Today’s vehicles and motorways in Myanmar (1)

As I am a newsman I have been travelling a lot. Among my tours of the whole country, I made most of my trips by car. I have travelled not only along the fine roads but also along the rough roads by car. On my road trips made after 1988, I saw big trucks overloading goods on the motorways. I was worried about the long term existence of roads.

So I interviewed officials of the ministries concerned about “Today’s vehicles and motorways in Myanmar” in order to inform the public through a byline.

Myanmar, situated in South-East Asia is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It shares borders with the People’s Republic of China, Thailand, Laos, Bangladesh and India. It has an area of more than 260,000 square miles. It is the most beautiful country in SEA and surrounded by high snow-capped mountains and offshore seas in addition to rivers such as Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin and Sittoung.

Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon road section of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

Strengthening nation’s workforce through amnesty

I hope that the released prisoners will actively participate in the drive for opening the door to democracy realizing the goodwill and loving-kindness of the State and the people.
Create a drug-free environment

Drug producing and smuggling are common in many countries of the world and the drug problem is a matter of concern to the entire humanity. It is also the problem that is threatening the family members of a drug user and the human society related to drug pushers.

Narcotic drugs include not only opium, heroine, opium oil and marijuana but also stimulant tablets produced based on chemicals. So the global nations are taking measures to reduce and eliminate the narcotic drugs production and trafficking that are spreading to the world in various forms. They are speeding up their drug elimination drive to create a drug-free environment for the well-being of the humanity, especially the youth.

Myanmar is implementing a 15-year drug elimination plan by setting the period from 1999 to 2014. Now, success has been achieved in drug elimination tasks thanks to the cooperation of the government and the people.

With the participation of the local people, the State is destroying poppy plantations in the areas where poppy cultivation is traditionally common. In August, the efforts of special anti-drug squads and duty-conscious people led to the large seizure of opium, heroine, opium oil, marijuana and stimulant pills and action was taken against the culprits in accord with the law.

Nonetheless, chemicals used in producing narcotic drugs are still a threat to humans and their environment. Therefore, regional bodies, special anti-drug squads and the people are to beef up combating narcotic drugs.

Central Command Commander’s Shield boxing competition commences

NAV PI TAW, 19 Sept—Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe attended the opening of Central Command Commander’s Shield Boxing Competition at the gymnasium in PyinOoLwin Township on 11 September.

The commander attended the rainy season tree planting ceremony at Myaunghaywun Park in Aungmyaythazan Township on 12 September morning.—MNA

Commander views preservation methods of quality paddy strains

NAV PI TAW, 19 Sept—Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Phyo on 11 September inspected cultivation of monsoon paddy in Watsaung village-tract in Kengtung Township. He viewed demonstration of preservation of quality paddy strains in Watsaung village of the township.—MNA

Industry-1 Minister inspects Nay Pyi Taw cement plant project (Taungphila)

NAV PI TAW, 19 Sept—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected construction site of 500-ton Nay Pyi Taw cement plant project (Taungphila) being implemented by Myanmar Ceramics Industries on 17 September.

The minister heard reports on progress of work and ongoing tasks presented by on official. Managing Director U Soe Yi make a supplementary report. The minister looked round the construction site and gave necessary instructions. The minister also visited 500-ton cement plant project site being constructed by Max.

Educative talks on health held

YANGON, 19 Sept—Chairperson of MNMA Professor Dr Daw Nan Htwam Hla extended greetings. Next, responsible persons from Mo Asia Co Ltd (DUMEX) presented K 200,000 to the MNMA chariperson.

Chairperson of MNMA Professor Dr Daw Nan Htwam Hla receives cash assistance from responsible person of Mo Asia Co Ltd (DUMEX).—MNA

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects 500-ton Nay Pyi Taw cement plant project (Taungphila).—INDUSTRY-1

Mayor looks into laying of new pavements

YANGON, 19 Sept—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning looked into laying of new pavements on Anawrahta Road near the junction of Anawrahta Road and Shweboontha Street and cleaning of creeping plants on the buildings in Pabedan Township. The Mayor also viewed laying of new pavements on Maha Bandoola Street near the junction of Maha Bandoola Street and 14th Street in Lammadaw Township laying of new pavements on Maha Bandoola Street near the junction of Maha Bandoola Street and SintOdan Street, repaving of SintOdan street in Latha Township and laying of new pavements on Maha Bandoola Street in Pabedan Township and left necessary instructions.—MNA

Earthquake News

YANGON, 19 Sept—The Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced that a moderate earthquake of intensity (5.8) Richter Scale with its epicenter about (2300) miles south-east of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory outside of Myanmar (Indonesia) was recorded at (5) hrs (36) min (57) sec MST on 19 September 2009.—MNA
Russia hails US missile overhaul

Moscow, 19 Sept — Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has welcomed as “positive” the US decision to shelve controversial missile defence bases in Poland and the Czech Republic. Mr. Medvedev said there were now “good conditions” for US-Russia talks on tackling missile proliferation. US President Barack Obama had earlier announced there would be a shift in US missile defence strategy, following a review of the threat posed by Iran.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said it was a “correct and brave” move. However, US Republicans have called the decision “short-sighted” and “harmful”. Some said it was a concession to Moscow with nothing in return.

Indonesia police: DNA test confirms Noordin death

JAKARTA, 19 Sept — DNA tests have confirmed it was Southeast Asia terrorist leader Noordin Top who was killed days ago in a shootout with police. Indonesian police said on Saturday. Police used fingerprints to identify Noordin’s body after a gun battle at a safe house in central Java on Thursday. DNA tests have confirmed those findings, National Police spokesman Nanan Sukarna said. “There’s no longer any doubt,” Sukarna said.

Last month, authorities initially believed a terror suspect killed by police was Noordin, but DNA tests proved otherwise. Police say Noordin, a Malaysian national, planned the 2002 and 2005 suicide bombings on the resort island of Bali and the 17 July attacks on the JW Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels in Jakarta.

Iraq and Syria at talks in Turkey

ISTANBUL, 19 Sept — The foreign ministers of Iraq and Syria have met for talks in Turkey to defuse tensions following a diplomatic row. The neighbours recalled their envoys last month after a series of bomb attacks in Baghdad that killed nearly 100 people. Iraq alleged that Syria was harbouring the attacks’ masterminds.

Turkey has been acting as broker between the two, who only revived diplomatic links in 2006 after more than 20 years of mutual hostility. Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said there was “determination to co-operate in uncovering all facts behind these barbarian attacks against the Iraqi government and people”. Near-simultaneous bomb attacks struck the finance, foreign and defence ministries in the heart of Baghdad on 19 August 2009.

Colombia moves to dismantle domestic spy agency

BOGATA, 19 Sept — After a wiretapping scandal, Colombia’s domestic spy department will be dismantled and a new agency will be set up to focus on intelligence and counter-intelligence work involving national security, the nation’s spy chief said on Friday.

Felipe Munoz Gomez said the majority of the current agency’s 6,000 employees will be transferred to the criminal investigative unit of the police and other investigative bodies.

On Thursday, President Alvaro Uribe said for the first time that he favored eliminating the DAS spy agency.

Uribe previously talked of the need to restructure the troubled department.

Damaged Italian military vehicles are seen at the site of a suicide car bomb attack targeting an Italian military convoy in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 17 Sept, 2009. —INTERNET

Iraq rush hour market bomb kills seven

BAGHDAD, 19 Sept — A bomb planted in a busy market in the Iraqi town of Mahmudiya, south of Baghdad, killed at least seven people and wounded 21 on Friday, police said.

The explosion shattered a relatively calm holy Muslim month of Ramadan, which ends this weekend and has been a favourite militant target in past years. It struck just as town residents were shopping for food to break their fast.

Colombia’s domestic spy department will be

Shooting in Mexico City

SUBWAY KILLS AT LEAST TWO

MEXICO CITY, 19 Sept — A man shooting a managn in a downtown subway station pulled out a gun and began shooting when confronted by police Friday, killing at least two people and wounding five before being shot and subdued by officers.

Mexico City Attorney General Miguel Angel Mancera said a passenger and a police officer were killed at the Balderas subway station, near the Ciudadela crafts market. He said six people, including the shooter, were wounded. Mancera identified the gunman as Luis Felipe Hernandez Castillo, 38, and said he was armed carrying a .38-caliber revolver. The gunman was writing on the station walls with a black marker when a police officer confronted him, Mancera said. He said the man fatally shot the officer and a civilian who tried to stop him, and then ran to a subway car where he released his gun and kept firing until other police officers shot him and captured him.

Onlookers gather at the site of a shooting attack at the Balderas subway station in downtown Mexico City, on 18 Sept, 2009. —INTERNET

Colombia’s domestic spy department will be
Panama Canal to invest some $800 m in 2010

Panama City, 19 Sept —The Authorities of the Panama Canal (ACP) reported Friday that its investment budget for 2010 will be of 792 million US dollars. ACP Directive Broad president Romulo Roux said that money will contribute to modernize the canal during this period, which goes from 1 Oct, 2009 to 30 Sept, 2010. “This budget allows executing expansion plans and modernization of the canal during the coming fiscal term,” Roux told the Press on Friday. The ACP estimates that during 2010 it will get incomes for fees of 1.525 billion dollars, from some 14,239 ships using the canal. On Wednesday, the Panamanian National Assembly approved the Canal’s budget for the term. —Xinhua

‘Barcodes’ tackle bush meat trade

LONDON, 19 Sept—Researchers have developed a new tool in the fight against the illegal hunting and trading of wild animals. “We can use a small sequence of DNA as a species identifier in the same way as a barcode,” says George Amato of the American Museum of Natural History.

The technique can accurately identify an animal species, even once it has processed and turned into meat or other products. The illegal trade in bush meat has grown dramatically over recent years. Hunting for income or subsistence is traditional in Asia, South and Central America and West and Central Africa.

There is also increasing international demand for meat and other products from “exotic” wild animals. The trade is difficult to monitor but estimated to be worth billions of dollars a year. Knowing the species can help trace where an animal is from, and therefore help determine whether the hunting and killing was illegal. Along with traditional techniques like education, it could help control the trade.

Brazil talks plantation drive into Amazon rainforest

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Sept —The Brazilian government has unveiled plans to ban sugar cane plantations in environmentally sensitive areas. The proposal, which must be passed by Congress, comes amid concerns that Brazil’s developing biofuels industry is increasing Amazon deforestation.

Environment Minister Carlos Minc said the measures would mean ethanol made from sugar cane would be “100% green”. The government agenda is becoming more environmentally friendly ahead of the 2010 presidential poll, analysts say.

The plans unveiled by Mr Minc would limit sugar cane plantations to 7.5% of Brazilian territory or 64m hectares, and prevent the clearing of new land for the crop.

The proposed legislation, expected to be put to Congress next year, would also prohibit the building of ethanol distillation plants in food-growing areas or in the vast wetlands of the Pantanal, on Brazil’s border with Bolivia.

Brazilians say they are not interested in exporting to Cuba agriculture, livestock and industrial products, since Nicaragua is an important agriculture producer.

The commission will also discuss Cuba’s support to the Nicaraguan government’s social projects, like the literacy campaign, the ophthalmologic surgeries and health programs.

Nicaragua, Cuba evaluate expansion of cooperation

MANAGUA, 19 Sept —Nicaragua and Cuba on Friday set a joint commission here to evaluate the expansion of bilateral cooperation. Nicaraguan Development, Industry and Commerce Minister Orlando Solis told the press that the bilateral initiative “answers the cooperation wills and the possibilities of both countries to develop cooperation projects in different areas.” —Xinhua

California’s unemployment rate reaches new high in August

LOS ANGELES, 19 Sept —Unemployment rate in California climbed to 12.2 percent in August, setting a new modern record, authorities announced on Friday. The new statistics was registered as an — increase from July’s rate of 11.9 percent and 7.6 percent in August 2008. The number of unemployed people in California climbed by 49,000 in August, bringing the number of unemployed to 2.2 million.

It’s also more than 850,000 additional unemployed people since last year, when the unemployment rate was 7.6 percent in August 2008, according to the state Employment Development Department.

Manufacturing, trade, business services, leisure and other services led the state in job losses.

The national unemployment rate was 9.7 percent in August, down from 9.4 percent in July, and 6.2 percent in August 2008. —Xinhua

UN report says global economic crisis not over yet, at least for the poor

UNITED NATIONS, 19 Sept—Despite “green shoots” of recovery, the world economic financial and economic crisis is still not over yet, at least for the millions of the most vulnerable who cannot make the ends meet everyday, the United Nations warned on Friday. “The ‘near poor’ are becoming the ‘new poor’,” UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro told reporters in New York at the launch of the Voices of the Vulnerable: the Economic Crisis from the Ground Up report.

The crisis, the worse of its kind since the 1930s, continues to push millions of people into poverty and is reversing some of the hard-won development gains of the past decade, the report said. “Workers in both the formal and informal sectors are being badly hit, particularly in manufacturing, commerce and construction,” said Migiro, before quoting one construction worker who said that the “monster” economic crisis is “devouring the poor.” She added that migrants are finding their situation increasingly precarious, with forecasts predicting that remittances to developing countries will be reduced by over seven percent this year. —Xinhua

Critics say plantations are pushing further into the rainforest

Internet

Brazil eyes Amazon sugar cane ban

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The proposed legislation, expected to be put to Congress next year, would also prohibit the building of ethanol distillation plants in food-growing areas or in the vast wetlands of the Pantanal, on Brazil’s border with Bolivia.

Brazil, the world’s top producer of sugar, has long championed ethanol as an environmentally friendly source of energy but concerns have grown over its potential hazards. —Internet

Brazil to be world’s top five economy

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Sept—Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Friday that abundant natural resources might help the country become the world’s third largest economy in the near future. The recently discovered pre-salt oil and gas reserves may help the country achieve this goal.

Lula said: “In 10 or 15 years, this country will be the third, or the fourth largest economy in the world, or the fifth if it does not have luck.” Lula said at the inauguration of a project in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul. The government has to improve the quality of education in the country, as well as the economic situation of the poor, with the pre-salt revenues, Lula said.—Xinhua
Bulgaria, Russia agree to create South Stream working groups

SOFIA, 19 Sept — Bulgaria and Russia agreed Friday to create common working groups to prepare details of the “South Stream” natural gas pipeline project. Bulgaria Economy, Energy and Tourism Minister, Traicho Traikov, and Russia Energy Minister, Sergei Shmatko, held talks in Sofia on Friday regarding the future of the South Stream gas pipeline, Belene Nuclear Power Plant and Burgas — Alexandroupolis oil pipeline projects.

With regard to the “South Stream,” Russia and Bulgaria have agreed to establish two joint working groups, one of which will work on the terms of the shareholders’ agreement of the project company for the project, while the other will work on preparing the guidelines for the tender for a feasibility study, Traikov announced.

He continued that “for the Belene nuclear power plant we also reached a common understanding that the project has so far been led in a way that was not beneficial to its success and that now we need a clear and transparent financing structure - this is what we will do from now on.” “We are starting this process, by the end of it we will have a clear position on what part of the project we want to keep and what will be presented to interested investors. Russian companies will not be discriminated against in the process,” Traikov concluded.

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Women account for majority of Brazil's population

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 Sept — Brazil’s population is composed of mostly females, according to the National Household Sample Survey (Pnad) released Friday by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).

The survey, which was based on 2008 figures, found that 51.3 percent of Brazil’s 189.9 million inhabitants, while males account for 48.7 percent.

The IBGE stated that the birth rate of boys is higher than that of girls. However, while women have a longer lifespan, the number of males is lower in the country. In addition to the higher number of men who die from health problems, the number of males killed in acts of violence and in motor vehicle accidents is also higher, causing women to be the majority of the population.

Black and mixed-race citizens are also the majority of the Brazilian population, according to the Pnad.

— Xinhua

Mexican state calls for army help after floods

MEXICO CITY, 19 Sept — Mexico’s east coastal state Veracruz Friday asked army soldiers for help, after 2,450 buildings were flooded in Xalapa, capital of the state. “We have had an unprecedented rainy season in Xalapa. There have been nine days and nine nights of intense rain, a great deluge,” State Governor Fidel Herrera told media on Friday during a tour in the affected areas.

Around 40 localities have been hit in the city and some now have water 1.5 meters deep. Five houses have collapsed due to weak foundations and 15 schools have been closed due to flood damage. On Thursday, authorities reported that some 18,000 people in Veracruz had lost contact with the outside world due to strong rains while 17 areas in the state reported landslides, which blocked highways and stranded 35 towns.

— Xinhua

293 kg of cocaine seized in Dominican Republic

HAVANA, 19 Sept — Authorities of the Dominican Republic announced Friday a large haul of narcotics and cash was found in two operations. Altogether, the police found 293 kg of cocaine and 167,160 US dollars. According to information reaching here from Santo Domingo, the seizure was carried out on Thursday night during a joint operation of the National Direction of Drug Control (DNCD), the Central Anti-narcotic Direction from the National Police and the Public Ministry. According to DNCD President Rolando Rosado Mateo, the drugs were seized in Buena Vista district in the capital, and the money was seized in Benny district, also in the capital. Rosado said that a large number of officers had participated in the operation, who acted on intelligence which had taken 10 days to gather.

— Xinhua

5.4 m Mexicans take part in quake simulation exercise

MEXICO CITY, 19 Sept — About 5.4 million residents of Mexico City took part in an earthquake simulation exercise that evacuated 12,142 buildings, head of the city’s Civil Protection Department (SPC) Elias Moreno Brizuela said on Friday. Around 12,000 police, 2,000 firefighters and 500 SPC staff were mobilized for the exercise on Friday, Brizuela said, adding that the Red Cross, local volunteer group the Emergency Medical Rescue Squadron had also participated. Emergency services practiced rescue works at the National Lottery building in Mexico City’s biggest avenue, Reforma, while paramedics evacuated people with injuries that would be consistent with a building collapse.

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— Xinhua
Japan mulls Afghan role after
dropping naval mission

TOKYO, 19 Sept—The Japanese government is considering a new role in Afghanistan, after dropping a naval refuelling mission in the Indian Ocean, a media report said on Saturday. Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama is keen to offer agricultural aid and other assistance aimed at stabilising the economic and social situation in the violence-torn nation, the Yomiuri Shimbun said. Hatoyama took office on Wednesday after his centre-left Democratic Party of Japan scored a massive election victory, ousting the conservative Liberal Democratic Party. Hatoyama, who formed a coalition with two smaller parties, campaigned on a promise of sweeping change, including stopping Japan’s Indian Ocean mission providing fuel to US-led forces operating in Afghanistan.

Washington has asked Japan to propose alternatives to the mission by November, when President Barack Obama visits Japan. The Yomiuri said, citing unnamed sources. Internet

Quake rocks NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 19 Sept—An earthquake of 5.3 magnitude rocked Swat, Peshawar and several other areas of Pakistan’s North West Frontier Province on Saturday, local TV channel reported. Met. Department said the epicenter of the quake was in Hindukush mountain range of Afghanistan. There has been no report of casualties so far. —Xinhua

Italian scientists announce cancer-related discovery

ROMI, 19 Sept—Italian scientists announced on Friday a step forward in developing an early warning system to prevent tumors from forming. The study, published in Friday’s issue of the scientific journal Cell, by a team of biologists at the University of Siena, shows how a complex interaction of proteins regulates the replication of DNA. These proteins are produced by a pair of genes known to give rise to cancerous cells when they mutate. The team of researchers, lead by microbiologist Salvatore Oliverio, said that changes in these proteins could give away a cancerous cell in the making. According to a statement from the experts, “this represents an important step in understanding the codes and signals for a number of cellular processes so that we can intervene in case of irregularities.” —Xinhua

Quake rocks NW Pakistan

Some injuries after quake near Indonesia’s Bali

JAKARTA, 19 Sept—An earthquake struck offshore from Indonesia’s island of Bali on Saturday, causing some injuries, the meteorology agency and the health ministry said. Officials said no tsunami warning had been issued, but the quake at around dawn was felt strongly on the resort island. At least seven people were injured, some hit by falling debris from buildings and others after jumping from high floors, said Rustam Pakaya, an official at Indonesia’s health ministry. The roof of a shopping mall in the island’s capital of Denpasar also collapsed, the official said. “When the quake happened I was in a market and some people started shouting and running out of the market building, leaving their belongings behind,” said Putu Svaratana, a resident in Singaraja in Bali. He said lumps swayed violently after the quake. The quake measured 6.4 on the Richter scale and its epicentre was 101 km (62.76 miles) southeast of Nusa Tenggara at a depth of 36 km. The meteorology agency said Indonesia suffers frequent earthquakes lying in an area of intense seismic activity where several tectonic plates meet. A quake killed at least 57 and destroyed thousands of homes in the hills of West Java on 2 Sept, also causing panic and some damage in the capital Jakarta. —Internet

Changes of Gongchen Bridge in E China over years

With a length of 98 meters and a height of 16 meters, the Gongchen Bridge in Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province, is the landmark and the southmost terminal of the Hangzhou section of Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal. It dates back to 1631 in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and was rebuilt in 1881 in the Qing Dynasty (1636-1911). Silk and cotton factories were launched here in 1950s and 1960s, bringing prosperity to the area along the canal. Nevertheless, the plants underwent a decline since the moving of the factories in 1990s. Things have been changed from 2000. The area along the canal became a zone housing a thriving artist and designer community in 2003.

NC doctor removes plastic fragment lodged in lung

Doctors say a North Carolina man who was plagued with coughing fits should be OK now that they have removed a 1-inch piece of plastic from his lung, where it had rested since he apparently inhaled it nearly two years ago while sucking down a soft drink at a Wendy’s restaurant.

Doctors at Duke University Medical Center say the plastic fragment of an eating utensil — with the Wendy’s logo still legible on the side — was likely to blame for the coughing, fatigue and pneumonia spells that plagued John Manley for almost two years.

Coldest place in the solar system? Right nearby

Astromomers have found the coldest spot in our solar system and it may be a little close for comfort. It’s on our moon, right nearby. NASA’s new Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter is making the first complete temperature map of the moon. It found that at the moon’s south pole, it’s colder than far away Pluto. The area is inside craters that are permanently shadowed so they never see sun.

“It’s sort of like a faint glow and that’s your only source of heat,” said David Paige, a University of California, Los Angeles, scientist who is part of the NASA team. “Right here in our own backyard are definitely the coldest things we’ve seen in real measurements.”

Temperatures there were measured at 397 degrees below zero. That’s just 62 degrees higher than the lowest temperature possible.

People unfold a gigantic flag at Teddy Football stadium in Jerusalem, on 17 Sept 2009. The 44,404-square-meter flag, which costs $120,000, was finished by six workers in 120 days. The flag was stamped by Guinness World Records when it was first unfolded in the Philippines on 11 April, 2009.

This undated image provided by NASA, taken by NASA’s Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, shows the crater called Faustini, upper, center, on the south pole of the moon, where temperatures reached 397 degrees below zero. Some of those coldest temperatures in the solar system were measured in the crater called Faustini. Astronomers have found the coldest spot in our solar system and it may be a little close for comfort.

It’s on our moon, right nearby.

Temperatures there were measured at 397 degrees below zero. That’s just 62 degrees higher than the lowest temperature possible.

This 2007 photo shows Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force’s oil tanker “Tokiwa” (right) during a fueling mission in the Indian Ocean. New Japanese government is considering a new role in Afghanistan, after dropping the controversial refuelling mission. —Internet
Today’s vehicles and motorways in Myanmar (1)

Articles: Kayan Soe Myint, Photos: Ministry of Construction

Myanmar, situated in South-East Asia, is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It shares borders with the People’s Republic of China, Thailand, Laos, Bangladesh and India. It has an area of more than 260,000 square miles. It is the most beautiful country in SEA as it is surrounded by high snow-capped mountains and offshore seas in addition to rivers such as Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin and Sittoung.

Public Works and Housing Construction after Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Department and Sanitation Engineering Department of the Public Works merged with Housing Board in 1954. It was reorganized as the Ministry of Construction in 1972.

**Background of the Ministry of Construction**

Public Works Department (PWD) was established in 1888 and it was formed with Road/Building Branch and Irrigation Branch. The Road/Building Branch was transferred to Diarchy Government in 1922. After World War II, the formation of the department was extended to district and township levels for rehabilitation works. In 1951, Housing Board was set up and it took over the construction works of Public Works Department. The Public Works Department was renamed Highway Department in 1952. Ministry of Housing Construction was established since there had been a lot of works to carry out. The Ministry of Housing Construction was renamed the Ministry of Public Works and Housing Construction.

Public Works Corporation was established in 1965 after the merger of Highway Department set up in 1952 and 21 Civil Engineering Departments under other ministries. It was reorganized as Construction Corporation (CC) in 1972 and Public Works emerged on 1 April, 1988.

The Ministry of Construction has expedited building new roads and upgrading existing ones year after year. Although there were 13,635 miles of road in 1988, there were 19,999 miles and one furlong in 2009. A total 984 miles of Mule tracks are being maintained.

 sạn (To be continued)

Translation: YM
Strengthening nation’s workforce through amnesty

U Myo Myint (Law)

The people of a nation can become affluent with a high standard of living only if the nation is a sovereign, independent one. If so, the people can do their bit with heart and soul in the tasks for development of their country, harnessing natural resources. If a country loses its sovereignty to colonialists, all the natural resources, agricultural produce, industrial products and gem lands will fall into the hands of alieners. The people will be under oppression, torture and exploitation, and they will all stay far below the poverty line. Myanmar people were under the rule of the British colonialists for over a century. If the nation is independent but the people remain discontent with constant riots and armed struggle, the people, like being under the yoke of alien subjugation, will go through the hell of hardships and adversities. The nation will be far distant from development and the people will not have their basic needs fulfilled. Innocent people will be in a state of panic and fear for their lives. The whole environment will be covered with smell of cordite, instead of fresh air. Myanmar people encountered such sufferings for more than half a century. And if the nation is independent and free from internal armed insurgency, the people will be able to enjoy economic growth through free trade, and lead a peaceful life. The development momentum of the nation will be on the increase. Getting on with their businesses, the people will be able to make charities on a large scale very often. And if the nation is independent and free from the external and internal armed insurgency, the people will be able to enjoy economic growth through free trade, and lead a peaceful life. The development momentum of the nation will be on the increase. Getting on with their businesses, the people will be able to make charities on a large scale very often.

Commitment of such crimes mainly harms the people. So, the government has promulgated Criminal Law and Penal Law to protect the people, possessives, property, limbs, life and dignity. The government not only promulgates Offence Law and Special Offence Law to protect the people against harms, but also charges offenders on behalf of the public. Courts have to pronounce punitive punishments in order that the offenders will not commit the crimes again.

There are many habitual criminals, whereas some commit crimes out of hardships, inevitability, and circumstance. In Western industrialized countries, there is a great gap of wealth between the rich and the poor. The poor commit crimes in desperation. There, films and novels somehow equip the people with a sense of criminal behaviour, thus leading to criminal cases. Some commit crimes out of their violent behaviour.

In Western countries, many are staging protests for freedom of drug abuse. They abuse narcotic drugs as a matter of course. Arms are available on roadside stalls in the evening. If an order is placed, arms are distributed by post. The people can get arms easily, so going on a shooting spree is common out of anger and due to insanity. Those countries have to deal with over 20 million cases involving the use of guns every year.

Unlike in those countries, the majority of the criminal cases in Myanmar are incidental ones due to the teachings of parents, teachers and religion, correct guidance of publications, and gentle nature and attitude of the people. In the period between the time of the Anti-Fascist People’s Freedom League government and the time of the Revolutionary Council government issued amnesties with the aim of achieving national reconciliation. Tens of thousands of prisoners were released under the amnesties. Capital punishments were commuted into life sentences. Prisoners were granted amnesties for the sake of their better lives and future of their families.

Just after coming to power, the Revolutionary Council government planned to introduce the country Socialism, free from pernicious systems characterized by exploitation of man by man, for better living standard of workers and peasants. In March 1963, the chairman of the Revolutionary Council had a meeting with prisoners at Yangon Jail on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Yangon. He said that he thought if asked they would respond that they had committed crimes due to poverty, that the government did not want to put them behind bars, but it had to do so and fed them in prison; that so the government would set up a new system with which it would be able to fulfill the basic needs of the public; and that the prisoners on their part were to do their bit with a sense of duty in reconstructing the nation. He dissuaded them from committing crimes again. He granted amnesty for prisoners. Then, Yangon Jail was dismantled under his instruction.

Then, the armed groups were invited to a peace talk. You will still remember that, I think. In 1980 the government granted a general amnesty for thousands of prisoners after the All Ganas of Sangha Meeting had been successfully held. Internal and external insurgents and groups were invited to return to the legal fold. Leftist and rightist veteran politicians living abroad were invited and politicians released from prison. At that time, the people were happy to see a gathering of independence patriots. There were songs of peace and unity. However, they did not last long.

After assuming State duties on 18 September 1988, the Tatmadaw granted amnesties many times and released thousands of prisoners. National reconciliation was built. Seventeen major armed groups and over 20 small armed groups returned to the legal fold and made peace with the State. With the prevalence of peace, remarkable progress was made in all sectors of the whole Union including border and rural areas.

The National Convention with the participation of national brethren from all walks of life adopted sound principles for the new constitution. These are good examples of unity, amity and mutual trust and confidence among the national people and that was made known to the world.

Unlike in the previous eras, the present government side by side with the national race peace groups and national people is building a democratic nation while striving to ensure peace and stability of the Union and development of the State. Now the fourth step of the seven-step Road Map has been completed. This is due to the strength and unity of the national people based on Union Spirit.

In the not-too-distant future, a democratic nation will surely emerge for the Myanmar people. Therefore, the united, active national people have to continue to work together sparing no effort. In the not-too-distant future, a democratic nation will surely emerge for the Myanmar people. Therefore, the united, active national people have to continue to work together sparing no effort.
**Press meet on private-owned health care services held**

**Yangon, 18 Sept**—Organized by Yangon Division Health Committee, a press meet on private-owned health care services was held at the hall of University of Public Health this afternoon. Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council U Khin Maung Tun made an address and Deputy Director-General Dr Kyee Myint of Health Department explained matters related to applying licence for private-owned health care services.

First, the commander delivered an opening address and the chairman of Finance and Prize Presentation Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe and officials concerned accepted the cash donated by well-wishers, and presented certificates of honour to them.—MNA

**Commander attends first cash donation ceremony for Performing Arts Competitions**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Sept**—Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin on 10 September attended the ceremony of the first cash donation to hold the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

**Talks on Computer Networking Opportunity with Cisco held**

**Yangon, 18 Sept**—With the aim of developing information and communication technology and the computer networking technology, talks on Computer Networking Opportunity with Cisco, organized by NetInfo technology training centre, was held at Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township this morning. Marketing Manager U Zeyar Oo of NetInfo explained the purpose of holding the talks. Lecturer U Aung Myo gave talks on guidelines for the youth to seek CCNA Network certificate and studying the curriculum with the use of software simulators.—MNA

**Minister inspects development tasks in Pyapon Township**

**Yangon, 19 Sept**—Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing met with chairmen of Ward Peace and Development Councils, townswelders and locals from Kadaung, Kape, Yekyaw and Phoshantawsu villages at Kadaung village on 14 September and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister presented K 300,000 and 50 corrugated iron sheets to build Dhammayon and K 200,000 for maintenance of the village bridge.

After that, officials accepted K 100,000 for renovation of the bridge donated by Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, clothes, mosquito nets and medicines by Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin.

Furthermore, the minister viewed the thriving monsoon paddies plantations along the road by boat. The minister met with the chairmen of Ward Peace and Development Councils and townswelders at Thapyaykan Basic Education Primary School and he presented K 1.3 million for maintenance of Kadaung Village bridge and Thapyaykan village bridge and to buy the boats.—MNA

**Vice-Chairman of Bago Division PDC looks into regional development tasks**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Sept**—Vice-Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Sein Myint on 7 September met with local farmers at Alotawya village-tract in Pyay Township and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the vice chairman looked into Myarkuawin dam and left necessary instructions.

On 8 September, he attended the discussion on uplifting of skilled person’s efficiency and promoting of birth rate and teachership course held at Bago Division Peace and Development Affairs office and gave an opening speech.

Brig-Gen Sein Myint also attended International Literacy Day held at No-3 Basic Education High School. Afterwards, Brig-Gen Sein Myint and officials presented prizes to winner students and viewed the booths to mark International Literacy Day.—MNA

**Basic Clerical Course No (130) concludes**

**Yangon, 18 Sept**—The concluding ceremony of Basic Clerical Course No (130) took part at the parade ground of Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this morning with an address by Rector U Win Maung. The rector presented prizes to the outstanding trainees and completion certificates to the trainees.—MNA

**Objectives of the 17th 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 morale and morality of the entire nation
3. Uplift of dynamism of genuine patriotic spirit based on national unity
4. Emergence of new generations who will preserve and safeguard national character
Commander meets local farmers in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Sept—Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye on 9 September met with Chairmen of Village Peace and Development Councils and local farmers in Aung Myay Township at the meeting hall of the township.

First, the commander delivered an address and coordinated regional development tasks reported by officials. At the hall of station, he viewed military code of conduct of officers and servicemen from battalions and units under Western Command and wall magazine.

On 11 September, the commander attended the coordination meeting for upgrading of roads and bridges in Rakhine State and gave an address. And then he gave necessary instructions on ongoing tasks presented by officials.

MNA

Commander carries out regional development tasks in Shwebo District

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Sept—Chairman of Sago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe on 14 September arrived at Shwebo in Shwebo District and looked into repaving of Maha Bandoosla street and paving of gravel at the corner of railway station street and left necessary instructions.

Next, the commander inspected extending of pipelines laying tasks from Maha Nanda lake in Shwebo and the officials presented completion tasks to him.

After that, he also looked into Chlorine factory, construction of roof over the water-filter tank and incoming of water to the lake.

On the arrival of Lepanplaka Village in KhinOo Township, the commander also inspected construction progress of bridge in the Village and paddy fields in Gwaygoon nursery farm of the seed branch under Myanmar Agriculture Service in Gwaygoon village and gave necessary instructions.

At Moksi Village in YeY Township, he released fingerlings put onto the paddy fields.

Afterwards, the commander viewed Ngwechit cotton plan-tation in Sgpyin village in Dabyin Township and met with cotton growers and attended to the needs.—MNA

DY Minister of Construction inspects No 2 concrete jetty

YANGON, 19 Sept—Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe arrived at Kanaung hall of management office of Shwelinpan Industrial Town in Hlinethaya today.

Director-General of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Aung Win and Deputy Chief Engineer of Myanma Port Authority U Kyaw Oo reported on matters related to No 2 concrete jetty built on Seikkantha street in Shwelinpan Industrial Town of Hlinethaya Township and the deputy minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, the Deputy minister inspected construction site of No 2 concrete jetty.—MNA

Construction of paper mills, bricks factories inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Sept—Minister for Industry-U Aung Thaung inspected the construction of 20-ton Cardboard Paper Mill of Yeni No (2) paper mill under Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries on 17 September. The minister heard reports on the matters related to the projects presented by Managing Director U Yi Mon and officials concerned.


The Brick factory (Pantin) project will produce 50,000 bricks per day. The plan is under way to produce 150,000 bricks a day. So, the factory will produce 50 million bricks a year.

Afterwards, the minister inspected the construction sites of Nay Pyi Taw Brick factory (Minkon) under Myanmar Ceramics Industries and gave the instructions. On completion of the project, the factory will produce 150,000 quality bricks daily and 50 million bricks yearly.

MNA

Commander looks into Pathein-Monywa road, embankments

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Sept—Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe on 11 September arrived at YekyiY-Youktha in Yekyi Township. The commander also inspected construction progress of bridge in the Village and paddy fields in Gwaygoon nursery farm of the seed branch under Myanmar Agriculture Service in Gwaygoon village and gave necessary instructions.

At Kanzunkhun village-tract, officials presented ongoing tasks to the commander.

Next, the commander met teachers, members of the School Board of Trustees at Basic Education High School in Kanaung and donated cash assistance.

On arrival at Nagpiseik village, he also met with jute growers at buying centre under Myanmar Jute Enterprise and heard reports on development tasks of officials.

He looked into Nyaungkyo Village library in Ingapu Township and met with local people at BEHS.

Afterwards, the commander inspected villages on the bank of Ayeyawady river and Ngawun river, water course and embankments.

International Literacy Day observed in Loikaw

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Sept—Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Win Myint attended the ceremony to mark the International Literacy Day at the city hall in Loikaw Township, Kayah State, on 8 September and delivered an address.

Next, the chairman and officials presented the awards to the winners in the essay and poster competition and he viewed the prize winning works.

After that, the chairman attended the departmental level work coordination meeting at the Kayah State PDC Office. At the meeting, officials reported on progress of their work and the chairman gave necessary instructions.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe looks into No. 2 concrete jetty in Shwelinpan Industrial Town of Hlinethaya Township.—CONSTRUCTION
Russia navy considering buying French-built ship

MOSCOW, 19 Sept—Russia has been negotiating the possible purchase of a military ship built in France, a Russian deputy defense minister said Saturday.

Vladimir Popovkin said it’s too early to say whether an agreement for buying a Mistral-class helicopter carrier can be reached, but he added that it could mark an important step in modernizing the Russian navy.

If a deal goes through, it would be the first foreign ship that Russia’s navy has bought in decades, and the first-ever from a NATO member nation.

Popovkin told Ekho Moskvy radio Saturday that along with the ship Russia was seeking to acquire technologies that would help Russia build its own warships.

“We are discussing the ship’s purchase and, at the same time, we are talking about having facilities to produce such ships in Russia,” he said.

He said that French shipbuilders strongly oppose the purchase.

Popovkin said that the government is yet to make a decision on whether Russia needs to buy costly aircraft carriers.

Engineer found dead in car in Delhi

NEW DELHI, 19 Sept—A 23-year-old engineer was found dead and a teenage girl, with whom he had a relationship, was found unconscious in a car in Outer Delhi early this morning, police said.

Dinesh Gupta and the 17-year-old girl got trapped inside the car with its AC on after the vehicle ran out of petrol in Punjabi Colony of Narela at around 12.30 am, a senior police official said.

“Could not open the door before carbon dioxide got filled inside the car. After sometime Gupta managed to open the doors. In a semi-conscious state he came out but fell down resulting in his death,” the official said. The girl, a student, survived the incident as Gupta opened the doors and oxygen supply was restored, he said.

She is recuperating in a hospital. Both are residents of Punjabi Colony in Narela.

Marty becomes a tropical depression in the Pacific

MIAMI, 19 Sept—Marty is weakening in the Pacific off the coast of Mexico and is now a tropical depression.

The National Hurricane Center says Marty’s maximum sustained winds decreased to near 35 mph (55 kph) on Saturday morning. The system is expected to continue to lose strength and should become a remnant low in a day or so.

Marty is centered about 445 miles (715 kilometers) west of the southern tip of Mexico’s Baja California peninsula. The system is moving west-northwest near 9 mph (15 kph).

UN probes use of its vehicles in Somalia bombing

NAIROBI, 19 Sept—The United Nations is investigating the use of its vehicles by suicide bombers who killed 17 African Union peacekeepers at their main base in Somalia, a senior official said on Saturday.

President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed’s government said on Friday Islamist rebels had seized more UN vehicles in readiness for suicide attacks.

UN vehicles have been used for a variety of projects,” Mark Bowden, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Somalia told Reuters.

Bowden said the UN had been given the chassis number of one of the vehicles used in the attack. “We are trying to trace whether it’s a UN vehicle,” he said.

Bowden said the attack on the peacekeepers’ base next to Mogadishu airport on Thursday would not weaken the UN’s resolve to deliver aid to half the Somali population but it could hamper operations on the ground.

French woman stabbed in knife attack in Beijing

BEIJING, 19 Sept—A Frenchwoman was attacked in Beijing near Tiananmen Square on Saturday, a French diplomat said in an attack that came two days after a man with a knife killed two and injured 14 in the same area.

Saturday’s attack occurred just before noon near the south end of Tiananmen Square, with police capturing the attacker on the spot, a spokesman for the French Embassy in Beijing told AFP.

“The attack was not serious, the woman was not hurt seriously and has already rejoined her tourist group,” the spokesman said, declining to identify the victim.

Xinhua news agency said the elderly French woman had been rushed to hospital after the attacker, identified as Dou Mingxiang, 41, from east China’s Jiangsu province, slashed her. Police are investigating the case, it added.

On Thursday, a 46-year-old man identified as Zhang Hua stabbed two people to death and wounded 14 others in Beijing, state media reported.
Downtown Los Angeles building caught in fire, no injury reported

Los Angeles, 19 Sept—A blaze in a high commercial building in southern Los Angeles was finally put out by firefighters early Friday morning with no one hurt, local fire department said. The fire broke out at around 12:30 am on the 1300 block of South Main Street, and the entire structure was bathed in smoke when 50 firefighters arrived at the spot. Los Angeles Fire spokesman Melissa Kelley said.

Parts of the roof caved in and fire shot out of the third floor, forcing firefighters work outside the 100-by-100 foot (929 square meters) mansion. Authorities declared a knockdown in about an hour and a half. Entire space of the third floor was totally destroyed in the flame. No injuries were reported. An investigation is ongoing, the authorities said.

Japan upbeat on economic recovery

Tokyo, 19 Sept—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) has given an upbeat assessment of the Japanese economy and hinted it may soon withdraw some emergency support measures. Along with other central banks around the world, the BOJ has been pumping money into the economy to help stimulate demand. The bank said that keeping these measures in place too long could hinder an "autonomous recovery."

On Thursday, the bank said the economy was showing signs of improvement. The Japanese economy emerged from recession in the second quarter of this year after four consecutive quarters of deep contraction. Despite the comments, leading Japanese stocks slipped slightly after consumer lender Aiful said it would ask creditors to let it delay repayments of around 280bn yen ($3.1bn; £1.9bn). The main Nikkei 225 index closed down 0.7%.

Yemen military to probe report of deadly strike on civilians

Washington, 19 Sept—Yemen's military opened an investigation on Friday into reports that an airstrike intended for Houthi rebels mistakenly struck and killed displaced Yemeni civilians, a Yemen Embassy spokesman in the United States said.

"We have been exercising strict precautions to minimize collateral civilian casualties and damage," said the spokesman, Mohammed Albashia. Thursday's strike was meant to target Houthi rebels in Amran Province, according to Yemeni government officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Houthi-Shiite rebels were fighting near the site, officials said.—Internet

UK turns down ‘jungle migrants’

London, 19 Sept—The UK Border Agency has rejected calls for Britain to accept some migrants from the illegal camp in Calais known as “the jungle”. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres had said the government should consider granting entry to those who already have large families in the UK.

He spoke after French officials said the camp would be shut down imminently. But the UK Border Agency said genuine asylum seekers should make their claim in the country where they enter Europe. An agency spokesman said: “People seeking asylum should make their claim in the country where they enter Europe. Authorities said.

Some 1,500 migrants live in very poor conditions outside Calais.—Internet

US reports 364 flu-related deaths, 4,569 hospitalizations in first half of September

Houston, 19 Sept—The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported on Friday that 364 people had died of influenza and pneumonia-associated complications in the first half of this month. Meanwhile, according to the latest statistics released by the CDC, 4,569 people across the country have been admitted to hospitals resulting from all types or subtypes of influenza, not just those from the A/H1N1 flu virus.

The agency said the data, based on reports by US States and territories by Sept. 15, shows that 21 states - most in the southeast region - had geographically widespread flu activity, nine states, including California and Texas, and Puerto Rico territory had regional influenza activity, 11 states — in the Midwest — and the District of Columbia had local flu activity, eight states — most in the central region — and Guam had sporadic flu activity, only one state, Rhode Island, reported no flu activity.

Egypt jails US ‘adoption’ couples

Cairo, 19 Sept — Two US couples have been jailed in Egypt for two years for trying to illegally adopt children. Iris Botros and her husband Louis Andros had been offered orphaned twins by a Coptic Christian church in Cairo. When they applied to take the children out of the country they were arrested for child trafficking. A second couple, Suzan Hagouf and her husband Medhat Metrias, were also sentenced along with several officials from the orphanage.

The case has laid bare the tangle of Egypt’s complicated adoption system based on Islamic law. In Egypt the adopting couple must be Egyptian, the name of the child must not be changed and the children should not be removed from the country. But customs are less clear when it comes to the Coptic minority.

In this case the court heard that a church orphanage in Cairo had supplied forged documents that Iris Botros had given birth to twins. The couple had donated $4,500 (£2,700) to the orphanage.

When they tried to get passports for the babies, whom they renamed Victoria and Alexander, embassy officials became suspicious. Faced with a DNA test, Botros, of joint US and Egyptian nationality, admitted she wasn’t the biological mother. Suzan Hagouf, who also has joint nationality, and her Egyptian husband Medhat Metrias had adopted children from the same orphanage more than a year ago. Three workers from the orphanage, including a nun, were all jailed for five years.—Internet

Tetanus kills 2,960

Lagos, 19 Sept — At least 2,960 children died as a result of tetanus infection in Nigeria between 2005 and 2006, Nigeria’s National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) said this week. Gladimeji Olayinka, NPHCDA’s southwest Nigeria’s zonal coordinator, disclosed this at the opening of a training program for officials in Ogun State, the Nigerian Tribune newspaper reported on Friday.

According to the official, the rate keeps increasing in the southwest region of Nigeria unlike the other geo-political zones. Olayinka said the training was connected with immunization program of pregnant women, women of child-bearing age and children under a year, adding that there must be concerted efforts in fighting the high rate of infection which had claimed many lives.

The coordinator said it was one of the training programs designed for Phase I Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination Campaign in Nigeria.
Swine flu vaccine share scheme

The nine countries that pledged on Thursday to make 10 percent of their A(H1N1) vaccine supply available to other countries in need. Production of swine flu vaccines will fall "substantially" short of the amount needed to protect the global population, the World Health Organization warned as the pandemic death toll rose. — Internet

Japan’s new unmanned space freighter has been safely berthed to the International Space Station (ISS). The H-II Transfer Vehicle (HTV) moved itself to within 10m of the ISS to allow itself to be grabbed by the platform’s robotic arm. The arm, operated from inside the station by astronauts Nicole Stott and Bob Thirsk, then moved the freighter to a docking port to lock it in place.

The HTV is carrying about 4.5 tonnes of supplies for the station. These stores include food, water, clothing, laptops and other equipment. The new vessel is one of Japan’s major contributions to the orbiting project and is part of the barter agreement it has with the other station partners to pay its way. The HTVs that follow in the coming years will play a crucial role in servicing the ISS after the US space shuttles are retired. This initial freighter was launched from the Tanegashima base in the south of Japan last week. — Internet

EPA approves new HIV test from Abbott Laboratories

WASHINGTON, 19 Sept—The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new test from Abbott Laboratories that detects both types of the virus that causes AIDS. The FDA says the company’s Abbott Prism HIV O Plus test can detect HIV types 1 and 2. HIV type 2 is mostly found in West Africa, while HIV type 1 consists of various subgroups found in both the US and West Africa.

The test runs on North Chicago, Ill.-based Abbott’s Prism system, an automated instrument also used to test blood for hepatitis. The new test will be used to screen for HIV in blood and organ donations. HIV attacks the body’s immune system, eventually causing AIDS. Just over 1.1 million Americans are estimated to have HIV and 232,000 do not know it, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. — Internet

CDC: First swine flu vaccines may be nasal spray

ATLANTA, 19 Sept—The first doses of swine flu vaccine may be the nasal spray version, government health officials said on Friday. The governor said there is a trick of vaccine will be available in early October, but on Friday they defined the size of that trick— an estimated 3.4 million doses. Currently it looks like all of them will be a nasal spray vaccine that is approved only for healthy people ages 2 to 49, said Dr. Jay Butler, an official with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The nasal spray, called FluMist, is not recommended for some of the people most in danger of severe swine flu complications. That includes pregnant women, children younger than 2, and people with asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases. However, it’s possible that some vaccine shots will become available by the first week of October as well, said Butler, chief of the CDC’s vaccine task force.

Flu shots are made of killed influenza virus, while FluMist is a live but weakened strain. The nasal spray is only approved in the United States, and is made by MedImmune, an AstraZeneca PLC subsidiary. Four other companies are making flu shots for the US. — Internet

Germany boosts terrorism alert level

BERLIN, 19 Sept—The German government raised its terrorism alert level after al Qaeda posted a video on the Internet threatening attacks in Germany if this month’s elections do not come out the way the terrorist organization wants.

“The federal elections offer a special [opportunity] for propaganda and active activity by terror groups,” the Interior Ministry said on Friday. “A new video posted on 18 September by al Qaeda underlines this. The security services have therefore increased the threat level, which leads to increased security measures especially at airports and railway stations.”

The ministry added that it has noted an uptick in threats against Germany by al Qaeda and other Islamist groups since the beginning of the year. In his nearly 26-minute video statement, a man identified as Bekay Harrach, using the pseudonym Abu Talha and speaking in German, says that, if the 27 September elections vote into power parties that do not pledge to pull German troops from Afghanistan, there will be a “rude awakening.” — Internet

WHO: Pandemic flu vaccine production to fall short

GENEVA, 19 Sept—Global production of swine flu vaccines will be “substantially less” than the previous maximum forecast of 94 million doses a week, the World Health Organization said on Friday.

The number of doses produced in a year will therefore fall short of the 4.9 billion doses the global health body previously hoped could be available for the pandemic, WHO spokesman Gregory Hartl told reporters in Geneva. — Internet

Improvements in VA endoscopic equipment use

WASHINGTON, 19 Sept—Inspections show that Veterans Department medical facilities have made significant progress on fixing endoscopic procedure problems that potentially exposed thousands to HIV and other infections. The VA’s inspector general said in a report released Friday that it did surprise visits to 128 medical facilities and that all were compliant in following procedures. It also said all but one showed it properly trained their staffs for using the devices. — Internet

Shirtmaker designs tie for your iPod

SYDNEY, 19 Sept—For bored commuters with already bulging pockets, a shirt design company has come up with the perfect solution to keep them entertained on the trip to work—a commuter tie with a hidden iPod storage pocket.

Thomas Pink, which has its flagship store on Jermyn Street, London, is introducing the Commuter Tie as part of its mainline for the autumn and winter 2009/2010 with the silk tie featuring a small pocket on the trip to work—a commuter tie with a hidden iPod storage pocket.

The new iPod nano, featuring a variety colours and a video camera, is shown at an Apple Inc special in San Francisco, California recently. — Internet

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SYDNEY, 19 Sept—For bored commuters with already bulging pockets, a shirt design company has come up with the perfect solution to keep them entertained on the trip to work—a commuter tie with a hidden iPod storage pocket.

Thomas Pink, which has its flagship store on Jermyn Street, London, is introducing the Commuter Tie as part of its mainline for the autumn and winter 2009/2010 with the silk tie featuring a small pocket on the reverse designed to hold an iPod nano or mp3 player.

“The music player is placed in the pocket to avoid having expensive devices on display or damaging the line of one’s suit,” the company said in a statement. An extra fabric loop keeps wires, including headphone wires, out of sight and close to the body. Thomas Pink, which has its flagship store on Jermyn Street, London, is owned by luxury goods group LVMH and has more than 80 boutiques and concessions in Europe, the United States and Asia. — Internet
Ferguson warns Tevez to expect hostile ManU reception

Tevez, but if he did he has done a good job of hiding that feeling amid the war of words between both camps ahead of this derby. The Scot admits he couldn’t care less if Tevez plays or not. claimed Emmanuel Adebayor is City’s best player and hinted that the Argentinian might be on the receiving end of some abuse from United supporters. Ferguson said: “We offered what they asked for (for Tevez) at the beginning, when he joined us it was 24 million pounds but he had obviously made his mind up.—Internet

Unbeaten Sampdoria home in on record start

Paris, 19 Sept— Lyon juggernaut heads for Paris campaign with a 1-0 victory at home to Serie A heavyweights Fiorentina on Wednesday. Bordeau’s title triumph last season left Lyon trophyless for the first time since 2000, but their performances in recent weeks suggest they are well placed to challenge for honours again and they go into Sunday’s game level on points with Bordeaux at the top of the table. “The team looks great to me,” said PSG goalkeeper Gregory Coupet of his former side Lyon, who he left after 11 years of service in 2006.—Internet

LEO Messi extends Barcelona deal

MADRID, 19 Sept— Argentine football star Lionel Messi signed a new contract with FC Barcelona on Friday. The 22-year-old, who many consider the best player in the world, has agreed a deal that will keep him with the current Primera Liga and Champions League holders until the end of June 2016, when he will be 29 years old. His previous contract was due to expire in June 2012. His previous contract had tied him to the club until 2014.

Leo was as receiving a considerable wage increase, Messi has also agreed to a substation increase to the buyout clause on his contract. Any club that now wants to buy him will have to pay 250 million euros. The previous clause was 150 million euros; no longer inaccessible, considering that Real Madrid paid 95 million euros for Cristiano Ronaldo this summer increase on his previous agreement. The agreement should put an end to rumors of interest from big spending English club Manchester City as well as ruling out any chance of a move to Real Madrid.—Xinhua

Bayern’s van Gaal looking for redeeming win

BERLIN, 19 Sept— Coach Louis van Gaal says his Bayern Munich side have a chance to redeem their poor start to the season providing they win Saturday’s Bundesliga showdown with Bavaria rivals Nuremberg. Having started the season without a win from their first three games, Bayern have finally hit some form with Bundesliga wins over defending champions Wolfsburg and Borussia Dortmund as well as a European win at Maccabi Haifa. Wednesday’s 3-0 win at Haifa got their Champions League campaign off to a flying start and Bayern’s poor start in the German league - which included a 2-1 defeat at minnows Mainz - could be forgiven if they beat Nuremberg.—Internet

Unbeaten Sampdoria home in on record start

ROME, 19 Sept—If Sampdoria beat lowly Siena at home on Sunday the Genoa based club will set a new club record of four straight wins at the start of a Serie A campaign. Sampdoria sit alongside neighbours Genoa and giants Juventus as the only teams with 100 percent records after three matches and while that will come as little surprise for the other two, for Sampdoria it constitutes a considerable improvement.

Wozniak advances at Quebec tennis

QUEBEC CITY, 19 Sept— Canada’s Aleksandra Wozniak cruised into the semi-finals and top seeded Russia Nadia Petrova withdrew from her quarter-final match at the WTA Bell Challenge with an illness. Instead of meeting Russia’s Petrova in the semis, Wozniak will face Hungarian Melinda Cink who was handed the win when Petrova did not start the second set because of a virus. Cink had won the first set in a tiebreak. Third seeded Wozniak easily defeated Russian Alla Kudryavtseva 6-1, 6-1 at the 220,000 dollar indoor hardcourt event. Meanwhile, fourth-seeded Lucie Safarova of Czech Republic beat wildcard Mattie Sands 6-3, 6-4 and eighth-seeded German Julia Goerges stopped American qualifier Lilia Osterloh 6-2, 6-4. Safarova and Goerges will meet in Saturday’s other semi-final.—Internet

Spain en-route to Davis Cup final

MADRID, 19 Sept— The Spanish team won the two singles matches on the opening day of its Davis Cup semi-final against Israel to virtually book a place in the final of the tennis team event. Although Rafael Nadal was sidelined with a stomach injury, the reigning champions got off to a flying start when David Ferrer defeated the Israeli number two Harel Levy 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 in a one-sided match that lasted just one hour and 55 minutes.—Xinhua

United get chance to put City in their place

LONDON, 19 Sept— Manchester United have made a habit of putting would-be challengers in their place over the years but it will be with particular relish that they seek to cut their neighbours down to size this weekend. Manchester City’s flaunting of their newly-acquired wealth appears to have got under the skin of everyone at Old Trafford from Sir Alex Ferguson down, providing an intriguing backdrop to the most eagerly awaited derby clash in years.—Internet

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE

ACROSS
7 Flower fertiliser
8 Whinnies
10 Go backwards
11 Norwegian inlet
12 Noisy
13 Contest
17 Seat
18 Male swine
22 Top of the head
23 Dig up
24 Egg dish
25 Chosen profession

DOWN
1 Glitter
2 Taste
3 English king
4 Flawless
5 Incite (3,2)
6 Spoken in an undertone
9 Use a tonic (anag.)
14 Out of a church
15 Wood
16 Toxicity
19 Deep shovel
20 Channel port
21 Rot

Unbeaten Sampdoria home in on record start

Traditional Crosswords Puzzle

Sampdoria’s foward
Antonio Cassano.

BAYERN Munich drawing looking for
redeeming win

Bundesliga showdown with Bavaria rivals Nuremberg.

Wozniak advances at Quebec tennis

Wozniak cruised into the semi-finals

MADRID, 19 Sept— Lionel Messi extended his contract

360,000,000

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their poor start to the season providing they win
Saturday’s Bundesliga showdown with Bavaria rivals Nuremberg.
Having started the season without a win from their first three games, Bayern have finally hit some form with Bundesliga wins over defending champions Wolfsburg and Borussia Dortmund as well as a European win at Maccabi Haifa. Wednesday’s 3-0 win at Haifa got their Champions League campaign off to a flying start and Bayern’s poor start in the German league - which included a 2-1 defeat at minnows Mainz - could be forgiven if they beat Nuremberg.—Internet
Chinese female skaters shine at ISU World Cup Short Track

Olympic champion Wang Meng.

BEIJING, 19 Sept—Reigning Olympic champion Wang Meng and promising star Zhou Yang snatched two golds for China at ISU World Cup short-track here on Saturday.

While Wang finished the 500m final in 38.29 seconds, the 500 meters winner in the 2006 Turin Olympics, dominated the women’s 500m final by taking the lead from the very start of the race and pocketing the gold in 43.430 seconds.

“Our Chinese team finished with one short-track gold in the Turin Games. In the coming Vancouver Games, I hope we can have a better performance, or our hard training during these years will be meaningless,” said Wang, the anchorwoman of the Chinese team.

The 24-year-old Wang enjoyed a heavy harvest last season. She wrapped up a fruitful season with 10 World Cup titles, four gold medals from the Vienna World Championships as well as a title in the world team championships in the Netherlands.

Jessica Gregg of Canada finished second in women’s 500m and the other two finalists both fell down in the first lap. The bronze went to Canadian skater Marianne St-Gelais, who finished the race in 43.920 seconds.

“I hope we can have a better performance, or our hard training during these years will be meaningless,” said St-Gelais, the anchorwoman of the Chinese team.

“The last season was quite fruitful for China. We won two golds for China at ISU World Cup Short Track,” said St-Gelais.

The women’s 500m race was one of the most thrilling in the world’s history of short-track.

Lisa Rouillard of Canada won the first gold in the women’s 500m race by edging out the teams of the USA and Russia in a stunning finish. Rouillard clocked 38.780 seconds, while Zhao Nannan of China finished at 38.850, while Rouillard of Canada finished the race in 38.780 seconds.

The women’s 500m race was one of the most thrilling in the world’s history of short-track.

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**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**

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**People’s Desire**

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

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**Invading black holes explain cosmic flashes**

_Science Daily, 19 Sept_—Black holes are invading stars, providing a radical explanation to bright flashes in the universe that are one of the biggest mysteries in astronomy today.

The flashes, known as gamma ray bursts, are beams of high energy radiation—similar to the radiation emitted by explosions of nuclear weapons—produced by jets of plasma from massive dying stars.

The orthodox model for this cosmic jet engine involves plasma being heated by neutrinos in a disk of matter that forms around a black hole, which is created when a star collapses. But mathematicians at the University of Leeds have come up with a different explanation: the jets come directly from black holes, which can dive into nearby massive stars and devour them.

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**Reconstruct Mars automatically in minutes**

_Science Daily, 19 Sept_—A computer system is under development that can automatically combine images of the Martian surface, captured by landers or rovers, in order to reproduce a three dimensional view of the red planet. The resulting model can be viewed from any angle, giving astronomers a realistic and immersive impression of the landscape.

The new development has been presented at the European Planetary Science Congress in Potsdam by Dr Michal Havlena.

“The feeling of ‘being right there’ will give scientists a much better understanding of the images. The only input we need are the captured raw images and the internal camera calibration. After minutes of computation on a standard PC, a three dimensional model of the captured scene is obtained,” said Dr Havlena.

The growing amount of available imagery from Mars is nearly impossible to handle for the manual image processing techniques used to date. The new automated method, which allows fast high quality image processing, was developed at the Center for Machine Perception of the Technical University of Prague, under the supervision of Tomas Pajdla, as a part of the EU FP7 Project ProVisG.

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**A (H1N1) flu control measures gaining momentum**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Sept_—The Ministry of Health has been steadily taking preventive measures against New Influenza A (H1N1) flu since 28 April. Up to now, a total of 45 cases have been confirmed and there have not been any flu death cases.

Of the flu patients, 36 have been discharged from hospitals, following their full recovery from the disease. The remaining nine are getting better now.

The Ministry of Health today urged the people to follow strictly the public notices about New Influenza A (H1N1) and have a hand in the disease control measures.—MNA

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**Old students of IM-2 to hold respect paying ceremony on 26 December**

_Yangon, 19 Sept_—The respect paying ceremony of old students of Institute of Medicine-2 (1st MB students in 1985, 86, 87 and 91 academic years) will be held on 26 December.

Those wishing to make donations may contact Dr Aung Naing Win, Tel: 098020079, Dr Lwin Han, Tel: 095020116, Dr Khaing Mar Myint, Tel: 01-535774, Dr Khin Khin Soe, Tel: 095131217, Dr Moe Aung, Tel: 095152671, Dr Soe Tun, Tel: 095041934, Dr Maung Maung Latt, Tel: 095007249, Dr Myint Myat Tun, Tel: 095021718 and other executives.—MNA

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**Weather forecast on (20-9-2009)**

_Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas:_ Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

_Yangon and neighbouring areas:_ Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

_Mandalay and neighbouring areas:_ Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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**Noteworthy amount of rainfall**

- Putao: 3.03 inches
- Kyaukpyu: 2.60 inches
- Mogok: 2.05 inches
- Monghsat: 1.65 inches
- Sittway: 1.37 inches
- Nyaungdon: 1.16 inches