World Food Day 2009 was marked at Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here this morning. Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein delivered an address at the ceremony and awarded outstanding persons.

Also present were ministers, deputy ministers, the Director-General of Government Office, departmental heads, Ambassadors and personnel of foreign embassies, resident representative of United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization Dr Shin Imai, resident representatives of UN agencies, members of central committee and work committees for observing World Food Day, representatives of prize-winning townships, prize winners, organizations, students and guests.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein delivered an address at the ceremony. In his address, the Prime Minister said: Today is the 64th anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) founded on 16th October 1945 with the noble objectives of ensuring food security for the people all over the world. Myanmar is commemorating the ceremony of the World Food Day today like all other member countries.

Nowadays, food security has become a major challenge especially for the developing countries due to the growing number of the world population. The World Food Summit in 1996 passed a resolution to reduce by half the number of poverty and hunger on the Earth by the year 2015. However, the tasks to achieve that lofty goal cannot be fully expedited due to major challenges of global warming, climate change, growing demand of bio-energy, high food prices and world financial crisis.

Climate change affects the entire population of the world, especially millions of people with low income in the developing countries that have not enjoyed food security. Food insecurity brings poverty and hunger along with health problems, short life-span, and decline in working capacity, and less access to education not only to present generation but also to future generation.

(See page 8)
PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 17 October, 2009

Pay serious attention to eye health for better future

The World Health Organization with the motto “Gender and Eye Health—Equal Access to Care” has been trying its utmost to put an end to all the eye complaints including ones that can be treated and ones can be prevented in the year 2020.

In proving health care services of the people, the government is paying serious attention to providing eye health care that is the most important integral part of the body.

At present, eye specialists are providing eye health care right down to villages of the states and divisions. From 18 to 20 September 2009, they performed free surgical operations on eye patients of Myingyan, Natogyi and Taungtha Townships at the Taungtha Township People’s Hospital, Myingyan District, Mandalay Division for the second time in cooperation with social organizations.

Likewise, from 10 to 13 October 2009, the eye specialists performed free surgical operations on those with eye complaints of Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division at Kyaukpadaung Township People’s Hospital. In the process, they have been able to provide medical treatment to 5,175 eye patients from Kyaukpadaung, Poppa, NyaungU, Chauk, Yenangyoung, Natmauk, Taungtha and Myingyan Townships. The eye specialists successfully performed surgical operations on 521 cataract patients, minor operations on 28 cases, surgical operations on four in-born cataract patients and eight cross-eyed patients.

The success in the performance of surgical operations on eye patients means the successful realization of the objectives of the Ministry of Health, thereby imparting knowledge on eye health to the rural people.

The building of a new modern and developed nation calls for the fit and strong people. To ensure this, the entire people are to be equipped with knowledge on health including knowledge on eye health.

Work Proficiency Course for Auditors concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Oct—The Work Proficiency Course No. 31 for Auditors concluded at the training school, here, this morning, with an address by Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lan Maung.

It was also attended by the deputy director-general, directors, officials of the training school and 95 trainees.

More training courses for grade-I, grade-II, grade-III for service personnel and work efficiency courses and DA courses auditors will be conducted in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

One-day nourishing ceremony held in Mental Health Hospital

YANGON, 16 Oct—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint attended the ceremony of one-day nourishing and providing assistance to the patients of Mental Health Hospital (Yangon) in Dagon Myothit (East) Township here on 13 October.

The commander and officials accepted the cash and assistance donation by the well-wishers and presented the honouring certificates.

Afterwards, the commander and guests viewed the photo gallery, donated the utensils to the patients and inspected the nourishing to the patients, library, learning hall and the inside of the hospital.—MNA

CPT Minister inspects communication stations

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspects Thingangyun auto-exchange.—MNA

YANGON, 16 Oct—Minister for Communications, Posts and Telephones Brig-Gen Thein Zaw on 11 October went to auto-exchange in Thingangyun, Yangon where chief engineer explained connection of exchange machines and follow-up matters to him.

Next, the minister called for maintenance of auto-exchange and GSM station in Thanyin, auto-exchange in Thongwa, auto-exchange, microwave and CDMA tower in Khayaw and auto-exchange and GSM station in Bago, and gave necessary instructions on staff welfare.

Inter-School New Recruit Tournament continues

YANGON, 16 Oct—Myanmar Cricket Federation continues the Inter-School New Recruit Tournament 2009 at the pitches of Ahlon BEHS No. 4 and Lanmadaw BEHS No. 1 this morning.

Mingala Taungnyunt BEHS No. 3 beat Thingangyun BEHS No. 2 by 8 wicket in the women’s event.

Mingaladon BEHS No. 5 beat Thuwunna BEHS of Thimgangyun Township by 7 wicket, while Botataung BEHS No. 6 beat Bahan BEHS No. 1 by 32 Runs. Among the spectators were President of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Nyunt Win, General Secretary U Kyi Min and executives and guests.—MNA

Students participating in Inter-School New Recruit Cricket Tournament 2009 at Lanmadaw BEHS No 1.—MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 17 October, 2009

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy
Mexican government slams possible racist attack on its citizen in US

MEXICO CITY, 16 Oct  — Mexico’s Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Thursday strongly protesting a violent attack on its citizen Mario Vera Rivera in New York, and described it as “possibly a racist crime.”

Search under way after F-16s collide

WASHINGTON, 16 Oct — The US military launched a night-time search for a pilot missing in the Atlantic ocean on Thursday after two F-16 fighter jets collided, the US Air Force said.

One of the two aircraft landed safely at an air force base near Charleston in the southeastern state of South Carolina, from where the single-pilot fighters were conducting a night proficiency training mission.

“There is a search under way for one pilot,” Air Force Technical Sergeant Vincent Moulton told AFP, adding that the search was continuing into today.

The US Coast Guard launched search and rescue teams in two vessels and a helicopter to try and locate the pilot some 48 kilometres off the coast of Charleston, a Coast Guard official said. The jets involved in the collision are stationed at Shaw Air Force Base, where pilots routinely practice with night-vision equipment as part of their combat training.

South Korean workers assemble cars at a plant in Pyeongtaek. Europe has inked a free-trade deal with South Korea, ignoring anger from automakers echoing US caution running all the way up to President Barack Obama. Xinhua

Venezuela detains suspected Colombian drug trafficker

CARACAS, 16 Oct — The Venezuelan authorities have detained a suspected Colombian drug trafficker, who would be extradited to the United States if convicted, Interior and Justice Minister Tarek El Aissami said on Thursday.

The suspect, named Luis Fernando Cediel, was detained on Wednesday in Falcon state by the Venezuelan National Guard, El Aissami told a press conference. According to the minister, Cediel is wanted by the U.S. authorities for alleged drug trafficking and conspiracy on money laundering.

A container vessel sits at the Keppel port terminal in Singapore. Members of a police rescue team carry the remains of a landside victim in Pugu in the northern Philippine province of Benguet. The city-state’s key exports fell for the 17th consecutive month in September as demand from crucial markets declined, data released on Friday showed.

Pentagon gets budget numbers wrong

WASHINGTON, 16 Oct — The US Defence Department has complicated its effort to increase funding for propaganda by getting its numbers wrong, officials say. When the Pentagon first submitted its requested appropriation to Congress months ago, it asked for $988 million for Information Operations. Congress halved the amount. Officials came back with a request to put the money back but also said their original request was too large by more than $300 million, Politico reported on Thursday. They said they actually needed only $626.2 million.

The information war is off to a bad start with bad numbers, said Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., the chairman of the House Defence Appropriations subcommittee. Murtha, who served in the Marines in Korea and Vietnam, said he would like to see Information Operations moved out of the Defence Department to the State Department.

Sarkozy says no more French troops

PARIS, 16 Oct — President Nicolas Sarkozy of France says he wants to see victory in Afghanistan but has no plans to send more French troops to that country. Speaking to the Le Figaro newspaper, the French leader said he believes there should be a build-up of more Afghan troops, CNN reported.

As for staying on in Afghanistan, Sarkozy told the newspaper: “I answer yes — and stay to win.”

But France will not send one more soldier,” he added. “My belief is that more Afghan soldiers are needed. It is them who will be the most efficient to win this war because it is their country.” About 3,070 French troops, part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, are in Afghanistan. Britain announced plans this week to send an additional 500 soldiers, raising its Afghan troop strength to 9,500.

File photo shows the city skyscrapers of Singapore. A 75-year-old Singaporean woman has donated one of her kidneys to save her ailing daughter’s life, becoming the city-state’s oldest living organ donor, hospital officials said on Thursday.
IBM's turf. Companies deeper into Corp have thrust those Packard Co, Dell Inc, acquisitions from Hewlett-Packard Co, and other services that save clients outsourcing and other efforts to eliminate the scourge once and for all. At a time of multiple global crises, the poorest and most vulnerable have a special claim on our attention. We know that, in any recession, those hurt first — and worst — are the poor. According to recent estimates, the global economics crisis has claimed at least 50 million jobs this year. As many as 100 million more people are expected to fall below the poverty line in 2009. Climate change further compounds the problem.

The theme of this year’s observance, “Children and Families Speak Out Against Poverty”, coincides with the twentieth anniversary of The Convention on the Rights of the Child. We recognize that investing in children and securing their rights is one of the surest ways to ending poverty.

Despite our world of plenty, children’s basic needs are still being sidelined. Millions of children continue to be deprived of an education, with many more at risk of dropping out of school. This is particularly true for girl children.

Yet we also know that common sense investments to meet the Millennium Development Goals can make a profound difference. In areas where global investments have been scaled up — such as AIDS, TB, malaria and vaccine-preventable diseases — we are seeing heartening progress. There has also been notable success in reducing under-five mortality. These gains suggest how we can accelerate progress toward those MDG targets where the world is still far behind — by investing in key areas such as primary education, basic infrastructure and maternal health.

The United Nations system is responding to the crisis on a number of fronts — promoting food security, building a greener economy, ensuring stronger safety nets and putting forward a Global Jobs Pact. We are also developing a Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System — GIVAS — to create a networked capacity for real-time data collection and analysis. Policies must be driven by a solid picture of developments on the ground.

We are at a critical juncture in the fight against poverty. Now is the time to amplify the voices of the vulnerable and ensure that the world follows up on its pledges. With the right investments and concrete action, we can build upon the gains, fulfill our commitments, and ensure that every man, woman and child has the opportunity to make the most of their potential.
Boeing opens new hangar at Pudong International Airport

BEIJING, 16 Oct — Boeing has opened an aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) two-bay hangar at Pudong International Airport as scheduled despite the sluggish aviation market, China Daily reported on Friday. The hangar, capable of housing two B747 airplanes, is also the first MRO facility at the airport, said the newspaper.

The factory is operated by Boeing Shanghai Aviation Services Co, a joint venture in which the US aircraft manufacturer controls a 60-percent stake, while Shanghai Airport Authority and Shanghai Airlines respectively hold the remaining 25-percent and 15-percent stake.

Four int’l human traffickers arrested in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 16 Oct — Four people suspected of smuggling Mexican women and forcing them into prostitution in the United States have been arrested, the Attorney General’s Office (PGR) said in a statement on Thursday.

Ramirez Morales, Saul Romero Rugerio, Miguel Angel Rugerio and Cristina Hernandez were captured in separate operations in central Mexican state of Tlaxcala, as well as eastern Mexican states of Tabasco and Veracruz, into the US state of Georgia, where they were forced into prostitution.

The Mexican government enhanced surveillance against the group after the Georgia authorities announced on Thursday.

293 gang members arrested in Los Angeles area for cross-border crimes

LOS ANGELES, 16 Oct — A total of 293 gang members in Los Angeles area were arrested over the last six months for their roles in cross-border smuggling, drug trafficking, identity theft and other related crimes, The Los Angeles Times reported on Thursday.

The arrests were part of Operation Community Shield, a coordinated effort by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies that was launched by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement in 2005, the newspaper, quoting authorities, said.

The latest sweep included the arrest of 78 alleged members or associates of the Avenues gang on federal charges related to drug dealing and previously unsolved killings, said Jorge Guzman, an assistant special agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Uruguay authorities net record cocaine haul

MONTEVIDEO, 16 Oct — Uruguay’s army seized 2,174 tons of cocaine, the largest catch in the nation’s history, a board yacht near the nation’s capital Montevideo on Thursday, officials announced.

The brigade officers found drugs worth 150 million US dollars on the yacht in Santiago Vazquez, 15 kilometers west of Montevideo, the head of the nation’s Anti-Drug Brigade, Julio Guarache, told media.

Officers arrested two drug dealers. However, Guarache did not disclose any further information, saying that he did not want the investigation to be impeded.

Vietnam’s A/H1N1 flu cases rise to 10,156

HANOI, 16 Oct — The Vietnamese Ministry of Health confirmed 32 more cases of A/H1N1 influenza, bringing the total number of flu patients in the country to 10,156, local newspaper the People reported on Friday.

Of the total, 9,489 patients have been discharged from hospitals thanks to their recovery, said the ministry. The ministry said relevant agencies are purchasing medical equipments to deal with the A/H1N1 influenza as the flu cases are expected to reach a peak in November.

The ministry has allocated 17,000 tablets of Tamiflu to 18 municipalities and provinces to need in the country to ensure sufficient medicine for treatment, said the newspaper.

A dog romps through a snow-covered meadow in the small village of Semmering about 85 km (53 mi) south of Vienna on 15 Oct, 2009 after first snowfall in eastern Austria.

Chinese, Cote d’Ivoire PMs vow to boost economic, trade ties

CHENGDU, 16 Oct —

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and his counterpart Soro Guillaume from Cote d’Ivoire pledged here on Friday to boost bilateral trade, economic ties and China-Africa cooperation. China attaches importance to its relations with Africa and will enhance exchange with the Western African state, Wen said, labelling Cote d’Ivoire as China’s good friend and partner in the continent.

During a half-hour meeting with Soro following the opening ceremony of an international trade fair in the capital of southwest China’s Sichuan Province, Wen vowed to encourage capable Chinese companies with good credit to invest in Cote d’Ivoire, especially in such sectors as transportation, telecommunication and electricity.

Soro appreciated China’s support to the peace progress and economic reconstruction of his country, pleading to stick to the one-China policy. Cote d’Ivoire will promote high-level visits, trade and economic ties with China, he said.

A girl reads a book during the Frankfurt International Book Fair, in Frankfurt, Germany, on 15 Oct, 2009. The five-day Frankfurt International Book Fair started on 13 October.

All items from Xinhua News Agency

The conference hall during the opening ceremony of the 10th Western China International Economy and Trade Fair and the Second Western China Forum on International Cooperation held in Chengdu, southwest China’s Sichuan Province on 16 Nov., 2009.
Cambodia to hold first national forum on climate change

PHNOM PENH, 16 Oct — Cambodia is planned to hold the first national forum on climate change next week, one of the global moves and coalition fighting against the climate change.

A statement released on Thursday by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Cambodia, said the forum is scheduled on 19 Oct through 21 in Phnom Penh. It said the forum will involve and be participated by many stakeholders coming from various sources including the government, international organizations, and experts.

Preparing a symbolic move along the forum, the Oxam Cambodia set on 21 Oct as a day to alert the world about the adverse impact of climate change on Cambodian society.

The event is open to the public and will take place for one hour at Wat Phnom, the heart of Cambodia’s Phnom Penh capital with a message saying “time is running out” and “time for climate change”.

According to the statement, the objective of the event is to wake up the world to tackle climate change and agree on a global deal and to tell the world of the adverse impact of climate change on Cambodia. — Xinhua

Tagore’s rare poems inspired by art

NEW DELHI, 16 Oct — A notebook, tucked away among thousands of manuscripts at Visva-Bharati, has yielded a treasure trove — 16 unpublished poems of Rabindranath Tagore.

What’s even better, all these poems are among the rare ones inspired by his own paintings. In fact, Tagore has left notes at the end of each poem, which painting it corresponds to.

These works had been catalogued way back in the 1940s, but were forgotten. Scholars at the Rabindra Bhavan archives literally stumbled upon them.

Tagore scholar Nilanjani Bandopadhay feels that the Nobel Laureate composed poems inspired by the paintings, hoping that they would be published together after his death.

“He was perhaps fed up with the way Visva-Bharati officials were delaying the publication of Chitrailipi — the only book of his paintings published during his lifetime (in 1940).

But at the fag end of his life, he was too tired to take it up. So, he busied himself with these poems, hoping that one day these would be published,” Bandopadhay said. — Internet

Mon Dieu! Coloradan may teach French to Canadians

The Canadian military plans to hire a Colorado woman to teach some of its soldiers to speak French — one of Canada’s official languages.

The proposed deal is raising eyebrows in Canada, but the teacher, Fadia Gnoske (FAH’-dee-yah NOSS-key), calls it “a big storm in a teacup.”

If the contract is finalized, Canada will pay Gnoske’s company up to $270,000 to tutor Canadians assigned to NORAD, a joint US-Canadian command in Colorado Springs.

The Canadian military is trying to improve its French after faring poorly in a review. It says Gnoske’s company is the only one it found in Colorado Springs that understands the military’s language programme.

New flying reptile fossils found

Researchers in China and the UK say they have discovered the fossils of a new type of flying reptile that lived more than 160 million years ago. The find is named Darwinopterus, after Charles Darwin. Experts say it provides the first clear evidence of a controvertial idea called modular evolution.

The 20 new fossils found in north-east China show similarities to both primitive and more advanced pterosaurs, or flying reptiles. The research is published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B. Pterosaurs were flying reptiles that flourished between 220 million years ago and the discovery of more than 20 new fossils in north-east China sits in the gap in the evolutionary chain.

USGS reports 6.0 magnitude earthquake off tsunami-hit Samoa

WELLINGTON, 16 Oct — An earthquake of magnitude 6.0 struck off the South Pacific island nation of Samoa on Thursday, seismologists reported, two weeks after a violent quake caused a tsunami that devastated Tonga, Samoa and American Samoa.

No immediate tsunami alert was issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii following the quake, which struck at 6:00 am (1800 GMT Wednesday) at a narrow depth of 10 kilometres (six miles).

It was not until 1992 that Pope John Paul II declared that the Church’s ruling was an error and that Catholics were not hostile to science.

Now a selection of Galileo’s instruments — along with those of other key figures in astronomy — are being put on display in the Vatican. There will also be some of Galileo’s original documents in which he excidedly recorded his first discoveries. The exhibition runs until January.
Mawlamyine marks World Teachers’ Day

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Oct—A ceremony to mark World Teachers’ Day, took place at the hall of No. 161 Basic Education High School in Mawlamyine Township, on 5 October, attended by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of Southeast Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win.

At the ceremony, the commander delivered an address and presented prizes to outstanding students and gifts to teachers. —MNA

Cultural troupes from States, Divisions arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Oct—Members of the panel of judges, managers and contestants of the State and Division cultural troupes that will take part in the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions arrived here by train and car beginning 14 October.

On 14 October, members of the panel of judges, managers, contestants and excursion team members from Rakhine State arrived here by car at 10 am, the central members of the panel of judges from Mandalay Division by train at 3.30 pm and those from Yangon Division by train at 5.30 pm.

On 15 October, members of the panel of judges, managers and contestants of Sagaing Division also arrived here by train at 4 am and those of Mandalay Division by train at 12 noon. Chairmen of Reception and Accommodation Subcommittee Police Col Tun Ohn and party, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township Peace and Development Council and officials welcomed them and accommodated them at the hotels. —MNA

Dip in Banking course opened

YANGON, 16 Oct—Diploma in Banking Course No (3), organized by the Myanmar Bank Association under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, was opened at Zaburit Shwezin Hall of Myanmar Banking Training Centre here this afternoon, attended by Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe.

On the occasion, the deputy minister extended greetings. Also present on the occasion were Directors-General and Managing Directors of Departments and Enterprises under the Ministry, Governor and Vice-Governors of Central Bank of Myanmar, Chairmen of Government and Private Banks, Managing Directors, CEC members of the association, senior bankers and faculty members of Yangon Institute of Economics, Principals and trainers of the training centre and trainees.

A total of 63 trainees including 39 trainees from government and private banks, are attending the one year course. —MNA

Myanmar delegation arrives back from Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Oct—A delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint arrived back from Thailand on 13 October after attending the ministerial meeting on illegal workers held on 11 and 12 October at the invitation of Thai Minister for Labour Mr Phaithoon Kaotchong.

The delegation met with Thai Representative Group and discussed and secured the agreements on matter related to the bilateral cooperation in labours, contributing Myanmar illegal workers to be legally registered, reducing visa fees, signing employer-employee contract, minimizing services of the agencies and ensuring registered workers to extend the duration.

They also discussed matter on systematic sending of recruitments to Thailand, Myanmar delegation also comprised Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Aung Thein and Counsellor U Win Zayar Tun.

The deputy minister also met with the group Protecting Myanmar Workers in Thailand at Myanmar Embassy, Bangkok, on 11 October morning and discussed the matter on legalizing Myanmar workers in Thailand and protecting their interests. The Myanmar ambassador to Thailand acts as the patron of the group, the counselor as the chairman, the military attaché and businessmen as members.

The delegation accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Thailand visited Chicken Food Processing Factory of Granpia Foods Siam (GFS) in Nakornnayok, Thailand, and viewed the production process of the factory.

The deputy minister met with Myanmar workers of the factory and explained to them the situation of legalizing the Myanmar workers, ensuring their interests and goodwill of the Head of State towards them.

Later, the deputy minister and officials answered the queries raised by the Myanmar workers.

The members of the Myanmar delegation were Director-General U Min Lwin of Consular and Legal Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director-General U Chit Shein of Labour Department under the Ministry of Labour, Deputy Director-General U Khin Maung Myint of Immigration and National Registration Department under the Ministry of Immigration and Population, Deputy Commander of Special Branch of Myanmar Police Force and Head of Branch Daw Khine Su Lin of Consular and Legal Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —MNA

Corrigendum

Please read Depavali Day in stay of Desavari Day in the back page of yesterday issue of this paper. Error is regretted.
Paddy output well exceeds domestic consumption, surplus…

(from page 1) Moreover, every nation has already been hit by the rising prices of food and high energy prices. At that time, the food price indicator has risen up to 52 per cent in the world market. Hence, the number of poverty and hunger has increased by 75 million in late 2007. It was found that the number of poverty and hunger has not declined yet even though the prices were dropped later. Global economic downturn in late 2008 has adverse effects to not only white collar workers in urban and but also peasants with small farm and their families in rural areas. So, the daily food security for the poor is still far away to achieve. According to the forecast of FAO, the world population of poverty and hunger will increase up to 105 million in 2009. The population of chronically under-nourished people will be 1.2 billion that is 1/6 of the world population.

The developed countries are trying to remedy the global financial crisis by laying down emergency policies to spend trillions of dollars. But still there is no answer for the poor rural people. Nowadays, the world has transformed into a global village because of rapid changing developments of information and communication technology. On the other hand, the global citizens are hard hit by floods, drought, forest fire and storm due to the climate change. As a result, their lives and properties were lost, crops plantations destroyed and agricultural productions capacity declined. The fall of present crops prices is still higher than the prices of early 2007. Actually, the food sufficiency was hindered due to little investment in agriculture sector and failing to heed research work on major crops production for the hunger.

Because of lack of enough funding, limited utilization of land and water resources and the decline of crops export to world market, the peasants with small farm have declined their production capacity effecting slow growth of agricultural productions. World cereals crops production was boosted in 2008 and FAO predicted that the production capacity will meet the demand of annual consumption. In fact, 11 per cent of production development belongs to developed countries and only 1 per cent to developing countries. It is because of insufficient investment and lack of market opportunities for the poor and food insufficient farmers.

The Cyclone Nargis that hit hard Myanmar in early May, 2008 ravaged paddy fields, farm implements, fish and prawn farms, salt farms and lives and property of the people of the southern part of Ayeyawady Division, which is the nation’s main contributor to rice, fish and meat. Rescue, relief and rehabilitation works have been successfully carried out by the harmonized cooperation of the State, the people, the Tatmadaw and world nations led by the UN, UN organizations of FAO and WFP and other INGOs. Ravaged paddy fields could be put under the crop in time this monsoon season. Furthermore, efforts have also been made for the increase of crop production in all potential areas throughout the country to compensate the possible reduction in food production of the area. Now, we are striving to improve the socio-economic life of rural people through noble objective for boosting production in the agricultural sector, which is vital for food production. Myanmar has a sown acreage of more than 22 million hectares, out of which more than 8.1 million hectares are under paddy, the staple food crop of the nation. The paddy production is 18.8 million tons a year. Paddy output well exceeds domestic consumption, and the surplus is exported, thereby contributing to world food sufficiency. Programmes for region-wise rice sufficiency has been carried out and as a result, almost all the states and divisions have enjoyed rice security. At the national level, it can be considered that the paddy production is in surplus.

Moreover, output of such basic crops as corn, beans and pulses, edible oil crops and kitchen crops have met domestic demand. Now, Myanmar is leading as the largest producer and exporter of beans and pulses among the ASEAN countries. The amount of water flow annually from the major rivers of the country: Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung and Thanlwin is around 870 million acre-ft. So far, our country has been able to harness only 10 per cent of the total water sources for the agricultural purpose. In order to overcome the difficulties caused by the climate change, the Government is implementing to supply sufficient irrigation water for boosting agricultural production. And all possible water sources are being exploited at the national level to supply irrigation water to be able to grow crops all year-round. From 1988-89 to date, 255 dams, reservoirs and sluice gates as well as 322 river water pumping stations were constructed and these irrigation facilities can benefit over 1.3 million hectares of crops plantations. In the process large, medium, small dams, river water pumping stations, and underground water sources project are being constructed wherever necessary based on the geographical features. Up to the end of September 2009, artesian wells and tube wells totaling 7,661 have already been tapped and it can benefit over 90,000 acres of farm land. Some dams are also designed to generate large, medium and small scale hydropower for nearby villages in the arid zones. In Myanmar, the meat and fish sector contributes to 7.6 per cent of GDP. In livestock and fishery sector, priority is being given to breeding and production of more quality species and promotion of modern technologies so also conservation of Myanmar fish, prawn and marine resources, and protection of endangered species. The State is also supporting the breeding of suitable local species with correct methods instead of relying on imported species.

FAO Resident Representative Dr Shin Imai

Prime Minister General Thein Sein awarding a representative of prize winning township.—MNA

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung

awarding a representative of prize winning township.—MNA

(See page 9)
Paddy output well exceeds domestic consumption, surplus…

(from page 8)

Steps are being taken to breed and produce fish and prawn from the rivers, creeks and lakes for long-term interests. As part of the programme, billions of fingerlings are distributed to the fish and prawn farms in rural areas, while fingerlings are released into the water sources such as dams, rivers and creeks every year. Methods and fingerlings are provided for integrated farming in rural areas for local food sufficiency. Necessary regulations are enforced for prevention of extinction of fish and prawn species and the mangrove forests and tidal forests along the coast are conserved for protection of biological diversity.

Myanmar’s forest coverage stands at 34 million hectares, which help conserve the environment and keep the climate temperate. To ensure sustainable development of the forests, the Government is supervising extraction of timber, nurturing and reforestation, conservation of mangrove forests in accordance with the Forest Laws. In order to conserve land and water resources, wildlife, biodiversity and the environment, natural resources management projects are ongoing to extend the area of reserved forests, natural forests and establish National Sanctuaries. As the conservation of Myanmar valuable forests, unpopular forest woods are introduced as the alternative way to promote value-added eco-friendly new forest products.

Furthermore, measures are being taken to establish 100,000 acres of forests annually in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay divisions for greening the arid zones, conserve natural forests, produce alternative fuel and reforestation of valuable teak and hard wood along Bago Yoma mountain range and conduct nurturing the depleted forests. There also achieves greater success in establishing private forest plantations in collaboration with rural community and authorities concerned.

Minister Maj-Gen Muang Maung Swe awards an outstanding prize winner.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Muang Maung Tinaw awards an outstanding prize winner.—MNA

Minister brig-Gen Muang Maung Thein awards an outstanding prize winner.—MNA

Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein awards an outstanding prize winner.—MNA

Myanmar is a peaceful and stable country. It is laying down prudent policies and long-term projects in various sectors. In dealing with consequences of climate change, the nation has favourable conditions for production of bio-fuel on a large scale from industrial raw crops like Jatropha curcas (physic nut), rather than from edible crops. Myanmar has abundant resources to keep a good balance among Food-Feed-Fuel without infringing the crop cultivation patterns in producing bio-energy, so I believe Myanmar does not need to be worried about food security now, and the country will not face food insecurity in future, either. And it will be able to contribute towards food security of Asia and the world as far as it can.

Besides, Myanmar together with regional bodies such as ASEAN, GMS, ACMECS and BIMSTEC, UN agencies like UNDP, WFP, WHO, UNICEF and UNESCO and international organizations of ICIMOD, IRRI, ICRISAT, SEAMEO, SEARCA and CIRDAP, is in pursuance of the policies to create job opportunities and increase the income of the poor laid down at the World Food Summit to alleviate poverty and improve economic growth. programmes to ensure food security, and development programmes for agricultural sector and rural area. And we will keep on working hand in hand with them in future.

In conclusion, I would like to call on all to work collectively according to the motto “Achieving Food Security in Times of Crisis” with the realization that daily food security plays vital for global citizens who are suffering from poverty and hunger while encountering the daunting challenges of natural disasters and other crises with perseverance.

FAO Resident Representative Dr Shin Imai read the message sent by the director-general of FAO.

Next, the documentary video to mark the 2009 World Food Day was presented to those present.

The Prime Minister presented prize to farmer U Win Oo of Pantin Village-tract in Okpo Township of Bago Division (West) for his excellent performance in high yield production of monsoon paddy, an honorary prize to Yangon Division breeder breeder association for its performance in stabilizing the prices of breeding products and the first prize to Ottwin Township Forest Department for its performance in establishment of forest plantations.

The Prime Minister cordially greeted those present.

Next, the Prime Minister and party visited the booths and display of farming machinery.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo awarded Himthada Township of Ayeyawady Division for outstanding performance in monsoon paddy production, Pwintpya Township of Magway Division for summer paddy production and farmer U Aye Than of Hleseik Village of Kyakhtal Township for summer paddy production.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein awarded Myanma Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank Ltd, Deputy Head of Bago Township Fisheries Department U Tun Win Myint and U Kyar Maung of Kyaw Kyaw Phyo Co Ltd of Myekin.

Inister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung presented prizes to U Phoe of Ottwin Township, Kanbalu Township Forest Department and Taikkyi Township Forest Department.

Ministers Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Maj-Gen Muang Maung Swe and Brig-Gen Lin Thi, Deputy Ministers Thura U Thaung Lwin, U Kyaw Soe, Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung and U Ohn Myint, FAO Resident Representative Dr Shin Imai and officials gave prizes to the respective outstanding persons and winners in the basic education primary, middle, high and agricultural institute level essay and poster competitions.—MNA
Making Kyaukdaga...

(from page 16)

To know the development of the township and its agriculture sector, I had an interview with Chairman of Kyaukdaga Township Peace and Development Council U Myo Tint. “Atotal of 155,742 acres of land has been put under monsoon paddy in 2009-2010 cultivation season, exceeding 354 acres of the target. In addition to paddy, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, mung bean, green gram, cow pea, sugarcane, fruits and vegetables, summer paddy were grown in the township. To cultivate cold season crops and beans and pulses, Yenwe Dam and Yenwe Diversion Weir are irrigating the farmlands. So, the local farmers can extend the farmlands. So, the irrigation facility,” explained the chairman. Yenwe Diversion Weir is located seven miles down stream of Yenwe Dam. The diversion weir is of reinforced concrete type, 18 feet high and 99 feet wide. The sluice gate has two six feet by seven feet valves on the right side and eight 8 feet by 8 feet valves on the left side. Two main canals stretch 7.11 miles. A total of 100 tributary canals is 309 miles long to irrigate 118,500 acres of farmlands.

“In the communication sector, a total of 90% auto-telephones are in use in Kyaukdaga and Penwegon plus 248 GSM and 295 CDMA-450 mobile phones. For ensuring easy telecommunication access, CDMA-450 mobile phones have been installed in the villages beside Yangon-Mandalay Expressway” said U Myo Tint. Penzalok Village-tract of Kyaukdaga Township is my native. In the past, I had faced the difficulty to make a call waiting for dialing the whole day. The telephone service is fully provided to the local people at present. They are enjoying fruits of communication development by having access throughout the world in addition to all regions of the country. He continued to say “In the health sector, the township has one township hospital, Penwegon Station Hospital, Pado Village-tract, special hospital, nine rural health centres, 36 rural health branches, two disease control units, one traditional medicine clinic, 12 private clinics and one clinic of Maternal and Child Welfare Association.”

On arrival at the office of Township Education Officer, TEO U Saw Bi Thein said, “The township has four Basic Education High Schools, three Affiliated BEHS, eight BEMSs, three BEHS (Branches), two Affiliated BEMSs, 40 Basic Education Post-Primary Schools, nine Affiliated BEPSs and 20 Pre-Primary Schools. After 1985, the township was equipped with one BEMS and eight BEPSs. In 2009-2010 financial year, one more BEHS and six more BEPSs were opened.” I proceeded to the office of Township Development Affairs Committee and met with Assistant Director U Thinn Oo and Assistant Engineer U Maung Maung Naing Min. They explained development undertakings in the township, saying, “The tarred roads and rural roads such as gravel, laterite and earth roads were maintained and more new roads were also constructed yearly. While the water supply task is systematically carried out, efforts are being made to keep the local roads neat and tidy. The lush and green tasks have been undertaken at the archway of the town and Seinle Kantha Park.”

During my trip, I saw the improvement in economic, education and health sectors Plus transportation sector. For many days after the visit, I was not able to forget the scenes on socio-economic development of the local people there.

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Translation: TTA Myanma Alin:

15-10-2009

Tobacco kills.
An Engineering Feat of the 19th Century

Thet Han Soe

(Continued from yesterday)
Next, thousands of thin steel wires were strung from Brooklyn to New York. It was called spanning cable. Bundles of galvanized wires were wrapped together to make four main cables and each cable contained more than 3,500 miles of wire. The wires were spun across the river individually, and then workers went aloft and lashed them into cable nearly 16 inches thick. When the main cables were completed, hundreds of vertical ropes were suspended from them. Those suspenders were attached to the main cables at the top, and to the floor beams at the bottom. A cage-like trusswork of girders was installed on top of the floor beams to stiffen the entire bridge deck against high winds and vibrations. The trusses also enclosed and defined the roadway, with two outer lanes for carriages, two inner lanes for cable cars, and the elevated promenade for pedestrians in the centre. Extra cables called diagonal stays also provided additional stiffening and support to the strength of the bridge.

It took more than six years to stretch the cables and build the roadway. When the bridge was finally opened on 24 May, 1883, it was hailed as “the eighth wonder of the world” because of its magnificent site, breathtaking span, cutting-edge technology and sheer beauty. The bridge has stood for more than 100 years, and its rigid and super-strong structure still shows the marvelous expertise of the Roeblings. The structure was so solid that the bridge needed very little repair over the years. Only the wooden central walkway was replaced in 1930 but the bridge was completely restored in the 1980s.

Although the Roeblings are “conservatively innovative” engineers, whose designs are derived from the best available practice, combining with new technologies and materials, their Brooklyn Bridge opened a new chapter in bridge building history. Every single step of the construction process had been a technical innovation — the sinking of enormous underwater caissons, the raising of great towers, the unique design of the anchorages, the spinning of cable wires in the air, the galvanizing of all wire and rope cables, extensive system of trusses that made the superstructure rigid. The bridge’s outstanding design was enhanced by using slim stays more as stabilizers for the cables and suspender rods than as props for the platform.

Roebling’s decision to use steel in bridge for the first time was a substantial engineering advance in history as well. Since then, only steel has been used in bridge construction. The way he used iron in the bridge opened the new possibilities of using steel in buildings at the beginning of the skyscraper age and architects began to think in terms of high-rise construction. For example, the steel wires had a profound influence on steel framework for building.

Although the Brooklyn Bridge lost its status as the world’s longest bridge within 50 years of opening, other longer suspension bridges owed their success to the design principles invented and developed by the Roeblings. Other bridge builders came to realize that the stiffness of a suspension bridge was the most fundamental factor contributing to its stability. “Weight is a most essential condition, where stiffness is a great object” and this led to the assumption that weight was stiffening. That knowledge led to the further understanding of the “elastic” theory of suspension bridges — any load applied to the cable will pull it into a “V” shape. Again, it led to the assumption that most of the live load is carried by the stiffening truss while the dead load by the cable.

The Williamsburg Bridge, a single-span suspension bridge, was the first bridge using the elastic theory. Based on the calculations, without depending on the stiffening effect of the cable, the bridge should be built with the stiffening trusses which are very deep and heavy. With this understanding, there came a major step forward in the development of the “deflection” theory. It states that a cable carrying a high dead-load tension will not straighten out under the weight of a load passing over the bridge. It also assumes that the dead-load tension also permits the cable to resist wind forces both in its plan and perpendicular to its plane.

The first application of this “deflection” theory was in the computations for the Manhattan Bridge in the 1900s. With deep trusses and suspended side spans, the bridge has much slender towers to accommodate the cable motion. Further understanding of suspension bridge can be seen in the George Washington Bridge which is famous for its radical departures in design, size and weight. Calculations based on the deflection theory showed that as the dead load of the bridge increased, the stiffening truss size could decrease.

The bridge was actually built with no stiffening truss, and the side spans are very short. Then, the deflection theory reached its logical conclusion with the Golden Gate Bridge. With only 25 feet deep stiffening truss, the bridge “continued the trend toward the longer and the shallower.” However, “increasingly greater flexibility and longer spans caused the structure to be subject to a degree of wind sensitivity that Roebling was aware of but that was forgotten by his successors.”

The gradual development and research led to the construction of more economical and more ambitious structures. Tacoma Narrows Bridge was built with the plate girders but, unfortunately, it collapsed in a few months because of its slender design and the excessive oscillations in a transverse wind. It was known as the link of failure Roebling successfully avoided by using deep stiffening trusses, massive towers and inclined cable stays. People came to understand much more about aerodynamic effects, and learnt that it was not the grid but the truss which helps stiffen the bridge. The bridge building style returned to deep stiffening trusses.

The gradual development of suspension bridge design principles invented and developed by the Roeblings in the modern conventional suspension bridges. For example, we can take a close look at the Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge which currently has the longest span in the world. In spite of the 100-year age difference between the bridges, the similarities in appearance and design are very striking. For example, we can find out that both bridges possess a dominant center span and two shorter side spans, parabolic cables which are very small relative to the size of the bridges carry the bulk of the bridges’ weight, and wind loads and the weight of the bridge are carried by the towers to the foundations.

Few other works of engineering have ever captured the public imagination in the same way as Brooklyn Bridge. The elegant high arches of the stone towers, the graceful sweep of the main cable, and the pattern created by the suspender cables and the diagonal stays make Brooklyn Bridge the grandest, and perhaps the most important structure built in American during the nineteenth century. It goes down into history as one of the finest engineering achievements of human spirit, contributing to the very substantial advance in the understanding of suspension bridge design. “It also happens that the work which is likely to be our most durable monument, and to convey some knowledge of us to the most remote prosperity, is a work of bare utility; not a shrine, not a fortress, not a palace, but a bridge.”

The Sundial Bridge.
**NEW YORK, 16 Oct — More than 39,000 New Yorkers are spending their nights in shelters, which is a record high since the city began keeping track 25 years ago, according to local media reports on Wednesday.**

The number of homeless sheltered by the city reached an all-time high of 39,243, including 16,500 children, last month, the Coalition for the Homeless, the oldest not-for-profit advocacy group focused on homelessness in the United States, reported on Tuesday. This represents a 45-per-cent increase since New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg took office eight years ago, according to the group.

In 2002, about 31,000 people were using city shelters — and those numbers have steadily increased each year, the group said. In releasing the figures, the group called on the US Administration to give priority to the homeless for federal housing programs and to expand the number of shelter beds.

**MNA/Xinhua**
Canadian applies for Guinness record for largest coloured gemstone

OTTAWA, 16 Oct — Canadian financier Vincent Boucher is applying for the Guinness World Records for verification of his 192-carat Paraiba tourmaline as the world’s largest gemstone. He is sure to succeed as his stone shatters the current Guinness World Records holder with its mass of just under 52 carats.

Boucher presented what he has named the Etherel Carolina Divine Paraiba at Kaufmann de Suisse jewelry boutique in Montreal on Wednesday, saying he will tour the globe with the oval-shaped clear turquoise gem once it is officially recognized as the biggest. He told Canwest News Service he expects his tourmaline to soon be certified by Guinness and included in 2011 edition of the Guinness Book of World Records. The 2010 edition has already come out.

Boucher got the stone six months ago for an amount of money he would not reveal. He now puts its value at between 25 million Canadian dollars (122 million Canadian dollars) but said it is not for sale. Tourmaline, the world’s rarest and precious gemstone, mainly originates from the Paraiba State in Brazil.

The Canadian financier and Oslo-based tire manufacturer Jarl Magne Bisher states, a UNESCO associate member since 1995.

S’pore, Thailand enhance Coop between civil services

SINGAPORE, 16 Oct — Singapore and Thailand agreed here on Wednesday to enhance cooperation during the 9th Coordinating Meeting of the Thailand-Singapore Civil Service Exchange Programme (CSEP).

The Meeting reviewed identified future areas of collaboration between the two civil services, such as continuing the “Singapore-Thailand Leadership Development Programme”, and initiating new projects to enhance the employability of disabled people, promoting occupational safety management systems and enforcement of occupational safety and health in SMEs.

The two sides also agreed to enhance cooperation on information and communication technology projects to empower persons with disabilities, and increase exchanges on capacity building and skills enhancement as well as experience and knowledge sharing on the destitute and homeless, children, youth and aging issues.

China’s forex reserve hits record $2.27t

BEIJING, 16 Oct — China’s foreign exchange reserve hit a new high of 2.27 trillion US dollars by the end of September, up 19.26 per cent per year on year, the People’s Bank of China, the central bank, said Wednesday.

In the first three quarters, China’s foreign exchange reserve increased 326.6 billion US dollars, and the increase was 50.7 billion less than the same period last year, the bank said. China’s foreign exchange reserve added by 43 billion in July, 36.2 billion in August and 61.8 billion US dollars in September.

At the end of June, China’s foreign exchange reserve surpassed 2 trillion US dollars for the first time by 131.6 billion. The market exchange rate of RMB to US dollars was 6.8269 Wednesday. — MNA/Xinhua

Tsunami drill across Indian Ocean

BANDA ACEH, 15 Oct — Eighteen countries around the Indian Ocean have held a mass drill aimed at testing tsunami early warning systems.

The UN-backed drill simulated the 2004 quake off the coast of Sumatra which killed more than 200,000 people, half of them in Indonesia’s Aceh Province.

The exercise comes two weeks after a tsunami in the Pacific Ocean killed almost 200 people in Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga.

UN officials are due to issue an assessment of the drill within days. Exercise Indian Ocean Wave 09 tested warning systems and preparedness in nations in Asia, Australasia, the Middle East and Africa.

Faroe Islands becomes associate member of UNESCO

PARIS, 16 Oct — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization announced on Tuesday that Faroe Islands has joined the Paris-based organization as its first associate member from Europe.

The Faroe Islands is an archipelago of 18 islands located in the North Atlantic Ocean, between Scotland and Iceland, with a population of about 49,000 people.

The islands region was determined by the Geneva Convention of 1951 to be a self-governing group of territories that are not responsible for international relations may be admitted to UNESCO as Associate Members. Their admission and their rights and obligations are determined by the General Conference.

The other six associate members are British Virgin Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Aruba, China’s Macao, Cayman Islands and Tokelau.

MNA/Xinhua

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The tsunami test and monitoring stations. Internet

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The tsunami test and monitoring stations. Internet
IOC chief hails first China trip since Beijing Olympics

JINAN, 16 Oct — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Jacques Rogge visited the largest-ever Chinese Sports Art Exhibition on Friday in Jinan of eastern China’s Shandong province, praising the great Chinese artworks which embody the value of the Olympic movement.

As part of his on-going China trip, Rogge attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition together with Chinese State Councillor Liu Yandong. Addressing the occasion, he said the exhibition highlights how much sport combines with art and culture, which is the heart of the philosophy and value of the Olympic movement.

“Such an exhibition has also an important educational significance to the artists inspired by sports or the visitors who have the pleasure to discover how this has done,” said the 67-year-old, who was re-elected as the IOC president last Friday at the 121st IOC Session in Copenhagen. The exhibition, which features creativity and innovation, is the largest national art exhibition with the theme of sports. Altogether 368 works from artists around China, including oil and liqour paintings, printmaking, posters and sculptures, are on display from 16-22 Oct. — Xinhua

Russia has good chance to host 2018 World Cup

MOSCOW, 16 Oct — Russia has a good chance of winning the right to host the 2018 football World Cup, local media quoted FIFA President Sepp Blatter as saying on Thursday. Speaking at a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in Moscow, Blatter said Russia had a “very good chance” of winning the right to stage the world’s most popular sporting event.

“I believe that the World Cup should leave a legacy, and this idea is coming to life here in Russia. That is why I feel a whole-hearted affinity for the Russian bid,” Blatter was quoted as saying by RIA Novosti news agency.

Holding such a major event will certainly boost the development of football in the post-Soviet region and in Eastern Europe, Putin said.

The Russian bid, which was officially launched last on Friday, has won the government’s support, with a bidding commission chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov. Russia has never hosted a major football tournament, although Moscow was the host city for the 1980 Olympic Games and the Black Sea resort of Sochi will stage the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Russia has seven competitors to host the 2018 World Cup, including England, Australia, Belgium and the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal, and the United States. FIFA will vote on the host nations for the 2018 and 2022 tournaments in December 2010. — Xinhua

Nadal, Djokovic live up to seedings in Shanghai tennis

SHANGHAI, 16 Oct — Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic kept the excitement high at the Shanghai Masters on October 15. — Internet

Spain’s Rafael Nadal hits a return to compatriot Tommy Robredo in their third round match at the ATP Shanghai Masters on October 15. — Internet

AFA president justifies Maradona’s sharp words

BUENOS AIRES, 16 Oct — The Argentine Football Association (AFA) president Julio Grondona justified on Thursday the sharp words Argentine coach Diego Maradona, and said that people “must understand” his anger.

During the celebration for booking a trip to the 2010 World Cup, Maradona criticized Argentine media which had questioned his abilities as national team coach.

The soccer great said after his team won 1-0 over Uruguay in the South America zone qualifying on Wednesday, “This is for those who did not believe in me and treated me as garbage,” “It happens to everybody, it happens in life. It even happens when you are driving your car. Life is like this,” Grondona said during an interview with local radio Radio 10. — Xinhua

Guivarc’h takes aim at ‘worst striker’ poll

PARIS, 16 Oct — Former Newcastle forward Stephane Guivarc’h has lashed out at a poll in a Brititsh newspaper which named the 1998 World Cup winner as the worst striker ever to appear in the Premier League. Guivarc’h, who played under Kenny Dalglish and then Ruud Gullit at Newcastle in 1998, was responding to a survey published in The Daily Mail poll.

It’s really a crap paper, how can they judge that? “At Newcastle I only started in two games and played in four in total. And I scored once, against Liverpool.” After two matches Kenny Dalgligh, who signed me and who wanted to use me with Alan Shearer, was fired. Rund Gullit arrived and sidelined me straight away.” Guivarc’h, who retired in 2002 and now coaches a French amateur side in Brittany, dismissed Gullit as “a tourist.” — Internet

Seeds named for European World Cup playoffs

ZURICH, 16 Oct — France, Portugal, Russia and Greece will be seeded in the playoffs to decide the final four European spots at the 2010 World Cup.

They were the four highest-ranked of the playoff teams in the FIFA world rankings published Friday, meaning they cannot face each other in the two-legged playoffs on 14 and 18 Nov.

Instead they will be paired against the four non-seeded teams — Ukraine, Ireland, Bosnia and Slovenia — with the draw to be announced Monday.

FIFA was criticized for waiting until last month before deciding to seed the playoffs.

Triumphant Slovaks celebrate World Cup debut

BRATISLAVA, 16 Oct — Slovakia woke to a jubilant morning on Thursday, a day after its footballers stunned rivals in the qualifying Group Three to clinch a World Cup debut in South Africa next year. “Boys, We Love You,” read a front-page headline on the Plus jeden tabloid, next to a picture of the Slovak team celebrating in a snowstorm that boosted their defence in their 1-0 away victory over Poland on Wednesday.

The Slovaks, led by 22-year-old Napoli midfielder Marek Hamlok, capitalised on an early own goal to win the game that triggered an unprecedented pre-party in the nation of five million people. “All in all, we made only one mistake in this campaign — at home with Slovenia,” said coach Vladimir Weiss, pointing to last Saturday’s game that put off Slovaks celebrations as the guests won 2-0 in Bratislava.

“So we converted the second matchpoint,” added Weiss, who took the team over in mid-2008 to steer it through the campaign. “A Dream Come True,” wrote the Pravda daily, while the Sport newspaper splashed a headline saying “We’re Going To Africa!” over its front page on Thursday. — Internet

Pele to bring African Nations Cup to Uganda

KAMPALA, 16 Oct — Ugandan football fans will get the opportunity to behold the ultimate prize in African football as legend Abdi Pele is expected on Thursday to bring the African Nations Cup trophy to the country.

Pele, Standard Bank’s football ambassador is scheduled to arrive Thursday evening in the East African country with the trophy that will see 16 nations battle for it next year in Angola. The trophy has already toured Ghana, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia. — Xinhua
Lloyds to axe another 460 jobs

State-rescued Lloyds Banking Group said it would cut up to 460 more positions, bringing to about 8,000 the total number of job losses it has announced since the start of the year.—Irrawaddy

LONDON, 16 Oct—State-rescued Lloyds Banking Group on Friday said it would cut up to 460 more positions, bringing to about 8,000 the total number of job losses it has announced since the start of the year.

LGB, which is 43 percent owned by the taxpayer after a massive government bailout, has slashed thousands of jobs since its creation earlier this year following Lloyds TSB’s takeover of rival banking group Halifax Bank of Scotland (HBOS).

Lloyds TSB took over HBOS when the latter faced possible collapse with the credit crunch hitting its ability to raise funds.

As part of the transaction, there are 121 ... banking centres located within the estate agent offices which will close early in the New Year,” said LGB.

“It is anticipated that as a result of the counter closures, up to 460 colleagues will be affected.”

An additional 1,050 staff currently working across LBG’s 218 estate agency offices will be transferred to LSL Property Services on completion of the sale that is expected to conclude in January.

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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

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

Making Kyaukdaga Township on a par with urban areas

Nowadays, progress can be witnessed in rural and urban areas of the entire Union. Especially, everybody can see development of urban regions and improvement of rural areas after 1988.

Indeed, Kyaukdaga Township of Bago Division is one of the developing metropolises. Kyaukdaga is located beside Yangon-Mandalay Highway, 114 miles from Yangon and 314 miles from Mandalay. The township is sharing border with Pyu Township in the north, Nyaunglebin and Daik U Townships in the south.

Kyaukkyi and Shwegyin Townships in the east and the lush and green Bago mountain ranges in the west. It has an area of 1093 square miles. The township is formed with 13 wards and 283 villages in 47 village-tracts which are home to over 250,000 people.

Earthquake Report

NAV PYI TAW, 16 Oct—A strong earth quake of intensity (6.5) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Indonesia) about (1800) miles southeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (16) hrs (22) min (52) sec M.S.T on 16th October 2009.—MNA

Survey data supports rapid ice loss: Largely open Arctic Seas in summer within 10 years

Scientists say that the Arctic Ocean sea ice is thinning, supporting the emerging thinking that the Ocean will be largely ice-free during summer within a decade. The Catlin Arctic Survey, completed earlier this year, provides the latest ice thickness record, drawn from the only survey capturing surface measurements conducted during winter and spring 2009.

The data, collected by manual drilling and observations on a 450-kilometre route across the northern part of the Beaufort Sea, suggests the survey area is comprised almost exclusively of first-year ice.

This is a significant finding because the region has traditionally contained older, thicker multi-year ice. The average thickness of the icefloes measured 1.8 metres, a depth considered too thin to survive the next summer’s ice melt.

Internet