YANGON, 18 Sept — The regular meeting 3/2003 of the Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization took place at the meeting hall of the MWVO (Head Office) on Pyay Road in Mayangon Township here at 4 pm today, with an address given by Chairman of the Central Organizing Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Present on the occasion were members of the COC, ministers, senior military officers, deputy ministers, departmental heads and officials.

At the meeting, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein explained the purpose of the MWVO, extension of the organization, training, economy, public services and welfare tasks and gave instructions on salient points of the active participation of the organization in any sector for the transformation of the nation into a peaceful, modern, developed new democracy in accord with the seven stages already laid down.

Next, Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Secretary of the COC and Minister for Religious Affairs, reported on progress in implementation of the resolutions of the COC’s 2/2003 meeting.

Later, officials of the MWVO reported on tasks being carried out by their respective teams. Afterwards, the Secretary-2 gave closing remarks and the meeting ended in the evening. — MNA

Central Organizing Committee of MWVO holds regular meeting

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

Cover of Developing Myanmar.
PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 19 September, 2003

Extensive efforts to produce more oil and gas

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, on 14 December, went to the oil field in Nyaungdon-Pantaw-Maung region, Ayeyawady Division, and inspected machinery used at Liquefied Petroleum Gas Plant run by Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy.

As regards the energy sector, the Prime Minister said that ways and means which will benefit the State in the long run must be sought. He also said that efforts are to be made with added momentum for extended exploration of oil and gas and to nurture and produce technicians who are proficient in their respective sectors. Using the natural gas produced from the oil field, the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Plant will produce liquefied gas, butane liquefied gas, naphtha petroleum and lean gas.

The plant was built with the aim of using fuel as wood substitute to prevent deforestation, practising thrift in using electricity, producing fuel for industrial and vehicle use and preventing air pollution.

The plant can produce 30 tons of liquefied gas per day. Oil well No-2 of Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise is now producing natural gas in Nyaungdon-Pantaw-Maung oil field. As there are many good prospects to produce natural gas in Nyaungdon-Pantaw-Maung oilfield according to the survey conducted.

In the time of the State Peace and Development Council, all-out efforts are being made for the Union of Myanmar to be on a par with nations of the world, to promote national economy and to raise the living standard of the citizens. Plans are being laid down and are being implemented systematically to realize these goals based on own natural resources and strength of intellectuals and intelligentsia and national people.

We would like to urge officials concerned to strive for producing more oil and gas by seeking ways and means that will benefit the country in the long run.

153 kilos of Ephedrine seized in Mandalay

YANGON, 18 Sept — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Mandalay special anti-drug squad, acting on a tip-off, on 1 August searched the house of Kyaw Hlaing (a) Dha Hlyan of No 895, between 64th and 65th Streets and 32nd and 31st Streets, Pyaymyetshin Ward of Chaungtharyzard Township, Mandalay Division, and seized 153 kilos of Ephedrine and also arrested Ma Shwe Pah, a drug broker, who was on the house.

In connection with the case, action is being taken against Kyaw Hlaing and Ma Shwe Pah, daughter of U Summa, of Yankalo Village, Falam Township in Chin State, by No 3 Police Station, Mandalay, under Section 19 of Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Myanmar Red Cross delegation leaves for Indonesia

YANGON, 18 Sept — A Myanmar delegation comprising members of the Central Committee for Myanmar Red Cross Society — U Ge Net of the Kachin State Red Cross Supervisory Committee, U Pe Thein of the Shan State (South) RCSC, and Project Officer Daw Khin Kyin Soe of the Disaster Relief and Response Centre of Myanmar RCS — this afternoon left here by air for Indonesia to attend the Workshop on Southeast Regional Disaster Response Team to be held in Indonesia from 20 to 30 September.

Development tasks inspect...

(From page 16)

the hall of Township Peace and Development Council Office in Kyunthla Township.

He paid homage to Kanbalu Shwezigyi Pariyatti Sarhintaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arvra and presented offertories to the Sayadaw. He looked around the town and met with departmental officials, social organization members and townelders at the hall of Township Peace and Development Council Office. He presented K 100,000 to Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association. At U Aung Myat Hall in Wuntho, the commander met with departmental officials and attended to the needs.

On 12 September morning, the commander inspected Wuntho People’s Hospital and gave necessary instructions. He then paid obeisance to Mandi Sarthintaik Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Javana, Taungmaw Kyaw Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visuddhacara in Wuntho and presented offertories to the Sayadaws.

He inspected completion of construction of the two-storey school building of Wuntho BEHS, Model Rice Plantation in Amakan Village and gave necessary instructions to the officials. He met with departmental officials and townelders at the hall of Indaw Township and Khatad District Peace and Development Council Offices.

Cash donated for rural areas water supply

YANGON, 18 Sept — President of the Support Fund Myanmar, Belgium, Miss Yve Callebaut and party this morning donated FECs 10,000 for supply of safe drinking water in rural areas through Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt at the minister’s office here.

The cash will be used in sinking tube-wells in Daunggale Village in Kyaukpaduang Township, Mandalay Division. Support Fund Myanmar has also provided cash for supply of drinking water in Yanagyoung and renovation of schools in Popa, and vehicles and medical equipment to hospitals in Yangon.

Press release issued...

(From page 1)

and commitment to the eradication of poppy cultivation and illicit drug trafficking.

These facts clearly demonstrate the resolve of the Myanmar Government to totally eliminate narcotic drugs.

The drug menace is a global problem that can only be solved through international cooperation. No single country can surmount the challenge by itself.

It is most regrettable that the United States turns a blind eye to the reality and continues to follow a path that is negative and in no way contributes to eliminating this scourge of humankind.

CASH & KIND DONATED: Hailing International Day for the Older Persons, Social Welfare Department Director U Bo Thein presents K 100,000 and medicines to the Home for the Aged of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Cash and kind for Little Sisters Home for the Aged

YANGON, 18 Sept — As part of preparations to commemorate “International Day for Older Persons”, which falls on 1 October 2003, trust funds were raised and medicines were donated at a ceremony held at Little Sisters Home for the Aged on Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here this morning.

On the occasion, Vice-Chairman of the Work Committee for Observance of International Day for Older Persons and Director of the Social Welfare Department U Bo Than explained the purpose of donations and presented K 100,000 and medicines to Superior Mother Teresor Regina of the Home for the Aged. Later, she spoke words of thanks for the donors.

Afterwards, the vice-chairman and officials viewed round the Home for the Aged and cordially greeted older people speaking words of encouragement.
Rising US casualties in continued Iraq resistance

Arabic television channel Al Arabiya aired on 17 September, 2003 an audio tape it said was from ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in which he demanded the United States unconditionally withdraw its forces from Iraq. The voice on the tape also urged Iraqis to intensify attacks against US forces and to ‘wage holy war by all means against the foolish invaders’. — INTERNET

US troops examine a Humvee vehicle destroyed in a fatal blast near the restive central Iraq town of Fallujah, on 14 September, 2003. Sheikh Khaled Saleh, a fiery Iraqi Sunni Muslim cleric, says the young angry men battling US troops in Fallujah are holy warriors who look to Osama bin Laden as their mentor. ‘Although unorganized and without leadership, the Iraqi resistance is a ball of fire in America’s face that will bring its end in Iraq,’ said the 53-year-old cleric, whose sermons draw thousands in the main Badawi mosque, one of over 70 mosques in the centre of Fallujah. — INTERNET

Iraqi orphans, displaced from their orphanage by squatters during the US-led war on Iraq. — INTERNET

A US army soldier keeps watch on a resident of a house during a raid in Tikrit, about 110 miles (180 kilometres) northwest of Baghdad on 16 September, 2003. Twelve Iraqi were detained in the dawn raid conducted jointly by 720 Military Police of Fourth Division of the US army and the Iraqi police to apprehend suspected anti-American guerrillas in the hometown of Saddam Hussein. — INTERNET

An American soldier from the 720th Military Police battalion, stands guard over four men taken into custody during a raid to locate Saddam loyalists in Tikrit, Iraq, Tuesday, on 16 September, 2003. Twelve men were taken into custody during the raid that was a joint effort between the US Military and the Iraqi police. — INTERNET

US troops carry away an injured man on a stretcher near Al-Taji, Iraq, north of Baghdad Wednesday on 17 Sept, 2003 after a roadside bomb attack on a US military convoy. — INTERNET
Iraq Oil Minister sets to attend OPEC meeting

Dubai, 18 Sept—OPEC member Iraq is set to attend the country’s first postwar oil cartel meeting next week, giving further international recognition to Baghdad’s US-backed Governing Council.

“Dr Ibrahim (Buhr al-Uloom) and a delegation are going to Vienna,” a source close to Uloom, the Iraqi Oil Minister, told Reuters. He did not say whether Baghdad would hold full voting member of OPEC or observer status in the September 24 meeting.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had barred founding member Iraq from its sessions, insisting it would only represent a government from a government recognised by the United Nations.

But most OPEC members softened that stance after Arab League foreign ministers let the interim Iraqi authority said here Tuesday that Baghdad at the meeting. Iraq now has production capacity of two million barrels per day (bpd), with a target of three million bpd early next year.—MNA/Reuters

Malaysia to continue Mahathir’s policies

Beijing, 18 Sept—Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said on Tuesday there would be no shift in policy after

“I just want you to un-

derstand that in Malaysia there will be a change of leadership but not a change of regime,” Abdullah told a news conference in Beijing, referring to Mahathir stepping down after 22 years in power.

The incoming prime minister said Mahathir had implemented many good policies and he intended to continue them. “I certainly plan to continue those good policies,” Abdullah said.

“We will have to make sure that Malaysia will continue to be peaceful and politi-

cally stable,” Abdullah also said Malaysia had no quar-

rel with China over its cur-

rency policy.

Officials from the United States, Japan and other countries have re-

cently criticized Beijing for pegging its yuan currency at about 8.3 to the dollar, saying that is artificially low and gives Chinese exports an unfair advantage.

“I have no quar-

rel with China over its cur-

rency policy,” Abdullah said. “Our relations with China have brought a lot of benefits to us in many ways.”

In spite of the peg, it doesn’t mean that our eco-

nomic activities are grind-

ing to a halt,” he said, add-

ing that Malaysia had not seen any disadvantages at all. China and the United States have agreed the yuan should eventually float freely, but Beijing resisted

Tanzania to build rehabilitation centre for drug addicts

Dar es Salaam, 18 Sept—The Tanzanian Government intends to build a rehabilita-

tion centre for drug addicts in a bid to curtail the increasing number of such victims in the country, local newspaper Daily News reported on Tuesday.

Dar es Salaam City Council Medical lic hospitals are all involved in counselling and rehabilitation services, and the new centre will relieve the burden of these hospitals.

Besides building the centre, Tanzanian Health Ministry, MNH and local authorities have prepared a new plan for dealing with drug abuse among the youth.

MNA/Xinhua

Costa Rica jolted by strong earthquake

San Jose, 18 Sept—An earthquake measuring 6.0 degrees on the open-ended Richter Scale rocked Costa Rica on Tuesday at 2:03 pm local time (03 GMT), said the National Seismological Network of the University of Costa Rica.

The network indicated that the epicentre was 10 kilometres southwest of Puriscal, 50 kilometres from San Jose, and 72 kilometres in depth.

According to the network, the quake was felt all over the country with reports of only some objects falling, without producing important material damage.—MNA/Xinhua

Paleontologists examine two fossils of dinosaur in the Inner Mongolia Museum in Hohhot, capital of north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on 15 Sept, 2003. More than 40 precious fossils including these ones will be transported to the United States for exhibition this October.—Xinhua

Iraqi charge d’affaires favours cooperation with Russia

Moscow, 18 Sept—A senior diplomat representing the interim Iraqi authority said here Tuesday that Bagh-

dad is willing to carry out mutually beneficial coopera-

tion with Russia.

At a meeting with Russian officials in the Foreign Min-

istry, Hisham Abdul-Razzaq Ibrahim, the interim Iraqi charge d’affaires to Russia, confirmed that “the new Baghdad au-

thorities plan to develop comprehensive and mutually advan-

tageous cooperation with Moscow, based on historically friendly Russian-Iraqi relations.” Interfax reported.

The Iraqi diplomat also said that “the interim Iraqi leadership is interested in Russia’s participation in restoring the Iraqi economy,” the news agency quoted diplomatic sources as saying.

The Iraqi diplomat said earlier that it was too early to talk about the level of Russian companies’ possible involvement in the postwar reconstruction of Iraq, since the US-led coalition forces in Iraq “have not made a clear decision on this matter.”

The newly appointed charge d’affaires, who arrived in Moscow on Tuesday, also noted that the Iraqi provisional authorities are interested in building friendly and respectful relations with Russia.

“Our friendly relations with Russia are of long standing, and we hope they will be further developed,” ITAR-TASS quoted the diplomat as saying.

According to him, Iraq expects a growing role of the United Nations in the Iraqi settlement and is looking forward to the adoption of the resolution on a multinational force by the UN Security Council. “When the multinational force is put under the UN aegis, it will have a positive impact on the situation,” he said.—MNA/Xinhua
Iraq recovers priceless “Mona Lisa of Mesopotamia” looted from museum

BAGHDAD, 18 Sept — There was some good news in Baghdad with Iraq’s new culture minister announcing that a 5,000-year-old sculpture looted from the Baghdad Museum in April had been recovered.

Mufic al-Jazaeri made his public debut with a mystery. Speaking of the “Mona Lisa of Mesopotamia,” Jazaeri said: “I do not have any details on where it was found, but it appears as if it never left Iraq during all this time.”

The 20-centimeter (eight-inch) high marble sculpture, dating from 3,000 BC, depicts the head of a woman. It was fashioned in the northern city of Warka during the Sumerian period, and was among the five most precious pieces still missing since the museum was sacked after the April 9 fall of Saddam Hussein.

Yet there are many more artefacts still to be recovered.

Jaber Jelil Ibrahim, Iraq’s director general of antiquities, recently told AFP that around 13,000 pieces are still to be found, 32 of them of great value. Overall, 15,000 pieces were stolen from the collection of 170,000 artefacts.

“We lost a lot, but we are going to do everything possible to recover it,” Jazaeri said.

“This find shows that our efforts are on the right track,” the minister added, expressing his thanks to the police and to ordinary citizens for those pieces that had been returned to the museum.

Jazaeri, a communist and former journalist who spent many years exiled in the Kurdish part of Iraq, said ousted leader Saddam Hussein manipulated culture for the benefit of the regime.

“The rulers stifled the voice of the people, and converted this country into a front for developing an atomic weapon,” Jazaeri said.

Today, we just want to repair the damage that was done, foment culture in all of Iraq and protect intellectuals and artists,” he said, adding that UN sanctions imposed on Iraq following its 1991 invasion of neighboring Kuwait had only made the situation worse. He insisted that the international community must help the country “to recover its heritage.”

Jazaeri, enthusiastic about the work that lies ahead, also held out hope for former employees of the ministry, saying those who “for political reasons, belonging to some organization that was not the ruling Baath party or being impartial in their work” would be welcomed back to their old jobs.

At the same time, any former member of the banned Baath party who was responsible for any of the harm done, or who did not let others work with freedom, should leave his job, the minister said.

Equally importantly, those who have not been paid recently will soon see a paycheck.

Jazaeri also made it clear that his ministry would fight to defend the culture of Iraq’s minorities, which was ignored under Saddam. The Iraqi people are thirsting for culture, and we are going to do everything possible to satisfy that,” he said — Internet

Iran might be ready to cooperate to avoid civil war in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 18 Sept — Iran might be willing to cooperate with the United States and neighboring countries to avoid a civil war in Iraq and a possible breakup of the country, Jordanian King Abdullah said late Tuesday.

Abdullah, who paid a visit to Tehran earlier this week, said Iranians were seriously concerned that spreading violence could lead to civil war in Iraq following the downfall of the government of Saddam Hussein.

“I think with us there is an agreement that a breakup in Iraq would be a tremendous problem for all of us,” the king said in an interview with PBS television.

He said Iranian President Mohammad Khatami believed fighting between Iraq’s Shiites and Sunnis Muslims would as bad as a conflict among various factions of the Shiite population.

“From my discussions in Tehran, they were extremely keen to put a stop to ethnic and religious violence in Iraq,” Abdullah said.

“They see the destabilization, the ethnic conflict — Shia on-Shia and Sunni-on-Shia — being disastrous for all of us. And so, there is enough there for us to agree upon and work together on.”

The king is in Washington to meet with President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell and to discuss the current situation in the region, particularly with an eye on reviving a faltering Israeli-Palestinian peace plan known as the “roadmap.” — Internet

Russia says no proof Iran could build atom bomb

VIENNA, 18 Sept — Russia, which is helping Iran build a nuclear power plant, said on Tuesday there was no proof Tehran had the technical capability to build a nuclear weapon at the present time.

However, Russia’s Atomic Energy Minister Alexander Rumyantsev told a news conference at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that “much of (Iran’s) nuclear technology is dual use (which) could be used in either civilian or military” nuclear programme.

Rumyantsev said there was no proof Iran was secretly developing weapons and certainly no proof that it had the technical ability to make an atomic bomb at this point.

Washington, which labelled Iran a member of an “axis of evil” with pre-war Iraq and North Korea, accuses Iran of using its nuclear power programme as a front for developing an atomic bomb. Tehran denies this allegation.

After intense US lobbying, the governing board of the IAEA passed a resolution on Friday giving Iran until October 31 to enable the IAEA to verify that it is not diverting nuclear resources to a secret weapons programme.

Rumyantsev said he planned to forge ahead with plans to construct the Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran, even though diplomats said Washington was pressing strong pressure on Moscow to abandon the 1,000-mega-watt, 800-million-US-dollar project.

He confirmed Iran had demanded Russia pay for the spent reactor fuel, which Russia would store and reprocess, an unorthodox demand that is holding up final agreement on the return of the spent fuel, and construction of the plant itself.

“There is nothing preventing us from agreeing,” Rumyantsev said, adding that the spent fuel dispute was a technical issue that would be worked out.

“We will agree,” he said, though he gave no idea of how long it would take them to ink an agreement on the spent fuel.

He said Iran’s demand was contrary to standard practice, since whoever stores and reprocesses the fuel is usually paid for this service. Rumyantsev also said he showed Iran had little experience in doing business in the nuclear industry.

Under pressure from Washington to scrap the project over US fears that Iran has a secret nuclear weapons programme, Russia agreed to take back the spent fuel from Bushehr so Iran could not extract bomb-grade plutonium from the burnt fuel. — MNA/Reuters

Schroeder, Chirac, Blair to try to mend
Iraq rift

BERLIN, 18 Sept — The leaders of Germany, France and Britain meet in Berlin on Saturday in a bid to heal splits in Europe over the Iraq war and agree policies that analysts say could pressure Washington to compromise over Iraq’s future.

The German Government said on Tuesday Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder would host French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister Tony Blair for talks at his office in Berlin at 0930 GMT on Saturday followed by a news conference at 1130 GMT.

“The meeting serves to agree to common positions in foreign policy after there were divergent opinions in the run-up to the Iraq war,” the government said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Workers work on a model of Jaya Pass on the Great Wall to decorate the Tian anmen Square in celebration of the coming National Day which falls on 1 Oct, in Beijing on 14 September, 2003. The decoration work is now in full swing after it kicked off on 5 September. — Xinhua

Iraq Minister of Culture Mufic al-Jazaeri displays an illustration of the newly found “Mona Lisa of Mesopotamia” in Baghdad. The most famous of numerous ancient artifacts at the Iraqi Museum dating back 5,000 years, the mask was stolen from the facility during the US-led war against Iraq. — Internet
Purported Saddam tape demands US leave Iraq soon

DUBAI, 18 Sept— Arabie television channel Al Arabiya aired Wednesday an audio tape it said was from ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in which he demanded the United States unconditionally withdraw its forces from Iraq.

The speaker on the tape also urged Iraqis to intensify attacks against US forces and to “wage holy war by all means against the foolish invaders.”

Addressing the United States, the voice on the poor quality recording said: “We call on you to withdraw your forces as soon as possible, and without any conditions, as you can not bear any more losses as these losses will be catastrophic for you.”

“Your withdrawal from our country is inevitable, whether it happens today or tomorrow, and tomorrow will come soon.”

Venezuela modifies rules to protect ozone layer

CARACAS, 18 Sept — Venezuela’s Environmental Protection Ministry is modifying its rules for protecting the ozonosphere by drafting a decree to reduce the depletion of the ozone layer, a senior official said here Tuesday.

Venezuela was interested in complying with the rules to reduce emissions of depleting substances which destroyed the ozonosphere which served to protect the planet from the sun’s ultraviolet radiation, said Enrique Bottino, the minister’s special director for the issue.

Bottino said the ministry was still tuning some details to whereabouts remain unknown. An audiotape purportedly from Saddam, aired on September 1, denied he had any part in postwar Iraq’s bloodiest bombing which killed a top Shi’ite Muslim cleric and more than 80 others. But he also urged more attacks on the occupiers. — Internet

Syria says it would help to stabilize and reconstruct Iraq if the UN Security Council set a timetable for the withdrawal of US-led forces.

Syria said on Tuesday it would help to stabilize and reconstruct Iraq if the UN Security Council set a timetable for the withdrawal of US-led forces.

Syria has said it will not recognize the US-appointed governing council, but will deal with it until an elected government is put in place.

“If a resolution was issued by the Security Council there are numerous things that Syria can do without reservations,” Shara said.

Patten, who welcomed Syria’s willingness to help, said a UN role is essential to enable the world community to assist in building a new democratic Iraq.

“Syria expressed appreciation for our commitment to helping the Iraqi people and to the honest on the Iraqi Governing Council,” Shara said at a Press conference with visit- ing European Union external relations commissioner Christopher Patten.

The voice also told Iraqis not to become complacent with the occupation, adding: “O Iraqis! O fighters, men and women, you must tighten the noose around the Americans and increase your attacks against them. You must conduct jihad by all means possible, financial and otherwise.”

The speaker gave the date of the recording as September 1.

Arab channels have in the past aired several recordings purportedly made by Saddam who was ousted in the US invasion of Iraq in April. The Iraqi leader’s

US military moves ships, aircraft from storm path

WASHINGTON, 18 Sept — The US Navy and Air Force moved warships and aircraft away from bases along the mid-Atlantic coast on Tuesday as the area battered down for an expected slam from Hurricane Isabel this week.

About 40 ships, including the aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan, submarines, cruisers and destroyers, began leaving their big base at Norfolk, Virginia, before dawn to ride out Isabel’s dangerous winds at sea and avoid being pounded against docks.

The Air Force was evacuating dozens of fighter jets, refuelling aircraft and cargo planes from Andrews Air Force Base near Washington and other bases in North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey to as far away as Oklahoma and Canada to escape wind damage.

“We have begun moving the ships,” Navy Lieutenant Scott McIlhain, a spokesman for Atlantic Fleet headquarters in Norfolk, told Reuters.

Syria to help Iraq if UN sets timetable to end US occupation

DAMASCUS, 18 Sept — Syria said on Tuesday it would help to stabilize and reconstruct Iraq if the UN Security Council set a timetable for the withdrawal of US-led forces.

The voice on the tape it said was from ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in which he demanded the United States unconditionally withdraw its forces from Iraq.

Before launching the war to topple Iraqi president Saddam Hussein, the United States and Britain said Saddam was trying to develop an atomic bomb and other weapons of mass destruction — a key justification for the US-led invasion.

UN inspectors found no evidence of this during four months of inspections before the war. Since major military action ended in Iraq on May 1, US and British military have still found no proof Saddam had nuclear, chemical or biological arms.

“I think even the inspectors when they went there, they knew... what the activity was there. And you know it (a nuclear weapons programme) is very sophisticated,” said Dr Abbas Baalasem, Director General of the HAZMAT (hazardous materials) section of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

“Biological weapons or chemical weapons — you can do something in this area. But in the nuclear area, you need a reactor, for example. So it was difficult for Iraq to restart it again,” Baalasem told Reuters in an interview.

Before the war, Baalasem worked for the Iraq Atomic Energy Commission.

“The plan of the new ministry is to use all the activities for the peaceful use, and just to leave all of this previous programme behind,” he said, referring to Saddam’s nuclear weapons programme. “They want to use all the facilities for rebuilding Iraq, for the reconstruction.”

Baalasem also dismissed fears that highly radioactive sources had been looted from Iraq’s nuclear facilities during the war. — MNA/Reuters
Food Safety and Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria

Dr. Tin Tin Myaung (University of Veterinary Science, Yezin)

Food is the source of health and life for all human beings. Food is also an agricultural products including animal origin.

Food safety can be defined as "all conditions and measures that are necessary during the production, processing, storage, distribution and preparation of food to ensure that, when ingested, it does not represent an unacceptable risk to health.”

Food safety is unique among the various public health programmes. “Health for all” strategy of the World Health Organization, the food safety programme should be given higher priority to resist and implement the national plans of action for nutrition. Over the past hundred years, better scientific understanding of food safety hazards and their control in industrialized countries. Human health is intrinsically linked to the health of food animal populations. Now, in nearly all countries with a high level of animal production, antibiotics are given continuously in the feed to increase growth rate. As the use of antibiotics has increased several associated problems have emerged. Soon after the feeding of antimicrobials to animals to express a desired response. It is commonly found that most agriculture pathogens have been recognized by WHO as a serious problem that complicates medical treatment of bacterial infections. The resistant bacteria from agricultural environment may be transmitted to humans, in whom they cause diseases that cannot be treated by conventional antibiotics. Frequent exposures of bacterial populations to antibiotics increase the selective pressure for antibiotic resistance. The increasing prevalence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria is a major concern. Essential, life-saving, antibiotics are becoming less effective and there are fewer alternatives available for treatment.

The public is concerned over the risks of such residues and the contamination of these bacteria as they can be transferred through the food chain. Residues of veterinary drugs used in the food animal industries threaten human health by being acutely or cumulatively allergic, toxic, mutagenic, teratogenic or carcinogenic. It was reported that microorganisms and antibiotics in foods might contribute to antibiotic resistance either by modifying the bacterial flora in the human gut or by selecting for resistant bacteria in meat, which can be transferred to humans in food. Ingestion of even a low level of antibiotic residues in food could have a measurable effect on the generation of antibiotic resistance in bacteria and that these bacteria could then cause untreatable sickness in man.

Such widespread use of antimicrobials for disease control and prevention as well as growth promotion in animals has been pointed by those bacteria that can spread from animals, often through food and cause infections in humans. These risks are greater among persons with immunodeficiency diseases, organ transplants who receive immunosuppressive drugs for cancer therapy, and among a number of patients with diseases of the endocrine system that reduce natural immunity to infection. Infections caused by resistant microbes fail to respond to treatment, resulting in prolonged illness and greater risk of death. Treatment failures also lead to longer periods of infectivity, which increase the numbers of infected people moving in the community and thus expose others to the risk of contracting a resistant strain of infection.

Public health consequences from the excessive use of antimicrobials in livestock production include the emergence of drug-resistant pathogens, which can be transferred to humans through the food chain at the same time. Foodborne diseases due to pathogens from animals remain an important challenge to public health in most countries, causing a major burden of illness and requiring substantial resources for their control and prevention.

Salmonella, Campylobacter and Escherichia coli are commonly known as foodborne pathogens, can exist in the intestinal flora of various food producing animals without causing disease. In some circumstances (e.g in hospitalized or immunocompromised individuals) some of these bacteria may directly cause infections in humans. Although there is increased evidence of the transfer of resistant bacteria or resistance determinants from livestock to humans via food or direct contact, information is limited as to the prevalence and spread of resistance in zoonotic bacteria or indicator agents. When antibiotics are introduced into a population they exert a selective pressure that the resistant bacteria will continue to multiply whereas the sensitive ones will be inhibited. The greatest selection pressure in favour of drug resistance occurs where antibiotics are administered over long periods of time by the oral route. This also favours the persistence of resistance strains long after the selection pressure has been removed. When such a multiple-resistance DNA fragment is transferred under the selective pressure imposed by the use of a single antimicrobial agent such as disinfectant, the recipient cell will gain all resistance properties mediated by this DNA fragment.

The use of antibiotics in agriculture can act as a reservoir of resistant bacteria, so can humans. Antimicrobial resistance can develop in bacteria residing in individual food animals (both animals and humans) exposed to antimicrobial agents. Subsequent spread of the resistant bacteria between different hosts can occur directly by skin-to-skin contact; contact with contaminated saliva, faeces or by the food chain. Once spread, resistant bacteria can neither colonize and infect or remain in that particular environment for only a very short period of time. During this period, the resistant bacteria can spread their resistance genes to other bacteria residing in the new host as well as accept resistance genes from other bacteria.

The battle against emergence of antimicrobial resistance will take place in hospitals, veterinarians’ offices and farms, and as well as in food chain. The most sensitive approach is to identify and reduce nonessential uses of antibiotics and reserve as many of these drugs as possible for wide use in human and veterinary medicine.

Food safety is a common concern of all doctors, veterinarians, lawyers, policy makers, manufacturer, farmers and consumers calls for a coordination of the quality assurance programme along the food chain and should share the overall responsibilities for food safety as a part of public health programmes.

New York-based Business Week apologizes to Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Sept — Business Week International has apologized to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad for writing a “rude and threatening” letter to him.

The apology is contained in a letter from its managing editor, Robert Dowling, based in New York, who is responsible for Business Week’s international editions and its international correspondents, local news agency Bernama reported on Wednesday.

“I am writing to apologize, for any offense taken from a letter sent to you by our correspondent last week,” he said in his letter to Mahathir dated September 12.

He said the September 8 letter sent by its correspondent was a last-minute attempt to give Mahathir time to comment on a story the magazine was preparing about his legacy and the transition of power to his deputy Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Mahathir is expected to step down in October after the Summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference from October 11 to 18 in Malaysia.

A copy of Dowling’s letter was made available to Bernama by the Prime Minis-

er’s Press secretary Zakaria Abdul Wahab.

On September 10, Mahathir criticized the magazine for threatening to write nasty things about the country and its leadership. The letter had sought his immediate resignation over claims of cronyism and corruption in Malaysia. Business Week is pub-

lished in New York by the McGraw Hill Group of Companies. The Asia edition of Business Week has a reported weekly circulation of more than 60,000. — MNA/Xinhua

Suzuki to make automobile engines in China

Tokyo, 18 Sept — Japan’s Suzuki Motor Corp. is in talks with a Chinese automaker on jointly manufacturing automobile engines in China, a major Japanese business daily reported Wednesday.

Suzuki Motor and Changhe Aircraft Industry Corp (Changhe) already produce automobile engines through a joint venture and are now in talks to build a new produc-

tion site in east China’s Jiangsu province.

According to the Nihon Keizai Shim bun, Suzuki is also considering making a joint venture with Changhe Aircraft and jointly build a plant for 1-litre-class en-

gines with an investment of $30 million (129 to 192 million US dollars), which will be shared with Changhe.

— MNA/Xinhua

World's oldest person turns 116 in Japan

Tokyo, 18 Sept — The world’s oldest person, Kamokuku Tsunemori of southwest Japan’s Kagoshima city, celebrated her 116th birthday Tuesday.

Born in 1887 in the town of Izen on Tokunoshima Island, Hongo became Ja-

pan’s oldest person in 1999 when she turned 111.

With the death of a 115-year-old American woman last March in Hong Kong became the world’s oldest person, according to a report of Kyodo News.

While she is in good health, Hongo is staying in the same room with her 79-

year-old daughter Shizue Kurasuchi, who has been hos-

pitalized for heart disease.

Her family said that Hongo loves rice and miso soup and sometimes “dances” with her hands to the traditional music of Tokunoshima Island.

— Kyodo News

In South Korea, to send survey team to Iraq

SEOUL, 18 Sept — South Korea will send a survey team to examine the situation in postwar Iraq next week following a US request for the dispatch of more troops to Iraq, the South Korean Yonhap news agency reported Wednesday.

In a report to a parliamentary committee, the South Korean Defence Ministry said it will send a team of 10-12 officials and civilians to Iraq to examine the current situation there, said Yonhap news agency.

The survey team will stay in southern Iraq for about one week, during which it will visit the headquarters of the US-led coalition forces.

The ministry said the team aims to gather international opinions on a US request for its allies to send extra troops, while denying that the dispatch of the field team is a preliminary step to sending combat troops.

Early this month, the United States asked South Korea to dispatch a “Polish-type division” to help keep order in Iraq. About 2,500-3,000 troops from Poland are deployed in Iraq now.

The South Korean Government said earlier that it had not been determined whether to accept the US request and would draw a conclusion based on domestic and interna-

tional situation. In May, South Korea dispatched some 675 Army engineers and medics to assist the US-led rehabilitation of postwar Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Vietnam wants no street children in two biggest cities**

HANOI, 18 Sept — Vietnam will start making street children in its two biggest cities Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, to return home or live in charity centres from September 30, according to the Committee of Population, Family and Children on Tuesday.

The country hopes to send home or charity centres all children working as beggars and scrap collectors by November.

Orphaned children will live in charity centres, the committee said.

Street children, especially those making their living by peddling shirts and shoes and selling lottery, newspapers or souvenirs to foreign tourists, will receive state financial support so that they can go to grade or vocational training schools.

Recently, the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs submitted to the government a scheme with the main target of making all child beggars and scrap collectors nationwide to return home or live in charity centres by 2006, at annual expenses of 2.2 million US dollars.
Agricultural farms inspected in Shan State (North)

YANGON, 18 Sept.—Shan State (North) held the first coordination meeting on the 100-acre Huinhswel Hybrid paddy project at the North-East Command on 16 Sept. morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, senior military officers, Shan State (North) Secretary Li-Col Win Han, departmental officials, agriculturists and local authorities.

At the meeting, the commander elaborated on the project for rice sufficiency in the region.

The deputy commander reported on arrangements for completing the project; Lashio District Chairman Li-Col Kyaw Shwe and departmental officials, on work done for the project; and agriculturists, on plans for dissemination of agricultural methods. The commander discussed collective efforts of respective departments, systematic formation of supervisory committees, choosing sites for agricultural purpose, systematization of supply of sufficient water, and systematic implementation of the project sector-wise.

Next, the commander inspected the 830-acre Huinhswel Hybrid paddy plot in Humon. He inspected combined harvesters, paddy threshing machines and power tillers displayed by Shan State Agricultural Mechanization Department near Humon Agricultural Farm.

The commander inspected the 1,000-acre agricultural zone for cultivation of poppy-substitute crops and left necessary instructions.

— MNA

Chinese acrobatic troupe presents special performance

YANGON, 18 Sept.—Minister for Culture Maj- Gen Kyi Aung enjoyed the performance staged by the acrobatic troupe from Yunnan, the People’s Republic of China, under the cultural exchange programme between Myanmar and China, at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street here this evening.

Among the spectators were members of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Hla Myint, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun, ambassadors from ASEAN countries and other foreign countries, diplomats, directors-general of departments under the ministry, the rector of Yangon University of Culture, officials and guests.

After the acrobatic display, the minister and the Chinese Ambassador presented baskets of flower to the troupe. The Chinese acrobatic troupe will give entertainment to the public starting 6.30 pm on 19 and 20 September.
— MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung enjoys performance of Chinese acrobatic troupe.

— MNA

Husan Hmat (a) Pyi Saw with seized heroin in Kengtung on 7-9-2003. — MNA

Heroin blocks seized in Mongkoe, Kengtung

YANGON, 18 Sept.—A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and special anti-drug squad in Mongkoe, Shan State (North) on 2 September searched La Kwan, son of U Lashik Ali of Seikan Village, Mongkoe Township, and seized him together with 10 blocks of heroin weighing 3.56 kilogrammes.

Similarly, on 7 September, a combined team intercepted a Toyota Hilux with number plates 2Kk/3945 en route from Lashio to Kengtung near Tapin check point in Kengtung Township and seized 57 blocks of heroin weighing 19 kg hidden in a car. The authorities arrested Hsan Hmat (a) Pyi Saw, son of U Aki Saw of Namans Road, Ward-5, Lashio, who was on board. However, Law Ka (a) Shar Chan, a driver, managed to escape. Police station concerned filed them under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

— MNA

Agriculture tasks (from page 1)

YANGON, 18 Sept. — A prize presentation ceremony to outstanding students of Basic Education Middle School, Pyuntaza, Bago Division, funded by late Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Brig-Gen Lwin Maung, was held at the school on 14 September in conjunction with annual meeting of the the Parent-Teacher Associations.

At the ceremony, Daw Shwe Thet, wife of Brig-Gen Lwin Maung presented a set of computer worth K600,000 and wellwishers donated cash to school through Headmaster U Thein Win.

— MNA

Daw Shwe Thet, wife of Brig-Gen Lwin Maung, presents a computer set to Principal U Thein Win. — MNA
Bridging the gap

Thiha Tin

The Government has built 160 major bridges, whose length exceeds the 180-foot mark, in the entire Union during the time span of only 15 years. We can say that since its assumption of the State duties in 1988 to this date, it has been commissioning into service an average of nearly eleven major bridges per year, or about a bridge every month.

We all know that a large bridge may contribute much to the development of the transport sector. But the Union of Myanmar, the aim is not only confined to the transport sector development, but is also for cementing national solidarity, as betterment of transport leads to strengthening love, unity and understanding among the ethnic races of the Union. Besides, bridges help narrow the development gap between the regions. Even a small bridge has its own capacity to serve the regional interest.

So, in Myanmar it is a common knowledge that the task of building bridges large or small is a must for the nation, formed with various ethnic groups living in accord with their own traditions and cultures, and enjoying equality, fairness, happiness and justice and peace and stability.

The other day, we read in the dailies the putting into service of the 300-foot Langkho Bridge near Dahseik village in Langkho Township, southern Shan State. Linking Langkho and Mongpan Townships on Namhsan-Mognai-Tahsan motorway, it was built by special bridge-builder group 9 of the Ministry of Construction.

The motorway on it is 24 feet wide flanked by three feet wide walkways. The bridge has a clearance 78 feet wide and 6.5 feet high. The maximum load-bearing capacity of the reinforced concrete bridge is 60 tons.

Apart from the Langkho bridge, the Government has also built other bridges in southern Shan State including Tahsan Bridge in Mongpan Township, Matlan Bridge in Leikha Township; Tonlaw Bridge in Mongkai Township; and Namyun Bridge in Langkho Township. As the bridge is located on Namhsan-Mognai-Tahsan motorway linking the southern and eastern Shan State, it can be said an important facility for progress of trade and transport between the two regions whose border regions are fast developing thanks to the government’s development drive that covers the whole Union.

And because of the transport infrastructures including, motor roads, railroads and bridges, the national development drive can cover the entire Union of Myanmar, ensuring a proportionate development in all regions and bridging the development gap between the different areas.

No 2 Machine and Machine Tool Factory

No 2 Machine and Machine Tool Factory (Yangon) under the Ministry of Industry-2 at No 102 on Yangon-Insein Road in Mayangon Township.

The factory manufactures six categories of machine and machine tools such as machine spare parts, construction materials made of iron, platform scales, nuts and bolts, lead pipes, combined harvesters, 16-blade ploughs, hospital equipment, front seats (Mazda Jeep), different sizes of water tanks and so on and so forth. Among the products, the one which can draw my attention most was Multiple Home Gym. One can take more than 12 kinds of exercises to develop his muscles using this set, which is particularly constructed for body builders and those wishing to take exercise for their beauty. This equipment occupies not much space but only a 36-square-foot area. If there is no playing partners, it does not matter. One can take physical exercises alone to his content with the use of the danger-proof set. Everybody including teenagers as well as older persons can use the equipment. Especially, it is suitable for those of old age.

During my visit to the factory, above mentioned facts reminded me of the friend often moaning and groaning with his muscular aches and pains.

Myanmar Alin: 17-9-2003

(Translation: MS)
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

To become a city of the eastern regions of Thanlwin River and the east of Shan State, the government has made arrangements for Kengtung to possess the characteristics of a city. As a result, a magnificent and grand town hall has now emerged. The photo taken on 18 May 2003 shows the Kengtung City Hall.—PHOTO: MNA

For economic development of the nation, the government, seeking various ways and means, has been taking measures for construction, extension and upgrading of airfields. Magway Airport was built for the Magway Division to achieve progress like other states and divisions in the aviation sector. The photo taken on 6 June 2003 shows the building of Magway airport.—PHOTO: MNA

As upgrading tasks are being carried out in Yangon City, cleanliness and pleasantness of the jetties will add to the beauty of the capital. The photo shows the cleanliness of Wadan jetty.—PHOTO: MNA
**“NY Times” columnist sees gloom in America’s future**

New York, 18 Sept — President George W Bush is an incessant liar bent on destroying America’s social safety net, central bank guru Alan Greenspan should shut his mouth on issues unrelated to monetary policy and the US media have done a terrible job of keeping the public informed.

If those opinions seem stark, they are meant to be.


The Princeton University economist has been writing for the Times since 1999 — work more compiled in his latest book The Great Unraveling.

In it, Krugman says Bush lied during his 2000 presidential campaign, lied once he took office, turned a record budget surplus into the biggest deficit to line the pockets of the rich and abused the public’s patriotism after the September 11, 2001, attacks.

“Bush is a leader of a movement that wants to smash the system as we know it, the social contract, the safety net that was built up since Franklin Roosevelt,” Krugman said in an interview late on Monday before a party to launch his book. “Certainly there is nothing in modern American history that resembles this.”

A White House spokeswoman said she would have no immediate comment on Krugman’s charges.

Krugman said he misses the honesty of Ronald Reagan, the last Republican president to slash taxes.

Reagan had “irresponsible fiscal policy,” Krugman said, but at least it was based on the “crazy theory” that tax cuts for the rich would trickle down to help the working man.

“The Bushies just say black is white and up is down,” Krugman said of the current president. “The Orwellian character of these people is very disturbing.”

Greenspan gets poor reviews from Krugman too.

MNA/Reuters

**Traffic accident kills six in northern Nigeria**

Lagos, 18 Sept — At least six people have been feared dead in a traffic accident on the Gusau-Funtua road in Nigeria’s northern state of Zamfara bordering with the Republic of Niger, the News Agency of Nigeria reported Tuesday.

The accident, which involved a pick-up van and an articulated vehicle, was said to have occurred at about 6 pm (1700 GMT) Sunday evening when the van conveying traders to Gusau, the capital of Zamfara State, from a local market collided with the truck.

An eyewitness was quoted as saying that the truck, which was on its way to Funtua, a leading commercial city in the neighbouring state of Katsina, apparently skidded off its track and collided with the van, killing six passengers instantly.

The tragedy also left several people injured who were immediately sent to the Federal Medical Centre in Gusau.

MNA/Xinhua

**World’s largest butterfly discovered in China**

Ningsning, 18 Sept — A senior Chinese agronomist claims he has discovered the world’s largest butterfly, with a total wingspan of 22.6 centimetres, in south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Jiang Shaofang, of the Guangxi Yuli Agricultural School, discovered the giant Atlas Moth butterfly on Mount Hanshan in Yulin City and has made the butterfly into a specimen.

Jiang said the butterfly wingspan was 26 millimetres longer than a bird-winged butterfly of Canada, which has a wingspan of about 20 centimetres.

MNA/Xinhua

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

MV “YANGON STAR” VOY NO (336)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “YANGON STAR” Voy No (336) are hereby notified that the vessel will arrive on 19-9-03 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be accepted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS EAGLE CORPORATION

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Qatar Emir promotes foreign, oil ministers

DOHA, 18 Sept— Qatar’s Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani appointed his foreign and oil ministers as deputy prime ministers on Tuesday in a move analysts said was aimed at consolidating his power in the administration.

A senior official at the 1 current portfolios in the oil and gas-rich country.

Sheikh Hamad named his fourth son, Sheikh Tamim, crown prince, replacing his third son Sheikh Jassim, in a move analysts said was aimed at avoiding a potential power struggle. The new heir apparent was then named deputy commander-in-chief of Qatar’s armed forces, a move which appeared to indicate the emir wanted to give Sheikh Tamim more power than he had given to his brother.

During the ceremony, demonstrating various models of symbolic buildings on campus for the university.

OCTOBER

Workers decorate the Tian’anmen Square with pots of flowers to celebrate the coming National Day which falls on 1 October, in Beijing, on 14 September, 2003. The decoration work is now in full swing after it kicked off on 5 September. — Xinhua

Qatar Emir promotes foreign, oil ministers

Gloves come off at dead British scientist inquiry

LONDON, 18 Sept— Tensions rose dramatically on Tuesday at an inquiry into the suicide of a British expert on banned Iraqi weapons as a lawyer for his family accused a top government official of playing Russian roulette with the dead man’s life.

Judge Lord Hutton’s investigation into why government scientist David Kelly took his own life has up to now been precise but courteous in its questioning of witnesses. But now the gloves are off as lawyers for Kelly’s family and Attyah were sworn into their new posts on Tuesday. They would also maintain their


top governments and would appear again next Monday.

Jeremy Gompertz, the Kelly inquiry’s deputy chief of defence intelligence, will serve as a warning to embarked Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon and Prime Minister Tony Blair’s communications chief Alastair Campbell, who will appear again next Monday.

Howard, who was closely involved in the decision to make Kelly’s name public, was pressed by Jeremy Gompertz, the Kelly family’s counsel, to admit the mild-mannered weapons expert had been treated ‘shabbily’.

A nervous looking Howard disagreed. Glennmore Treanor-Harvey, an intelligence expert who watched the proceedings, told Sky Television: “Howard was a most disconfident little bunny.”

Less than two weeks before his death, Kelly was told by his Ministry of Defence bosses that they would have to put out a statement saying an official had talked to BBC correspondent Andrew Gilligan, but that he would not be named.

Kelly agreed but as events unfolded, clues to his identity were given to reporters by both defence Press officers and Blair’s spokesman and the Ministry of Defence then agreed to confirm Kelly’s name to any journalist who guessed it. Several did.

Three of Indonesia’s top officials cried during a press conference on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters

Top Chinese legislator meets Malaysian Deputy PM

BEIJING, 18 Sept— Top Chinese legislator Wu Bangguo met here Tuesday with visiting Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress (NPC), pointed to the substantial development of Sino-Malaysian relations in their 29 years of diplomatic ties, and said the new Chinese leadership valued bilateral relations and would work with Malaysia to further strengthen them.

He hoped China and Malaysia would promote relations in the coming year which would be the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties, while 2005 would be the 600th anniversary of the voyage led by Zheng He (1371-1435), a Chinese eunuch navigator who led seven great naval voyages between 1405 and 1433 into Southeast Asia and westward to India, Persia, Arabia, and Africa.

He said the increasing exchanges between the NPC and the Malaysian Parliament had become an important component of relations, hoping the two sides would strengthen exchanges and cooperation to enhance mutual understanding and traditional friendship.

Wu said China’s development was a good opportunity for Asian economic growth, and China and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) were building a free trade area for common prosperity and development.

Abdullah said the Malaysia-China relationship was important for Malaysia and the two countries had strong cooperative relations in economic and other fields.

He said Malaysia paid much attention in ASEAN’s participation in the development process, and ASEAN countries viewed China as a permanent friend and cooperative partner. Malaysia would work with China to promote exchanges and cooperation in such fields as tourism, education, science, technology and labour, said Abdullah.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia’s economic officials to begin overseas road shows

JAKARTA, 18 Sept— Economic officials will begin visits to 13 countries next Monday that will take them to the New York, London and Dubai.

The road show is part of efforts to maintain investors’ confidence in the economy, particularly after the International Monetary Fund and World Bank economic bailout programme ends later this year, the daily Jakarta Post reported Wednesday.

The top economic officials are Bank Indonesia Governor Budi Hartono, Coordinating Minister for the Economy Darfudjatun Kuntoro-Jakhi and Minister of Finance Briediono.

Budianto said they would try to brief international investors about the latest progress in the country’s economy, and about the government’s 1 post-IMF economic reform programme.

After a delay of a month, the government late on Monday revealed the reform programme in a white paper.

The post-IMF programme covers three main areas maintaining macroeconomic stability, continuing financial sector reform and increasing investment, export and job opportunities.

The white paper is a matrix of various programmes to be implemented by the government in the remainder of this year and next year. Indonesia entered the IMF bailout programme following the breakthrough of the 1997/1998 financial crisis in the region. Since then, the government has had to issue a series of economic reforms approved by the IMF every quarter in exchange for the fund’s credit.

After the programme ends, the government will be free to design its own reforms without intervention from the IMF, but find other way to back its finance.

MNA/Reuters

Rock star Bono spars with Bush over “AIDS” funding

WASHINGTON, 18 Sept— Irish rock star Bono pressed President George W Bush on Tuesday to set aside more cash for AIDS initiatives but came away disappointed after a face-to-face talk with the President at the White House.

“We had a good old row,” Bono said of his meeting with Bush. “What I just can’t agree with on him is the numbers.”

Congress is weighing a two-billion-US-dollar spending request for next year that would provide the first installment for Bush’s five-year, 15-billion-US-dollar plan to combat AIDS.

Bono, the lead singer of U2 who founded an advocacy group for issues affecting Africa, said the AIDS epidemic had reached.

in Africa orphaned by the deadly virus.

He urged a US commitment of three billion US dollars for the fiscal year that begins in October — an increase of one billion US dollars over the plan Bush has backed.

“I’m not here peddling a cause,” Bono said at a news conference at the St. John’s Episcopal Church across from the White House. “Seven thousand people dying a day is not a cause. It’s an emergency.”

MNA/Reuters

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Fridays, 19 September, 2003

13
British charity kicks off soccer shirts and fund bid for Iraq

Lorrence, 18 Sept — A British charity kicked off on Tuesday Britain’s biggest ever campaign to collect football shirts and raise funds for under-privileged youth in Iraq.

The campaign, launched by global humanitarian organization Care International, will involve the whole of the UK football industry — from English Premier League clubs to sports retailers — and aims to raise one million pounds in funds to support essential youth and community projects in the war-torn Iraq.

UK Minister for Sport Richard Caborn and English manager Sven-Goran Eriksson threw their weight behind the campaign by showing up to help launch the appeal titled “Stripes 4 Iraq.” English Premier League club Chelsea hosted the launch ceremony.

“There is very little to feel good about in Iraq. Now more than ever, Iraq’s children need something to raise their spirits,” said Care Iraq Director Margaret Hassan. “Being able to put on a proper football strip will fill kids with pride but more importantly we hope enough funds will be raised to support various community initiatives including health, education and employment schemes,” Hassan added.

Care’s executive director Will Day said that people could show their support to the campaign by donating their football shirts and playing in a UK wide 5-a-side football tournament. Donations from celebrities and sports stars will be auctioned on the Internet site. — MNA/Inthai

Nine-man Bruges battle on for 1-1 draw

BRUGES (Belgium), 18 Sept — Club Bruges, down to nine men in the dying minutes, battled on for a 1-1 draw in their opening Champions League Group H match against Celta Vigo on Tuesday.

The Belgian side played the entire sec-
nond half with 10 men after Peruvian winger Andres Mendoza was sent off in the last minute of the first half for retaliating.

Five minutes after the re-start, Juanfran scored the Spanish club’s goal after racing through the Belgian defence on his own.

Bruges struggled until coach Trond Sollied brought on Ivan Gvozdenovic and Bengt Saeetersen and it was Saeetersen who equalized with six minutes left, the ball taking a deflection past Vigo keeper Jose 

Sandy Martens was dismissed with a 
minute of normal time to go but Bruges 
clung on for a deserved point after a 

magnificent second-half display.

But Vigo might have wrapped the game 
up in the first 45 minutes when they had 
three excellent chances.

In the sixth minute Gustavo Lopez, 
through on his own, was denied by Bruges 
keeper Tomislav Butina who saved well.

In the 24th minute Savo Milosevic missed an easy header from a cross by Juanfran and three minutes before halftime Belgian Vagner dribbled past two defenders only to shoot over the bar.

Celta coach Miguel Angel Lotina said: “I cannot be happy with the result, considering that we dominated the game during 80 minutes and we had more on the pitch.

“Maybe that at some time during the game we played our best football of the season, but on the other hand, we cannot say that Club Bruges are a great team.”

Belgian international defender Olivier De 
Cock said: “It’s true that we had to fight till the end of the game to get the draw but that is also our strength. “We didn’t play at all well tonight and we took a lot of time to get aggressive enough to put the Spaniards under pressure.”

MNA/Reuters

Lazio battle to 2-0 victory over Besiktas

ISTANBUL, 18 Sept — Lazio battled to a 2-0 victory at Besiktas in a Champions League Group G game on Tuesday that was largely dominated by the Turkish Super League champions.

Dutch defender Jaap Stam opened the scoring for the Italian side in the 37th minute, rising unchallenged to head home a Stefano Fiore corner.

Another header brought Lazio’s second goal in the 77th minute. Fiore dived to nod the ball past stranded goalkeeper Oscar Corrales after the Dutchman seconds after Besiktas substitute Sinan Kaloghi saw his curling drive skim off the Lazio bar.

Mircea Lucescu’s side will rate a series of missed opportunities. Midfielder Mert Tamer and Ibrahim Uzenuzle turned the Lazio de-
fence on several occasions, but Turkey striker Ilhamsu Kandemir and Romanian Daniel Pancu failed to capitalize.

Lazio coach Roberto Mancini credited his team’s ‘patience and discipline for a repeat of last season’s goal against Besiktas in the quarter-
finals of the UEFA Cup last season.

“We didn’t play well in the first 20 min-
utes but after that we began to take control of the game. We played better than we did against them last season and Besiktas played

well too,” Mancini told reporters.

The Italian side looked to take the steam out of an often rampant Besiktas midfield after the interval as Mancini replaced Portu-
gal winger Sergio Concaciga with the more defensive Giuliani Gianichedda on the hour mark.

“They organized themselves very well and closed the game down. They totally deserved the win from a tactical point of view but not in any other respect,” Lucescu said.

Besiktas’ best chance fell to Federico 
Giunti in the 31st minute. The Italian latched on to a loose ball in the Lazio penalty area but Maximio Oddo somehow managed to clear his shot off the line with keeper Angelo Peruzzi out of position.

Lazio host Sparta Prague on October 1 when Besiktas travel to Chelsea, 1-0 win-
ers over Sparta Prague on Tuesday.

“This is a meaningful win for us but it’s too early to talk about the positions in the group,” Mancini said. — MNA/Reuters

Partizan and Porto battle to exciting draw

BELGRADE, 18 Sept — Partizan Belgrade and Porto battled to an exciting 1-1 draw in their Champions League group F match on Tuesday.

Partizan, the first Serbian side to qualify for the group stage of the competition, looked edgy in the opening period and fell behind through on some slack defending when Porto midfielder Francisco Costinha headed the ball in from close range after a well taken corner by Deco in the 21st minute.

The visitors then took control of the match and Partizan were fortunate to go into the break only one goal down as Deco continued to create all sorts of problems for the Serbia and Montenegro champions.

Porto’s home side looked livelier after the break with the introduction of veteran Ljubinko Drulovic, whose free kick from 30 metres rebounded off a Porto defender and fell to striker Andrija Delibasic, who blasted the ball home in the 54th minute, delighting the partisan home crowd of 32,000.

Partizan, roared on by their fans, then launched a 10-minute onslaught but Porto’s organizer defence held firm and the visitors gradually regained their composure.

The home side began to get back into the game with PartizankeeperRadoslavRadakovicforcedtomake twofree saves in the 66th minute from Benny McCarthy and Deco.

The visitors looked the more likely to clinch a winner as they piled on the pressure for the final 20 minutes but missed a golden

opportunity in the 89th minute, when substi-
tuAEdgarasJankauskas’fierce fot fromthe 
area of the edge of the area sailed just over the 
crossbar. — MNA/Reuters

Rangers fight back to beat Stuttgart 2-1

GLASGOW, 18 Sept — Scottish champions Rangers staged an admirable second-half comeback by scoring twice within four mi-
utes to beat VfB Stuttgart 2-1 in their Cham-
ions League Group E opener at Ibrox on Tuesday. The German side took the lead in 
the first-half injury time when striker Kevin Kuranyi bundled the ball home.

German midfielder Christian Nerlinger equalised in the 74th minute after some shoddy 
defending from Stuttgart, who have yet to 
concede a goal this season in five German 
league games. DanielweglerPeterLoevkanck, a replacement for Paolo Vanoli, com-
pleted the turnaround when he hammered home from outside the box with 12 minutes left.

The victory means Rangers, who also 
bit the home line through VfB ranks, joined English champions Manchester United as the early pace-setters 

after the English champions thrashed 

Panathinaikos 5-0. — MNA/Reuters

Dream start for AS Monaco after 2-1 win at PSV

EINDHOVEN (Netherlands), 18 Sept.— AS Monaco got their Champions League campaign off to the perfect start as they beat PSV Eindhoven 2-1 in Group C on Wednesday.

The French side went in front on 31 minutes through Fernando Morientes and Edouard Clasie doubled their lead after 56 minutes before Wilfried Bony pulled a goal back for the home side.

PSV thus failed to secure a win in their third consecutive opening match against French opponents after a 4-1 defeat at 

Nantes in 2001 and a goalless draw at Auer
tere last season.

The Dutch champions almost got off to a flying start when a Dennis Rommedahl cross found Arjen Robben at the far post, but 

Monaco keeper Flavio Roma was alert to the danger.

However, it was Monaco who controlled much of the first half as Andreas Zikos shut down the visitors’ front three with 

Mark van Bommel and Remco van der Schaaf failed to make use of the space available.

Claese shot a place just wide of the post as PSV keeper Ronald Civiello blocked an attempt by defender Gael Givet, who had outpaced Arjen Robben and Lee Young-Pyo.

Morientes, on loan to the principality club for a season from Real Madrid, then opened the scoring with a far post header after a 

Jerome Rothen free kick was smothered by

Watererus.

At halftime, PSV coach Guus Hiddink replaced Remco van der Schaaf with Jan van Veenooeg and Hesselink 

up front and South Korean Park Jui-Sung moved alongside van Bommel in midfield.

Suitably refreshed, the home side put the pressure on Monaco but it was the French side who scored again as Cissie 

combined with Ludovic Giuly to find Paulo Wanchope who fired past Watererus from close range.

But Monaco had little time to enjoy their 
two-goal lead as Park was fouled 30 metres out and full back Bouna Coundoul stepped up to fire a beautiful free kick into the top left-hand corner. — MNA/Reuters
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Friday, 19 September, 2003

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WEATHER
Thursday, September 18, 2003
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, the Southwest Monsoon has withdrawn from the north Bay of Bengal and central Myanmar areas. Weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, Kayin, Kayin and Mon States, and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall were recorded on Taungkyi (3.94 inches) and Zanpaya (1.38 inches). Maximum temperature on 17.9.2003 was 28.5°C (83°F). Minimum temperature on 18.9.2003 was 20.8°C (69°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18.9.2003 was 92%. The average temperature on 17-18/9 was 21.0°C (69°F). Rainfall on 18-19/9 was 8 mm at Yangon Airport, 9 mm at Kaba- aye, 2 mm at Kayin, and 25.8 mm at Wunnaung in central Yangon. Tropical rainfall in central Myanmar, 1-2,000 mm (82.76 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2219 mm (87.36 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2220 mm (90.06 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mps (from South at 15.5°C), MST on 17.9.2003.

Weather Reference: Weather is partly cloudy in the north Bay of Bengal and Monsoon is weak elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast for today will continue with partly cloudy in Kayin and Mandalay Division and rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayin and Mon States, upper Irrawaddy Division and widespread in Kayin, Kayin and Tamu and Irrawaddy Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

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YANGON, 18 Sept — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected regional development projects in Yangon South District this morning.

Accompanied by Division Secretary Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and departmental officials, the commander arrived at U Shwe Nyan Patok Village in Thongwa Township, where they were welcomed by Chairman of District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Sein Hlaing and officials. They visited Hwe Nyo Monastery of the village and presented offerings to Abbot Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kheminda.

There, the commander met local farmers from Patok Village-tract. At the meeting, the commander said that measures are now being taken for all-year-round cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, edible oil crops, beans and pulses, vegetables and cash crops for greening of 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport. Monsoon paddy has been grown on the scheduled area, and the four agricultural methods are to be employed for meeting the targeted yield of monsoon paddy, he noted.

He called for arrangements to ensure timely storage of the produce in the warehouses, minimizing loss and wastage, as well as to cultivate summer paddy and cold season crops on time.

The government has been constructing irrigation facilities for agricultural purpose, he said. In response to the goodwill of the State, the farmers are to make strenuous efforts for extended use of natural fertilizers. The commander stressed the importance of extended use of natural fertilizers. The commander inspected the thriving paddy fields and getting chemical and natural fertilizers for the plot.

They visited Sasana Vepulla Monastery in Nyaungpinkwin Village in the township and presented offerings to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijaya and members of the Sangha. At the monastery, the commander held talks with the farmers from Kyakan, Pyaygyo, Dayyauk, Kayin and Nyaungpinkwin villages. On the occasion, the commander dealt with construction of Kayan Creek Sluice Gate, arrangements for cultivation of summer paddy in Kayan Township with the use of water from Moeyungyi Lake in Bago, and water supply project. He called for cultivation of summer paddy in the fields to which sufficient water can be supplied and beans and pulses, edible oil crops and vegetables in the remaining fields. He called on the farmers to make efforts in digging canals for timely cultivation of summer paddy. Yangon Division has achieved success in cultivating double cropping of paddy in the rainy season.

Commander Myint Swe and party inspected the axis of the canal. — MNA

Development tasks inspected in Monywa and Katha districts

YANGON, 18 Sept — Saging Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, accompanied by division level officials, met with departmental officials, social organizations members, townswinders at Aungzaya Yeiktha Hall in KhinU on 11 September morning.

On the occasion, the commander spoke of the need to extend growing of summer and monsoon paddy in the townships and implementa- tion of the five rural areas development tasks. He then heard reports of the officials and attended to the needs.

Afterwards, the commander arrived at the briefing hall of Yay Aye Kyun Special Teak Plantation in Kanbalu Township where Assistant Director U Myint Thein of Shwebo District Forest Department reported on growing of teak and multiple cropping in the teak plantation. After leaving necessary instructions there, the commander visited the Thapyansieik Dam in Kyun Hla Township where Director U Maung Maung Tin of the Irrigation Department reported on facts about the dam. The commander inspected the power station of the dam and heard reports of Station Manager U Tha Soe.

The commander discussed matters related to development of the region at (See page 2)

Division Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Ang Hlaung gave talks on agricultural methods for boosting per acre yield of paddy. Next, Lt-Col Sein Hlaing reported on tasks carried out and requirements. The township chairman briefed on agricultural sector and progress in implementing regional development projects; and the farmers, on conditions in cultivating the crops and the requirements.

The commander fulfilled their requirements and gave instructions on carrying out agricultural tasks with might and main.

The commander and party inspected the lake for public use in the village and left necessary instructions.

They proceeded to the pilot paddy plot of 100-acre special zone near Apyogyi Tesu Village in Kayan Township and viewed the demonstration on production process of natural fertilizer. The commander stressed the importance of extended use of natural fertilizers. The commander inspected the thriving paddy fields and getting chemical and natural fertilizers for the plot.

They visited Sasana Vepulla Monastery in Nyaungpinkwin Village in the township and presented offerings to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijaya and members of the Sangha. At the monastery, the commander held talks with the farmers from Kyakan, Pyaygyo, Dayyauk, Kayin and Nyaungpinkwin villages. On the occasion, the commander dealt with construction of Kayan Creek Sluice Gate, arrangements for cultivation of summer paddy in Kayan Township with the use of water from Moeyungyi Lake in Bago, and water supply project. He called for cultivation of summer paddy in the fields to which sufficient water can be supplied and beans and pulses, edible oil crops and vegetables in the remaining fields. He called on the farmers to make efforts in digging canals for timely cultivation of summer paddy. Yangon Division has achieved success in cultivating double cropping of paddy in the rainy season.

With triple cropping of paddy in a year, farmers can raise their income and living standard. The agricultural sector is the major industry for the rural areas as well as for the State, and so the farmers are to cultivate crops on all the cultivable land. He called for growing of suitable crops out of the ten major crops with the use of four agricultural methods. In conclusion, the commander pledged that necessary assistance will be provided for the development of the agricultural sector in accord with the five rural development tasks.

The township chairman reported on progress in cultivating monsoon paddy and arrangements for cultivation of summer paddy and cold season crops in Kayan Township and requirements. The commander attended to the needs.

The commander and party inspected the thriving paddy fields along Kayan-Thantapin Road.

Afterwards, they inspected digging canal for supply of water from Moeyungyi Lake to Kayan Township along Kayan-Thantapin Road. Deputy Director of the Irrigation Development Department U Hla Baw reported on arrangements for supply of water. The commander gave instructions on successful implementation of water supply project.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected the axis of the canal. — MNA

Minister U Soe Tha addresses the opening of Qualitative Survey Course for the Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment Project — MNA

Minister U Soe Tha attends opening of Qualitative Survey Course — MNA

YANGON, 18 Sept — The opening of Qualitative Survey Course for the Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment Project to be implemented by the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme was held at the Planning Department in the Ministers’ Office on Theibhaya Road here this morning.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, UNDP Resident Representative Mr Charles James Petrie, Senior Economist Mr Fredric Martin and Economist Ms Marie Helene Boily of IDEA International, Heads of departments under the ministry, officials, guests and trainees attended the ceremony.

The minister made an address on the occasion, saying that Myanmar is implementing work plans under the human resource development programme-4 in support of the UNDP. The officials of the Planning Department (Head Office) and its branches in States and Divisions will have to play the main role in implementing the project, he added. He called for participation of officials concerned and the trainees in the project and emphasis to be laid on contribution towards the project for achieving accomplishments in the central level.

The UNDP Resident Representative extended greetings. Afterwards the senior economist briefed those present on matters on achieving the project.

A total of 30 trainees from the Planning Department (Head Office) and the branches of States and Divisions and townships are attending the course. — MNA