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

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

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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Cambodian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Sept — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Cambodian Ambassador Mr Hul Phany, who had completed his tour of duty, at the Government Office, here, this evening. Present also at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Cambodian Ambassador Mr Hul Phany at the Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

9.9-meter-high traditional palace lantern ornament, the main part of the decorating parterre, is transported to the Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China, on 19 Sept, 2008, to decorate the square as the National Day Holiday approaches. (XINHUA PHOTO)

If you really love motherland …

Those who have committed destructive acts due to their lack of viewing prevailing conditions of the nation correctly should have realized there is nothing in the world better than their motherland and people of their own race, and they should have joined hands with the people in the process to achieve the goal of democracy.

PAGES 6-7

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

People's Desire

Sunday, 21 September, 2008

Myanmar is growing more than 20 million acres of monsoon and summer paddy. The agricultural sector plays a tremendous part not only in national economic growth but also in exports. The government, therefore, is taking all necessary measures to improve the agricultural sector.

Particularly, requirements are being fulfilled such as land reclamation, establishment of special agricultural zones, ensuring per-acre high yield and cultivation capacity and minimizing loss and wastage. A lot of dams, reservoirs and sluice gates have also been built all over the nation based on geographical conditions in order to supply irrigation water and prevent farmlands from being flooded.

Every region of the nation has had self-sufficiency in food contributing to the improvement of the local people's socio-economy. Farmers will gain more benefits by reclaiming more land, extending cultivation and growing high yield paddy strains with the use of modern cultivation methods.

Now a special agricultural zone is being established in Dagon Myothit region with lots of vacant lands in Yangon Division. So, related ministries, national entrepreneurs and local people are required to actively take part in the zone establishment.

Irrigation water is being supplied by the sluice gate that has been built at Ngamoeyeik Creek near Sitpintaung Village in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, and more than 5000 acres of summer paddy can be grown annually. Moreover, the farmlands can be prevented from the inflow of salt water by closing the sluice gate.

With the increasing demand in rice in some regional countries, Myanmar needs to try to grow more rice and export the surplus. All in all, the establishment of special agricultural zones will meet success through the assistance of responsible persons from the agricultural field, the help of national entrepreneurs and the use of modern agricultural methods.

YANGON, 20 Sept —Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held its coordination meeting at Yangon Command Headquarters, here, yesterday.

Chairman of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and officials inspected natural gas-powered meter taxis. Next, the chairman of the committee delivered a speech.

Officials concerned reported on traffic rules and road safety arrangements for pedestrians and travelling public. The commander fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint inspects CNG-run meter taxis.—MNA

PYAPON TPSP, 19 Sept—Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, accompanied by district and township level departmental officials of Pyapon, looked into construction of new school building in No. 2 BEMS in Pyapon on 16 September.

Chairman of National ASEAN Cultural and Information Committee U Sann Win spoke on the occasion and Secretary Daw Nandar Hmoon gave an account of opening the ASEAN Corner and the attendees later viewed the booth there.—MNA

ASEAN Corner opened in Yangon

Yangon, 20 Sept—To mark the 40th Anniversary Foundation of ASEAN, the opening ceremony of ASEAN Corner took place at the National Museum in Dagon Township, here this morning.

The ceremony was opened while the schoolboys and girls of No. 1 Basic Education High School of Dagon Township were singing the song “ASEAN We are One”.

The ambassadors of ASEAN nations cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.

Chairman of National ASEAN Cultural and Information Committee U Sann Win spoke on the occasion and Secretary Daw Nandar Hmoon gave an account of opening the ASEAN Corner and the attendees later viewed the booth there.—MNA

MNA

Ambassadors of ASEAN countries to Myanmar formally open the ASEAN Corner. — MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint inspects CNG-run meter taxis.—MNA

MNA

MNA
Iran’s top leader firms up backing for Ahmadinejad

Tehran, 20 Sept — Iran’s top authority told politicians on Friday to stop squabbling that was undermining the government, in a fresh sign of support for President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his cabinet before the 2009 election.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei tends to stay above the fray of day-to-day politics. But this was the second time in less than a month he had made a speech backing Ahmadinejad and his government, under threat of more UN sanctions as the United States and its Western allies seek to isolate Iran over its disputed nuclear plans.

Addressing worshippers in a Friday prayers sermon, Khamenei did not mention the president by name but warned against destructive and unfair criticism of Ahmadinejad’s government.

Public divisions in Iran could be used by those who oppose the system of the Islamic Republic,” he said in the sermon, which was broadcast by state media.

Car bomb kills 3, wounds 23 in Northern Iraq: police

Baghdad, 20 Sept — A suicide car bomber killed three people and wounded 23 others in an attack next to a sports ground in the northern Iraqi town of Tal Afar on Saturday, police said.

The three dead were two off-duty policemen and one off-duty soldier. Tal Afar, 420 km (260 miles) northwest of Baghdad, and the nearby city of Mosul have been the target of numerous attacks by suspected militants in recent months.

Ahmadinejad and his cabinet made a fresh sign of support for the government, in squabbling that was under threat of more UN sanctions as the United States and its Western allies seek to isolate Iran over its disputed nuclear plans.

At least 55 dead in suicide attack in Pakistan

Islamabad, 20 Sept — A huge truck bomb devastated the Marriott Hotel in Pakistan’s capital on Saturday, creating a chaotic and fiery scene as rescue crews searched for survivors. At least 55 people have been reported killed and more than 120 injured.

The blast left a 30-foot deep crater in the main building, where rockets had rained from the windows and rescuers ferried a stream of bloodied bodies from the gutted building to which was in danger of collapsing.

The five-floor Marriott in Islamabad is a favorite place for foreigners as well as Pakistani politicians and business people to stay and socialize, despite repeated militant attacks. It served as the de facto back office for the international media during the 2001 war against the Taliban in neighboring Afghanistan.

Two hospitals said 10 foreigners were among those in their treatment, including one each from Germany, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Afghan-ianist.

Czech Republic sells security for radar that Russian missiles could be aimed at the base. Rogozin said he regretted Russia being dragged into new arms races, according to CTK.
IMF predicts 2009 recovery despite financial turmoil

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted the world’s advanced economies would stage a slow recovery by 2009 even as many US financial firms are facing potential bankruptcy.

Financial markets face a protracted period of restructuring, but the global economy is likely to weather the storm, IMF Deputy Managing Director John Lipsky said in Washington on Thursday.

The IMF predicts global growth of about 4 percent this year, and slightly lower growth for 2009.

Arizona collegian convicted of killing roommate

TUCSON, (AZ), 20 Sept — A 19-year-old woman was convicted on Friday of murdering her roommate in their University of Arizona dorm room by stabbing her 23 times. Galareka Harrison made no expression as the jury’s verdict was read in Pima County Superior Court. She was convicted of first-degree murder in the death of 18-year-old Mia Henderson, a fellow Navajo tribal member from northern Arizona. She was also found guilty of three counts of forgery and one count of identity theft. After court recessed, she gave a wan smile, stood up and put on a black coat before being led out of the courtroom by bailiffs.

Apple to replace iPhone 3G power adapters due to shock risk

SAN FRANCISCO, 20 Sept — Apple said on Friday it will replace power adapters sold with its popular iPhone 3G mobile telephones because of a risk prongs will snap and cause people to be jolted by electricity.

“We have received reports of detached blades involving a very small percentage of the adapters sold, but no injuries have been reported,” the California company said on its Web page providing adapter exchange details. The part Apple is offering to replace is an “ultracompact USB power adapter” reportedly included with iPhone 3G models sold in Japan, Canada, Mexico, the United States and a half dozen South American countries.

“Customer safety is always Apple’s top priority, and therefore we have voluntarily decided to exchange every Ultra-compact power adapter for a new, redesigned adapter, free of charge,” Apple said.

Indonesia state oil firm revises up profit target

JAKARTA, 20 Sept — Indonesian state-owned oil and gas company Pertamina revised up the target of this year’s profit from 25.4 trillion rupiah (2.71 billion US dollars) to 27.6 trillion rupiah (2.97 billion US dollars), the Jakarta Post reported Saturday.

The new target is 12.6 percent higher than that of last year. “But it will depend on oil prices, should the price continue to fall, then the realization could be lower,” Finance director of the company Frederick Siahaan was quoted by the report.

The net target is based on an average oil price of 100 US dollars a barrel. The price of oil has been down 54 percent from its peak of 147 US dollars a barrel, in July this year.

Stardust evidence points to planet collision

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept — Masses of dust floating around a distant binary star system suggest that two Earth-like planets obliterated each other in a violent collision, US researchers reported on Friday.

“It’s as if Earth and Venus collided with each other,” Benjamin Zuckerman, an astronomer at the University of California Los Angeles, who worked on the study, said in a statement. “Astronomers have never seen anything like this before; apparently major, catastrophic collisions can take place in a fully mature planetary system.”

Writing in the Astrophysical Journal, the team at UCLA, Tennessee State University and the California Institute of Technology said it spotted the dust orbiting a star known as BD +20 307, 300 million light-years from Earth in the constellation Aries.

A light-year is the distance light travels in a year, or about 6 trillion miles. So the observations are, in essence, looking back in time 300 million years.

Six killed in Pakistan suicide bombing

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, 20 Sept — A suicide bomber crashed into a military convoy in northwestern Pakistan on Saturday, killing six people.

The attack happened at 11:30 am (2:30 am ET) in North Waziristan, a part of Pakistan near the Afghan border that is home to thousands of Islamic extremists.

The convoy was carrying fuel and supplies from Bannu to Miranshah when a car coming from the opposite direction crashed into the convoy and exploded, according to Murad Khan, a spokesman for the Pakistani military.

New York City’s jobless surge in August due to flagging economy

NEW YORK, 20 Sept — The unemployment rates for New York City and State shot up in August as the rapidly spiraling economic downturn left more people without jobs, the Department of Labor of New York State has said.

The city’s unemployment rate rose to 5.8 percent from 5 percent in July — the largest monthly increase in more than 30 years — as about 5,200 private-sector jobs were eliminated. The New York Times quoted the department as saying on Friday.

Many of the layoffs reportedly came in the tumbling financial sector, which is one of the city’s biggest employers and the provider of nearly one-fourth of its annual wages and salaries.

In the last 12 months, employment in the financial realm has reportedly declined by 5,300 jobs, according to James Brown, an analyst with the Labor Department.

Thousands of North Koreans turn coloured cards to form the symbol for the atom as gymnasts perform on the field below during a ‘mass games’ performance at a stadium in Pyongyang, North Korea on 19 Sept, 2008. The section of the performance highlighted various forms of technology and science. —INTERNET

This artist’s rendering, released on 19 Sept, 2008, shows a planetary collision in the constellation Aries. —INTERNET

The new iPhone 3G is displayed at the Apple store at The Grove where it went on sale in July 2008 in Los Angeles, California. —INTERNET

IMF predicts 2009 recovery despite financial turmoil

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted the world’s advanced economies would stage a slow recovery by 2009 even as many US financial firms are facing potential bankruptcy.

Financial markets face a protracted period of restructuring, but the global economy is likely to weather the storm, IMF Deputy Managing Director John Lipsky said in Washington on Thursday.

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Brazilian expert sees China's development as successful model

BRASILIA, 20 Sept — Over the past 30 years since its reform and opening-up, China has showed its ability to overcome poverty and has set a “successful model” in developing a balanced economy, a Brazilian expert said.

In a recent interview with Xinhua, Argemiro Procopio, professor of international relations professor at Brasilia University, lauded China’s reform and opening-up drive initiated by late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, saying it has not only lifted the overall life quality of its own people but has a far-reaching impact on the entire world. Domestically, according to the professor, more than 400 million Chinese have been enriched by the country’s economic development, more than doubling the Brazilian population.

Brazilian population more than doubling the economic development, enriched by the country’s Chinese have been enriching economy, a Brazilian expert said. In a recent interview with Xinhua, Argemiro Procopio, professor of international relations professor at Brasilia University, lauded China’s reform and opening-up drive initiated by late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, saying it has not only lifted the overall life quality of its own people but has a far-reaching impact on the entire world. Domestically, according to the professor, more than 400 million Chinese have been enriched by the country’s economic development, more than doubling the Brazilian population.

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If you really love motherland ...

Hnin Oo Khin

Myanmar sees anthropoid primate fossils that date back about 40 million years along with utensils of the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age, which constitute compelling evidence that the nation is home to various national races. The number of the national races is more than 100 due to climate patterns, different geographical features and different languages and dialects. Being national brethren, they have been living in the motherland since time immemorial. National races remain united in times of emergency. They defend and safeguard the nation at risk to life. Once, Myanmar fell under alien rule, following the aggressive wars. However, the national brethren managed to regain independence through the strength of national unity.

Now, the government is working hard with tenacity to achieve the State’s seven-step Road Map, upholding Our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty.

The people have voted in favour of the State Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to express their aspiration to building up a discipline-flourishing democratic nation with development. The State constitution (draft) was adopted with the record public support of 92.48 per cent of more than 27 million eligible voters. So, the State Constitution (2008) has come into force.

Now, the government and the people are working in collaboration to transform the nation into a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic one. In that case, there has been the State’s seven-step Road Map, which has won the support of mass meetings held in the states and divisions, and national race armed groups that have returned to the legal fold. Moreover, ASEAN countries, many world countries and the UN have recognized the seven-step Road Map as the most suitable programme for Myanmar’s democratic progress.

Today have been capable of distinguishing between right and wrong and no longer accept whatever they say, and have showed their massive support for the government. Being shocked by the results, NLD and anti-government groups turned violent by intensifying subversive acts, while demanding recognition of 1990 election results.

Today, the world has come under a constant stream of tricks of neo-colonialists. The colonialists have come to keep national traitors of the targeted countries by providing them with prizes and funds and installing them in the governments of the nations concerned with the intention of establishing spheres of influence. They resort to all possible suppressive means to install puppet governments in the nations that are equipped with strong anti-colonialist sentiment.

In the process, they try to interfere in the internal affairs of the targeted countries, using international organizations such as the World Bank, European Union and Human Rights Commission.

The people are rather fed up with the broadcasts designed to incite protests and violation of the Law. Certain foreign radio stations are airing under the pretext of democracy and human rights. Simultaneously, internal axe-handles are calling for international economic sanctions against Myanmar, dissuading the international community from giving assistance, making investments and visiting the nation. Some countries complied with the demands of the axe-handles to the liking of the colonialists. With the thought that if so, Myanmar people would be impoverished, and when poverty was intolerable, the people would stage demonstrations, and then they would come to power, they hand in glove with external axe-handles are trying to destabilize the nation and disrupt the development tasks.

As a public member, I would say they should have given up committing sabotage acts receiving meagre sums from their alien masters. If they really want to serve the interest of the nation and the people, they should choose honest ways, instead of showing hostility at the instigation of alien countries.

NLD is indeed a west-looking party that has opposed internal strength and thought highly of western countries throughout its existence. What it has done is nothing other than destructive acts designed to trouble the nation and the people such as confrontation, defiance of orders, utter devastation, and four cuts. It is known to all that there was an offer that Head of State Senior General Than Shwe would receive Daw Suu Kyi. Nonetheless, the offer met her categorical decline, so the people have realized that she wants to do nothing beneficial to the nation and the people.

Now, the government and the people are working in collaboration to transform the nation into a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic one. In that case, there has been the State’s seven-step Road Map, which has won the support of mass meetings held in the states and divisions, and national race armed groups that have returned to the legal fold. Moreover, ASEAN countries, many world countries and the UN have recognized the seven-step Road Map as the most suitable programme for Myanmar’s democratic progress.

The entire people aspire to democracy, and recognize that the government has placed emphasis on process to democracy. So, they ahor any attempts to disrupt the seven-step Road Map, and reliance on alien nations which are disruptions to democratic transition process. Opposing the elections due to be held in 2010 is “opposing the people and their desire”.

The people are in favour of stability and peace, but opposed to riots, internal armed insurgency, protests and 88-like incidents. Any attempts to destroy the already-restored peace and stability are absolutely unacceptable to them.

Every patriotic citizen is happy with development of their country and progress of the people, not with any situations in which the people live in below the poverty line. (See page 7)
If you really love motherland ...

Hnin Oo Khin

Besides, the people want to enjoy freedom of activities in line with the Law. They want to live under the protection of the Law and improve their living conditions. The people lead a peaceful life under the rule of the government that has worked hard for the people to enjoy those rights.

When informed with the news on the press conference held on 7 September 2008, the people further realized that anti-government groups were using funds provided by certain foreign countries on the pretext of democracy and human rights on anti-government movements, schemes to provoke riots, and terrorist acts. And they are exploiting each other at the same time. I doubt if they will make sacrifices for democracy and human rights because they cannot be trusted even in money matters.

It was shockingly alarming that there had been an offer of K 10 million for blasting the City Hall, K 7 million for a centre, K 5 million for a government office, K 2 million for a Township Peace and Development Council office, K 1.5 million for a Union Solidarity and Development Association or Yangon Central Railways Station, K 1 million for a busy traffic lights, K 500,000 for a junction of roads, and K 200,000 for an ordinary place. Hearing the news, the people who were in favour of peace and stability further abhorred those hatching explosives plots and those behind the schemes.

Many people expressed their thanks and placed more reliance on the government for the seizure of explosives, saving many people from deaths and injuries, and preventing government offices and buildings from bomb attacks.

The military power that is bullying other countries under the pretext of democracy and human rights invades a targeted nation, giving one excuse or another. Then, it installs a puppet government in the nation. However, it never thinks of withdrawing its troops, as supported by the fact that it has occupied Afghanistan for seven years, and Iraq for more than five years, but it has not yet pulled out its troops from the two countries.

It has been long the invader has had total disregard for the exhortation of the UN, the international community and the peoples and parliaments from those countries to recall the troops. The world people are heart-rending to note the deaths of innocent people in Iraq. In the time of the Saddam Hussein government, it invaded Iraq with the accusations that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear bombs, chemical weapons and biological weapons. However, it has not found any such weapons as yet.

It was said that in the time of Saddam Hussein, Iraq did not face threats of hundreds of thousands of innocent people, bomb attacks, exploitation of its oil, and over five million Iraqi people did not flee to other countries. So far, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi people have died, a large number of houses have been ravaged, and state-owned oil is exploited. The number of Iraqi refugees has increased to more than five million.

The US accused Iraq of keeping insurgents and Al-Qaeda troops. Giving lame excuses of having armed guerrillas, it launched bomb attacks and missile attacks, thus killing many innocent civilians including children daily. So, for the country, the powerful nation’s use of the term “suspicion” is like a licence to kill innocent people.

The people are to be aware that neo-colonialists use national traitors, axe-handles, laces and cohorts of the targeted countries concerned to implement clandestine schemes.

Furthermore, certain powerful countries are airing distorted news stories designed to get our country into various crises, without taking the interests of the people, for the sake of the interest of a particular person.

Therefore, the national brethren are to do their bit in implementing the State’s seven-step Road Map through national solidarity in order to achieve the goal of building up a peaceful and prosperous democratic nation. Despite a stream of destructive acts, Myanmar people have made remarkable progress in nation-building tasks. The process for transition to democracy has proved successful to a certain degree thanks to the government’s correct leadership and its fine traditions of perpetually serving interests of the people.

Those who have committed destructive acts due to their lack of viewing prevailing conditions of the nation correctly should have realized there is nothing in the world better than their motherland and people of their own race, and they should have joined hands with the people in the process to achieve the goal of democracy.

Translation: MS

Objectives of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

1. Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
2. Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
3. Keeping genuine patriotism based on national solidarity alive and dynamic
4. Turning out younger generation who will continue to safeguard the national culture and character

Prize-presentation for Bago Division Performing Arts Competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Sept — Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Hla Min met the military officers and other ranks and their families of Shwekyin Station at Myawady Hall of the station on 12 September morning. Next, the commander and officials visited the nine-acre plantation of Hsinthwet paddie strain of farmer U Maung Win in Shan village-tract and viewed the scattering of fertilizers and weeding.

The commander attended the prize presentation of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions of Bago Division at the city hall of Bago. He also addressed the celebration of the World First Aid Day. On the occasion 500 new membership applications of Red Cross Society were presented. Later, outstanding participants in Red Cross skills were awarded.

MNA

Vice-Mayor looks into tax-free markets in Yangon

YANGON, 20 Sept — Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, accompanied by officials concerned, went to the tax-free markets in Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (South), Thakaya and Tamway townships in the morning and inspected sales of rice, edible palm oil, vegetables, fish and prawn, and personal goods at reasonable prices.

Col Maung Pa gave necessary instructions to the officials concerned.

MNA

Man wounded in mine blast in Kyaukkyi Township

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Sept — U Saw Shar Tsi of Ywaung Village in Kyaukkyi Township, Bago Division stepped on a mine planted by insurgents at 11.15 am yesterday while he was collecting bamboo in the forest.

He lost his left foot and his right leg was wounded in the blast.

He was taken to hospital and arrangements are being made for treatment in Mone Hospital.

MNA
People in Kayan Township enjoy better health care services

YANGON, 20 Sept – A 16-bed station hospital was opened in Kyinigyaung Village, Kayan Township this morning.

The opening ceremony was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and CEC member of USDA Kayan Township in-charge Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

Next, USDA CEC member Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Deputy Director-General of Health Department Dr Win Myint and Secretary of Yangon Division USDA U Aye Myint formally opened the archway of the hospital.

The commander then formally unveiled the signboard of the hospital.

The commander, USDA CEC member Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Deputy Director-General of Health Department Dr Win Myint spoke on the occasion and presented provisions to the local people.

14th Inter-State/Division Sepak Takraw Tournament kicks off

YANGON, 20 Sept – The opening of 14th Inter-State/Division Sepak Takraw Tournament 2008 was held at the gymnasium in Aung San Stadium this afternoon.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint opened the tournament after delivering an address.

Next, the players of Selected Myanmar Sepak Takraw team who will take part in forthcoming Asian Beach Sepak Takraw Tournament demonstrated their skills.

The tournament will be held up to 26 September. A total of 16 men and nine women Sepak Takraw teams are taking part in the contest.

Mayor inspects upgrading of roads in Tamway, Hlinethaya Tsp

YANGON, 20 Sept – Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin accompanied by officials looked into progress of resurfacing of East Race Course Road being carried out by Engineering Department (Road/Bridge) of the committee near Basic Education High School No. 3 in Tamway Township this morning and attended to the needs.

Next, the mayor inspected upgrading of Mandalay Road being built by members of Hlinethaya Township Union Solidarity and Development Association at Ward 14 in the township and fulfilled the requirements.
MRTV relay stations inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Sept – Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected Myanma Radio and Television relay station in Nyaunglebin, Bago Division (East) yesterday.

The minister was welcomed by Deputy Director-General of MRTV U Thein Aung, officials and members of Township Peace and Development Council.

The minister inspected the TV relay station and gave instructions on full operation of the machines, proper care of the equipment, maintenance, fire preventive and disaster preparedness measures and plans to prevent against saboteurs. The minister inspected MRTV relay station in Bago and met officials concerned and staff and gave instructions.

Cash donation for storm survivors

YANGON, 19 Sept —Wellwishers from abroad and at home are making donation to storm survivors.

Chairman of Financial Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe accepted K 2,340,940 donated by Mon State Peace and Development Council, K 11646700 by Kayin State PDC, K 580550 by members of Loikaw, Dimawso and Pruhso Township USDAs, K 3324300 by the Ministry of Energy, K 7 million by U Kyaw Zeya and Daw Nanda Dewi, K 60 million by Golden Flower Co Ltd for construction of 100 houses in Labutta Township, K 100,000 by Kyaw Nyo Pan Veterinary Clinic in South Okkalapa Township, K 600,000 by Professor/Head Dr Daw Win Win Mya and party for construction of a house, K 30 million by Bholai General Services Co Ltd for construction of 50 houses and 50000 baht by Mitsubishi motor (Thailand) from 10 to 19 September.

A total of K 145,592,490 and 50000 baht had been accepted from 10 to 19 September. CEC member and wellwishers donated the cash for regional development. The second session of the meeting continued in the afternoon.—MNA

“Current Concepts: Traumatic Wound Infection”

YANGON, 20 Sept—The Microbiology Society, Myanmar Medical Association will hold a symposium on “Current Concepts: Traumatic Wound Infection” on 27 September, 2008 (Saturday), 9:00 am to 12 noon at Auditorium (A), Myanmar Medical Association, Thinybu Road.

All those interested are invited to attend. Registration can be made from 10 am to 4 pm at the Department of Microbiology, University of Medicine (1), Lammadaw Township of the Department of Microbiology, University of Medicine (2) and the Department of Microbiology, Defence Services Medical Academy, or on-site on the day of the symposium.—NLM

Educative talks organized

YANGON, 20 Sept — Women’s Chapter of Myanmar Medical Association organized educative talks on health at Basic Education High School No. 3 at ward 2 in Mayangon Township this morning. It was attended by WC Patron Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, Chairperson Dr Daw Khin Mar Aye, Secretary Dr Daw Myat Lay Kyin and the joint-secretaries, specialists, general physicians and dentists, the township health officer, the township education officer, officials, teachers and students.

First, specialists and general physicians provided health care to 90 school children and dentists performed medical treatment to 180 school children. Next, WC Chairperson Dr Daw Khin Mar Aye and Secretary Dr Daw Myat Lay Kyin gave talks on personal hygiene. Afterwards, WC Patron Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe and party held discussions with school children on personal cleanliness.

AGM of Thayawady District USDA held

YANGON, 20 Sept — The annual general meeting of Thayawady District Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at its office in Bago Division (West) this morning. Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay spoke. The Secretary of District USDA submitted the report of the Executive Committee. The CEC member and officials presented prizes to outstanding students in the matriculation examination.

Next, CEC member and wellwishers donated the cash for regional development.

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Fox Conn Cup 2008: Dota Allstars Cyber Game 2008 at Myanmar Info-Tech

Article: Maung Maung Myint Swe; Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

Nowadays, information technology is developing with momentum in the international community. The number of IT enthusiasts is on increase day after day. As a result, seminars, exhibitions and computer games concerning IT have been organized in Myanmar one after another.

A computer game will be held at the building of Myanmar Info-Tech soon. To cover the news related to the game, an interview was made with Ko Min Wint Oo, Chairman of Myanmar Gamers Club.

Ko Min Wint Oo explained, “The Dota Cyber Games will be organized with the aims of contributing to the enhancement of information and communication, enhancement of information and communication, and computer games into the sports event. The Myanmar Gamers Club has been staging the yearly computer games since 2005. Soon, Myanmar Gamers Club will cooperate with Royal Ayeyawady Company to hold the coming computer game.

He said, “The coming game has been named as Fox Conn Cup 2008: Dota Allstars Cyber Game. It will be organized at the meeting room of Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township from 23 to 26 September. The game can allow the participation of 40 gamer teams.”

The plan is under way to hold the computer game as a sports event. A gamer team may be formed with one team leader, four gamers, two substitutes and one team manager, totalling eight.

Ko Min Wint Oo added, “Prizes will be awarded to all the competing teams that have overcome the group matches. As cash awards, K 500,000 will be presented to the first prize winning team, K 300,000 to the second and K 100,000 to the third. Moreover, the best gamer award, the first blood award, the best hero kill award, the fairplay award and the special prize will be given to the respective winners.”

In the near future, the IT enthusiast youth have a chance to happily take part in the Fox Conn Cup 2008: Dota Allstars Cyber Game 2008 with 50 computers at the meeting room of Myanmar Info-Tech.

MWAF donates publications to community learning centre in Shwepyitha

YANGON, 20 Sept — Leader of Social and Culture Working Group Dr Daw Sanda Aung of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Secretariat member Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin, Deputy Leader Dr Daw Htoo Htoo Aung and leaders of education sub-working group and the culture sub-working group heard reports on functions of the community learning centre and tasks for increasing income of local people presented by Leader of Education Group Daw May Thazin of Yangon North District WAO, at the community learning centre in Ward 6 of Shwepyitha Township yesterday morning.

Leader Dr Daw Sanda Aung explained the purpose of providing assistance to the centre. Member of the education sub-working group Daw Si Si Aye discussed durability of the centre.

Leader Dr Daw Sanda Aung and party met with local women and viewed their tailoring works.

Later, they presented publications to the centre. — MNA
Obama nods US govt.’s response to financial turmoil

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept.—Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama gave a nod Friday for the Republican Administration’s response to the financial downturn. “I support the effort of Secretary Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke to find a systemic solution to our deepest crisis,” he said in a statement. “And I will closely examine the specifics of their effort and the opportunities for swift action,” Obama added. The Senator from Illinois had intended to issue his own plan on Friday, but in light of the fast-moving activities by federal officials, campaign advisers cautioned that he will hold off for now until administration officials announce their latest response to the crisis.

Obama said he had asked his advisers to delay issuing details of his own plan. “It is critical at this point that the markets and the public have confidence that their work will be unimpeded by partisan wrangling, and that leaders in both parties work in concert to solve the problem at hand,” he said. Obama’s statement stressed that, while he supports what federal officials are doing to confront the meltdown in the financial industry, he believes broader steps may be needed to deal with the deepening crisis, rather than just big financial institutions.

New dwarf planet named Haumea for Hawaiian goddess

HONG KONG, 20 Sept.—A newly discovered dwarf planet in the solar system has been given a Hawaiian name: Haumea (how-MAY’)-ah, after the Hawaiian goddess of earth and fertility.

Haumea’s name was approved Wednesday by the International Astronomical Union in Paris. It is the solar system’s fifth dwarf planet, in the same category and region as Pluto.—INTERNET

An Egyptian camel seller pulls a camel, at the Birgash Camel Market just outside Cairo. Every Friday hundreds of camels are brought in from Sudan and Somalia and are prepared to be sold. In Egypt, camels sell for between $450-$2,100 depending on the animal’s age and health.

First frozen embryo baby born in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 20 Sept.—A baby from a frozen embryo was born in Bangladesh’s capital Dhaka on Friday, the first one in the country, private news agency bdnews 24.com reported.

“Opshora, the baby girl, was born by caesarean at Modern Hospital in the city in the afternoon, after being in the mother’s womb for 37 weeks. “Opshora is doing well. At birth, her weight was 3.2 kilograms,” Dr Rushida Begum, who led the caesarean operation, said at a press conference here on Friday. The assistant professor of gynecology and obstetrics department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital said the baby’s parents have been married for five years and decided to take a baby through test tube last year. But the first attempt failed.

The first frozen embryo baby was born in Australia in 1984 while in Asia the first such baby was born in Singapore in 1987.

Torrential rains kill 16 in northern India

LUCKNOW, 20 Sept.—At least 16 people have died as torrential rains and high winds lashed northern India, toppling trees and houses, officials said Saturday.

All the deaths occurred in Uttar Pradesh state in the past 48 hours, regional relief commissioner G K Tandon said. “We’re still assessing the extent of the damage,” he said in Lucknow as rains and high-velocity winds buffeted the state capital.

Officials said the deaths were caused by the collapse of flimsily built homes and other rain-related accidents. Pounding rains triggered landslides in mountainous Himachal Pradesh, police said in state capital Shimla. Highways to the summer resort state were blocked by fallen trees, the officials added, but reported no casualties.

An Oregon man captures 6-foot-long lizard in his yard

An Oregon man playing in the yard with his toddler sons captured a 6-foot-long lizard capable of killing pets and injuring humans. Ryan Nelson said he thought it was a crocodile when he first spotted the Nile monitor by the rose bushes.

He was able to capture it and wrestle it into a large metal dog cage with the help of Dalton Brown from MB Reptiles, a pet store in Grants Pass.

No report on missing lizards has been filed recently with either the Josephine County sheriff’s office or Grants Pass police. But officials say whoever lost the lizard should have immediately reported it because the Nile monitor’s teeth and claws make it dangerous to pets and people.

What are the odds? Son gets same dorm room as dad

Following in his father’s footsteps at Michigan State University is one thing. But moving into in the same dorm room his dad did three decades ago has been a coincidence like no other for Mike Robell.

The Dearborn Heights freshman has moved into B310 Emmons Hall—the same dorm room as dad Rich Robell told The Detroit News he suspected it was his old room, and the coincidence like no other for Mike Robell. Following in his father’s footsteps at Michigan State University is one thing. But moving into in the same dorm room his dad did three decades ago has been a coincidence like no other for Mike Robell. The Dearborn Heights freshman has moved into B310 Emmons Hall—the same dorm room as dad Rich Robell told The Detroit News he suspected it was his old room, and the same broken window latch offered some evidence. The proof came from a university architect, who located a 1978 student directory. Housing complex manager Tim Burrimond says money allegedly stolen was recovered.

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Ten killed as milly aircraft lands Mogadishu airport

Mogadishu, 20 Sept — Ten civilians have been killed and more than fifteen others wounded Friday after shells were exchanged between insurgent fighters and African Union peacekeepers at the airport following the arrival of airlift to Mogadishu.

A plane carrying supplies for our forces arrived at the airport then several mortar shells were fired against the airport. Barigye Ba-Hoku, spokesman for the African Union Mission for Somalia (AMISOM) told Xinhua. “We responded to these attacks since we have the right to self defence.” A number of shells landed in different settlements in the south of the capital where ten people have been separately killed while fifteen others were wounded, local media reported. Islamist insurgents have this week threatened to target planes coming to the Mogadishu airport which they say is being used by what they described as “enemy forces.”

No commercial plane has since landed at the airport. The military plane for AMISOM is the first to use the airport since the insurgent issued their warning on a website posting. Ba-Hoku said that none of their troops were hurt in the attack and that the plane landed safely.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia says new-style OPEC link “interesting”

Moscow, 20 Sept — Russia is considering renewed ties with OPEC, a minister said Friday, a move that could rattle nerves among energy consuming nations.

Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko said Moscow will send a high-level delegation to the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries’ next meeting in Algeria on 17 December.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (209)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (209) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.9.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will be stored under the conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Claimants against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797
NATO to halt Afghan operations for Peace Day

KABUL, 20 Sept — NATO’s top general in Afghanistan has ordered all international troops here to halt offensive operations Sunday in honor of a UN-backed day of peace. Even the Taliban is pledging to lay down their weapons for a day.

The order follows an announcement by President Hamid Karzai that Afghan troops would observe Peace Day by not taking part in any operations. He also called on armed militant groups to observe the day and “stop destroying their country.”

“I advised Afghan troops that they should respect this holy Peace Day, and they shouldn’t conduct any operation or fire unless they come under attack,” Karzai said in a statement Friday. “I advised the same thing to the international forces.”

NATO said its 48,000 troops will continue to guard personnel and military outposts but that it will not engage in offensive operations from midnight Saturday until midnight Sunday.

Internet

Studies show more links between vitamin D and MS

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept — Children later diagnosed with multiple sclerosis had far lower levels of vitamin D than other youngsters, Canadian researchers reported on Friday in studies showing more links between the “sunshine” vitamin and disease.

These were the first studies to show the effects in children, although others have shown that adults who live in northern latitudes, who get less sun exposure, may have a higher risk of MS.

They also support a growing body of studies that link low vitamin D levels with disease, including breast and colon cancer, heart disease, diabetes and tuberculosis.

Multiple sclerosis is a nervous system disease caused by damage to the myelin sheath that protects nerve cells. It affects 2.5 million people globally and can cause symptoms ranging from vague tingling sensations to paralysis.

Vitamin D, made when skin is exposed to sunlight and found in fatty fish like salmon, is added to milk and other foods to help lower blood pressure, reduce inflammation and boost the immune system.

Several studies presented at a meeting on MS in Montreal showed that children who had low levels of the vitamin when they began to show evidence of the disease.

Internet

500,000 women die in pregnancy, childbirth

GENEVA, 20 Sept — More than half a million women died in 2005 in pregnancy and childbirth, often bleeding to death because no emergency obstetrical care is available, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said on Friday.

Despite modest progress, particularly in Asia, the global maternal mortality toll remains stubbornly stable due to a lack of financial resources and political will, it said.

More than 99 percent of the estimated 536,000 maternal deaths worldwide in 2005 occurred in developing countries, half of them in sub-Saharan Africa, it said in a report entitled “Progress for Children: A Report Card on Maternal Maternity.”

“One of the critical bottlenecks has always been access to highly skilled health workers required to deliver emergency obstetrical care, particularly caesarian sections,” Peter Salama, UNICEF’s chief of health, told a news briefing.

Around 50 million births in the developing world, or about 4 in 10 of all births worldwide, are not attended by trained personnel, according to the report.

Hemorrhaging is the leading cause of maternal death in Africa and Asia, causing one in three deaths, it said.

Infections, hypertensive disorders, complications of abortion, obstructed labor or HIV/AIDS are other causes.

Internet

Russian rocket sends Canadian satellite into space

MOSCOW, 20 Sept — Russia launched a Proton-M space vehicle early Saturday to send a Canadian communication satellite into orbit, the Itar-Tass news agency reported.

The carrier was launched at 01:48 Moscow time (2148 GMT) from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, said Alexander Bobrenev, Press Secretary of the Khrounchey State Research and Production Space Center.

The rocket was scheduled to orbit the Canadian satellite on Friday, but was postponed over a malfunction of the launch control system.

The satellite Nimiq-4 weighs 4,850 kg and is expected to work for 15 years. It is developed by the European company EADS Astrium Telesat Canada, a satellite communication operator which provides data transmission and tele and radio broadcasting services for North America.

The Proton-M launch vehicle and the Briz-M booster are made by the Khrounchey center. The rocket has three stages and the launch weight is about 700 tons.

A second study, also published in The Lancet, found that the first-time onset of asthma in adults aged 20-44 was closely linked to both rhinitis — typically a runny nose caused by inflammation — and allergies.

Internet

Childhood conditions linked to adult asthma

PARIS, 20 Sept — A chronic runny nose, taking paracetamol in infancy, and wheezing as a child are all conditions linked to the onset of adulthood asthma, a trio of studies reported on Friday.

Babies who took the over-the-counter pain reliever paracetamol in the first year of life were fifty percent more likely to show symptoms of asthma by the time they were six or seven years old, according to one of the studies.

Based on data collected on more than 200,000 children in 31 countries, the study also showed an increased risk of asthma symptoms in young children who had used the medication within the previous year — the more frequently it was taken, the higher the risk.

Rates of eczema and rhinoconjunctivitis — inflammation of the eye due to allergies — also increased, according to the research, led by Richard Beasley of the Medical Research Institute in New Zealand and published in the British journal The Lancet.

Exercises reduces fat in lives of diabetics

WASHINGTON, 20 Sept — Regular moderate exercise helps people with diabetes to reduce fat in their livers, in turn potentially preventing liver failure and heart disease, US researchers said on Friday.

People with type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease and one closely tied to obesity, often have elevated liver fat levels and are at high risk for a condition called nonalcoholic fatty liver disease.

Diabetics who did a six-month program of cardiovascular exercise and weight lifting three times a week cut the fat in their livers by about 40 percent in the study researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

They said the study, which used magnetic resonance imaging scans, is the first to show exercise can get fat out of the livers of people with type 2 diabetes.

The condition, also known as hepatic steatosis, can lead to cirrhosis of the liver, liver failure, liver cancer and a higher risk for diabetes-related heart problems.

Seventy-seven men and women with diabetes, most of whom were overweight or obese, took part in the study.

About half were assigned to moderate exercise including 45 minutes of running on a treadmill, using a stair-climbing machine or riding a bicycle for 45 minutes three times a week, along with 20 minutes of lifting weights.

The others were not placed in any formal fitness program, and most got little physical activity. At the end of six months, they had no improvement in liver fat.

Internet
SPLORTS

Man City fans made to wait for overnight success

M A N C H E S T E R, 20 Sept — Harry Redknapp may admit to glancing envi-
ously at Mark Hughes’ spending power but Man-
chester City are still wait-
ing for their new-found riches to translate into sig-
nificant success on the
pitch.

Hughes was handed his seemingly limitless budget on transfer deadline day when the Abu Dhabi
United Group announced their planned takeover of the
team. That left the manager with just enough time to
break the British transfer record by spending 32.5
million pounds on Real Madrid’s Robinho and after the
enforced international break, the Brazilian finally made
his debut last week against Chelsea.

The subsequent 3-1 defeat was a chastening experi-
ence for Hughes and his players but at least they had the
excuse that Chelsea played like potential champions.

Against Omonia Nicosia five days later City had no
such excuse as they stuttered their way to a 2-1 victory
in Cyprus in their UEFA Cup first round first leg tie.

Prior to Robinho’s arrival, Hughes had already spent
ambitiously to bring in Jo, Shaun Wright-Phillips,
Vincent Kompany, Pablo Zabaleta and Tal Ben Haim.

And the upbeat mood around the club means that
results are now quickly expected to improve in the
league starting with victory over Redknapp’s Port-
smouth side at the City of Manchester Stadium on
Sunday.—Internet

ACROSS

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6 Innocent
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DOWN
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21 Silly
23 True
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AFC chief calls for improvement in refereeing standards

S I N G A P O R E, 20 Sept — Asia’s soccer chief is calling for
the region’s system of training and appointing
referees to be overhauled in a bid to boost the standard
of match officials.

Declaring 2009 “AFC Asian Referees Year”, Presi-
dent of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC)
Mohamed Bin Hammam proposed a revamp to prevent
bias in the choice of officials and to ensure only the
best referees take control of important matches.

“What happened in the past was that some people,
and I’m not saying everyone, but some would say ‘I
prefer him or I don’t prefer him’ and the appointments
of referees would not always be the best choices,” Bin
Hammam told the AFC’s website.

“So, for the most important matches, clubs and
national teams spend a lot of money on hiring the best
coaches and organizing training camps to prepare as
best as they can.

“So, it is our responsibility to make sure that we
give them the best referees. The best people should be
in charge of the best matches.”

Bin Hammam said poor refereeing at the 2004
Asian Cup in China prompted him to create the Elite
coaches panel, which features the top FIFA-accred-
ted referees who would be available for the big
matches in Asia.

MNA/Reuters

Scolari lights the fuse on United showdown

LONDON, 20 Sept — Luiz Felipe Scolari has lit the
fuse on Chelsea’s explosive Premier League showdown
with Manchester United by admitting he could make a
move to sign Cristiano Ronaldo.

The first meeting of English football’s two super-
powers since last season’s Champions League final was
already packed with combustible elements, but Scolari
has added his own gunpowder to the mix.

He plans to share a bottle of wine with Sir Alex
Ferguson after Sunday’s clash at Stamford Bridge, but
the Brazilian is in for a taste of the United manager’s
teacher treatment instead after giving Ronaldo an open
invitation to join him at Chelsea.

Ferguson spent most of the close-season fending off
Real Madrid’s attempts to prise Ronaldo from Old
Trafford and he won’t take kindly to Scolari’s tongue in
cheek comments.

With Scolari hogging the headlines it would be easy
to forget that Sunday’s match represents a potentially
defining moment in the title race.

Chelsea’s unbeaten start is a marked contrast to the
erratic form of United and a win for the hosts would open
up a nine point lead over the reigning champions.

Just as importantly it would exact a measure of
revenge after Chelsea were pipped to the Premier League
and Champions League by Ferguson’s side last season.

However, if United become the first team to win a
league game at the Bridge for 85 matches they
will move to within three points of Chelsea with a
game in hand and deliver a serious psychological blow to
their title rivals.

Bolton Wanderers’ Kevin Davies (R) challenges Arsenal’s \n\nBenitez hails Gerrard

as world’s best midfielder

L I V E R P O O L, 20 Sept — Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez
has described Steven Gerrard as “the best midfielder in
the world” ahead of a weekend which could see the
Reds skipper lead his side to the top of the Premier
League.

With current leaders Chelsea not in action until
Sunday’s showdown with champions Manchester
United, Liverpool will pull clear at the top for at least
24 hours if they beat top flight newcomers Stoke City
at Anfield on Saturday.

Kuznetsova to face Safina

in Pan Pacific Open tennis final

T O K Y O, 20 Sept — Dinara Safina and Svetlana
Kuznetsova set up an all-Russian final with crushing
victories at the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament
on Saturday.

Safina enjoyed her first victory over compatriot
Nadia Petrova 6-1, 6-0, while Kuznetsova brushed
aside Slovenian qualifier Katarina Srebotnik 7-6 (7/5),
6-2. Kuznetsova, who beat Serbian top seed Jelena
Jankovic in the quarter-finals, got off to a sluggish start
by losing her service in the opening game.

But the 2004 US Open champion forced the tie-
breaker and cashed in on her second set point with a
forehand volley.—Internet

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At least six died as floods affect half of Thailand

BANGKOK, 20 Sept — Floods which have swept through many provinces across Thailand have claimed at least six people’s lives by Friday, said Anucha Mokkhavesa, Director-General of the country’s Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department on Friday.

In northeastern provinces, a sudden torrent of waters spilled from a reservoir in Mae Sariang District, sweeping away a couple who were riding on a motorcycle, Thai News Agency said.

While in Wangkhot municipality, Phetchaburi Province, a 72-year-old woman died when she was hit by a flash flood from Petchaburi hill when she tried to move her belongings under her home.

According to local reports, four deaths in northeastern province Nong Bua Lamphu and two others were dead in the North.

The floods have caused damages worth 686 million baht (20 million US dollars) in 36 provinces, caretaker Agriculture Minister Somsak Prissanannathakul said on Friday.

He said floods affected 13 northern provinces, 12 northeastern provinces, four central provinces, six eastern provinces and a southern province.

A total of 724,931rai (115,989 hectares) of farmland were inundated and a 2.7 million of farm animals were affected, said the caretaker minister.

Turkey, Russia agree on solution to trade row

ISTANBUL, 20 Sept — Turkey and Russia have agreed to resolve a trade row that Ankara says has cost its exporters more than one billion US dollars in lost revenue, state-run Anatolian quoted a senior Turkish official as saying on Friday.

Turkish exporters began suffering delays late last month at Russian border crossings after Ankara allowed two US ships to pass through the Istanbul Bosporus Strait to provide aid to Georgia after Moscow’s military action there.

Bomb found outside Philippine elementary school

MANILA, 20 Sept — Philippine security forces have defused an improvised bomb planted outside an elementary school in southern insurgency-rife province of North Cotabato, a military spokesman said on Friday.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ernesto Torres, Jr, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, told a Press briefing that the improvised explosive device was found by police in a sack near the gate of Northwest Elementary School in Carmen Town at around 9:30 pm on Thursday.

Police immediately alerted the Army’s explosives experts, who defused the bomb hours later.

Singapore advises recall of China-made yoghurt bars

SINGAPORE, 20 Sept — Singapore advised retailers on Friday to remove a brand of China-made yoghurt bars from shelves after a Hong Kong food safety panel found low levels of melamine contamination.

In China, 6,244 children have become ill, with four dead and 158 suffering “acute kidney failure” after consuming milk powder tainted with melamine, a banned chemical used in making plastics.

Singapore’s Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) asked importers and retailers not to sell “Yili brand Natural Choice Yogurt Flavoured Ice Bar with Real Fruit” and advised consumers who bought the product not to eat it.

“AVA is conducting tests on other imported milk and dairy products from China for melamine contamination,” the food safety watchdog said in a statement.

WEATHER

Saturday, 20 September, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and lower Sagain Division, rain or thunder showers have been isolated in Kayin State, scattered in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, fairly widespread in Mon State, lower Sagain, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with fairly heavy to moderate rainfall in Mandalay Division.

The notewothy amounts of rainfall recorded were: Ye (6.38) inches, Kyekkkami (3.15) inches, Taungtho (3.07) inches, Dawei (2.36) inches, Shweigyi (2.00) inches, Belin (1.65) inches, Mandalay (1.06) inches and Magway (0.78) inch.

Maximum temperature on 19-9-2008 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 20-9-2008 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 20-9-2008 was 96%.

Total sunshine hours on 19-9-2008 was (18.9) hours. Rainfall on 20-9-2008 was (Nil) at Mandalay, (20) inches at Kaba-Aye and (1.10) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (93.03) inches at Mandalay, (104.21) inches at Kaba-Aye and (121.57) inches at Central Yangon.

Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (18.30) hours MST on 19-9-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is generally moderate in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 21-9-2008: Rain or thunder showers will be isolated in Kachin, Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, scattered in Sagain, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Rakhin, Chin States and Ayeyawady Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy rainfall in Rakhine. Mon States and Ayeyawady Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of unsettled conditions in East Central Bay.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 21-9-2008: Isolated rain or thunder showes. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-9-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-9-2008: Isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

THE  NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR   Sunday, 21 September, 2008

BANGKOK, 20 Sept — Floods which have swept through many provinces across Thailand have claimed at least six people’s lives by Friday, said Anucha Mokkhavesa, Director-General of the country’s Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department on Friday.

In northeastern provinces, a sudden torrent of waters spilled from a reservoir in Mae Sariang District, sweeping away a couple who were riding on a motorcycle, Thai News Agency said.

While in Wangkhot municipality, Phetchaburi Province, a 72-year-old woman died when she was hit by a flash flood from Petchaburi hill when she tried to move her belongings under her home.

According to local reports, four deaths in northeastern province Nong Bua Lamphu and two others were dead in the North.

The floods have caused damages worth 686 million baht (20 million US dollars) in 36 provinces, caretaker Agriculture Minister Somsak Prissanannathakul said on Friday.

He said floods affected 13 northern provinces, 12 northeastern provinces, four central provinces, six eastern provinces and a southern province.

A total of 724,931rai (115,989 hectares) of farmland were inundated and a 2.7 million of farm animals were affected, said the caretaker minister.

Turkey, Russia agree on solution to trade row

ISTANBUL, 20 Sept — Turkey and Russia have agreed to resolve a trade row that Ankara says has cost its exporters more than one billion US dollars in lost revenue, state-run Anatolian quoted a senior Turkish official as saying on Friday.

Turkish exporters began suffering delays late last month at Russian border crossings after Ankara allowed two US ships to pass through the Istanbul Bosporus Strait to provide aid to Georgia after Moscow’s military action there.

Bomb found outside Philippine elementary school

MANILA, 20 Sept — Philippine security forces have defused an improvised bomb planted outside an elementary school in southern insurgency-rife province of North Cotabato, a military spokesman said on Friday.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ernesto Torres, Jr, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, told a Press briefing that the improvised explosive device was found by police in a sack near the gate of Northwest Elementary School in Carmen Town at around 9:30 pm on Thursday.

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**Thought of a Young Man**

- At the age of eighteen I am,
  Having cast vote at referendum,
  I love my motherland, Myanmar,
  With renewed confidence and vigour.

- Things changing for better,
  Thus needed to discard outdated matters,
  The results of long long ago,
  Have been left behind since yore.

- A prosperous future to chart,
  A new nation to be built up,
  The people, the Tatmadaw in concert,
  Work hard to achieve fruitful results.

*Min Chan Myae (Myanaung) (Trs)*

**24th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy U-21 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament 2008 commences**

**Yangon, 20 Sept** — The opening ceremony of the 24th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy U-21 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament 2008 was held at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna), here this evening. On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung attended and addressed it, saying that the tournament has been held since 1985. Improvement of sport standard can uplift the prestige of the nation and sport victory can reflect the uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit of the citizens. In the past, Myanmar football team including the Tatmadawmen had glorious victories in ASEAN and Asian football tournaments many times. At present, the national football team has achieved success in the regional tournaments. Therefore, the Tatmadawmen are to make efforts to be selected in the national team. Sporting spirit and good discipline play a key role in achieving success in the sports and in turning out the qualified athletes. The Tatmadawmen are to strive for improvement of sport standard as a national duty and for becoming selected national players, he urged. In the opening match, South-West Command team beat North-West Command team 4-2. Also present on the occasion were Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, military attaches of foreign missions, the officials of the Ministry of Sports, servicemen and family members, social association members and football fans.—MNA

**Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung addresses the opening ceremony of U-21 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament 2008.—MNA**

**Cash and provisions to 66 monasteries in Lannmadaw Township**

**Yangon, 20 Sept** — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence presented alms and cash to 66 monasteries in Thayataw Monastery precinct in Lannmadaw Township donated by families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers at Pariyatti Ale Tawya monastery in the township this afternoon. Today’s donation totaled 114 bags of rice, 110 viss of edible oil, 728 viss of iodized salt, 138 tubes of toothpaste, 2744 bottles of traditional medicine, 176 viss of gram, 81 bottles of medicines, 432 tubes of Laser brand toothpaste, 500 packets of Bokesonma brand chilly powder and 320 packets of Godzilla mosquito coil and K 9,342,800.—MNA

**Fox Conn Cup 2008: Dota Allstars Cyber Game 2008 at Myanmar Info-Tech**

**ARTICLE:** Maung Maung Myint Swe

**PHOTOS:** Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

**Byline on Page 10**

**The Shenzhou-7 manned spaceship, the Long-March II-F rocket and the escape tower are vertically transferred to the launch pad at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China’s Gansu Province, 20 Sept, 2008. The transfer finished at 3:15 pm on Saturday, marking the final stage of the launching preparation.—Xinhua**