached and sent the entry right to Tatmadaw Convention Centre, U Wisara Road, between 1 and 5 March 2004.

All the entries, paintings or sculpture, must reflect the twelve objectives of the State, the objectives of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the twelve fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

Entries of both professional levels should be sent to Secretary U Thant Zin, Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Association (Central), Pabedan Township, Yangon, not later than 1 March 2004 or to Secretary U Thiri Lwin Soe, Sub-committee for the Holding of the Painting and Sculpture Competition and Exhibition, U Wisara Road, Tatmadaw Convention Centre, Yangon, between 1 and 5 March 2004. Entries of students all over Myanmar should be sent to Development Division, Education Planning and Training Department, Natmauk Street, Bahan Township, Yangon, not later than 21 February 2004.

Apart from the entries for both competitions, other paintings and sculptures may be sent to be displayed at the exhibition to be opened in honour of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. Those paintings and sculptures must also feature the twelve objectives of the State, the objectives of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the twelve fine traditions of the Tatmadaw and should be sent directly to Tatmadaw Convention Centre, U Wisara Road, between 1 and 5 March 2004. — MNA

Health delegation arrives back

YANGON, 16 Sept — The health delegation led by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo arrived back here after attending the 21st Health Ministers’ Meeting of member countries of the South East Asia region and 56th Regional Committee Meeting held in New Delhi, India from 8 to 13 September 2003. The delegation was welcomed back by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, the directors-general of departments of the ministry, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borr and officials.

Members of the delegation Deputy Director of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) U Than Aung, Director (Dis ease Control) of Health Planning Department Dr Ye Myint and Deputy Director of Medical Science Department Dr Than Zaw Myint also arrived back on the same flight. — MNA

Measures for promotion of cooperative functions coordinated

YANGON, 16 Sept — The Central Cooperative Society and cooperative syndicates met to promote their functions at the Ministry of Cooperatives on Bogyoke Aung San Street yesterday afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Huu Oo, department heads, chairmen and members of the Central Cooperative Society and the cooperative syndicates, and officials. At the meeting, the minister delivered a speech, saying that the ministry is taking systematic measures for elevating the cooperative role, discharging of cooperative businesses which provide the State, successful implementation of socioeconomic tasks in the interest of the State and the people and promotion of socioeconomic in cooperation with international cooperative societies. The cooperative syndicates including the central cooperative society are to make concerted efforts in order to improve the cooperative image through cooperation, he added.

Officials of the cooperative syndicates reported on organizational set-up of the syndicates and arrangements for boosting production. Afterwards, the minister made concluding remarks. — MNA

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MNA
The symbol of peace and unity

Once, it was almost unknown to us. Only the locals would see it, hear its thundering sound and admire its breathtaking beauty. But now, it has become the pride of southern Shan State, home to diversity of ethnic races living in unity and harmony, and working hand in hand for national and regional progress, while enjoying the peace and stability the Government has restored in the region. Internal insurgency resulting from factional, ideological and racial prejudices made construction of roads and other infrastructures impossibly hard in the past. As there were only few roads and other infrastructures there, there was less development in the area. In this regard, the area was less frequented by visitors from other states and divisions, thereby making it less known to other national people of the Union.

When Nanttain Creek reaches the area 30 miles east of Mognai Township in Loilem District, it meets with a steep mountain slope, and falls from the mountain with a roaring sound, forming a large waterfall 410 feet high and 2,325 feet wide.

The waterfall is so high, so large and so magnificent, that it can be heard before reaching near the magnificent falls. It is the Kengtwang Falls, formed by the force of nature, and is existing as the pride of southern Shan State. The Nanttain is a tributary of the Thanlwin, the largest river in the whole Shan State flowing from north to south and drains into Andaman Sea near Mawlamyine. The over 200-mile-long Nanttain passes Mongkai, Leikha, Namhsan and Lankhoto townships in southern Shan State before flowing into the Thanlwin. As peace and stability is prevailing in the area, the Kengtwang Falls has become the recreation place for visitors from places far and near. Furthermore, a hydel power plant is under construction at the falls to generate 472 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually from its 54-megawatt capacity turbines. The power from the plant will be supplied to the towns in the region including Mongpan, Langkho, Mognai, Namhsan, Leikha, Mongpun and up to Taunggyi, the regional capital.

But what has made it known to all the people across the nation is the peace and stability, restored by the Government in cooperation with the ethnic groups, once following the armed struggle line. Nowadays, the Kengtwang stands as the pride of southern Shan State as well as the symbol of peace and unity for all the nationalities.

Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory, winner of outstanding factory award

The Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory under Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries won the second outstanding factory award for 2002-2003 of the Ministry of Industry-1. The outstanding factory awards were selected based on the production of potent medicines, the factory produces a wide range of traditional medicines.

The MPF is striving for production of potent medicines in accord with GMP system. It now produces a wide range of traditional medicines. In response to the report presented by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thein on industrial development, Senior General Than Shwe said that it should be complete sterile in production of medicines, adding packing system has been out of date and it needs to keep up with time; that there requires hundreds of brick tanks in production of blue green algae for more export.

The MPF is striving for production of potent medicines with advanced packing system and the MPF products are thus in high demand in the market. The MPF is striving for production of potent medicines with advanced packing system and the MPF products are thus in high demand in the market.

Production of Burplex tablets with the use of High Pressure Rota Press.

Scenic view of Kengtwang Falls

Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Myanmar engineers drew designs for the frames of 4,730.2 feet long Chindwin River Bridge (Monywa). Each span of the bridge is 343 feet long and it was built of local-made quality steel frames. Thus, the bridge can be called a technological success and a pride of the nation. The photo taken on 7 April 2003 shows the night scene of Chindwin River Bridge (Monywa).

Better transport contributes much towards social development and boosting trade. With this end in view transport infrastructures, the prerequisites for regional and national development, were built in the country one after another with own strength and own technology. The photo taken on 25 April 2003 shows earth work for construction of 8,500 feet long and 100 feet wide runway of Bokpyin Airport. – PHOTO: MNA

For promoting the health care services of rural people that is included in the five rural development tasks, ways and means are sought for providing health care services by specialists to the public right down to the grassroots level. The photo shows the modern medical equipment installed at Kayin State People’s Hospital in Hpa-an.

PHOTO: MNA
S Korea recovers from typhoon, damage at $1b

Seoul, 16 Sept. - Thousands of homes in South Korea remained without electricity on Monday, three days after the country's most powerful typhoon on record killed at least 87 people and caused an estimated one billion US dollars in damage.

Rescue workers searched for survivors and soldiers helped repair roads and power lines after Typhoon Maemi hit the south of the country on Friday night in the middle of the five-day "Chuseok" Thanksgiving holiday.

Financial markets resumed trading on Monday, providing the first chance for them to assess the damage and give their verdict on the economy. Most companies in export-oriented South Korea, Asia's fourth-largest economy, also reopened on Monday. A special parliament committee will discuss financial and other support measures for the recovery, local media said.

Twenty-eight people are still missing and about 70,000 houses remain without electricity in the south, according to the national disaster office. "Rescue and repair work is going on round the clock with soldiers, police personnel and others helping residents," Seo Jung-woo, an official at the National Disaster Prevention and Countermeasures Headquarters, told Reuters. He said the cost of damage, put at 1.13 trillion won ($965.8 million US dollars) as of early Monday, could rise as more damage reports were being received from residents.

Typhoon Maemi, or "Cicada" in Korean, tore into southern parts of the country on Friday, packing record winds of up to 134 mile-per-hour and causing a swath of destruction before heading out to sea some seven hours later.

Up to 18 inches of rain was dumped across some areas and about 25,000 people had to be evacuated. A small number were still camped out in public buildings on Sunday night.

Typhoons often strike South Korea at this time of year. The country's worst storm, Typhoon Sara, killed 489 people in 1959.

The government said over the weekend that it would allocate 1.4 trillion won in disaster relief. A government agency said insurance claims had reached more than 156 billion won by late Sunday. MNA/Reuters

Mexico, Bolivia back agricultural agreement in WTO

CANCUN (Mexico), 16 Sept. - Mexico and Bolivia announced Saturday that they had agreed to a satisfactory agricultural agreement for both rich and developing nations within the framework of the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Mexican Economy Minister Fernando Canales and Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Saavedra agreed on an agricultural deal which called for a transition period until 2006, and said that "if it is necessary to continue with more time, we will continue".

"Canales and Saavedra are part of the participants of the WTO meeting, which is scheduled to wind up Sunday, at the Caribbean resort of Cancun, in southeastern Mexico." The ministers indicated that the positions of the interested parties are rigid, but it is logical that every country and bloc defend their positions and interests. Saavedra said, "A conclusive fact of the Cancun meeting is the start caused by the Group of 21, developing countries which demand an end to agricultural subsidies, because we have a combination of very big and small countries together." MNA/Xinhua
Chinese scientist appeals for checking academic corruption

SIIHAI, 16 Sept — A senior Chinese scientist called for efforts to fight against academic corruption and to vindicate the honour of Chinese scientists Sunday at an annual conference of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST).

Zou Chenghu, 80, academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the top research body of natural sciences in China, said that violations against science ethics could be in different forms, but they are all driven by attempts of reaping without sowing, or getting more reward than one actually pays.

He listed the violations as forging one’s education background or working experience, plagiarism, distorting original experiment data, sending contributions to more than one publisher, affixing one’s name to research papers that he or she makes no contributions whatsoever, and making false commercial advertisements, among others.

Zou, a renowned biochemist, said that some research fellows are cheating people in the name of science, giving an example of converting water into gas, a “legend” which once was widely spread in China a few years ago but later was proved absurd.

Some scientific societies are making commercial ads. But in fact, few societies can comprehensively validate a certain production.

“I suggest that CAST ban all its affiliated societies to get involved in ads so as not to mislead people,” said Zou.

The topic of academic ethics has sparked heated discussion in recent years. CAS has instituted self-regulated norms for academicians to clean up academic corruption. The Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) has also begun to receive complaints against and supervision over its academicians from the public.

Zou said that those who violate science ethics should be punished and even be dismissed. Over 4,000 scientific staff, including 100-plus CAS and CAE academicians, attended the 2003 CAST annual meeting in Shenyang, capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province. The meeting was scheduled on September 13-16.

The discussion will focus on topics including modern medicine, China’s strategy on natural resources, forestry in urban areas, bio-diversity higher education, the steel industry and how to vitalize northeast China’s heavy industrial base in one main forum and 40 sub-forums.

CAST, formed in 1958, now has some 180 national scientific societies, 31 provincial associations of science and technology, and extensive grassroots organizations. It is the biggest non-governmental organization of its kind in China. — MNA/Xinhua

WTO approves entry of Nepal, Cambodia

CANON (Mexico), 16 Sept — The World Trade Organization has approved through consensus the entry of two of the world’s least developed countries, Cambodia and Nepal, into the trade body.

These two countries will have to ratify within 30 days to become members of WTO.

While Cambodia had applied to become a member in late 1994, Nepal applied in 1989, a WTO release said adding the plenary session of WTO approved their entry.

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Pakistan Industry delegation holds talks with CII

CANON, 16 Sept — A six-member Pakistani Industry delegation had detailed discussions with the apex representative body of Indian industry, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), here to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation and sought help in dealing with organizational and WTO issues and checking flooding of spurious Chinese products in Pakistan.

The delegation, which had an hour-long meeting with CII delegation led by its Secretary-General Tarun Das also had detailed discussion on strengthening bilateral cooperation and implications of India-Thailand Free Trade Agreement as Pakistan also proposed to sign similar agreements.

The India-Thailand Free trade agreement is expected to boost Japanese investment in India through its subsidiaries in Thailand.

A 15-member Pakistani business delegation is to visit India through Wagah border Sunday to participate in Indo-Pakistani CEO forum organized by CII in New Delhi next week.

After the controversy over CII’s stand on Singapore issues in the face of some documents released by EU in this regard, President of India’s federation of Indian commerce and industry chambers AC Muthiah, who is part of Indian delegation to WTO, issued a statement highlighting its strong reservations against inclusion of the Singapore issues into the WTO agenda.

“We at FICCI believe that it is difficult to see how a WTO agreement on investment would strike a balance between disciplines and flexibilities, and between the rights and obligations of investors and host countries.”

Again, we are far from being convinced that any possible multilateral agreement on investment would lead to an expanded inflow of investment into the developing countries like India,” Muthiah said “it is definite that such a framework would result in shrinkage of policy-space and flexibility available to the developing countries.” — MNA/PTI

Dangerous Hurricane Isabel aims at US East Coast

MIAMI, 16 Sept.— Powerful Hurricane Isabel steamed across the Atlantic Ocean toward the United States on Sunday and forecasters said it would almost certainly hit the Eastern Seaboard late this week.

“We feel pretty confident that someone will (get hit),” said Eric Blake, a specialist at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami.

“We’re forecasting a major hurricane for the United States East Coast.”

Forecasters said the storm could strike the US Atlantic Coast anywhere from South Carolina to Maine by Friday, though the most likely track would bring it barreling up the North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland shorelines.

“Even if the centre doesn’t come near your specific location, the storm is very large and most of the East Coast is probably going to feel this in some way, especially in the mid-Atlantic states,” Blake said.

Students from Beijing Institute of Dancing perform the “Funs” at the Royal Theatre in Cairo, Egypt, on 13 Sept. 2003. The show, which features Chinese ancient folk dances, wins high praise from the Egyptian audiences. — XINHUA

Zatoichi,” “Barbarians” win Toronto film awards

TORONTO, 16 Sept—Japanese filmmaker Takeshi Kitano’s “Zatoichi,” the story of a mythical blind swordsman, and Denys Arcand’s “The Barbarian Invasions” took top awards at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sunday.

Based on one of the most popular characters in Japanese movies, “Zatoichi” won the festival’s People’s Choice award, voted on by regular moviegoers at the September 4-September 13 event.

The prize is often an indicator of future Academy Award nominations, with past awardees including Oscar winners “American Beauty,” “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon,” “Life is Beautiful,” “Shine” and “Chariots of Fire.”

Kitano, who rose to fame in Japan as a stand-up comedian and television personality, won a Silver Lion for directing “Zatoichi” at the Venice Film Festival earlier this month. — MNA/Reuters
Verona president quits after Serie B row

MILAN, 16 Sept — The president of Serie B club Verona has resigned, blaming the row that has dogged Italian football over the past month for his decision.

Gambattista Pastorello made a statement on the club's website that the expansion of Serie B to 24 clubs, a move that followed legal and political wrangles, meant "the credibility of (Italian) football has been totally annulled." Three relegated clubs were handed reprieves by soccer authorities and Fiorentina were "promoted" from Serie C1.

Pastorello said those decisions "violated the results of the championship and the (Italian football) Federation," added Pastorello.

The row resulted in 19 of the 24 clubs refusing to take part in the opening two weeks of the season but the second flight did get underway on Thursday.

Arsenal stay top as United close the gap

LONDON, 16 Sept — Arsenal stayed a point clear at the top of the English Premier League on Saturday despite losing their 100-per-cent record with a 1-1 draw against Portsmouth at Highbury.

Arsenal moved to 13 points from five matches, one ahead of Manchester United, who won 2-0 against London rivals Charlton Athletic.

Chelsea, who beat Tottenham Hotspur 4-2 in a London derby at Stamford Bridge, climbed to third on 10 points with a game in hand over the leading pair.

Portsmouth, unbeaten since their promotion, are fourth on nine points, followed by south coast rivals Southampton (9) and Liverpool (8).

Southampton also remained unbeaten after their 2-0 home win over bottom-of-the-table Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Liverpool moved up from 10th spot following their eventual 3-1 win at Blackburn Rovers where Michael Owen scored twice and Harry Kewell got the other after Matt Jansen had put Blackburn ahead in the eighth minute.

Blackburn ended the match with 10 men after Lucas Neill was sent off for a wild tackle on Jamie Carragher after only 13 minutes, while Liverpool's Czech international Milan Baros went off in the fifth minute with a suspected broken bone.

For once Arsenal and Manchester United did not have things all their own way against teams they would have expected to beat with something to spare.

Billionaires inquire into bidding for Manchester United

LONDON, 16 Sept — Three unidentified billionaires have made separate inquiries into bidding for English soccer Premier League champions Manchester United, the Observer newspaper said, citing unnamed senior club figures.

But United said it had had no takeover approaches.

"We have had no approaches and the story is pure speculation," United spokesmen Paddy Harverson told Reuters on Saturday.

The front-page report said the Russian, European and Middle Eastern entrepreneurs each sought advice from bankers on the cost of the club, which has a market capitalization of 436 million pounds, and whether existing shareholders would sell.

United chief executive Peter Kenyon quit last week to take up the same position at high-spending rival Chelsea, which was taken over by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich in July.

Shortly after Abramovich's move speculation focused on United. The Express newspaper at the time said a unnamed Russian multi-billionaire was examining a bid for United.

But soccer analyst Vinay Bedi of London brokerage Brewin Dolphin said in July that any bid for United would be complicated by the club's complex cross-shareholdings.

Shares in United closed at 168 pence on Friday.

Barcelona, Valencia stay up with leaders

MADRID, 16 Sept — Barcelona and Valencia scored workmanlike league victories on Sunday to stay within two points of leaders Deportivo Coruna and match the pace of title favourites Real Madrid.

Barca had to withstand a late comeback from 10-man Albacete after securing a 2-1 victory through an early goal from Philip Cocu and a second-half Luis Enrique flourish.

Valencia had an equally tough ride at home to Mallorca, eventually sealing a first home victory of the season with a scrambled goal by centre-back Carlos Marchena a minute before half-time.

Those hard-earned results gave both Barcelona and Valencia seven points from three matches and took them up to third and fourth respectively.

Barcelona must have been dreaming of a similarly emphatic win over modest Albacete after Cocu's blazing drive in the second minute gave them a perfect start.

Strikers Patrick Kluivert and Javier Saviola both looked out of touch, though, and the few clear chances Barca created over the remainder of the first half were squandered.

Ronaldo was the one bright spark for Barcelona, the Brazilian almost adding a second goal with a free kick that hit the bar and deflecting even the Albacete fans with a couple of pounces of trickery.

Italy's Alessandro del Piero, center, challenges for the ball with Serbia-Montenegro's Sasa Ilic, right, during the Euro 2004, Group 9, qualifying soccer match in Belgrade, on 10 September, 2003.
Regional development activities inspected...

At 4.40 pm, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at the Shwelaung Station Hospital, where they inspected female ward, the operation theatre, and the medical store and attended to the requirements.

They also inspected the development condition of Shwelaung and went to the Wakema Bridge on Shwelaung-Wakema road. At the bridge, officials gave an account of the bridge. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on continual inspection into the maintenance of the bridge for its durability.

The Wakema Bridge, which is 3,020 feet in length and is of Bailey type, was built across Wakema river, and connected Ywale ward on the east bank with Hlawkanu ward on the west bank.

At Shweke Thiri Hall in Wakema, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met departmental officials and members of social organizations and gave instructions on regional development tasks.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said in spite of an abundance of foodstuff and consumer’s goods in Ayeyawady Division, the region, teeming with rivers and creeks, encountered many difficulties in trade in the past.

At the time of our Government, construction of roads and bridges in the region made the transportation of commodities swifter and easier, and raised the living standard and socio-economic status of local people, he said.

The region is good for agriculture and livestock breeding industries. Therefore, measures are to be taken for the enhancement of these two industries for regional and national interests.

To ensure higher living standard, the border areas and national races development project, the 24 development zones project and the five rural development projects are under way with added momentum.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially met those present at the get-together.

Altogether 117,838 acres had been put under crops up to 14 September 2003 against the target 175,189 acres of monsoon paddy in Wakema, Ayeyawady Division, in 2003-2004. Arrangements are under way to put 100,000 acres of summer paddy under cultivation. Of 3,376,320 acres targeted to be cultivated in Ayeyawady in 2003-2004, there had been a total of 3,332,569 acres under cultivation of summer paddy in this cultivation season.

CPT Minister inspects communication tasks

Yangon, 16 Sept - Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw on 14 September inspected Micro wave station of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and gave instructions on extension of telephone lines. The minister also saw over auto-exchange office, posts and telegraph stations in Myitkyina yesterday morning. Officials concerned reported to the minister on progress of telephone lines extension work.

Piles driven for extended building of Yangon International Airport

Yangon, 16 Sept - A ceremony to drive the piles for extended building of Yangon International Airport under Civil Aviation Department was held at the pylon near construction site this morning, attended by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Ministers for Transport U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung, OSD Brig-Gen Myo Tin, the Managing Director of Asia World Co Ltd and members, guests and others. At the auspicious time, the pile was driven at the designated place as Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe gave a signal by pressing a button.

Next, the minister inspected the scale model of the extended building at the briefing hall of the project. The managing director reported on phase-by-phase project and Yangon International Airport to be seen upon completion of the project to Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe who fulfilled its needs.

The 340 feet long and 140 feet wide lounge will be upgraded into the 800 feet long and 200 feet wide one. To meet the international standard, four boarding bridges will be installed at the airport.