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Secretary-1 receives Deputy Minister of Ministry of Commerce of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo received Deputy Minister Mr Chen Jian of the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China at the SPDC Office here at 9.30 am today.

Also present at the call were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of SPDC Office and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Chinese Deputy Minister and party were accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Mr Ye Dabo.—MNA

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Words of thanks expressed on Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway)

Byline: Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine); Photos: Htay Aung (Kyemon)

The Tatmadaw government has constructed a huge number of river-spanning bridges across the nation. Due to Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway), the second longest of its kind in Myanmar, the regions on the east and west banks of the Ayeyawady River are now easily accessible from other parts of the nation. (See page 9)

Now, the distance between Minbu and Magway is just a 15-minute drive.
Governors, Grand Army Chamber, and National Assembly elected officers:

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

**Commander’s Shield Boxing Championship commences**

**Yangon, 27 Aug** — Yangon Command Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint, senior military officers and boxers. The commander delivered an opening address. The commander and senior military officers watched the boxing matches. — MNA

**Minister U Soe Tha meets Chinese delegation**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Aug** — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha received a Chinese delegation led by Deputy Minister of Commerce Mr Chen Jian at the ministry here this morning. They held discussions on matters pertaining to economic cooperation between the two nations.

Next, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw and Deputy Minister of Commerce Mr Chen Jian signed MoU on construction of schools in rural regions of Myanmar with the assistance of the PRC and implementation of small rice mills project meant for rural use. Also present at the signing ceremony were Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Chinese Ambassador Mr Ye Dabo and departmental personnel. — MNA

**TV Guide Volume 1, No. 8 in circulation**

**Yangon, 27 Aug** — TV Guide Volume 1, No. 8 comes out on 28 August (today).

The book carries three programmes in memory of late Pope King Michael Jackson to be telecast through MTV channel on 29 August, forecasts on matches of English Premier League through MRTV-4 international channel, the seven-day programmes for other TV channels and their highlights, one-week programmes for 5 Movies and 5 Series channels, summaries of cartoon network and 5 cartoon, interviews with academy Thu Maung and Shi to be broadcast through Mandalay FM and songs and fashions of Sandi Myint Lwin, Tun Tun (Example) and Saw Nyi Nyi (Too Big) in FMF programme.

TV Guide is available at Novel Light Express (Tel: 391186 and 243983) every Friday. — MNA

**Mayor inspects upgrading of roads**

**Yangon, 27 Aug** — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Than Win and Joint-Secretary U Kyaw Soe, the mayor went to Bahan, Mayangon, Thingangyun and Yanakin townships and looked into upgrading of roads to prevent flood in rainy season and attended to the needs. — MNA
Sudanese gather in a flooded area following torrential rains in the capital Khartoum, Sudan, on 26 Aug, 2009.—INTERNET

Fresh explosion rocks Afghan city

KABUL, 27 Aug—A blast has been reported in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, a day after the country's deadliest bombing for a year killed some 43 people there. The explosion was reported close to the site of Tuesday's car bomb attack.

There are reports of casualties. A local official told the BBC the injured were being taken to hospital. Kandahar, a Taliban stronghold, has seen a number of attacks in 2009. It comes as counting continues following on Thursday's presidential election.

“This is a terrorist attack but we are trying to find out more details,” a senior government official in the city told the BBC. “It's very dark and confusing to understand what happened. But our forces are out on the streets.” The blast was said to have happened next to Kabul Bank. Shops were in flames next to the building, an al-Jazeera journalist reported from the city, and mobile phone footage sent to the BBC shot from a location 500m (a third of a mile) from the scene showed a fire burning. —Internet

12 Taleban militants killed in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 27 Aug—A dozen Taleban militants were killed in clash with security forces in the eastern Paktika province, a press release of the local administration said on Thursday.

“The incident occurred on Wednesday when a group of Taleban militants entered a hospital in Saroza district,” the press release said.

It said that police force immediately surrounded the hospital after receiving report from locals. “Clash erupted during which 12 rebels were killed,” it added. It noted that those Taleban militants secretly brought along with three others for medical treatment. Six more militants were captured by police during the operation, it further said.—Xinhua

Children rush to get their plates at the Dawood Jhangvi's food distribution center in Kabul, on 26 Aug, 2009 in Afghanistan. —INTERNET

Iraqi Shi'ite party leader dies, successor eyed

BAGHDAD, 27 Aug—The leader of one of Iraq's most powerful Shi'ite Muslim political groups and most important religious dynasties died on Wednesday, adding to uncertainty in a violent run-up to an election next January.

Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, who headed the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council (ISCI), a major partner in the Shi'ite-led government, died while undergoing treatment for cancer in Iran, ISCI said. “It is a painful event and a great tragedy,” the ISCI-owned television station quoted Ammar al-Hakim, his son and likely successor as party leader, as saying.

ISCI officials said two funerals would be held, in Iran and in Iraq. Born in 1950, Hakim lead ISCI since 2003 after his brother, Grand Ayatollah Muhammad Baqer al-Hakim, was killed by a car bomb. ISCI is part of Iraq's ruling Shi'ite alliance, which includes Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's Daawa party, but it said this week it would lead a new group to compete in January's polls without Maliki. —Internet

Planned US military bases in Colombia increase regional tensions

BEIJING, 27 Aug — A US deal on military bases in Colombia is pitting Bogota against many neighbouring countries, which feared the bases would threaten their national security and heighten regional tension.

Venezuela, which borders Colombia to the north, is the most vehement opponent of the plan. Its president Hugo Chavez on Tuesday instructed the foreign ministry to get prepared to sever ties with Bogota. Bolivian President Evo Morales proposed on Wednesday that South Americans vote in a continent-wide referendum on the issue. Others, including Uruguay, Ecuador, Argentina and Brazil supported the Union of South American Nations (Unasur) to intervene in the case. The Unasur has decided to meet on Friday in Argentina to discuss the issue.

Chavez said on Tuesday there is no possibility of repairing ties with the Colombian government and told Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro to “begin preparing for the rupture with Colombia.” Chavez has frozen diplomatic ties with Colombia on 28 July after the deal ensuring Washington’s access to at least seven Colombian bases by the year 2019. In return, Bogota will get some 5 billion US dollars in aid.—Xinhua

Japanese Ground Self Defence Force's tanks fire during an annual live-firing exercise at the Higashi Fuji training range in Gotemba, southwest of Tokyo, on 27 Aug, 2009. —INTERNET

Edward Kennedy dies; towering figure in US Senate

HYannis Port, 27 Aug—US Senator Edward Kennedy, a towering figure in the Democratic Party who took the helm of one of America’s most fabled political families after two older brothers were assassinated, died at age 77.

Kennedy was diagnosed with brain cancer in May 2008. After a funeral mass in Boston on Saturday, he will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington, near the graves of his brothers, President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert Kennedy.

One of the most influential and longest-serving senators in US history, Kennedy was a liberal standard-bearer who recovered politically from a string of personal scandals to become known as a consummate congressional dealmaker.—Internet

Israeli, Palestinian leaders likely to meet soon

BERLIN, 27 Aug—The Israeli and Palestinian leaders are likely to hold their first meeting in the coming weeks, both sides indicated on Wednesday, in what would be an important step toward a formal resumption of peace talks and a signal achievement for President Barack Obama.

The indications came as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held four hours of talks with Obama’s Mideast envoy, George Mitchell, in London on Wednesday. Mitchell has been pressing Israel to halt construction of West Bank settlements as a confidence-building gesture toward the Palestinians, and the issue has turned into an unusually public disagreement between the two allies. Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, has said he would not resume peace talks until Israel freezes settlements, and reiterated that position in a speech on Wednesday.

But the Israelis have been strongly hinting that Netanyahu could meet Abbas next month at the UN General Assembly, and on Wednesday, Palestinian officials in the West Bank said for the first time that such a meeting was likely.—Internet

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Toyota announces safety recall in US

LOS ANGELES, 27 Aug—To avoid possible brake-related problems, Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc (TMS) announced a voluntary safety recall involving about 95,700 vehicles on Wednesday. The recall affects certain 2009 and 2010 Toyota Corolla and Corolla Matrix and 2008 and 2009 Scion xD vehicles equipped with 1.8 liter engines. These brands were sold in 19 US states where cold weather could cause brake-related problems. However, none of these brands were sold in California, TMS, based near Los Angeles, announced. The recall was being done in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).—Xinhua

Continental Airlines imposes $50 trans-Atlantic checked-bag fee

HOUSTON, 27 Aug—US carrier Continental Airlines said on Wednesday it will charge a 50-US dollar fee for the second checked bag on trans-Atlantic flights, joining its competitors in imposing the new fee.

The new charge applies to travelers on all flights operated by Continental Airlines between the United States and Europe, and takes effect for tickets purchased on Thursday for travel on or after 15 Sept, the Houston-based carrier said in a statement. The first checked bag will remain free, it said.—Xinhua

Siemens bought two Chinese metal companies

BERLIN, 27 Aug—German industrial conglomerate Siemens AG bought majority stakes in two small Chinese metal companies on Wednesday. Siemens, based in Munich, said its energy division acquired the majority stakes in two metal companies based in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. One is Yang-tze Delta Manufacturing, a metalworking company, and the other is aluminum foundry GIS Steel&Aluminum Products, according to local media reports.

Siemens said the two companies had a total workforce of 600 employees, with combined revenue of 65 million euros (about 93 million US dollars) in 2008, but it did not release how much it paid to bought those two companies.

Siemens made these two acquisitions to expand its global production network for high-voltage circuit breakers in China and its foundry capabilities from machining through final product assembly, according to the local media reports, as China is now the world’s largest market for power transmission equipment.—Xinhua

Over 40,000 workers lose jobs in Turkey

ISTANBUL, 27 Aug—More than 40,000 workers lost their jobs in the past 10 months due to the world-wide economic crisis, according to a labor union report released here on Wednesday. The report was made by the Confederation of Turkish Labour Unions, which monitor the effects of the economic crisis on workers between October 2008 and July 2009. The total number of union members laid off since October 2008 reached 40,755 with the number of members sent on unpaid leave of absence reaching 44,340, the report said. More than half of the union members who lost their jobs or stayed unpaid were members of the Turk Metal Union and employed in sectors like automotive or the metal industry.

The Turkish economy was severely hit by the global economic crisis. Its industrial output was down 9.7 percent in June compared with the same month a year ago. The unemployment rate, after reaching a record high of 16.1 percent in February, has improved thanks to the tourism season, although May data indicated that the figure was still at worrying 13.6 percent.—Xinhua

Singapore needs to make structural changes for economic recovery

SINGAPORE, 27 Aug—Singapore must go on to implement structural changes so as to bring about economic recovery, a senior Singaporean official said on Wednesday. According to local TV broadcaster Channel News Asia, Singapore’s National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) Secretary-General Lim Swee Say said that Singapore has done well under the first phase of the economy recovery campaign, but there is still more work to be done.

He said that it is too early to declare success because anything can happen in the fourth quarter, adding that sustainable economic recovery requires structural change in various economies. “We are fully aware that this world is not going to get out of this global recession in a sustainable manner unless the individual economies, collectively as a global economy, make the structural change,” Lim was quoted as saying in the report.

The NTUC chief said in the next phase of uplifting the downturn, the government will be working closely with companies to enhance their productivity, and continue to upgrade the skills of workers so that they could better respond to changing economic conditions. Singapore’s gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by 6.5 percent in the first half of the year.—Xinhua

Dollar at lower 94 yen in Tokyo

TOKYO, 27 Aug—The US dollar stood firm at the lower 94 yen level early on Thursday in Tokyo. The dollar bought 94.07-12 yen at 9 am, down from 94.20-30 yen in New York and 94.17-18 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm on Wednesday. The euro was quoted at 1.4235-4240 dollars and 133.93-98 yen, against 1.4250-4260 dollars and 134.28-38 yen in New York and 1.4337-4340 dollars and 135.02-06 yen in Tokyo late on Wednesday.—Xinhua

Girls perform during the opening ceremony of the 18th Grape Festival of Turpan on China’s Silk Road, in Turpan, northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 26 Aug, 2009. The festival since 1990 includes singing and dancing galas, symposiums on Silk Road tourism and on China’s grape cultivation, cuisine contests for local snacks, and trade fairs as well.—Xinhua

Workers are seen at the construction site of the World Expo Axis in Shanghai, east China, on 25 Aug, 2009. The landscaping of the World Expo Axis started recently.—Xinhua

People view a robot saleswoman displayed at a new jewellery shop in Qianmen Street in Beijing, China, on 26 Aug, 2009.—Xinhua
Cyber-criminals target small companies

WASHINGTON, 27 Aug—Organized cyber-criminals from Eastern Europe are targeting small and mid-size US companies, transferring money out of their accounts, a task force reported Wednesday.

The financial industry task force sent out an alert last week, the Los Angeles Times said on Wednesday. The companies being victimized are too small to trigger the notoriety.

China becomes world largest exporter for first time

BEIJING, 27 Aug—China’s rise as the world largest exporter, though significant, does not mean Chinese exports will be of high a quality as Germanys’s goods, experts said.

The Chinese government should seriously consider ways to improve the quality of goods for export and create more value-added products to strengthen its competitiveness, they said. For the first time, China took the lead as the world’s export champion, surpassing Germany by a minimal amount in the first half of the year.

A report released yesterday by the World Trade Organization (WTO) shows that from January to June, China exported goods worth $521.7 billion. Germany, which has been the world’s biggest exporter since 2003, exported goods worth $521.6 billion.

Despite the fact that Chinese exports have declined for nine months, “China’s economic power is still rising, and excluding the exchange rate factor, China is expected to surpass Japan as the second-largest economy this year,” said Cai Haitao, inspector of the Department of Policy Research under the Ministry of Commerce.

Sony’s e-reader challenges Amazon’s Kindle

BEIJING, 27 Aug—Sony’s newly launched Digital Reader Daily Edition, together with the Pocket Edition and Touch Edition announced earlier this month, has undoubtedly strengthened its competitiveness against Amazon’s Kindle in the e-reader war. In terms of price, the Sony said, its product line fills gaps between Amazon’s two Kindle offerings. Sony has currently three e-readers at different price points: 199 US dollars for the Pocket Edition; 299 for the Touch Edition; and 399 for the Daily Edition, while Amazon sells only two, one at 299, the other 489. Sony’s lineup gives consumers the option of an under-200 e-reader and one priced between the two Kindles.

Sony added its touch screens are considered by the consumers more convenient than the Kindle’s buttons. When the old-schoolers lament how an e-reader lacks the tactile pleasure of a print book, the touch screens might be a good consolation.

Hong Kong Disneyland plans “Alien invasion” for Halloween

HONG KONG, 27 Aug—Hong Kong Disneyland has planned a new attraction featuring the alien invasion theme for this year’s Haunted Halloween events that are expected to run from 18 Sept to 31 Oct, the park said on Wednesday.

“The (Alien Intelligence) Agency reported that a gigantic spaceship has landed inside Hong Kong Disneyland with signs of alien life detected onboard.” it said in a press release announcing the added attraction for the upcoming Halloween.

Some other attractions, such as the Main Street Haunted Hotel and the Demon Jungle, will also come back to the theme park to be part of the Halloween events.

Fairing problem behind S Korea’s satellite launch failure

SEOUL, 27 Aug—A problem of the payload fairing system made a rocket-carrying satellite fail to enter its expected orbit, the South Korean government said on Wednesday. The satellite, carried by NARO, the first-ever space launch vehicle in the country, got lost shortly after the on Tuesday blastoff.

One of the two fairings covering the satellite did not fall off properly when the first and second stage rockets separated, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology reported. Kim Jung-hyun, vice minister of the ministry, said the fairing weighed four times more than the satellite, making it impossible for the second stage rocket to generate the necessary thrust to keep the satellite in the right orbit.

He said the extra weight affected stabilization and navigational control, causing the rocket to fly upwards and the satellite to be freed at an altitude of 387 km instead of the scheduled 302 km. “The second fairing fell off 540 seconds after launch but by this time, the speed of the rocket and satellite had fallen to 6.2km per second,” the vice minister explained. A satellite had to fly at least 8 km per second to stay in orbit.
Climate change increases glacial burst danger in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 27 Aug — Climate change has put at risk many of mountain glaciers of Nepal and if timely steps for minimizing the ill effects of climate change are not taken, they will burst anytime, state-run daily The Rising Nepal reported on Thursday.

Nepali environment experts on Wednesday expressed their views at a talk programme on “Inevading danger from the glacier and the measure to be taken to minimizing the glacier burst” held in capital Kathmandu.

At the programme, Udaya Raj Sharma, Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, said that the problem of the glacier bursting has not become an issue for other nations who possessed big industries that produced harmful gases. These nations have not shown any interest in addressing the problems of glaciers’ eruption.

Therefore, Sharma urged the government to take necessary steps to inform the big nations about the Nepal’s problems. From the government level, the big nations and their big industries should be told to decrease the production of greenhouse gas. If the glaciers of Nepal burst, it would be Tsunami for Nepal, Sharma added. Xinhua

Woman sues zoo over splashing dolphins

A woman is suing a Chicago-area zoo for a 2008 fall near a dolphin exhibit, accusing zookeepers of encouraging the mammals to splash water and then failing to protect spectators from wet surfaces, local media reported on Thursday. In her suit filed earlier this week, Alleyyn Edwards said she was injured while walking near an exhibit at Brookfield Zoo, where a group of Atlantic bottlenose dolphins were performing, media said.

Officials “recklessly and willfully trained and encouraged the dolphins to throw water at the spectators in the stands, making the floor wet and slippery,” but failed to post warning signs or lay down protective mats or strips, the suit said, according to the reports.

Edwards is demanding more than $50,000 for lost wages, medical expenses and emotional trauma from the Chicago Zoological Society and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, which operate the zoo in Chicago’s southwest suburbs.

Suspicious FedEx package contains live snakes

Police said a suspicious package at a shipping store turned out to be a box of live boa constrictors. Fairfield Township police said they were called on Tuesday after FedEx Office employees saw two pillowcases moving when they got curious and opened the parcel at a store about 20 miles north of Cincinnati.

Officer Justin McDade said he looked in one pillowcase, saw a snake and quickly tied the pillowcase closed. A reptile rescue group was contacted and took custody of the snakes.

A local man was listed on the shipping label, and the package was addressed to a man in Phoenix, Ariz. He’s been told he may not get the snakes linked to cancer, research lead author Reza Fazel said.

Doctors should prescribe the tests only when the benefits outweigh the risks, he said, adding while health-care workers are monitored to restrict their repeated contact with radiation, patients don’t receive that same scrutiny. “It sounds small, but when you translate it to the whole adult population, that’s an estimated 4 million people getting high doses of radiation every year,” Fazel said.

The study added more fuel to an ongoing debate over whether some doctors over-prescribe imaging tests to guard against patient lawsuits and to make money. Xinhua

Minor dispute caused by Afghan gunfire

KABUL, 27 Aug — Gunfire in the Afghan capital on Thursday morning came from a dispute between a soldier and a private security guard, a police official said.

Repeated gunfire and the sound of sirens raised fears of a commando-style attack by Taleban insurgents who have struck the capital twice this month.

A senior police official told Reuters that an Afghan soldier and a private security guard had been embroiled in a dispute, tempers flared and shots were fired in the air. There were no reports of injuries. Internet

In this 17 Aug, 2009 photo, Dr Kevin Chung moves a medical robot, nicknamed the ‘Changbot,’ into position to be re-charged, at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. The robot is controlled with a laptop and joystick and wirelessly transmits images and sound between the user and the patient, allowing for follow-up from around the world or quick diagnosis from a far-off specialist.

News Album

Abdurrahman, 21, holds a boy by the teeth before his computer at his house in southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Younis, on 15 Aug, 2009.

Golf course groundskeeper finds mammoth tooth

A golf course groundskeeper recently stumbled onto something unexpected on the greens: A tooth from a 10,000-year-old mammoth. Groundskeeper Patrick Walker found the 10,000-year-old mammoth. Groundskeeper Patrick Walker found the 10,000-year-old mammoth. Groundskeeper Patrick Walker found the 10,000-year-old mammoth. Groundskeeper Patrick Walker found the 10,000-year-old mammoth. Groundskeeper Patrick Walker found the 10,000-year-old mammoth. Groundskeeper Patrick Walker found the 10,000-year-old mammoth. Groundskeeper Patrick Walker found the 10,000-year-old mammoth. Groundskeeper Patrick Walker found the 10,000-year-old mammoth.

Workers at the Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam near Berlin prepare two statues that are to return to their original place on the façade of the orangery. After years of restoration, the two sculptures along with 10 others have now been put back within the magnificent palace garden. The statues depict scenes ranging from the four seasons to the sciences and were made in the 19th century.

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Singapore shows downward trend of dengue cases

SINGAPORE, 27 Aug.—Singapore’s dengue situation has shown a downward trend in 2008 and 2009, the first time in three decades, local media reported on Thursday.

According to local TV broadcaster Channel News Asia, Singapore’s National Environment Agency (NEA) said that despite a global surge in dengue cases, Singapore is on track to buck the cyclical increase in dengue cases, particularly during the warmer months from April to July period, when Singapore can typically register up to 150 cases a week.

But for April to July this year, Singapore had only about 100 cases a week. The NEA said 2008 saw a 20 percent dip in the previous year.—INTERNET

Tiny ancient shells — 80,000 years old — point to earliest fashion trend

SCIENCE DAILY, 27 Aug.—Shell beads newly unearthed from four sites in Morocco confirm early humans were consistently wearing and potentially trading symbolic jewelry as early as 80,000 years ago. These beads add significantly to similar finds dating back as far as 110,000 in Algeria, Morocco, Israel and South Africa, confirming these as the oldest form of personal ornaments. This crucial step towards modern culture is reported this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

A team of researchers recovered 25 marine shell beads dating back to around 70,000 to 85,000 years ago from sites in Morocco, as part of the European Science Foundation EUROCORES programme ‘Origin of Man, Language and Languages’. The shells have man-made holes through which they were worn as jewelry.

Across all the locations shells were found from a similar time period from the Nassarius genus. That these shells were used similarly across so many sites suggests this was a cultural phenomenon, a shared tradition passed along through cultures over thousands of years. Several of the locations where shells have been found are so far inland that the shells must have been intentionally brought there.—INTERNET

Confined electrons live longer

SCIENCE DAILY, 27 Aug.—Electrons that are trapped in very small structures of only a few nanometer, demonstrate fascinating features. These could be useful for novel computers or semiconductor lasers. Researchers from the University of Sheffield, the Ecole Normale Superieure in Paris, and the Forschungszentrum Dresden-Rossendorf research center measured for the first time the exact lifetime of excited electrons and published their findings in the journal Nature Materials.

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Rejected watermelons: the newest renewable energy source

SCIENCE DAILY, 27 Aug.—Watermelon juice can be a valuable source of biofuel. Researchers have shown that the juice of reject watermelons can be efficiently fermented into ethanol.

Wayne Fish worked with a team of researchers at the USDA-Agricultural Research Service’s South Central Agricultural Research Laboratory in Lane, Oklahoma, US, to evaluate the biofuel potential of juice from ‘cull’ watermelons — those not sold due to cosmetic imperfections, and currently ploughed back into the field. He said, “About 20% of each annual watermelon crop is left in the field because of surface blemishes or because they are misshapen. We’ve shown that the juice of these melons is a source of readily fermentable sugars, representing a heretofore untapped feedstock for ethanol biofuel production”. As well as using the juice for ethanol production, either directly or as a diluent for other biofuel crops, Fish suggests that it can be a source of lycopene and L-citruline, for which enough demand currently exists to make extraction economically worthwhile. After these compounds have been removed from the ‘cull’ juice, it can still be fermented into ethanol.

The researchers conclude, “At a production ratio of ~0.4 g ethanol/g sugar, as measured in this study, approximately 220 L/ha of ethanol would be produced from cull watermelons”.

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UFO hovers over Chongqing for half an hour

BEIJING, 27 Aug.—At about 10 pm on the evening of August 23, a UFO appeared in the sky above Beibei Binjiang Road in Chongqing.—INTERNET

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During the half hour that the UFO appeared, a civil airplane passed by. Witnesses compared the civil airplane to the UFO and discovered that the UFO was obviously flying at a higher altitude.

After hovering for about half an hour, the perimeter of the UFO began to twinkle and then it disappeared in the night sky. Internet

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Tiny ancient shells — 80,000 years old — point to earliest fashion trend

SCIENCE DAILY, 27 Aug.—Shell beads newly unearthed from four sites in Morocco confirm early humans were consistently wearing and potentially trading symbolic jewelry as early as 80,000 years ago. These beads add significantly to similar finds dating back as far as 110,000 in Algeria, Morocco, Israel and South Africa, confirming these as the oldest form of personal ornaments. This crucial step towards modern culture is reported this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

A team of researchers recovered 25 marine shell beads dating back to around 70,000 to 85,000 years ago from sites in Morocco, as part of the European Science Foundation EUROCORES programme ‘Origin of Man, Language and Languages’. The shells have man-made holes through which they were worn as jewelry.

Across all the locations shells were found from a similar time period from the Nassarius genus. That these shells were used similarly across so many sites suggests this was a cultural phenomenon, a shared tradition passed along through cultures over thousands of years. Several of the locations where shells have been found are so far inland that the shells must have been intentionally brought there.—INTERNET

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Coordination Meeting (24/2009) of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee held

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 Aug—Coordination Meeting (24/2009) of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee was held in the meeting hall of Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters on 21 August evening, with an opening speech of Patron of the Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin. He gave necessary instructions after hearing reports on the progress of tasks.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung looks round the pavilion of Myanmar Agriculture Service.—FORESTRY

Deputy Health Minister meets Vietnamese Ambassador

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Aug—Vietnamese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Chu Chong Phung called on Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo at the ministry here this afternoon. They discussed current health undertakings in Myanmar, future cooperative health measures of the two countries, development of traditional medicines, and food and drugs administration matters. Also present at the call were directors-general of Ministry of Health and personnel.—MNA

Mandalay Mayor inspects housing project in Yatanarpon Myothit

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Aug—Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han inspected high standard private housing project in Yatanarpon Myothit (North), PyinOoLwin Township on 17 August evening and gave necessary instructions to responsible persons.

Development tasks carried out in Shan State (South)

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Aug—Director-General U Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department on 22 August heard reports on supply of water from the Inbyain spring to Kalaw presented by the executive officer of Kalaw Township Development Affairs Committee of Shan State (South). He viewed growing of flowery plants along the traffic island of Pyndaungsu Road, the landscaping tasks and the nursery and gave necessary instructions.

At the office of Township DAC, the director-general inspected tasks for proper flow of water at the drain and met with staff of the Township DAC.

At the office of Shan State (South) DAC, the director-general met with staff, executive officers and engineers of Loilem, Lankho, Yaksawk, Hopon and Namtsan townships and Paunglong and attended to the needs.

Tobacco Kills

Kayah State completes ploughing monsoon paddy fields

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Aug—Kayah State held a ceremony to mark the completion of ploughing its all fields to grow monsoon paddy for 2009-2010 along with transplanting contest at the field of U Shwe Phye in Pankan Village, Loikaw Township, on 25 August, attended by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Win Myint delivered a speech.

Loikaw, Bawlakeh, Dimawhso and Meisei participated in the contest. The minister and the chairman of Kayah State PDC observed fertilizers, saplings, seeds and natural pesticides at the pavilion of the Myanmar Agriculture Service, and power-tillers, combine harvesters and reapers at the pavilion of the Agricultural Mechanization Department.

They awarded the winners of the contest.

In the afternoon, they presented gifts and served the aged meal at Kayah State Home for the Aged in Loikaw, and inspected the construction of a new building.

Next, the minister and the chairman visited Loikaw University.

Industry-2 Ministry holds technical orientation

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 Aug—Ministry of Industry-2 conducted the Technical Orientation at the ministry here yesterday.

Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, deputy ministers and departmental officials attended the symposium.

Deputy Director Daw Aye Aye Win of the ministry read the paper on the Logistic and Strategy for Cost Efficiency and Service Enhancement and gave necessary instructions.

Deputy Director Daw Thein Thein Oo on Integrated Management System for Enhancement Performance and Productivity.

The ceremony ended with concluding remarks by the minister.—MNA
and the commodity flow is getting swift with better socio-economic life of local people.

On Magway side of Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) constructed by the Ministry of Construction is Mingalar Road and on Minbu side, approach road close to Kywe Thoe Hmyaung Village. The main bridge is 6969 feet long, and the approach road, 2020 feet long, accounting for 8989 feet in total length.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) has a 28 feet wide motorway and two six-foot-wide walkways on it. It can withstand 60 tons of loads.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) Project began 20 January 2000, and was completed on 7 November 2002. It was put into commission on 24 November 2002. Owing to the facility, local people of Magway Division, southern Chin State, lower Sagaing Division and Rakhine State can pass through Sittway-Yangon Union Highway, and commodities from the whole nation can be transported through the bridge.

We approached the female driver of a motorcycle that halted beyond the approach road. When asked about the bridge she said, "I’m Daw Tin Tin Myat. My native township is Minbu. I live in the compound of the hospital. It took us a long time to get across the river between Minbu and Magway in the past. Firstly, we had to take a pony cart or a trishaw to get to Setteinte port from downtown Minbu. Then, we took a motorboat to get to other bank. We had to go on foot on the bank if the tide was out in our trip. At that time, to get across the river was very challenging. Now, the distance between Minbu and Magway is just a 15-minute drive. So, sometimes I take several round-trip to Magway in a day."

District Chief

We interviewed some travelers on the bridge. A driver of a Magway-Malun bus bound from Magway that stopped for a while to pay toll fee said that he was U Aung Khaing; that previously, there were no such highway buses plying in the place every day; that travelers had to rely on the waterway to get across the river; and that at present bus drivers and local people did well in their work due to the bridge.

Another interviewee was Ko Myo Zaw Wai steering a Van. He said that he was a merchant; that he was on his way back from Magway Chambers of Commerce to get information about prices of peas and sesame; that unlike in the past, they could transport goods by car directly, so it was convenient both for merchants and for customers to do trade activities; and that the bridge contributed to commodity flow and helped stabilize commodity prices.

In order to know words of thanks that came straight from the heart of local people, we interviewed some travelers on the bridge. A driver of a Magway-Malun bus bound from Magway that stopped for a while to pay toll fee said that he was U Aung Khaing; that previously, there were no such highway buses plying in the place every day; that travelers had to rely on the waterway to get across the river; and that at present bus drivers and local people did well in their work due to the bridge.

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Driver U Aung Khaing of a Magway-Malun bus.

District Chief

So far, Magway Division has seen 45 above 180 feet long bridges, some of which have been constructed and some, under construction. The expressions that came from the heart of the people reflect that local people of Magway Division are enjoying better living conditions thanks to the bridge.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 27-8-2009
We went to the manager’s office of the Inland Water Transport of Kachin State. In an interview, Manager U Saw Hla Tun of Kachin State Inland Water Transport said that vessels could be moored at Shwe Bhamo port from June to October in the rainy season; that vessels were docked at Tatkalay port, two miles south of Bhamo, when the water level was low; and that the Water Resources Utilization and Improvement of River Systems Department has been carrying out tasks for improvement of the waterway since 11 July. He said that vessel Pyigyi Dagun plied between Bhamo and Mandalay three runs a week; that the vessel departed Bhamo for Mandalay arrives at Mandalay the following evening. The down run takes two days and the up run, three days. Apart from water transportation service of the Inland Water Transport between Bhamo and Mandalay, private vessels have provided transport service since May. Sanphar Company is providing Bhamo-Mandalay water transport service as partner. Although there are different modes of transportation between Bhamo and Mandalay, the service of Inland Water Transport still remains the key one in transporting passengers and goods.

Translation: TKK
Myanma Alin: 10-8-2009

At the meeting, other attendees included Deputy Electric Power No. 1 Minister U Myo Myint, Directors-General and Managing Directors of the Departments and Enterprises under the ministry and officials.—MNA

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Translation: TKK
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Falling rocks at Yosemite force 300 to evacuate hotel

FRESNO, Calif, 27 Aug—Geologists are monitoring the cliffs behind Yosemite National Park’s majestic Ahwahnee Hotel after tumbling boulders from the Royal Arches formation forced the evacuation of all 300 guests Wednesday.

A series of falling rocks, some as large as microwave ovens, tumbled at least 100 feet from the base of the cliff and into the valet parking lot, where several cars were damaged, park spokesman Scott Gediman said. No injuries were reported.

“It’s all very mellow right now,” Gediman said. “We asked people to leave as a precaution while geologists investigate.” Dust from the avalanche, which started around noon, temporarily obscured views of Half Dome.

Guests of the historic 125-room hotel were directed to the south lawn behind the hotel while geologists checked the stability and assessed the likelihood that more rocks would fall. Gediman expected they would be allowed to return to their rooms by late afternoon.

Rockfall is a potential danger in the park formed when retreating glaciers cut dramatic formations from solid granite. Royal Arches towers 1,600 feet behind the Ahwahnee, a massive arts-and-crafts-style hotel with dramatic views of Half Dome, Yosemite Falls and Glacier Point.

In October park officials permanently closed one-third of Curry Village under Glacier Point after the equivalent of 570 dump trucks of rock hit 17 cabins and forced the evacuation of more than 150 youngsters on a field trip. No one was seriously injured.—INTERNET

French hostage in Somalia escapes from captors

MOGADISHU, 27 Aug—One of two French security advisers kidnapped by insurgents in Somalia last month has escaped from his captors, Somali police said on Wednesday.

The hostage was believed to be held by militants of the al Shabaab Islamist group and senior police officer Abdisqadir Odweyne told Reuters he killed three of his captors before fleeing to the presidential palace.

“One of the two Frenchmen escaped from al Shabaab and now he is in the palace,” Odweyne said. “We understand he killed three al Shabaab guys who were guarding him. I cannot understand how this good story happened but now he is in the hands of the government.” The two Frenchmen were seized from a Mogadishu hotel. The UN-backed government in Somalia has been facing a stubborn insurgency from al Shabaab and another group called Hizbul Islam.

An al Shabaab source confirmed three of its members were killed, but it was not known by whom. MNA/Reuters

China cracks down on organ trafficking

BEIJING, 27 Aug—China launched its first national organ donation system in a bid to crack down on organ trafficking and create a source for transplants other than executed prisoners, who currently make up the majority of donors.

Executed criminals account for 65 percent of organ donors, the China Daily said on Wednesday, in an unusual admission of the prevalence of the practice. “(Executed prisoners) are definitely not a proper source for organ transplants,” Vice Health Minister Huang Jiefu told the paper.

Nearly 1.5 million people in China need organ transplants, but every year only 10,000 people can get one, according to the Health Ministry’s website http://www.moh.gov.cn. The shortage means that desperate patients bid up the price, and contributes to corruption and unfairness in organ allocation.

China’s 2007 organ transplant law bans organ trafficking. The new donation system, piloting in 10 provinces and cities, will encourage post-death donations and start a fund to provide financial aid to the needy and to donors’ families. “The system is in the public interest and will benefit patients regardless of social status and wealth in terms of fairness in organ allocation and better procurement,” Huang said.—MNA/Reuters

Dengue fever kills 245 people in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 27 Aug—The number of Dengue cases has risen to 24,395 while 245 people have died of the disease in Sri Lanka so far, officials of the Epidemiological Unit of the Health Ministry said on Thursday. Of the 24,395 cases, the highest number of patients were reported from June totalling 7,048. It is followed by July with 8,585 cases being reported. This represents a sharp increase as only 4,386 Dengue cases and 85 deaths were reported for the whole year of 2008.

Health officials said the majority of these cases have been reported from the areas of Kandy, Kegalle, Colombo, Gampaha and Kurunegala. The rapid rise in the level of the epidemic has forced the health authorities to carry out extensive public awareness campaign to eradicate the mosquito based epidemic. MNA/Xinhua

Japanese Government to seek larger budget for new flu in FY 2010

TOKYO, 27 Aug—The Japanese Government will propose a budget of 26,413.3 billion yen in fiscal 2010, up by 5.0 per cent from the initial budget for fiscal 2009, to step up measures against the new influenza, the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry said Thursday.

The move came a day after the ministry reported the fourth new flu-related death in Japan as well as a total of 794 cases of new-flu group infections confirmed at educational, medical, welfare and other facilities in Japan in the week from August 17 to 23, up some 20 per cent from the previous week.

The new-flu pandemic rebounded recently as the latest data brought to 2,522 the total number of group infections, which has been rising for four weeks in a row since the ministry began collecting data on group infections late last month.

Up to 72 schools in six prefectures, including Okinawa, were closed entirely, while five schools in three prefectures including Shizuoka cancelled some classes, according to the ministry. MNA/Xinhua

Some 99 couples of newlyweds enter the nuptial site on red flowery sedans, during the 2009 large international collective weddings in traditional Chinese Custom, at the Pujiu Temple of Yongji City, north China’s Shanxi Province, Aug. 26, 2009. A total of 99 couples of brides and bridegrooms from China and overseas join in experiencing the flamboyant mass nuptials in traditional Chinese custom at the Pujiu Temple, where legendary romance of love in the Story of West Chamber occurred, to mark the Double Seventh Festival, the equivalent of Chinese Valentine’s Day.—INTERNET

Smoke billows from the chimney at a coking factory in Changshi, Shanxi province on 13 November, 2008. Internet

China launches its first national organ donation system in a bid to crack down on organ trafficking and create a source for transplants other than executed prisoners, who currently make up the majority of donors. According to the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry, only 10,000 people in China need organ transplants, but only 1,500,000 patients can get one.
Number of H1N1 cases in Jordan hit 150

AMMAN, 27 Aug—The number of swine flu cases in Jordan rose to 150 by Wednesday since the first two cases were confirmed in mid June, according to health authorities. Jordan’s Health Ministry said in a statement Wednesday that 17 new H1N1 cases have been registered within the past week, 11 of whom came from abroad. All discovered cases have been treated and discharged from hospital having received clean bills of health except five newly-discovered cases that are undergoing required treatment at the Prince Hamzah Hospital. No death case has been reported in Jordan because of the disease, which killed about 1,799 by mid August, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). A total of 182,166 cases of swine flu cases were registered across the world so far, according to the WHO. Meanwhile, health and education authorities announced that they will embark on a campaign on Sunday, the first day of the new academic year, to raise schoolchildren’s awareness of preventive measures and symptoms of the H1N1.

Over 1.5 million flyers on the disease will be distributed to about 1.6 million schoolchildren who will head to schools on Sunday.—Xinhua

World braces for new A/H1N1 flu threat

BEIJING, 27 Aug — Although the A/H1N1 pandemic wanes, many countries still remain alert as the World Health Organization (WHO) warns the world of a new wave of the deadly virus.

WHO Director General Margaret Chan warned Wednesday that there had been second wave of the deadly virus. "The pandemic H1N1 virus is still with us," said Chan in a statement Wednesday. "We need to be prepared for whatever surprises this capricious new virus delivers next."

While the seasonal flu disappears with warm weather, A/H1N1 flu is continuing to spread during the summer, which proves the new flu is more durable and infectious.

As cooler autumn and winter seasons are approaching, the Northern Hemisphere have to prepare for whatever surprises this capricious new virus delivers next. The seasonal flu battle. The new virus delivers next. The WHO braces for the likely new wave of the A/H1N1 flu.

Scientists advise President Barack Obama may have asked the government to speed up the availability of swine flu vaccines, but they are unlikely to be ready before October, the new head of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said on Wednesday. And imperfect tests for the pandemic H1N1 virus means it will be impossible to get precise numbers on how many people are infected, said Dr Thomas Frieden. Nonetheless, swine flu is the No 1 priority for the CDC, Frieden said in an interview. "We have literally mobilized more than 1,000 people at CDC who work on H1N1," Frieden said in the interview, conducted by Reuters and Associated Press to be aired on the C-SPAN television network on Sunday.

On Monday, the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology said the government should speed up the supply of swine flu vaccines and drugs, making at least some shots available by mid-September.—Internet

No flu vaccines before mid-October, CDC predicts

WASHINGTON, 27 Aug—Scientific advisors to President Barack Obama may have asked the government to speed up the availability of swine flu vaccines, but they are unlikely to be ready before October, the new head of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said on Wednesday. And imperfect tests for the pandemic H1N1 virus means it will be impossible to get precise numbers on how many people are infected, said Dr Thomas Frieden. Nonetheless, swine flu is the No 1 priority for the CDC, Frieden said in an interview. "We have literally mobilized more than 1,000 people at CDC who work on H1N1," Frieden said in the interview, conducted by Reuters and Associated Press to be aired on the C-SPAN television network on Sunday.

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Brazil reports highest death toll of A/H1N1 flu in world

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 Aug—Brazil’s A/H1N1 flu death toll reached 584 on Wednesday, making it the highest in the world so far, according to the WHO. Meanwhile, health and education authorities announced that they will embark on a campaign on Sunday, the first day of the new academic year, to raise schoolchildren’s awareness of preventive measures and symptoms of the H1N1.

Over 1.5 million flyers on the disease will be distributed to about 1.6 million schoolchildren who will head to schools on Sunday.—Xinhua
Ciudad Juarez crowned world’s deadliest city

MEXICO CITY, 27 Aug — Mexico’s volatile border city of Ciudad Juarez has the world’s highest murder rate, followed by Caracas, Venezuela and the US city of New Orleans. Ciudad Juarez — the scene of regular and brutal score-settling between rival drug gangs — has 130 murders per 100,000 inhabitants, the Mexican non-governmental organisation said, basing its figures on media and FBI reports. Caracas was listed as the murder capital of the world in the September 2008 Foreign Policy magazine, quoting official figures of 130 murders per 100,000 inhabitants.

The Mexican NGO put another Mexican border city, Tijuana, in fourth place with 73. Cape Town, South Africa, was fifth with 62, and Baghdad, Iraq, is in 10th position with 40 murders per 100,000 inhabitants. In Ciudad Juarez, 1362 people have been murdered so far this year up to August as violence spirals among powerful cartels fighting for control of lucrative drug routes into the United States.

Turkey discovers 2,500-year-old sacred ruins

ANKARA, 27 Aug — Archeologists unearthed remains of a 2,500-year-old sacred area, including a church, a graveyard and a temple, in western Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Wednesday. The ruins were found in the Myndos Ancient City area, in Tavsaniland off the Bodrum town in western Mugla province, the report quoted Mustafa Sahin, head of the excavation team, as saying. He told BBC News it would give visitors richer and more rewarding way to allow any family with mitochondrial disease mutations to have a healthy child,” said Dr Tim Fox said geo-engineering should not be viewed as a “silver bullet” that could combat climate change in isolation.

Donor DNA creates monkeys with three parents

MELBOURNE, 27 Aug — A Revolutionary IVF technique creating babies with three biological parents has been developed by scientists. The research is designed to stop faulty genes causing early death and blindness being passed to children — a factor that could occur in up to one in 250 births. The US scientists developed their technique using donor DNA on monkeys. “It is exciting because it potentially offers a new way to allow any family with mitochondrial disease mutations to have a healthy child,” said Professor Murdoch Children’s Research Institute in Melbourne. But experts condition. Mitochondrial DNA is passed on through the generations only by women, and it sits outside the nucleus of a fertilised embryo. The approach works by essentially transferring the nucleus from the egg of a mother at risk into an egg with healthy mitochondrial DNA.”

Beijing’s Forbidden City adds “virtual” attraction

BEIJING, 27 Aug — China’s 600-year-old Forbidden City is renovating its website in a move to spice up its offerings of Chinese culture, said the information chief of the Palace Museum on Wednesday.

Hu Chui, head of the museum’s Information Department, told Xinhua that the new version is planned to launch during the National Day Festival in early October. “It would give visitors richer and easier access to the imperial city, the ancient building complex with as many as 8,707 rooms and 1.5 million artistic articles,” said Hu, who is leading a team of 60 to boost the museum digital display.

The Forbidden City is the world’s largest surviving imperial palace complex and served as the home of the emperor and his household, as well as the ceremonial and political center of Chinese government from 1420 to the early 20th century.

The new website is restructured to meet the different demands of visitors, Xinhua

Artificial trees could be used in areas where carbon emissions are high.

The report includes a 100-year roadmap to “decarbonise” the global economy. Launching the report, lead author Dr Tim Fox said geo-engineering should not be viewed as a “silver bullet” that could combat climate change in isolation. He told BBC News it should be used in conjunction with efforts to reduce carbon emissions and to adapt to the effects of climate change. Many climate scientists calculate that the world has only a few decades to reduce emissions before there is so much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that a dangerous rise in global temperature is inevitable.

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Maradona talks on his rivalry with Pele

BUENOS AIRES, 27 Aug — Argentine soccer national team’s coach Diego Maradona ironically requested on Wednesday former Brazilian soccer player Pele “to stop being the second one” at the poll on the best soccer player of all the times or the most important Brazilian player in the history.

Maradona said “I played 10 years in Europe. Pele played in South America. He won world Cups and all that … but to play in Europe is another thing. However, I am not better than him just because of that.” “I lived a soccer era in Spain and Italy when the scores were dog’s prize. I had to stand them till die!” Maradona said in an interview published on Wednesday in FIFA’s website.

“Pele had Coutinho Rivelin, who for me are over. And later he had Jairzinho, Clodoaldo, Gerson, Tostao ... wow! He had monsters.”

Celtic demands two-game ban for Arsenal striker Eduardo

BEIJING, 27 Aug — Arsenal eased into the Champions League last night, but the Scottish team Celtic was angry of the referee’s misjudgement of Arsenal striker Eduardo da Silva’s penalty, according to news reports on Thursday.

The Celtic midfielder Massimo Donati called for a challenge from Artur Boruc, the Celtic goalkeeper, to the defense of his player.

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Inter Milan reach deal to sign Real’s Sneijder

MADRID, 27 Aug — Inter Milan have reached a deal to sign Dutch international midfielder Wesley Sneijder from Real Madrid for five years for around 16 million euros, Spanish radio reported Wednesday.

The 25-year-old, who had reportedly been refusing to hedge from the Spanish giants, will earn four million euros (5.7 million dollars) per year under the deal compared to around 3.5 million euros at Real. Radio Onda Cero added.

Redknapp vows to keep Pavlyuchenko at Tottenham

LONDON, 27 Aug—Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp insists Roman Pavlyuchenko will not be heading home to Russia despite the 27-year-old striker being linked with a 10 million pound move to Spartak Moscow.

Redknapp admitted that the player, who scored in the 5-1 League Cup second win at Doncaster on Wednesday, is desperate to cement his place in Russia’s World Cup squad and needs to be playing regular first team football.

Tottenham manager

Harry Redknapp insists

Roman Pavlyuchenko.

Internet

Portugal name newboy Liedson to salvage World Cup dream

LISBON, 27 Aug—Brazilian striker Liedson, who recently became a Portuguese citizen, was on Wednesday named in the Portugal squad for crucial World Cup qualifiers against Denmark and Hungary.

Coach Carlos Queiroz has turned to the 31-year-old Sporting Lisbon player with his team struggling to make up ground in the qualifying race for the 2010 finals in South Africa.

Portugal, World Cup semi-finals in 2006, are currently in third place in Group One with nine points.

Internet

Kuznetsova claws into New Haven quarter-finals

NEW HAVEN, 27 Aug — Top-seeded Russians Nikolay Davydenko and Svetlana Kuznetsova booked their quarter-final berths Wednesday at the Pilot Pen hardcourt tournament, last tune-up for the US Open. Davydenko, who heads the men’s field, defeated France’s Fabrice Santoro 7-5, 6-3 to advance.

French Open champion Kuznetsova clawed her way past Belgian teenager Yanina Wickmayer 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (7/2). Defending women’s champion and second seed Caroline Wozniacki also advanced to the quarter-finals, defeating rising Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-1, 6-4.

Tiger Woods set for FedEx Cup opener at Barclays

JERSEY CITY, 27 Aug — Tiger Woods’ final-round putting problems probably cost him the PGA Championship two weeks ago at Hazeltine. He was still trying to find his usual deft touch on the eve of The Barclays.

In his pro-am round Wednesday at Liberty National, his first look at the $250 million course a couple of par 5’s from the Statue of Liberty, he struggled on the undulating greens, then spent about 45 minutes on the practice green.” They are tough. They are going to be severe this week,” Woods said. “If the wind blows like this, it’s going to be tough — tough to get the ball close. Some of the more severe greens actually are the longest holes.”

Winless in the four majors for the first time since 2004, Woods is playing the FedEx Cup opener for the first time — and making his first start in the event since 2003 at Westchester Country Club. He leads the tournament with five victories, earnings of $7,688,163 and tops the Cup standings with 3,431 points.Asked why he was playing, Woods replied, “I qualified.”

Fiorentina oust Sporting on away goals

ROME, 27 Aug — Fiorentina squeezed into the Champions League group stages on the away goals rule following a 1-1 draw against Sporting Lisbon in Florence on Wednesday. The first leg in the Portuguese capital last weekend ended in a 2-2 draw meaning La Viola have qualified for the group stages for the second year in a row.

Internet
LA art: A young visitor looks at “Happy-Happy”, an installation by Choi Jeong-Hwa from South Korea at the LACMA in Los Angeles.—INTERNET

Six die in Congo Republic air crash

BRAZZAVILLE, 27 Aug—Five Ukrainian crew members and one Congolese passenger died on Wednesday when an Antonov 12 cargo plane crashed near the capital Brazzaville, the Congo Republic’s Ministry of Transport said.

The plane had taken off from Pointe Noire, the country’s economic capital, at 0500 GMT and crashed an hour later about 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of its destination, Brazzaville, Transport Minister Emile Ousso told journalists on Wednesday.

“The toll is six dead—five Ukrainian crew and one Congolese passenger ... whose name was not on the manifest,” Ousso said, reissuing a previous statement he gave saying two Congolese passengers had been killed in the crash.—MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Thursday, 27th August, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah and Kayin State, rain or thundershower have been isolated in Shan State, lower Sagain and Mayagaw Divisions, scattered in Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Kayin and Mon States, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were NayPyiTaw(Yezin) (0.08) inch, NayPyiTaw(Lewe) (1.19) inches, Kyaukpyu (3.55) inches, Maungtaw (2.56) inches, Kalewa and Sitway (2.00) inches each, Ann and Homalin (1.85) inches each and Aunglan (0.55) inch.

Maximum temperature on 26-8-2009 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 27-8-2009 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 27-8-2009 was 82%. Total sun shine hours on 26-8-2009 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 27-8-2009 was (0.32) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye (0.28) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (83.70) inches at Mingaladon, (95.00) inches at Kaba-Aye (98.82) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (18:00) hours MST on 26-8-2009.

MST on 26-8-2009.

(1) Aunglan (0.28) inch at Central Yangon.

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Forecast valid until evening of 28th August 2009:

Rain or thundershower will be isolated in Mon, Kayah and Kayin States, scattered in Shan State, lower Sagain and Mayagaw Divisions, fairly widespread in lower Sagain, Bago, Yangon, Ayeawady and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 28-8-2009: Isolated rain or thundershower. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-8-2009: Isolated rain or thundershower. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-8-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershower. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC - sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB - generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

One more found infected with New Influenza A (H1N1)

Number of patients infected with the virus reaches 27

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—A 15-year old boy who came back from Singapore was found to be infected with New Influenza A (H1N1) after examining his serum at National Health Laboratory in Yangon yesterday. He arrived in Myanmar by Flight No. MI 520 on 26 July. He was the 27th patient who suffered from the virus and he was admitted to Yangon General Hospital.

Three family members who came into contact with the patient are being kept under home quarantine.

Up to this date, National Health Laboratory detected 200 flu-suspected persons and 27 were found to have been infected with the virus.—MNA

Flood warning

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—According to the (12:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Mawlaik and Kalewa are (1210) cm and (1516) cm respectively. The water levels may reach the danger levels of Mawlaik (1230) cm and Kalewa (1550) cm during the next (48) hours commencing this noon.

MNA

Inland Water Transport, vital for transport sector of Bhamo District

Byline: Myint Maung Soe; Photos: Myo Min Thein (Mayangon)

Today, Bhamo District of Kachin State uses the waterway widely in transporting passengers and goods.

Long ago, the waterway was the major means of transport between Mandalay and Bhamo. Only in the time of Tatmadaw Government, would Bhamo be also accessible by air and by car. In an endeavour to speed up the development momentum in border areas, the Tatmadaw Government gave top priority to transportation fundamental for regional progress.

On our tour of Kachin State to get facts for some bylines on development of the region, our Myanma Alin news crew dropped in the Inland Water Transport of Bhamo under the arrangements of the District Peace and Development Council.

It was at 6.30 am in the morning when we arrived at Bhamo port. Some passengers were already seated on Pyigyidagun triple-decker while some were embarking. We saw other power schooners moored at the port. The Tapein River was found flowing continuously.

A double-decker vessel departing Bhamo Port for Mandalay.

(See page 10)