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Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of Ministry of Defence looks into task of Bawtwin Ore Refinery

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct—Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut and officials, inspected functions of Bawtwin Ore Refinery of No. 1 Mining Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines in Namtu Township on 29 September.

After hearing the reports of officials, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing presented foodstuff, books and cash to staff.

Yesterday, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing looked into maintenance of reinforced concrete Laylu Bridge across Namtu River on Panlon-Laylu Road, repairing of Panlon-Laylu-Namhsam road section, tasks of Lwekham Tea Processing Factory of Lwekham Village of Namhsan Township and progress of Namhsan People’s Hospital (50-bed). (See page 8)

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

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

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

On a trip to Yinshay Dam in Ngaphe Township, 46 miles from Minbu in Magway Division, in the afternoon of 24th September 2009, I noticed that the region was not as hot as it used to be in those days due to many new plantations for regional greening.

Thirty-six miles west of Minbu was the junction with Pathetin-Monywa Union Highway. At Mile Post No 102/5 on the highway, we turned to the earth road. After driving for about six furlongs, we found Yinshay Dam built by damming the Padan Creek near Yinshay Village.

When asked about the irrigation facility, Staff Officer of the Irrigation Department U Ye Htut Aung said to the Myanma Alin that in compliance with the directives of the government, the Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation constructed a small-scale dam in Ngaphe Township, Minbu District, Magway Division, on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River, for regional development; that the 500 feet long and 50 feet high dam benefited some 500 acres of farmlands; that the project was launched in 1997-1998 and the maintenance division took over the undertakings and completed it in 2009; that its maximum water storage capacity was 2600 acre feet; and that the water was pumped with an 18-inch diameter pipe to irrigate the farmlands.

Deputy Head U Tin Win said that they undertook the construction of the dam in 2001; that the dam was projected to irrigate 500 acres, but it could benefit 570 acres of agricultural farms; that six years later, the irrigable area would be expanded.

Yinshay Dam in Ngaphe Township

Byline: Kyaw Sein; Photos: Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

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Yinshay Dam and its control tower with the west Yoma mountain range in the background.
PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 2 October, 2009

Build more dams for boosting agricultural production and greening the environment

There are vast tracts of arable land in the regions in central Myanmar. With sufficient water supply, various crops can be grown and agricultural production increased.

In the past, farmers in those regions had to rely on rain for agriculture. But now, as the government has built dams and river water-pumping stations and sunk tube-wells and artesian wells there, cultivation of crops with the help of dam water has increased.

Yinshay dam constructed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was opened in Ngaphe Township in Minbu District in Magway Division on 29 September. It is the 45th dam in Magway Division. It can store up to 2,600 acre feet of water and irrigate fields of paddy and other crops and contribute a lot to greening the environment.

Nowadays, dams, weirs and sluice gates are being built across the nation for irrigating farmlands and prevention of floods. Therefore, various kinds of crops can be grown all the year round. In the central regions of Myanmar, more long-staple cotton, beans and pulses and edible oil crops are grown.

As the government has built a total of 226 dams, including Yinshay dam, acres of irrigated farmland has increased. It is necessary for those engaged in agribusiness and local farmers to grow more crops, including paddy, and work together for greening the environment and forests in the watershed area.

Commander, Minister inspect undertakings of regional development in Sittway

YANGON, 1 Oct — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaug Aye and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected rebuilding of school building at Basic Education Primary School No (14) in Shwepyar Ward in Sittway on 27 September.

The commander and the minister looked into docking vessels at Sittway Shipyard, water course of Hahtoyekya creek, water transport projects of Kaladan waterway, construction of jetty for Sittway Port and construction of wave barrier along Shukhintha Kanna road.

Next, the commander and the minister met with local people at Wahbo village BEMS in Sittway and presented clothes, exercise books and stationery for the villages and publications for the village library through the officials. They also oversaw construction of new station hospital and weaving business in the village and attended the opening of Ah-man-thit library. — MNA

Workshop on mission of community-based health and first aid held

YANGON, 1 Oct — A workshop to explain the mission of community-based health and first aid jointly undertaken by Myanmar Red Cross Society, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was opened at Panda Hotel in Lanmadaw Township here on 29 September.

MRCS President Professor Dr Tha Hla Shwe and leader of delegation from International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Mr Bernd Schell spoke on the occasion.

MRCS President Dr Tha Hla Shwe delivers an address at workshop of MRCS and IFRC. — MNA

Myanmar Golf Tour Nay Pyi Taw (Open) continues for third round

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct — The Myanmar Golf Tour 2009-2010 Nay Pyi Taw (Open) continued for the third round at City Golf Course, here, today.

Then Zaw Myint (KM Golf Centre) and Min Naing (Srixon) tied at the first position with 207 strokes each, followed by Naing Naing Lin (Srixon) at the third with 212 in the professional golfers division.

In the men’s amateur golfers division, Aung Win (selected Myanmar golfer) secured the first position by firing 208 strokes. Maung Maung Oo put his position behind the leader with 215. Tin Lin Ko stood third with 216.

Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA jointly organized the golf tour together with main sponsors Air Bagan Ltd and International Beverages Trading Co Ltd (IBTC) and co-sponsors KBZ Bank Ltd, Hotel Yangon, KM Golf Centre, HAN Golf Masters Pte Ltd, Myanmar Thiha Trading Co Ltd, Bay of Bengal Resorts (BOB), TMW Enterprise Ltd (INAX, T-Home), CEPSA Lubricants, ACCCEL International Co Ltd (Canon), Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water, Lifeline Co Ltd and GP Watch. — MNA
India, China to lead economic recovery

ISTANBUL, 1 Oct—Giant neighbours China and India will lead Asian expansion as domestic stimulus measures spur demand, the International Monetary Fund forecast on Thursday. Charts a nascent global recovery.

China will grow by 8.5 percent in 2009, down from nine percent last year, while India will expand by 5.4 percent, down from 7.3 percent in 2008. But next year China will grow by nine percent, and India by 6.4 percent, according to the IMF forecast.

Their growth is being supported by large policy stimulus that are bolstering domestic demand, the Fund’s World Economic Outlook report said. “The rebound in emerging and other developing economies is being led by a resurgence in Asia, most notably in China and India, fuelled by policy stimulus and a turn in the global manufacturing cycle,” the report said.

But in Japan, the picture is not so rosy.

Jobless rates rise in all US cities in August

WASHINGTON, 1 Oct—Unemployment rates rose in all cities across the United States in August from a year earlier, with 16 recording jobless rates of 15 percent or higher, according to the Labour Department. At the same time, only 11 metropolitan areas said they had gained jobs in August, while 356 had lost positions.

For the eighth consecutive month, all 372 cities that the department surveys had year-on-year increases in jobless rates. The largest rise was in Detroit, where the rate rose by 7.9 percentage points, followed by its Michigan neighbour Muskegon, where it increased 7 percentage points.

Pilot killed when plane crashes into Indiana field

ALBANY, 1 Oct—A single-engine plane crashed into an Indiana cornfield on Wednesday after the pilot, who was seen slumped over at the controls, lost consciousness and the aircraft flew out of control, officials said.

Military officials do not believe the crash was terrorism-related but instead said the pilot may have had a health problem or been suffering from a lack of oxygen.

Warships save vessels as Somali pirates persist

Nairobi, 1 Oct—Pirates have resumed their daring attacks on shipping vessels after weather off the Somali coast improved, a maritime official said on Wednesday, but warships in the area and precautions taken by mariners themselves have helped thwart the attempted hijackings.

Cyrus Mody at the International Maritime Bureau said international forces intervened in two attacks on Saturday. The pirates resumed their activity in mid-September after about a six-week break.

“Since the attacks resumed after the monsoon subsided there have been no successful hijackings off Somalia, which is a very positive step,” Mody said. “We attribute this very largely to the actions of the naval forces in the area and better mariner preparedness.”
A local rickshaw-van puller is seen speaking on his mobile phone in Dhaka. Bangladesh’s biggest mobile phone provider Grameenphone is expected to shatter all records for the impoverished country’s capital market as it launches an Initial Public Offering (IPO) on 4 October.—INTERNET

China’s COSCO takes over container business at Greek port

ATHENS, 1 Oct— The Greek Piraeus Port Authority on Wednesday signed an agreement on transferring the operation of Piraeus container terminals to China’s COSCO Pacific Ltd.

From Thursday on, Pier 2 and Pier 3 of Piraeus Container Terminals will be under COSCO management for 35 years, according to the agreement.

Li Keqiang, chief representative of COSCO in Greece, said the two sides would work together to build modern container terminals and provide reliable, flexible and high efficient services for shipping companies.

Piraeus is the biggest port in Greece and one of the most important ports in the Eastern Mediterranean region. Its handling capacity reached 1.37 million TEUs in 2007.

Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis told Xinhua that COSCO’s participation in the operation of Piraeus Port was important for both economies.

China’s first railway involving private fund starts construction

TAIYUAN, 1 Oct— China’s first railway involving private fund starts construction in north China’s Shanxi Province on Monday.

The railway, linking Jiafeng Township and Nanchenpu of Jincheng-city, stretches 64.29 kilometres. The railway winds through three counties and has six stops, according to local authorities.

It is expected to cost 2.3 billion yuan (about 0.34 billion US dollars), and will be finished in three years.

The railway was co-founded by the Broad Union Investment Management Group Co, Ltd., the Yufeng Railway Construction Investment Co, Ltd and the Railway Bureau of Zhengzhou.

Jincheng is a major coal producing area in China’s coal-rich Shanxi Province. It is hoped the railway will become an important route to aid building a resource base.

Lufthansa to buy SAS holding company in BMI

FRANKFURT, 1 Oct— The leading German airline, Lufthansa, said on Thursday that it will buy a remaining 20 percent stake in British carrier BMI from the Scandinavian SAS group.

Lufthansa will pay SAS a total of 38 million pounds (41.5 million euros, 60.8 million dollars) for the BMI shares that Lufthansa does not yet already own, a brief statement said.

The deal is to take effect on 1 November. Buying BMI gives Lufthansa access to coveted take-off and landing slots at London’s Heathrow airport, the busiest in Europe.

Should Lufthansa decide however to sell all or part of BMI within two years, SAS could receive an additional payment, depending on “certain conditions,” the statement said.

Indonesia processes holding company for various business sectors

JAKARTA, 1 Oct—Indonesia is processing establishment of holding company for various business sectors to compete with neighbouring countries’ multi national enterprises (MNE), a minister said here on Thursday.

“We do have potential to compete with neighbouring countries’ MNEs? We are processing establishment of holding company for sectors of plantation, fertilizer, mining and energy as well as financial and banking.”

the Minister for State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) Sofyan Djalil in his statement told a seminar.

He said that the government is trying to pioneer an investment agency like Malaysia’s Khazanah.

“One of our efforts is synergizing SOEs that have related business through merger and acquisition,” he said.

However, said the minister, if the output put them in a dominant position, according to the European Commission for MergerControl Regulation, it would violate laws, he asked business players and authorities to discuss its benefit and loss.

“Let’s discuss the criteria and how we manage it so it has a positive affectivity po-wer as well as to define our competitors,” said Sofyan.

In addition to competition in the international level, SOEs have to be pioneers to roll the nation’s eco-nomic wheel.

“All roles could be done by SOEs. However, we need a consol-id-a- tion, unify our steps, understanding and words between bureau-cray, policy makers, law enforcers and busi-ness players,” he said.

S Korea sees sharp rise in FDI in Q3

SEOUL, 1 Oct—South Korea saw a surge in foreign direct investment (FDI) into the nation in the third quarter on the back of the government’s stimulus packages and favourable exchange rates, a government report said on Thursday.

According to a preliminary report by the Ministry of Knowledge Economy, South Korea’s FDI rose 17.4 percent on year to 3.37 billion US dollars, up from 2.87 billion a year ago.

The growth in FDI, which plummeted in the first quarter amid a global financial turmoil, came as South Korea’s parliament passed a 28.4 trillion-won (24.1 billion-US dollar) supplementary budget in late April, the ministry explained.

The South Korean currency, which depreciated against the US dollar, also contributed to the surge in inbound investment, the ministry added.—Xinhua

German retail sales slip in August

FRANKFURT, 1 Oct—German retail sales fell by 1.5 percent in August from the preceding month, confounding expectations for a slight rise, preliminary data released on Thursday by the national statistics office showed.

Analysts polled by Dow Jones Newswires had forecast an increase of 0.1 percent, following a rise of 0.7 percent in July.

The Destatis statistics office bases its estimation on six German states which represent around 76 percent of all German retail sales.—INTERNET
Chinese, Russian leaders hail 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties

BEIJING, 1 Oct—Chinese President Hu Jintao and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on Thursday sent congratulatory messages to each other to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties.

In the message, Hu said the Sino-Russian relationship has witnessed unusual events in the past 60 years, and has become a new type of bilateral relationship that suits the trend of the era. Political mutual trust, pragmatic cooperation, cultural exchanges and cooperation on international and regional affairs have been strengthened.

The development of bilateral ties has not only brought actual benefits to the Chinese and Russian peoples, but also promoted peace, stability and development in the region and the world, Hu said.—Xinhua

Solar panels at National Day parade highlight changes in China’s energy use

BEIJING, 1 Oct—Solar panels held by a formation of energy workers at the National Day parade on Thursday demonstrated China’s determination to shift to renewable energy in handling climate change.

Surrounded by energy workers, a float carrying the sculptures of windmills and oil reserve containers, as well as a banner reading “Striving to develop clean energy,” moving past Tian’anmen Square at the magnificent pageant marking New China’s 60th anniversary of founding.

As the world’s top energy producer and second largest consumer, it takes several decades for China to rely on its own energy supply to power the double-digit growth of the world’s third largest economy.

China is the world’s top coal maker and the fifth largest crude oil producer.

As the global efforts on cutting greenhouse gas emissions has never been so urgent, China realized that to solely rely on fossil fuel will hardly sustain its rocketing economic growth.—Xinhua

Portraits of CPC leaders upheld as socialist China celebrates 60th birthday

BEIJING, 1 Oct—China on Thursday sent to the world a clear signal that it will keep to the socialist road as floats carrying four huge portraits of the Communist Party of China (CPC) leaders from different generations marched past Beijing’s Tian’anmen Square in the grand National Day parade.

The portraits of Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao, mounted on flower-bedecked floats and under the escort of thousands of paraders, spearheaded four formations showcasing New China’s development over the past 60 years.

Loudspeakers relayed a different soundtrack for each of the four leaders, amid applause and cheering from the audience as each portrait appeared.

“l am very excited at the four portraits,” said Wang Weiguo, 49, a resident standing in the reviewing stand. “In four historical periods, the four CPC leaders and their comrades have led the people onto the course of development so that we can live such a good life,” he said.—Xinhua

Turkey against economic sanctions against Iran, says FM

ANKARA, 1 Oct—Turkish foreign minister said economic sanctions against Iran will not produce any results and that Turkey does not want its region to face a new armed clash regardless of the source of the tension, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported late Wednesday.

Turkey attaches importance to diplomatic means which will not require those sanctions in tackling the Iran nuclear issue, Ahmet Davutoglu told a press conference.

The minister said Turkey would be one of the countries most harmed by a sanction against Iran.

He said the Iran nuclear issue should be solved only by diplomatic means instead of military ones, which is one of Turkey’s basic principles on the issue.

Turkey was against limiting a country’s right to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, he said.

“It is an obligation, not only a right, (to make peaceful use of nuclear technology) especially for the countries which do not have natural energy resources,” Davutoglu was quoted as saying.—Xinhua

Vietnam, Brazil meet to boost agriculture cooperation

HANOI, 1 Oct—Many Vietnamese and Brazilian businesses held a meeting in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam to look for investment opportunities in agriculture and food processing industry, the local newspaper Vietnam Economic Times reported on Thursday.

The meeting was organized by the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) in Ho Chi Minh City in coordination with Brazilian embassy in Vietnam, said the newspaper. At the meeting, Brazilian agricultural experts said that Brazil has a great potential in farming and food industry, especially meat and dairy products.

The meeting offered a chance for Vietnamese businesses to exchange information with Brazilian partners in food and agricultural product processing, said Nguyen The Hung, deputy director of the VCCI.—Xinhua
Kenya, Ethiopia authorities seize ivory stash  
Nairobi, 1 Oct—Authorities in Ethiopia and Kenya have seized more than 2,600 pounds (1,200 kilograms) of bloodstained ivory from about 100 illegally killed elephants at airports, the head of Kenya’s Wildlife Service said on Wednesday.  
Julius Kipng’etich said trained dogs sniffed out a consignment of bloodstained tusks at Kenya’s national airport late Tuesday. Another shipment of tusks sent by the same individual had been seized on Monday at the airport in Ethiopia’s capital.  
Both shipments were sent as unaccompanied luggage to Bangkok. Police have launched an investigation and wildlife officials said they will continue to patrol the airport with dogs.  

Kenya Wildlife Service wardens demonstrate how Charles, a sniffer dog, detects illegal ivory in Nairobi, Kenya, on 30 Sept, 2009.—Internet

Tango on UNESCO world heritage list  
Dubai, 1 Oct—Tango was declared part of the world’s cultural heritage by the United Nations on Wednesday and granted the international seal of approval. Argentina and Uruguay have long sought for the dramatic dance and its sensual moves.  
The 24 members of UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Committee of Intangible Heritage granted the tango dance and its music protected cultural status at its meeting in Abu Dhabi. The designation may make Argentina and Uruguay, which both claim to be tango’s birthplace, eligible to receive financial assistance from a specialized fund for safeguarding cultural traditions. It will also help both governments justify using public funds to preserve their most famous export after all. —Internet

US superrich lose 300 bln dollars in a year  
New York, 1 Oct—The wealthiest Americans are getting poorer, losing 300 billion dollars of their net worth over the past 12 months, according to an annual Forbes magazine ranking released.  
The annual Forbes 400 list of the richest Americans found legendary investor Warren Buffett had lost the most cash — 10 billion dollars — as his holding company Berkshire Hathaway suffered severe losses.  
Topping the list was Microsoft founder turned disease-battling philanthropist Bill Gates, whose net worth was estimated at 50 billion dollars, down seven billion from last year.  
Buffett came in second, followed by Oracle Corp founder and CEO Lawrence Ellison, the only person on the top 10 whose fortune remained unchanged — at 27 billion.  
The 400 wealthiest Americans had total net assets of 1.57 trillion dollars, down from 1.27 trillion. It was only the fifth time that the fortunes of members of the Forbes 400 had declined since its inception in 1982.  
Forbes attributed the loss of wealth to “tailoring of capital markets and real estate prices, along with fraud and divorce.”

Billerica, 1 Oct—Pollutant plumes observed in the United States can be attributed unambiguously to Asian sources based on meteorological and chemical analyses, researchers say.  
Charles Kolb — president of Aerodyne Research Inc and chairman of the committee that wrote the report on air pollution by the National Research Council — said the report examines four types of air pollutants: sulfur; mercury; and persistent organic pollutants such as DDT.  
The committee found evidence, including satellite observations, that these four types of pollutants can be transported aloft across the Northern Hemisphere, delivering significant concentrations to downwind continents — from Asia to the United States and from the United States to Europe.  
One study found that a polluted airmass detected at Mt Bachelor Observatory in central Oregon took approximately eight days to travel from East Asia, the report said.  
Modeling studies have estimated that about 500 premature cardiopulmonary deaths could be avoided annually in North America if ozone emissions were reduced by 20 percent in the other major industrial regions of the Northern Hemisphere.

Air pollutants transported from Asia

Dinosaurs had ‘earliest feathers’  
Visitors look at the skeleton of an Apatosaurus named “Einstein” displayed at the Lewis hall in Fundidora park in Monterrey, northern Mexico, on 23 Sept, 2009.  
Einstein, a 23 metre (75 ft), 4.5 tonne skeleton of an Apatosaurus, was found in 2005 in Duna Quarry, Wyoming, United States, and is the first major dinosaur whose skull has been found intact. With 85 percent of its skeleton being original, the exhibit is considered the most complete and articulated Apatosaurus known in the world, according to the organizers.

An artist’s impression of how these creatures may have looked.

200 valuable porcelain artifacts found on ancient Chinese merchant vessel  
Chinese archaeologists have discovered more than 200 precious porcelain artifacts on an 800-year-old merchant ship in the southern province of Guangdong. The 40-day trial excavation ended on Saturday and a massive excavation will start next year, said Wei Jun, an archaeologist leading the excavation.

The Nanhai (South China Sea) No 1 ship from the Song Dynasty (960-1279) was loaded with an estimated 60,000 to 80,000 pieces of relics. Archaeologists have also found well-preserved cabin, board and deck in the trial excavation. They had recovered more than 4,000 artifacts of gold, silver and porcelain, and about 6,000 copper coins on the merchant ship while it was still on the seabed.

Discovered in mid-1987 off the coast near Yangjiang City, the 5,000-tonne Nanhai No 1 was recognized as one of the oldest and biggest merchant boats sunk in Chinese waters. Experts said the well-preserved vessel has offered more evidence for the existence of an ancient maritime trade route linking China and the West.
The Significant and Noble Day of Abhidhamma
(The Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut, Mahapavaranayá Day)

In the fourth week, after attaining the enlightenment, the Buddha began to contemplate and review the Dhamma (the truth). He realized the four ultimate things for which a Knowledge means subtle or ultimate, and Dhamma which means ultimate, and Dhamma which deals with the highest and ultimate sense of things springing into being as facts from diverse names.

After preaching Abhidhamma (Ultimate Truth) to His deceased mother, Santusita Deva and other devas and Brahmans for a full three months, the Buddha returned to the human abode on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut, according to the Pali Text, three decorated stairways of silver, gold and ruby beginning from the top of the great Mount Meru to the gate to Sankassa town on earth were created as a token of paying deep homage to the Buddha who returned to the human abode. The Buddha took the middle stairway accompanied by devas and Brahmans who took right stairway and left stairway. All devas and Brahmans from the Tavatimsa Devaloka (Celestial abode) paid deep homage to the Omniscient Buddha for a full three months from 1st Waning of Waso to Fullmoon of Thadingyut. According to the Vinaya rules of the Buddha, the period of a full three months from 1st Waning of Waso to Fullmoon of Thadingyut (round about from mid-July to mid-October) is retreat-period of Buddhists. During retreat-period, all Buddhist monks must not have to go away from their residence (monasteries, temples) not more than seven days. Especially, they have to fulfill their religious duties (Ganaddhara and Vipassanaddhara) during the retreat-period more than before. All Buddhist monks have followed and practiced the said Vinaya rules for over 2500 years.

When the Buddha descended from Tavatimsa (Celestial abode), the Devas and Brahmans accompanied Him putting up white sacred umbrellas and fanning Him. At that time, because of unlimited miraculous powers, supernatural powers and glory of the Buddha, the whole earthlings could see the magnificent celestial abode, and also the Devas and Brahmans could see hundreds of thousands of millions of people greeting and paying deep homage to the Buddha who descended at the gate to Sankassa Town of the human abode on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut (Mahapavaranayá Day).

The Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut (Mahapavaranayá Day) has been marked by Buddhists as the significant and noble day of Abhidhamma since then (over 2500 years ago). On the auspicious occasion of the Abhidhamma (Mahapavaranayá Day), in remembrance of the Buddha, members of the Sangha recite Abhidhamma discourses, and multifarious Buddhist devotees offer lights, water, flowers, incense, fragrant scents, fruits and other offertories. And also, Dhamma talks about Abhidhamma (Mahapavaranayá) Day are held. On this noble day, most Buddhists keep nine precepts for their meritorious deeds dedicating to the attainment of noble of Nibbana (supreme bliss).

The Pali term Abhidhamma is composed of Abhi which means subtle or ultimate, and Dhamma which means truth or doctrine. The Abhidhamma, therefore, means subtle or ultimate truth or doctrine.

The Abhidhamma Pitaka consists of the four ultimate things, Mind (Citta, Psychic factor (Cetasikas) Matter (Rupa) and Nibbana. It is the most important and most interesting to a deep thinker. It is subdivided into seven books.

When the Buddha had preached Abhidhamma for a full three months to His deceased mother who was reborn as Santusita Deva and to other devas and Brahmans at the celestial abode, He said to the king of the celestials that He would return to the human abode. Therefore, the king of the celestials created and arranged three stairways of silver, gold and ruby beginning from the top of the great Mount Meru to the gate to Sankassa Town of the human abode.

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon U Thant Zin (artist Hla Tin Tun) explains holding of Art show.—MNA

Charity art show for Home for the Aged opened

YANGON, 1 Oct — A charity art show for Hninzigon Home for the Aged was opened at the home here today. The executive committee of Hninzigon Home for the Aged and Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon joint organized the “White Rose” Special Charity Art Show-2009 and over 30 artists have exhibited their works. Over 60 paintings will be sold at special prices and 50 per cent of the income from the sales will be donated to the fund of the home for the aged.

The art show will last till 5 October.
Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of Ministry of Defence looks into task of…

(at page 1)
He viewed production of Zyan pickled tea leaves at Mithasu Zayangi pickled tea leaf industry in Namhaw Ward of Namhsan.

He comforted the patients at Mongngaw Station Hospital (16-bed) in Kyaukme Township and presented food and cash to them.

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing visits Namtu Bawtwin.

Basic Diplomatic Skill Course (22/2009) opens

YANGON, 1 Oct—The opening ceremony of Basic Diplomatic Skill Course (22/2009), organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, took place at Wunzinmin Yarzar Hall of the ministry, here, this evening.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win gave an opening speech on the occasion.

It was attended by departmental officials of the departments under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, retired diplomats, professors and retired professors from the universities, course trainees and trainees.

The 190 trainees are attending the 12-week course and the course covers up-to-date international affairs, holding international conferences and negotiating skills, international law and business relations, social directives and other skills.

Diploma in Banking Course No. 2 concludes

YANGON, 1 Oct—Myanmar Banking Training School (Yangon) held the concluding ceremony of Diploma in Banking Course No. 2, conducted by Myanmar Banks’ Association under the supervision of Ministry of Finance and Revenue, at Myanmar Bank Training School here yesterday evening, with an address by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

In his address, the minister urged trainees to realize the banking laws, regulations and procedures, and international banking and monetary

Guide to Computer Users in circulation


The book features a variety of sectors including guides and articles about computer, photoshop and graphic lessons, Process Hacker application, questions and answers, applied computer hardware and software lessons, and free advertisement sector for computer training courses.

Hotel industry (basic) course opened

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct—Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the hotel industry (basic) course No. 15 was opened at Zaygyo Hotel in Mandalay on 20 September morning.

On behalf of the director-general of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, in-charge of Mandalay branch Deputy Director U Than Tun made a speech.

Altogether 60 trainees are attending the course that will last up to 11 December.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun gives speech at concluding ceremony of Diploma in Banking Course No (2).—MNA

together with trainees had documentary photos taken.

Altogether 58 trainees—32 from state- and private-owned banks and the rest from the others—took the one-year course.

MNA
Construction Minister attends signing ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint attended the signing ceremony of Hubei Huazhou Industry Co Ltd of the People’s Republic of China, AA Global (Singapore) Pte Ltd and Public Works, held at the meeting hall of the ministry, here yesterday.

Also present at the ceremony were Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tin Swe and Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No (2) Brig-Gen Win Myint, departmental heads, Deputy General Manager Mr. Tang Yong from Hubei Huazhou Industry Co Ltd of the People’s Republic of China and Vice-General Manager Mr. Jin Gang and responsible persons from AA Global (Singapore) Pte Ltd. First, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint extended greetings.

Next, Deputy General Manager Mr. Tung Young and Vice General Manager Mr. Jin Gang spoke words of thanks.

After that, Director-General of Public Works U Khin Maung Se and Deputy General Manager Mr. Tung Young inked a deal of 24 sets of Bailey for three Bailey bridges being undertaken by the Ministry of Construction and 89 sets of Bailey materials out of 197 sets for 27 bridges in Ayeyarwady Division and then exchanged the documents.

Afterwards, Director-General U Khin Maung Se and Managing Director of AA Global (Singapore) Pte Ltd U Aye Tun signed a 108-set Bailey materials out of 197-set for 27 bridges in Ayeyarwady Division and exchanged the documents.

All of those materials will be used in the bridges in States and Divisions being undertaken by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction.—MNA

International Day of Older Persons observed

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct—A ceremony to mark International Day of Older Persons was held at the City Hall of Nay Pyi Taw this morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya On, heads of department, foreign ambassadors to Myanmar, charge d’affaires, resident representatives of UN organizations, chairmen and executives of social organizations, members of supervisory committee for Nay Pyi Taw Pynnmana Home for the Aged, aged persons, wellwishers, guests and staff.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe made a speech on the occasion, saying that the United Nations designated the 1st October as the International Day of Older Persons. He said that Myanmar has also participated in the international event this year.

In line with the objective “Towards a society for all ages” activities marking the International Day of Older Persons have been launched for 11 times including this year since 1999. There are still customs of paying respects to parents and grandparents, paying the gratitude back to the parents and caring them in Myanmar society. Myanmar held the ceremony of International Day of Older Persons every year. In accord with the social objective of “Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation, Myanmar, an ASEAN member country, is placing special emphasis on protection and caring children, youth, women, disabled persons and older persons. Four main areas for older persons were included in Macao Plan of Action for Older Persons in Asia and the Pacific 1999.

The third term of the project of home care for older persons was designated from June of 2009 to May of 2012. Activities of home care for older persons were being carried out in eight states and divisions. To realize the project, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was carrying out home care activities in one township, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association in nine townships, YMCA in six townships, World Vision in seven townships, Help Age International in three townships and Global Vision in two townships.

Next, the minister presented K 2.7 million for 54 homes for the aged in the whole country, K 100,000 each to two eldest persons in Myanmar namely U Mya Thwin aged 106 and Daw Mya Gyi aged 117 from Mandalay Division and K 460,000 for the grandparents from homes for the aged totalling K 3,360,000 through chairman of work committee for observance of International Day of Older Persons Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Soe Kyi. Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister Dr Chan Nyein and Assistant Representative of UNFPA Daw Pancy Tun presented medicines and cash to older persons. Next, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and officials concerned viewed documentary photos of International Day of Older Persons on display in the hall.—MNA

TV Guide in circulation

YANGON, 1 Oct—TV Guide Vol.1 No.2 comes out today which features focus of this week Premier League matches, highlight of TV channels, weekly TV programme schedule and regular items.

TV Guide is available at City Marts, shopping centres, bookshops at a price of K 500 per copy. Door to door delivery service is already available in Yangon and Mandalay.

TV Guide published by Novel Light Express, Ph:391186,243393 comes out every Friday.—MNA

President meets Japanese guests

YANGON, 1 Oct—President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, Vice-Presidents U Thaung Tin and U Tun Aung, General Secretary Dr Maung Maung Lay, Joint General Secretary Dr Myo Thet, CEC member U Paw Hein and Deputy Managing Director U Tan Kyi of Myawaddy Bank Limited met Mr. Kurihara Makota, General Manager, of Singapore-based Kubota Corporation of Japan (Singapore Branch) and party and seven-member delegation of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO, Yangon) at the office of the federation here on 28 September.

They held comprehensive discussions on current situation and future prospects on economic and trade opportunities in investment, arrangements for foreign investors and ensuring smooth bilateral trade.
Yinshay Dam in...

(from page 1)

increase to 185 acres; that the sown acreage of summer paddy fields touched 100; that edible oil crops, sesame and sunflower were grown in the intervals of summer and monsoon paddy seasons; that local farmers grew chick pea and pigeon pea in the wetlands; that so local people around the dam were enjoying economic growth through agricultural farming; and that the collaboration of local residents and the Irrigation Department led to meeting the targets.

We also interviewed some local farmers. Farmer U Paw Din, 53, from Padan Village, said that he grew sesame in the cold season; that after harvesting sesame fields, he grew monsoon paddy at the beginning of the rainy season; that the lifespan of monsoon paddy was 100 days, so he cultivated summer paddy after monsoon paddy; that whether they would get enough rainwater or not was no longer a problem owing to the dam; and that he thanked officials concerned for the irrigation facility.

Farmer U Nyan Thein, 62, of Yinshay Village said, “I have grown crops since my youth. Once I tried growing paddy, but it was not successful due to inadequate rainfall. Now, we are supplied irrigation water from the dam. So, I grow monsoon paddy and summer paddy apart from crops. I have a six-acre paddy field. We no longer need to transport our paddy for sale, and merchants collect paddy right up to our doors. Now, we can make charity and everything is okay in my family as a result of the dam.”

Farmer U Mya Thein of Sartatkya Village said, “Long ago, we could grow crops only. The government has constructed dams and supplied water, so now we can grow paddy in addition to crops. And the roads have been upgraded due to the dam projects, and it is convenient for us to go here and there. Here, villagers get on with their businesses. So, I thank the government.”

Farmer U Aung Kyi of Hsongon Village said, “I grow three acres of paddy and seven acres of crops. Now, we get dam water, so I plan to grow more acres of paddy. Our family has four members, so we went through tough times previously. But now, I am getting on with my farm due to the dam, and the living conditions of our family have improved a lot.”

Primary Assistant Teacher Daw Moe Moe Aye of Yinshay Village said that it was her native village, so she worked as a teacher in her native village; that the roads had been upgraded, and so the number of students increased to over 120, up from less than 100; that buses had come to reach villages; and it is convenient for us to go here and there. Here, villagers get on with their businesses. So, I thank the government.”

We left Bhamo about 7:30 am and arrived at Momauk, which is nine miles far from Bhamo after a while. Momauk is a township with vast plains.

We had also seen paddy fields along the road, with double cropping in one rainy season, which were grown with the aim of driving Kachin State to become the fourth granary of Myanmar. Then we proceeded to the east direction from Momauk. The vehicle was running at high speed on the gravel road which is almost as good as tarred one. After some time, we were climbing Seinlong mountain.

Along the upward motorway, sometimes, we saw motorbikes overtaking us, and motorbikes and vehicles descending from the mountain. The spiral road which is almost as good as tarred one. After some time, we were climbing Seinlong mountain.

We saw brick plaque inscribed Seinlong Village somewhere on the summit. Only a few households, about 26 houses with nearly 150 people live there. Seinlong summit is 5660 feet above sea level. The mountain is lush with trees and cordial antlers, lips and fat of mountain goats. We endured those unpleasant days with shelling and mortar firing left and right while fleeing was the only way to survive and we dared not go out as soon as it was getting dark. But, now peace and tranquility have been prevailed in the region. I hope this will continue for ever.”

We saw three Kachin national girls, the eldest one studying for matriculation examination, younger one, at eighth grade and the youngest, at fourth grade.

They were wearing smiles and also have futures of their own which implies peace and tranquility of border areas in Kachin State. They were wearing smiles and also have futures of their own which implies peace and tranquility of border areas in Kachin State.

Translation: MS Myawma Alin; 3-9-2009
Elderly people more likely to commit suicide than younger people

Helsinki, 1 Oct — Elderly people are much more likely to end their lives than younger people, reported Finnish newspaper Helsingin Sanomat. According to the report, there were nearly 1000 suicide attempts in Finland in 2007, about 190 of which were carried out by people over 65 years old. Although the number of suicidal old people is not prominent, men over 75 years are the most likely to succeed when attempting suicide, their suicide risk is much higher than younger people.

Britta Sohlman, a researcher at Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare, said that illnesses that diminish mobility and loneliness could be the main causes of some suicides by elderly people. Pain, the loss of family members and a fear of being a burden have also driven some elderly to end their lives.

The situation has been existed long among Nordic and many western countries. Britta Sohlman pointed out that elderly people with mental health problems usually get less attention and treatment than young people could be the reason for that.—Xinhua

Indian economy to grow by 5.4 pc in 2009, says IMF

ISTANBUL/NEW DELHI, 1 Oct — The International Monetary Fund today retained its projection for Indian economic growth at 5.4 per cent in 2009, implying a slower growth in the second half of this calendar year.

In its twice-yearly World Economic Outlook released in Istanbul, the Fund lowered the projection for the Indian economy grow by 5.8 per cent in the first quarter and 6.1 per cent in the second quarter of this calendar year.

Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Planning Commission Deputy Chairman have expressed doubts whether the economy will grow at the rate of 6.1 per cent in the third and fourth quarters of 2009 due to an weak monsoon. The economy grew by 7.3 per cent in 2008 and 9.4 per cent in 2007.

Xinhua

European art festival focuses on Chinese culture

PARIS, 1 Oct — Chinese culture will be the focus of celebrations for the 40th anniversary of Europa, one of the top art festivals in Europe, organizers say.

The “Europa China” festival, to run from Oct. 8 to Feb. 14, 2010 in Belgium, will show Chinese lifestyle and arts, including movies, music and operas to European audiences, said General Commissioner Claire Kirschen on Tuesday.

Kirschen told Xinhua at a press conference that, although the event was being run in Belgium, organizers had come to Paris to promote it among their French neighbors.

According to the Europa website, the festival will cover four main themes: Immortal China, Contemporary China, Colorful China and China and the World. The event will feature about 50 exhibitions and 450 art performances, it says.—Xinhua

OCBC Bank launches saving program for kids in Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur, 1 Oct — OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Bhd launched its “Mighty Savers Weekend Program” on Thursday, offering children below 18 a chance to experience banking just like their parents. The bank’s Director and Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Chew Sun Teong said here at the program’s launching ceremony that the program was designed to assist parents to inculcate the good savings habits. This was crucial as good savings habits could prepare kids to embrace full-fledged banking later in life and be financially independent, added Chew. The “Mighty Savers Weekend Program” operates on the first weekend of every month, beginning from 3 Oct to 4 Oct.—Internet
Distracted driving blamed for 5,800 US deaths
WASHINGTON, 1 Oct—Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood on Wednesday called distracted driving a serious epidemic with more than 5,800 annual US traffic deaths tied to motorists who failed to keep their eyes on the road. LaHood opened a two-day conference exploring research on cellphone use and text messaging while driving as well as other topics that can divert the attention of motorists.

"To put it plainly, distracted driving is a menace to society and it seems to be getting worse every year," LaHood said, adding that it was an "extraordinarily serious epidemic."

Figures released at the conference by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) showed more than 5,800 distracted driving deaths and 515,000 injuries last year.

The fatality figures released by the government on distraction did not break down crashes by specific driver behavior. Broadly, safety officials identified cellphone use, texting, eating, talking to passengers and manipulating radio or vehicle controls as distractions.

The proportion of deadly accidents tied to distracted driving climbed from 11 percent in 2004 to 16 percent in 2009, according to the figures culled from police reports. By comparison, drunken driving accounted for roughly 30 percent of all fatalities.

Drivers under 20 years old were involved in 16 percent of distracted-driver fatal crashes. Those ages 20 to 29 accounted for another 12 percent.—International

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Search on after boat capsizes in India
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 1 Oct—Rescue workers pulled bodies from a lake in southern India on Thursday after a boat carrying tourists capsized, killing at least 37 people.

The vessel overturned in the Thekkady tiger reserve, in the coastal state of Kerala, when passengers rushed to one side to observe a herd of wild elephants, police said.

"We have removed 37 bodies out of the water and will continue the search operation until all bodies are pulled out," senior police officer Jacob Punnoose told AFP.

The two-storey boat, owned by the Kerala State Tourism Board, was carrying 76 passengers when it capsized on Wednesday. About 25 people have been confirmed as survivors.

"I have lost my daughter and sister," Venkatesh Krishnan, who was on the boat, told AFP. "The operators ignored all safety measures and overloaded the boat."

The state government announced an inquiry into the incident.---INTERNET

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Kuwait earns more than 80% of annual budget
KUWAIT CITY, 1 Oct—Kuwait earned 6.64 billion dinars (23.1 billion dollars) in the first five months of its fiscal year, about 82 percent of projected annual income, as oil prices rose, official figures showed on Thursday.

The OPEC member’s oil revenues in the first five months to August came in at 6.24 billion dinars (21.7 billion dollars), or 90 percent of the projected oil income for the 2009/2010 fiscal year that began on 1 April, according to figures posted on the finance ministry website.

Kuwait has projected revenues of 8.07 billion dinars (28.1 billion dollars), calculating oil income at a conservative price of just 35 dollars a barrel.

Oil, however, has gradually risen from lows of around 30 dollars per barrel at the end of last year and into this year. It was holding above 70 dollars a barrel in trade on Thursday.—INTERNET

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Claim's Day Notice
MV DIBENA UNITY VOY NO (125)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DIBENA UNITY VOY NO (125) are hereby notified that the vessels will be arriving on 2.10.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8.00am to 11.20am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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Invitation

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia invites all qualified planning and monitoring consultants to submit their best proposal for renovation plan of a traditional Indonesian house in the Indonesia Embassy office compound.

For further information, please contact Ms. Kalista Siregar at the Embassy by phone: 254465, 254469 or fax: 254468.

The proposals are to be submitted by 12 October 2009. Late bids will not be accepted.

YANGON, 1 October 2009

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Internet

The largest and most advanced pier in the Middle East at Kuwait's largest refinery of Al-Ahmadi just north of Al-Shuaiba.

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Oil prices rose, official figures showed on Thursday. Kuwait has projected revenues of 8.07 billion dinars (28.1 billion dollars), calculating oil income at a conservative price of just 35 dollars a barrel. Oil, however, has gradually risen from lows of around 30 dollars per barrel at the end of last year and into this year. It was holding above 70 dollars a barrel in trade on Thursday.—INTERNET
HIV spreading faster than treatment in Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 1 Oct — New HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa are growing twice as quickly as anti-retroviral drugs are rolled out, despite a 39 percent hike in treatment access, UNAIDS said on Wednesday.

The number of people receiving AIDS treatments in the region, where two-thirds of the world’s HIV-positive people live — rose from 2.1 million in 2007 to 2.9 million last year.

Although the region showed the world’s greatest progress in expanding AIDS treatment, new infections still outpace the number of people getting treatment by a ratio of two to one, regional UNAIDS director Mark Stirling told a press briefing in Johannesburg.

Several sub-Saharan governments were putting prevention strategies in place, but the political will to implement them still lags, he said.

More discussion was also needed around the social factors underpinning new infections, such as sexual violence and inter-generational sex between older men and young women and girls, said Stirling. —INTERNET

Early miscarriage linked to work, food

INDIANAPOLIS, 1 Oct — Successful pregnancies are less likely to occur when pregnant women have periods of intense work and low food intake, US researchers said.

Virginia J Vitzthum, a senior scientist at Indiana University’s Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction, said her research challenges the past belief that nearly all early pregnancy losses are caused by genetic defects in the embryo.

Genetic defects wouldn’t change with the seasons, so Vitzthum’s findings show that environmental factors must also play a major role in early pregnancy miscarriages, the study said.

The findings, published in the American Journal of Human Biology, showed seasonality of early pregnancy loss in rural Bolivian women. The study showed that during periods of intense labor and low food the rates of early pregnancy loss can more than double.

“This finding applies to US moms just as much as Bolivians, and it applies to psychosocial resources just as much as food supply,” Vitzthum said in a statement.

“As well as healthy food, pregnant women also need good working conditions and adequate social support from family, friends and workplace to keep their risks of early pregnancy losses low.” —INTERNET

US astronomers discover weird planet

GAINESVILLE, 1 Oct — US astronomers say they used multiple observatories earlier this year to observe a bizarre, Jupiter-sized planet with a highly eccentric orbit.

University of Florida astronomers said 25 scientists at observatories from Maine to Hawaii tried to observe planet HD 80606b, located nearly 200 light years from Earth, eclipse the star it orbits on the night of 4 June. The eclipse, which occurs every 111 days, lasts nearly 12 hours. Because of clouds at some sites, just six observers completed observations of more than half the eclipse.

The University of Florida astronomers said they successfully observed the planet eclipse its star with the Rosemary Hill Observatory in Bronson, Fla., and with an observatory in Indiana. While most planets have circular orbits around their stars, the astronomers said the orbit of the newly discovered planet is a highly-elongated ellipse that might be caused by gravitational forces from a companion star. They also said their discovery that the planet’s orbit is not aligned with the star’s rotation is consistent with the theory of a nearby companion star. —INTERNET

Most sensitive astronomical camera created

MONTREAL, 1 Oct — Canadian physicists say they have developed the world’s most sensitive astronomical camera.

University of Montreal researchers, led by physics doctoral student Olivier Daigle, developed the camera that will be used by the Mont-Megantic Observatory and NASA, which purchased the first unit. The scientists said their camera consists of a CCD controller for counting photons — a digital imagery device that amplifies photons observed, with the controller producing 25 gigabytes of data per second. “The first astronomical results are astounding and highlight the increased sensitivity acquired by the new controller,” Daigle said.

“The clarity of the images brings us so much closer to the stars that we are attempting to understand.” Scientific results for the camera were recently featured in the Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. —INTERNET

Pumpkins are set up like a snake at a farmer’s store at Oldenburg in Holstein, northern Germany, recently. Pumpkin is used for decoration, for eating and for carving of Halloween masks as well. —INTERNET

Scientists working on creating lunar homes

LOS ALAMOS, 1 Oct — Scientists at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico say they have been attempting to create lunar homes made out of simulated moon dirt.

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal said on Wednesday that scientists from Prairie View A&M University’s Center for Radiation Engineering and Science for Space Exploration are researching the possibility of making lunar shelters from materials already on the moon.

“It would take $1 million a pound to bring things to the moon,” CRESEE research scientist Brad Gersey said of the NASA-funded research. “We need to use something that’s there already.”

Scientists created the simulated moon dirt used in the research by analyzing samples brought back from previous moon missions.

The simulated moon materials are being combined with high-density polyethylenes in order to create shelters that provide protection against radiation, the Journal reported.

“NASA’s interested in seeing, essentially, a storm shelter,” Gersey said. “If there’s a solar flare they need a storm shelter to shield them from potentially dangerous bursts of radiation.” —INTERNET

Most sensitive astronomical camera created

Ferrari Formula One driver Kimi Raikkonen of Finland arrives at Suzuka Circuit as fans try to get his autograph ahead of the Japanese F1 Grand Prix in Suzuka, central Japan, on 1 October, 2009. —INTERNET
Sharapova, Jankovic reach Pan Pacific Open quarters

Tokyo, 1 Oct—Crowd-favourite Maria Sharapova stormed into the quarter-finals by beating fellow Russian Alisa Kleybanova in the Pan Pacific Open on Wednesday.

The former world number one, the champion here in 2005, fired an array of lightning service return winners to come from behind to win 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 against her 29th-ranked compatriot.

Sharapova admitted that her service return was the difference.

“I think on this quick surface, serve and return are pretty big keys to the game because the person can get an advantage on the point, a pretty good chance of finishing the point on a good note,” said Sharapova.

“Especially like a player today whose strength is a big serve, you really want to take that away as much as you can and then you can take care of your own service game.” As for the first-set loss, Sharapova said: “She started off really good, she started off really strong.

The rallies were long and she was just able to come up with a winner.”

Sharapova, ranked 25th, double-faulted on a break point to lose the opening game and failed to recover the deficit as she hit a backhand shot that flew into the net on Kleybanova’s first set point.

Honours even as Bayern held by Juvenus

MUNICH, 1 Oct—Bayern Munich were held to a 0-0 draw at home to Group A rivals Juventus on Wednesday, which left the frustrated German giants sharing the top of the table with group rivals Bordeaux.

Bayern created a string of chances in the first half and ended the game with 14 shots on target compared to the Italians’ seven, but Louis van Gaal’s side failed to break the Juventus defence.

Injured Nadal return at China Open

BEIJING, 1 Oct—World number two Rafael Nadal will return to action at the China Open next week after medical tests cleared him to play.

The Spaniard withdrew from this week’s Thailand Open due to a stomach injury but a statement on his website said he would be fit for Beijing. “Based on the medical tests done in Barcelona, Rafa Nadal will return to competition next week,” the statement said.

“After long hours of tedious exams, it was concluded that Rafa is physically fit for competition.”

Nadal is expected in Beijing Thursday and will follow that tournament by playing the Shanghai Masters, the Masters in London and finally the Davis Cup.

Carrick seals United comeback as Milan humbled

PARIS, 1 Oct—Manchester United, Chelsea and Real Madrid kept up their 100 percent start in the Champions League on Wednesday - but the English pair both had to scrap for narrow wins over Wolfsburg and Apoel Nicosia.

Michael Carrick secured a 2-1 win for United as the English Premier League champions came back from a goal down to edge their German opponents at Old Trafford.

Carrick swept home a fine strike 12 minutes from the end, after Ryan Giggs’s deflected free-kick had cancelled out

Scolori fails in AFC Champions League bid

KIM Kwas-Suk (L) of South Korea’s Pohang Steelers and Soliev Avnjarul of Uzbekistan’s Bunyodkor jump for an aerial ball during their quarter-final football match of the AFC Champions League tournament in Pohang.

Goal machine Ronaldo seals another Real victory

Real Madrid’s Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo controls the ball and scores during a UEFA Champions League football match between Real Madrid and Olympique Marseille at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid.

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Man arrested for confining wife, daughters in house for seven yrs

Mumbai, 1 Oct — A 60-year-old man, who had allegedly locked up his wife and three daughters in a room for seven years fearing they would be raped if they ventured out, has been arrested.

“After preliminary investigations, we arrested the accused, Francis Gomes, late last night, for causing hurt to the victims and wrongfully confining them,” Thane police inspector Ashok Pawar said today. The hapless women were rescued by police on September 29 with the help of an NGO from their second floor flat in Neelambla Cooperative Housing Society at Naigaon in neighbouring Thane district. However, Gomes in his statement to the police has refuted the allegations.

His wife Theresa in her complaint to the police had said that Gomes would lock them inside the house when he left for work in the morning and would return only in the night. — Internet

Buddha shaped pears are seen in an orchard in Weixian county, Hebei province September 10, 2009. Hao Xianzhang, a local farmer, spent six years to perfect the process by growing the pears inside moulds, local media reported. The pears cost around 50 yuan (7.32 USD) each. — Internet

Thursday, 1st October, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kayin, Mon States and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Bago and Ayeayawady Divisions, scattered in Kachin States and Yangon Division, isolated in Mandalay Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the rainfall recorded were NayPyiTaw (Tew) (0.12) inch, Longlone (5.71) inches, Kawthong (3.15) inches, Kyeeikkhake (2.91) inches, Myeik (2.48) inches, Mudon (2.24) inches, Ye (2.05) inches, Kyeeikmayaw (1.88) inches, Mawlamyine (1.65) inches, Hpo-an (1.61) inches and Yamethin (0.91) inch.

Maximum temperature on 30-9-2009 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 1-10-2009 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 30-9-2009 was 92%. Total sun shine hours on 30-9-2009 was (3.7) hours approx. Rainfall: 10-9-2009 was nr at Mingaladon, nil at Kaba-Aye and (0.08) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (106.18) inches at Mingaladon, (117.16) inches at Kaba-Aye and (21.02) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (12:20) hours MST on 30-9-2009.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (12:30) hrs M.S.T today’s, yesterday’s low pressure area over the West Central Bay still persists. Weather is cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is moderate in the Andaman sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 2nd October 2009: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon, Kayin States and Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine States, Bago, Yangon and Ayeayawady Divisions, isolated in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy rain in Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon and Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Weak to moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 2-10-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-10-2009: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-10-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. 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

Eternal Peace in Seinlong Mountain on road to Lwejel
Byline: Myint Maung Soe; Photos: Myo Min Thein (Mayangon)

Since the restoration of national consolidation in the time of the Tatmadaw Government, border areas have become peaceful and tranquil along with the development not only in urban areas but also in rural regions. The government is fulfilling all the necessities for local people to be able to enjoy better education, health, economy and transportation. Now locals from towns and villages in border areas are experiencing the fruits of peace, stability, tranquility, and development. Education and health sectors have improved, with economy booming and transportation significantly getting better.

(See page 10)

Strong earthquake jolts
NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct—The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology issued news today that a strong earthquake of intensity 6.8 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Indonesia) about 1400 miles southeast of Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 08 hr 27 min 30 sec MST on 1st October.—MNA

In search of wildlife-friendly biofuels: Are native prairie plants the answer?
SCIENCE DAILY, 1 Oct—When society jumps on a bandwagon, even for a good cause, there may be unintended consequences. The unintended consequence of crop-based biofuels may be the loss of wildlife habitat, particularly that of the birds who call this country’s grasslands home, say researchers from Michigan Technological University and The Nature Conservancy.

The northern harrier is a grasslands bird whose habitat may be threatened by crop-based biofuel production.