True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein to attend 15th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct.—At the invitation of H.E. Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Government of the Union of Myanmar will be attending the 15th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits scheduled to be held in Hua Hin, Thailand in the near future.—MNA

Myanmar traditional performing arts, cultural heritage bear witness to high national prestige and integrity of the nation

The nation will face culture deterioration, if social affair is not paid serious attention

17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions commence

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct.—The opening of the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions took place at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall this morning, with an address by Patron for Organizing the competitions Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present on the occasion were senior military officers, members of the panel of patrons for organizing the competitions, Chairman of the Leading Committee for organizing the competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, deputy ministers, members of the Leading Committee, chairmen and members of the work committees and subcommittees, and ambassadors and their wives, diplomats, heads of office, members of social organizations, members of the panel of judges (central), maestros, managers of cultural troupes and candidates from states and divisions, students from the universities of culture, and guests.

The first session was held in front of the city hall at 8.30 am. Members of the panel of patrons for organizing the competitions, the chairman and members of the Leading Committee, the work committee and subcommittees, managers and participants from 14 states and divisions, and distinguished guests from Kachin, Kayah and Chin states took position at the designated places.

The levels of the contestants are six levels, the same as previous year. Altogether 1853 competitors U Hla Win, Daw Lein Maung Pan and Daw Mya Kye Mon from the Myanma Radio and Television acted as MCs.

The chairman of the Leading Committee presented a report on prearrangements for the competitions, saying that the competitions are aimed at ensuring perpetuation of the Union of Myanmar, and further cementing friendly relations among national races. So, the Leading Committee and subcommittees have made all possible measures for the convenience and comfort of the contenders from the states and divisions.

The levels of the contestants are six levels, the same as previous year. Altogether 1853 competitors (See page 8)
Monday, 19 October, 2009

Take effective prenatal care during and after pregnancy

Today, the government is working hard to provide better community health care with a sense of national duty for the good health and fitness of the entire people. Apart from giving health education talks, the government is pursuing health care plans to improve the life expectancy of the people and control and prevent outbreaks of common diseases.

In the process, maternal and child health care is one of the main priorities in Myanmar. In order to meet the target, the government is educating the people on a broad scale through community-based health care week movements which deserve careful attention from every mother and family member.

Oftentimes, when antenatal care during and after the pregnancy can a pregnant woman give birth to a baby without difficulty and both the mother and the baby be in good health.

A pregnant woman should take medical check-ups at least four times, medicines and vaccination before giving birth to a baby. Moreover, they should have a healthy diet and pay attention to personal hygiene under the advice of the medical staff.

Pregnant women must avoid fatigue work and liquor and narcotic drugs strictly. Every pregnant woman and their family members should have enough knowledge of symptoms of pregnancy-related health problems.

A pregnant woman dies every minute in the world, especially in the confinement. Some other causes are hemorrhage, pregnant poisoning, difficult birth, bacteria infection and abortion.

Every pregnant woman can give birth to a healthy baby if they give births to babies with medical staff, doctors and midwives, and take health care, other family members take care of them, and people of their own wards or villages transfer heavily pregnant women to health care centres in time.

Minister inspects construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun)

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct.—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected the maintenance Minbu-Minhta road, construction of Ayeyawady Bridge that will link the eastern bank and the western bank of the Ayeyawady River, earth work, hole piling and construction of approach road and other construction tasks on the eastern bank of Ayeyawady River on 16 October.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) is a rail-cum-road one linking Minhta Township in Thayet District and Pahtanago village in Magway District.

Labour Minister meets Philippine Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct.—Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi received Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines Ms Maria Hellen M Barber at the ministry here on 15 October. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung and officials. The two sides held discussion about prospects of co-operation in development of overseas job opportunities and proficiency courses for labourers.—MNA

Novice class cricket tournament 2009 continues

YANGON, 18 Oct.—The third quarter final match, No.6 BEHS of Ahlon Township beat No.4 BEHS of Ahlon Township by (3) wicket and secured a seat for final. In the men’s third quarter final match, No.6 BEMS of Mingaladon Township beat No.4 BEHS of Ahlon Township by (3) wicket.

Mingaladon BEMS (6) team vying with Ahlon BEHS (4) team.—MCF

President of UMFCCI meeting with Sudanese Deputy Foreign Minister

UMFCCI meets Sudanese Deputy Foreign Minister

YANGON, 18 Oct.—President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Mr Ali Ahmed Kertil together with Vice-President U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin, General Secretary Dr Maung Maung Lay, Joint-Secretaries U Myint Soe, Dr Myo Thet and Dr Pweint San, and CEC members U Tun Aung and U Tin Myint, and officials received a Sudanese delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Ali Ahmed Kertil at the UMFCCI office here on 10 October.

The meeting was focused on promoting bilateral trade and investment between the two countries, economic cooperation between private entrepreneurs, participation of Myanmar entrepreneurs in the trade fair to be held in Sudan and obtaining economic information.

MNA

Minister U Aung Kyi receives Philippine Ambassador Maria Ambassa-

dor Ms Hellen M. Barber.

MNA
India forces US army plane to land in Mumbai

NEW DELHI, 18 Oct — India on Sunday forced a US army plane, carrying 205 passengers including marine commandos, to land at Mumbai airport for violating Indian airspace, aviation sources said.

The aircraft, a plane chartereed by the US army and carrying 205 people including its crew and a number of marine commandos, was travelling from Fujarath in the United Arab Emirates to Utapao in Thailand. It has been grounded at the Mumbai airport because its ‘call sign’ was not registered. It was asked to immediately land while flying over the Indian airspace around 08:00 am (02:30 GMT), the sources said.

Though the aircraft had normal clearance from India’s Director General of Civil Aviation, it didn’t have Air Operations Routing clearance mandatory for planes carrying troops or military cargo, the sources said.

Meanwhile, Indian Defence Ministry sources said that the US Air Force has been asked to look into the matter.

“The Air Force has been asked to probe the airspace violation by the US army plane. The marine commandos on board the plane may also be questioned if needed,” the sources said. In fact, this is the second Indian airspace violation by a US aircraft in four months. In June 2009, an AN-132 cargo plane carrying arms for US forces in Afghanistan was also forced to land in Mumbai under similar circumstances.—Xinhua

Roadside bombing wounds eight police in E Afghanistan

KHOST (Afghanistan), 18 Oct — Eight Afghan National Police (ANP) were wounded on Saturday as their van hit a roadside bomb in Pakita Province of eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, police said.

“The incident occurred at around 10 am local time (05.30 GMT) in Ibrahim Khal area near the capital city Gardez when an ANP unit was on routine patrol by their vehicle,” deputy to provincial police chief Gulham Dastgir Rustamyar told Xinhua.

Three of the eight wounded are in critical situation, he added.

Xinhua

Gangsters shot down police chopper in Rio, 12 killed

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 Oct — A police helicopter was shot down here on Saturday during a drug traffickers shoot-out, which claimed two police officers and 10 suspected gangsters, said the police.

The helicopter was perforated by a bullet which ended up in the pilot’s leg while flying over the “Hill of Monkeys”, a slum in the northern part of the city, where police took on a gun battle between rival gangs over territory, said Major Oderlei Santos from the military police.

The chopper burst into flames after being landed on a football pitch. Two police officers died and four other crew members were wounded including the pilot, one of them burned seriously, Duarte said.

Ten suspected traffickers were killed while those gangsters shooting in the slum. Eight buses were set on fire in slums in northern zone by suspected drug traffickers to distract the police forces, said Jose Beltrame, Rio’s state security secretary.—Xinhua

Samoan tsunamis obliterate some coral, spare others

HONOLULU, 18 Oct — Scientists surveying American Samoa’s coral reefs say on 29 Sept tsunami obliterated some corals and damaged others to the point that they may not recover.

Researchers say more assessments will be needed to get a full sense of how the disaster affected coral in the US territory. But in at least one area, the damage was so severe, and the affected area already in such bad shape before the tsunami, that the coral may never return.

There’s an additional threat the surviving coral may suffer secondary damage weeks after the tsunami if waves drag heavy debris from people’s wave-wrecked homes — like refrigerators, tin roofs and other objects — across the reefs. Mounds of household hold goods dislodged by the giant waves are still sitting in the water off tsunami-torn villages.

Corals, which are colonies of small, fragile animals called polyps, provide vital habitats for fish, sea slugs, shrimp, sea worms and many other marine species that find food and take shelter among the reefs. This makes measuring the extent of the tsunami-inflicted damage important for understanding the disaster’s effect on the broader environment. Tsunamis generated by an 8.3-magnitude earthquake killed at least 32 people in American Samoa. About 150 were killed in nearby Samoa and Tonga.—Internet

Philippine plane crash in Manila suburb kills four

MANILA, 18 Oct — A propeller-driven plane on a test flight crashed and burst into flames in a suburb of the Philippine capital on Saturday, killing at least four people on board, airport officials said.

The DC-3 plane scraped the roofs of 14 houses in Las Pinas city before it crashed into an abandoned warehouse, but no one was immediately reported injured on the ground, police said. Local residents said two houses close to the warehouse caught fire. The charred remains of four people have been recovered at the site, Manila airport security manager Angel Atutubo said.

The plane departed Manila airport for Puerto Princesa city in Palawan province southwest of Manila around noon, but the pilot turned the plane back minutes later asking for permission for an emergency landing, Atutubo said. The plane owned by Victoria Air Inc was on a test flight, Manila airport operations manager Octavio Lina said. The company could not be reached for comment.

The flight manifest showed seven people on board, including the pilot, but crash investigators could not immediately confirm that number of people was on the plane, Atutubo said. Hours after firefighters put out the fire caused by the crash, only four bodies had been found, he said.—Xinhua

Iraqi men inspect a bridge destroyed in a truck bomb attack in Ramadi, 115 kilometers (70 miles) west of Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 Oct, 2009. A suicide bomber driving an explosives-laden truck destroyed a key bridge on Saturday on a highway used by the departing US military.—INTERNET
FAA probe of American Airlines may widen

CHICAGO, 18 Oct—AMR Corp’s American Airlines operated jets later found to have substandard repairs, and federal regulators are probing allegations that at least one plane was considered unsafe to fly at normal cruise altitude, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday.

China’s premium income rise 8.1% in first three quarters

BEIJING, 18 Oct—China’s premium income in the first nine months rose 8.1 percent from a year earlier to 858.03 billion yuan (125.63 billion US dollars), according to Wu Dingfu, China Insurance Regulatory Commission Chairman.

In the first three quarters, the country’s property insurance premium income rose 21.4 percent year on year to 223.39 billion yuan. The life insurance premium income grew 4.1 percent year on year to 634.64 billion yuan.

By the end of September, total assets of the nation’s insurers stood at 5.8 trillion yuan, an increase of 18.9 percent compared with that at the beginning of the year.

Profits of insurers during the January-September period was 39.19 billion yuan, representing an increase of 45.77 billion yuan over the same period last year.—Xinhua

American Airlines MD-80 aircrafts sit on the tarmac at Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport 9 April, 2008.—INTERNET

The newspaper, citing people familiar with the matter, said the latest moves by the Federal Aviation Administration indicate the agency is expanding its probe into suspected structural problems with rear bulkheads on some of American’s fleet of MD-80 jets, the newspaper said.

FAA inspectors are pursuing allegations by pilots that one of those MD-80s was believed to be in such poor condition that it was ferried without passengers from Dallas to the carrier’s Tulsa, Oklahoma maintenance base at unusually low altitudes to avoid the stress of pressurizing the fuselage during the trip, the newspaper said.—INTERNET

British economy shows signs of recovery, but difficulties remain

LONDON, 18 Oct—The British economy has shown signs of recovery, and it is expected to get over the recession within the year but the rebound will be slow and weak.

Official figures showed last week that the number of jobless people in Britain has fallen for the first time since the spring of last year — an unexpected evidence of labour market resilience in the worst recession in decades.

The Office of National Statistics said that 2.469 million people were out of work and seeking a job between June and August this year, slightly down from the period of May to July. This was the first fall in its quarterly unemployment rate since March-May period of 2008.

House price rose by 0.7 percent in September from the previous month, boosted by rising values at the top end of the market. It was the fourth consecutive month of increase, indicating that the housing market is getting back on the right track.—Xinhua

ThyssenKrupp to slash up to 20,000 more jobs

BERLIN, 18 Oct—German steelmaker ThyssenKrupp will cut up to 20,000 more jobs in the next fiscal year after already eliminating 12,000 positions due to the financial crisis, a report said on Saturday.

“Through disinvestments and restructuring, the company’s personnel will in the next fiscal year be reduced again by 15,000 to 20,000 positions,” ThyssenKrupp chief Ekkehard Schulz told the daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

Most of the cuts will come from the sale of some branches of the group. But between 2,000 and 2,500 jobs will also be eliminated from its administration in Germany and abroad, Schulz said.

ThyssenKrupp cut 12,000 jobs in Germany, France, Britain and Romania in the 2008-2009 fiscal year which ended in September.—INTERNET

Fury in Frankfurt at Google’s global library project

FRANKFURT, 18 Oct—“Garbage” and “hysterical propaganda” was one angry reaction at the world’s biggest book fair this year when Google, the world’s biggest Internet information service, defended plans to turn millions of books into electronic literature available online.

The row erupted at the 61st international Frankfurt Book Fair, a major annual literary event. A literature professor from Germany’s Heidelberg University responded sharply to a massive project by US online giant Google, a supplier of vast amounts of information of all kinds on the Internet.

Describing Google’s claims as “just a whole garbage of hysterical propaganda,” Professor Roland Reuss warned of a threat to traditional publishing, saying at a forum on the issue: “You revolutionise the market but the cost is that the producers of goods in this market will be demolished.”—INTERNET

Google wants to make e-books available to all devices with web browsers, from mobile phones to desk-top computers, challenging Amazon’s Kindle e-book reader which forces buyers to buy books through the company.—INTERNET

Biggest economies try again to strike climate deal

LONDON, 18 Oct—Representatives of the world’s 17 biggest and most polluting nations gathered on Sunday to search for a breakthrough in financing efforts to contain climate change and reduce gas emissions causing global warming. Pressure has been mounting for the United States to finalize its position before a decisive December conference in Denmark meant to cap two years of negotiations on a global climate change treaty.

“With only 50 more days to go before the final talks at Copenhagen, we have to up our game. Britain is determined to throw everything at this because the stakes are so high,” British Environment Minister Ed Miliband said in a statement released on Sunday. Earlier Miliband had said it was “important that the US makes as much progress as possible” at the two-day meeting of the Major Economies Forum.—INTERNET

Hot air balloons float during the International Balloon Festival Mexico in La Comarca Lagunera, Coahuila on 17 Oct, 2009.—Xinhua

LONDON, 18 Oct—Rep-
A visitor watches the paper-cutting artwork of double happiness by Zhang Zhuquan, a folk artist of paper-cutting of Tujia ethnic group, at the exhibition of Zhang Zhuquan personal paper-cutting artwork, where some 60 variously-designed double happiness paper-cutting and paper-carving artworks were on display at the Guiyang Art Gallery, in Guiyang, southwest China’s Guizhou Province, on 17 Oct, 2009.—Xinhua

**Tunisia eyes solar power to trim energy consumption**

TUNIS, 17 Oct—Tunisia, which imports most of its petroleum needs, targets to develop solar power capacity in order to diversify reliance on traditional sources of electricity generation, official TAP news agency reported on Saturday.

Tunisia expects to achieve 40 projects during 2010 to 2016 as it wants to be less dependent on oil and gas with 29 schemes to be financed by private sector, said the report without giving accurate figure on the value.

The projects would help the north African country to cut energy consumption by 22 percent in 2016 saving 660 tonnes of oil per year, it added.

Tunisia energy imports stood at 4.913 billion Tunisian dinars (3.862 billion US dollars) in the previous year, up 64 percent from a year earlier.

The power demand in Tunisia grows 7 percent per year on fast growing economy which was at 5.1 percent last year, according to official data.

Tunisia eyes to develop renewable energy enough to be a world industrial and energetic hub producing and exporting notably solar power.

With the aim, the country has set in 2008 a four-year national plan aiming at improving production of renewable energy which forecasted to satisfy 4 percent of power demand in 2011. (1 USD = 1.272 Tunisian dinar)

**Jordan, Syria to sign cooperation agreements**

AMMAN, 18 Oct—Jordan and Syria are scheduled to sign several agreements to boost cooperation in different fields during the joint Jordanian-Syrian committee meetings to start on Sunday, the state-run Petra News Agency reported on Saturday.

Agreements will cover fields of energy, planning, education, culture, holding exhibitions, among others, Muntaser Oqla, secretary general of Jordan’s Ministry of Industry and Trade was quoted by Petra as saying.

The series of meetings will be headed by Jordan’s Prime Minister Nader Dahabi and his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Etri.

The meetings were primarily scheduled to take place in September but were later postponed after an agreement between the two countries.

**Contaminated drinking water poses serious health hazard in Nepali capital**

KATHMANDU, 18 Oct—Unsafe drinking water could potentially cause a serious health hazard for residents in the Nepali capital Kathmandu Valley, experts warned.

According to Sunday’s The Himalayan Times daily, low-income people who rely on the supplied water and have no means to afford bottled mineral water, are the major ones to suffer.

The drinking water currently supplied by the Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited (KUKL) has been reported to be tainted with dangerous levels of chemicals, viruses and bacteria, the newspaper reported.

What is even more worrisome is the fact that the drinking waterpipes run parallel to the leaking sewage pipes, resulting in the possible contamination of two pipes containing the drinking water, the newspaper said.—Xinhua

**Russia’s cargo spaceship docks with space station**

MOSCOW, 18 Oct—The Progress M-03M, Russia's third modified cargo craft, docked with the International Space Station (ISS) early Sunday morning, the Mission Control Centre outside Moscow announced.

The cargo spacecraft, launched from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan early on Thursday morning, delivers some 2.5 tons of supplies, including food, water, fuel, equipment, and parcels from families, for the crew members on board the ISS.

**S Korea calls back Tata Daewoo trucks**

SEOUL, 18 Oct—The South Korean government on Sunday ordered Tata Daewoo Commercial Vehicle Co to call back around 3,000 trucks for problems in the steering column.

The action will affect a total of 3,276 trucks of 19t, 19.5t and 25t made from 16 August, 2004 to the end of 2007, the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs said in a statement. The ministry said that problems were discovered in the auxiliary part of the steering system, noting that the auxiliary system functions for less than three minutes, failing to meet minimum safety requirements set for such large commercial trucks.

**S Korean ship goes missing, with five crews on board**

SEOUL, 18 Oct—A South Korean waste disposal ship with 5 crew members on board went missing earlier on Sunday in the East Sea, the South Korea’s Yonhap News Agency quoted the Coast Guard as saying.

The 118-ton ship, which departed its home port in Pohang, southeastern coast of the country, was heading to Ulleung Island to take shelter due to abominable weather conditions, Yonhap said.

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Six Indian fire fighters killed in another Diwali tragedy

NEW DELHI, 18 Oct—Six fire fighters were killed when fighting a blaze in a multi-stories building in the city of Thane north of Mumbai on Sunday morning, reported the Indo-Asian News Service.

The fire fighters succumbed to death due to toxic fumes while being trapped in a lift engulfed with smoke in a 14-storey building, after they successfully doused off fire on the terrace of the building, said the report quoting Than Chief Fire Officer Vijay Vaidya as saying.

It was the second fire call from the same building in less than four hours as people were bursting crackers to celebrate the festival of lights or Diwali. This is the second major tragedy from the Diwali in India after 32 people were killed in the explosion of a fire cracker shop in the southern state of Tamil Nadu at midnight Friday.—Internet

Output value of China’s plastics products industry rises 9.5% in first eight months

HOBART, 18 Oct—China’s plastic products industry posted a 9.5 percent-year-on-year rise in output value to reach 28.2 billion yuan (99.2 billion US dollars) in the first eight months, according to figures from the China Plastics Processing Industry Association.

The figure was revealed at a national plastics industry forum held on Saturday in Baotou city, northern Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region.

Liao Zhengpin, chairman of the association, told the forum that China’s plastic industry realized stable growth this year, in spite of the impact of the global financial crisis.

In the first eight months, profits of the nation’s plastic products industry were 2.82 billion yuan, representing an increase of 16.34 percent from the same period last year, said Liao.

Output volume during the January-August period rose 7.36 percent from the same period last year to 27.82 million tonnes.—Internet

1 Indian robber killed in Philippine shopping mall shootout

MANILA, 18 Oct—At least one suspected robber was killed in a broad daylight shooting with police inside a popular shopping mall in the financial district of the Philippine capital Sunday noon.

Local TV news network ABS-CBN reported that security forces of the Greenbelt 5 Shopping Mall encountered six heavily-armed men in black uniforms who allegedly robbed a high-end watch store on Sunday morning in the sprawling mall.—Internet

Philippines braces for another typhoon

MANILA, 18 Oct— Philippine authorities on Sunday put rescue teams on standby and stockpiled emergency supplies as the country braced for Typhoon Lopit following in the wake of two storms which left more than 800 people dead.

The government weather service said the outer bands of the latest storm could cause landslides and flooding in the resort city, but no such effects were reported.

At 11 pm EDT Saturday (0300 GMT Sunday), the storm’s centre was located about 295 miles (475 kilometres) southwest of Manzanillo, Mexico.—Internet

Leonardo da Vinci fingerprint reveals $150 million artwork

Mona Lisa has something new to smile about. A portrait of a young woman thought to be created by a 19th century German artist and sold two years ago for about $19,000 is now being attributed by art experts to Leonardo da Vinci and valued at more than $150 million.

The unsigned chalk, ink and pencil drawing, known as “La Bella Principessa,” was matched to Leonardo via a technique more suited to a crime lab than an art studio — a fingerprint and palm print found on the 13-inch-by-10-inch work.

Peter Paul Biro, a Montreal-based forensic art expert, said the print of an index or middle finger matched a fingerprint found on Leonardo’s “St. Jerome,” in the Vatican.

“Mona Lisa. The discovery of the fingerprint has convinced the work was by Leonardo, whose myth and mystery has already put him in such best-sellers as “The Da Vinci Code” and “The Lost Symbol.””

Early flier was less bird than dinosaur

Florida State University scientists say they believe the prehistoric reptilian bird archaeopteryx was less like modern-day birds than previously thought.

New microscopic images of the cells and blood vessels in the bones of the earlier flier, which lived in Europe during the Jurassic Period 150 million years ago, reveal it grew slowly like dinosaurs, not quickly like living birds.

The absence of rapid bone growth means quick-growing bones are not necessary for flight, the study, led by paleobiologist Gregory M Erickson, determined.

“Living birds mature very quickly,” Erickson said. “That’s why we rarely see baby birds among flocks of variously identiﬁcal-size pigeons. Slow-growing animals such as archaeopteryx would look foreign to contemporary bird-watchers.”

The study is published in the 9 Oct issue of the journal PLoS One. Erickson’s co-authors are biologist Brian D Inouye of Florida State, and researchers from Germany and China. Erickson is an associate professor in Florida State’s Department of Biological Science and a research associate at the American Museum of Natural History.

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Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends AGM of MCF, MCPA, MCEA and MCIA

YANGON, 18 Oct—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the second section of annual general meeting of Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Professionals Association, Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar Computer Industry Association held at the meeting hall of Myanmar Info-tech in Hline Township, here, this morning.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint, Chairman of e-National Task Force Council Minister of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Thein Tun, members of Myanmar Computer Development Council and e-National Task Force Council, officials concerned, ambassadors and charge d’ affaires a.i. of foreign embassies, CEC members of the federation, associations and states’ and divisions’ associations and guests.

The minister made an opening speech. Chairman of the MCF explained facts about the activities undertaken by the associations.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and the minister presented certificates to those winning in IT Professional Examination Council (ITCEP) Exam.

Afterwards, the minister viewed the booths at ICT Exhibition 2009 at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wizara Road.—MNA

Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence inspects progress of Taungdwingyi and Aunglan townships in Magwey Div

Lt-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana-Taungnyo-Taungdwingyi Road Section.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct—Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials concerned, inspected conditions of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana-Taungnyo-Taungdwingyi road on 15 October.

They were welcomed by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and personnel at mile post 41/0. Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspected roadworks and teak plantations along the road and of the villages.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye heard reports on completed work and future tasks presented by Road Construction Project Special Group-5 and stressed the needs. Lt-Gen Tha Aye then viewed collective broadcasting of fertilizers at monsoon paddy field of Gombin village, Pindai village-tract, Taungdwingyi Township. Lt-Gen Tha Aye cordially greeted farmers and fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspected Taungdwingyi-Sattthawr-Byandi road section of inter-district road No.1, bridges, concrete culverts, monsoon paddy fields along the road, inter-village roads in Aunglan Township, culverts and bridges along the road, and Ngweci-6 long staple cotton plantation collectively grown by local farmers at Yeby village.

On 16 October, Lt-Gen Tha Aye together with Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials concerned, visited 50-bed People’s Hospital of Aunglan Township in Thayet District. Lt-Gen Tha Aye and party comforted patients and contributed cash to the funds of the hospital.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Tha Aye visited Aunglan Township fire station and viewed fire drill. Lt-Gen Tha Aye gave necessary instructions and presented gifts to the station.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye then inspected development of Aunglan Township, conditions of Aunglan-Kobin-Sinbaungwe road, monsoon paddy fields along the road and visited 25-bed People’s Hospital of Sinbaungwe.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye also inspected Sinbaungwe-Thatyargau-Michaungye road section and site preparation for construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) to be built in Pahtanago bank of Magway.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye later viewed development of Minhla and met with townswelders. Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspected Minhla-Minbu road section and Ngweci-6 long staple cotton plantation of Peikthin village in Minbu.

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing meets departmental personnel, local people and Tatmadaw members

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Yar Pyae, Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Win Myint and departmental officials, met with township-level departmental personnel, members of social organizations at Taw Win Thazin Hall in Pruhsu of Kayah State on 15 October and presented exercise books, sports equipment and foodstuffs for students and locals.

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and party then met with military officers, rank and file and their family members at local battalion in NgweeTaung Station of Dimawhso Township and presented gifts to them.

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing also met with Kayah State engineers group of Public Works at Loikaw station and gave instructions on regular maintenance of roads.

On 16 October, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing went to Defence Services General Hospital of Loikaw station and provided patients with cash assistance and foodstuff. Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing also visited Loikaw railway station.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and party visited Shwe Pan Thu interior decorating tiles factory in Loikaw. Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing attended a meeting at Kayah State PDC office and gave instructions on development and increased productivity of the region.

Later, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing observed display of traditional cultural customs at Culture Museum and library of the Ministry of Culture and inspected construction site of new building in University of Computer Studies of the Ministry of Science and Technology.—MNA

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of Ministry of Defence presenting gifts to local.—MNA
Myanmar Traditional performing arts, cultural heritage...

The 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions were formally opened by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint. The competitions aim to raise the cultural status of the nation, preserving and promoting its rich heritage. The competitions are organized yearly to ensure maintained standards and the preservation of national interest.

The competitions feature various art forms, including drama, dance, music, and literature, reflecting Myanmar's diverse national races and cultures. Performers are from the states and divisions, ensuring a broad representation of the nation's artistic talent. The competitions also aim to instill a stronger sense of nationalistic spirit and patriotic fervour in the younger generation, fostering a sense of preserving the nation's cultural heritage.

In his address, the Minister highlighted the importance of maintaining cultural norms and values, emphasizing the role of art in shaping society. He urged artistes to uphold tradition and avoid alien lifestyles and concepts, ensuring the nation's cultural identity is preserved.

Competitions have been organized yearly, continuously emphasizing the nation's cultural and historical duties. The competitions encourage the development of new generations of artistes, ensuring the continuity of cultural practices and performances.

The Uggasena drama, chosen for this year's theatrical contest, reflects the duties of married women to follow the example of morally good women. It depicts the need for social responsibility and respect for tradition. The Temiya drama, chosen for the Kwet Seik contest (first class), depicts the duties of children who must respect their parents and elders, maintaining moral conduct and preserving their national culture.

In conclusion, the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions aim to raise cultural awareness and instill a sense of national pride, fostering a stronger sense of unity and continuity for the future generations of Myanmar. The competitions are a testament to the nation's commitment to preserving its rich cultural heritage and promoting the arts as a vital part of national identity.
Myanmar Traditional performing arts, cultural...

(from page 8)

of years to the posterity by making sure that they do not dwindle away in our time.

The participants are to compete in Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions that reflect the very essence of the national character that flourished in successive eras to safeguard and maintain the Myanmar literature, culture and arts among the national people and Myanmar’s endeavours for building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation. Moreover, they are to see that Myanmar artistic works are presented to the world.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 urged those from the arts field to imbue the young generations with qualities of Myanmar’s fine traditions, dignity and high culture through the might of literature, culture and arts; to get the people to be equipped with patriotism, the spirit of national unity and Union Spirit through Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions; and to participate in and encourage the competitions till success in conformity with the rules and regulations.

Next, the artistes presented a programme of the song composed by Bogale Tin Aung to mark the competitions.

After the ceremony, Secretary-1 General Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greeted the attendees. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander enjoys entertainments of 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct — The 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions were held at the designated places here today.

Among the audience were Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Vice-Chairman Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Deputy Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Min Zaw, ambassadors and wives from foreign embassies, diplomats, heads of department, members of the committee and subcommittees, members of panel of judges (central), members of panel of judges from states and divisions and those who love Myanmar traditional arts.

Leader of panel of judges Daw Tin Tin Mya and party organized the competition of five contestants in basic education level (aged 15-20) boy’s classical song contest and 13 contestants in the amateur level (second class) women’s classical song contest at the auditorium of the University of Veterinary Science.

At No. 7 Transit Center, Chairman of the Panel of Judges U Maung Maung Gyi and party supervised the participation of 10 contestants in the amateur level (first class) men’s and women’s song composing contest, 14 contests in the professional level (second class) men’s and women’s song composing contest and 10 contests in the higher education level song composing contest.

At the lecture hall of the University of Agriculture, leader of panel of judges U Ni Ni and party supervised the participation of 5 contestants in the basic education level (aged between 5 and 10) boys’ harp contest, 4 contestants in the higher education level men’s harp contest, 6 contestants in the higher education level women’s harp contest and 6 contestants in the amateur level (second class) women’s harp contest.

At Forest Research Division, leader of panel of judges U Ni Ni and party supervised the participation of 5 contestants in the amateur level (first class) men’s piano contest, 4 contestants in the higher education level men’s piano contest and 3 contestants in the higher education level women’s piano contest.

At the hall of Agricultural Research Department, leader of panel of judges U Sein Ba Maw and party supervised the participation of 7 contestants in the amateur level (first class) men’s Dohbat contest and 5 contestants in the higher education level.

At the hall of Agricultural Research Department, leader of panel of judges U Sein Ba Maw and party supervised the participation of 5 troupes in the higher education level men’s orchestra troupe contest and 4 troupes in the basic education level (aged between 15 – 20).

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint enjoys “Thakaung Yadana” Drama of the troupe representing Mon State during 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA

Contestants from states and divisions participate in song composing contest. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint enjoy 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint enjoys “Thakaung Yadana” Drama of the troupe representing Mon State during 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA

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At the hall of Agricultural Research Department, leader of panel of judges U Sein Ba Maw and party supervised the participation of 5 troupes in the higher education level men’s orchestra troupe contest and 4 troupes in the basic education level (aged between 15 – 20).
Foreign Minister back home after attending 8th ACD Ministerial Meeting

A Myanmar Delegation headed by H.E. U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, arrived back from the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in the morning of 17 October 2009 after attending the 8th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting held in Colombo from 14 to 16 October 2009.

The Myanmar Delegation headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs arrived at Colombo at 0030 hrs on 14 October 2009. The Minister attended the dinner hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka at 2030 hrs on 14 October 2009 at Mount Lavinia Hotel.

The 8th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting was held at 1030 hrs on 15 October 2009 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) in Colombo. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers, Deputy Foreign Ministers, and Senior Officials from (31) ACD member countries.

At the opening session of the Ministerial Meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as Chair of ACD Ministerial Meeting, the Head of the Delegation of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, delivered speeches. At the end of the inauguration session, a group photograph together with the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the heads of delegation was taken. At the Ministerial retreat, global economic recovery and development prospects for Asia, future direction of ACD, daunting challenges including climate change, threat of international terrorism faced were broadly discussed. The Ministers also considered and adopted the ACD Colombo Declaration. The Minister for Foreign Affairs together with other heads of delegations paid a courtesy on H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at 1915 hrs on 15 October 2009 at Temple Trees and attended the reception hosted by the President in honour of Heads of Delegation to the ACD ministerial Meeting at Temple Trees.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, met with H.E. Dr. Dipu Moni, Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, at 1715 hrs on 15 October 2009 and discussed matters relating to friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Two members of the delegation who accompanied the Minister also arrived back from the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in the morning of 17 October 2009 by air.

Participants and supervisors from states and divisions enjoy 17th Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

U Kyaw Kyaw and party from Ayeyawady Division competing in amateur level (first class) men’s Dohbat contest. (News on page 9)—MNA

Maung Aung Ko and party from Mandalay Division participates in higher education level men’s orchestra troupe competition. (News on page 9)—MNA

Ma Wut Yi Htet from Kayin State competing in higher education level women’s song composing contest. (News on page 9)—MNA

Ma Shwe Zin Moe from Magway Division competes in amateur level women’s dancing contest. (News on page 9)—MNA
Myogyi Multipurpose Dam Project in Ywangan Township, Shan State (South)

Byline & Photos: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

YANGON, 17 Oct — Organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA and sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd, the third round of Air Bagan Open Golf Championship continued at Bagan Resort Golf Club in NyaungU Township this morning as the second round of Myanmar Golf Tour 2009-2010.

In professional golfers event, Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) led the event with 206 strokes for three days. Min Naing (Srixon) stood second with 209 strokes and Zaw Zaw Lat, third with 211 strokes.

In men’s amateur event, Bo Bo (Myanmar Selection) led the event with 204 strokes for three days, followed by Yan Myo Aye with 213 strokes and Linn The with 215 strokes.

Air Bagan is the main sponsor of the tournament and co-sponsors are International Beverages Trading Co Ltd (IBTC), KBZ Bank Ltd, Hotel Yangon, KM Golf Center, Han Golf Master Pte Ltd, Myanmar Thiha Trading Co Ltd, Bay of Bengal Resort (BOB), INAX, T-Home, CEPSA Lubricants, ACCEL International Co Ltd (Cannon), Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water, Lifeline Co Ltd, GP Watch.

MNA
Three peacekeepers wounded in Darfur shooting

KHARTOUM, 18 Oct—Three peacekeepers were wounded, two of them seriously, when their vehicle came under fire in the Darfur region of western Sudan on Saturday, officials of the UN-African Union peace mission said.

The four-wheel-drive with five Nigerian policemen on board came under fire near Zalingei, in western Darfur, a senior official said, asking not to be named.

“The three of the policemen were wounded, two of them seriously. They were evacuated by helicopter to Nyala hospital and are now in stable condition,” the source said.

Kemal Saiki, communications chief of the joint United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), confirmed three members of the police force who carry arms were wounded, but without giving their nationality.

The police were escorting a UNAMID garbage truck when it came under attack by unknown gunmen, who made off with the four-wheel-drive.

“We don’t know yet if it was a carjacking or a direct attack” on UNAMID, said Saiki, adding the incident was being investigated.

Two civilian employees of UNAMID were kidnapped in late August in the same area of Zalingei and are still in the hands of their abductors, who the Sudanese authorities have branded as criminals.

The United Nations says up to 300,000 people have died and 2.7 million fled their homes since ethnic minority rebels in Darfur rose up against the Arab-dominated government in Khartoum in February 2003.

Confirmed with A/H1N1 flu in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 18 Oct—Although all-out efforts are being made to contain the A/H1N1 flu in Nepal, the virus seems to be spreading rapidly across the country, according to Saturday’s ‘The Kathmandu Post’. Earlier, there were 44 confirmed cases of A/H1N1 flu, all of whom had either travelled abroad or contacted with foreigners.

“But now three cases have been confirmed, and the patients had neither a history of travel nor contact with confirmed patients,” said Dr Jitendra Man Shrestha, Deputy Coordinator at Avian Influenza Control Project, under the Ministry of Health.

The ministry has directed all major hospitals in the country to treat the flu patients.

According to Health Ministry secretary Dr. Sudha Sharma, the World Health Organization has agreed to provide vaccines for medics involved in treatment in the first stage to boost their morale and encourage them.—MNA/Xinhua

US debt dilemma, no better solution?

WASHINGTON, 18 Oct — The US government is without doubt facing great challenges, among which the debt dilemma is the biggest test.

The 1.42 trillion dollars federal budget imbalance of the fiscal year ending on 30 Sept announced on Friday is a so-called better-than-expected result. The figure, which tripled last year’s record, deserves close attention.

As a proportion of the economy, the deficit accounts for about 10 percent, the highest it has been since the World War II. Earlier this year, the government had projected the ratio might reach about 12 percent.

For fiscal year 2009, the government collected 2.1 trillion dollars in revenues, a 16.6 percent drop from 2008, while government spending last year jumped to 3.52 trillion dollars, up 18.2 percent over 2008.

China, Laos set up liaison office to fight human trafficking

MOHAN, 18 Oct—China and Laos have set up a liaison office for law enforcement cooperation in southwest China’s Yunnan Province to crack down on the abduction and trafficking of women and children in border areas.

The office, set up at the Mohan branch of Mengla County Public Security Bureau, will promote the exchange of crime information, investigation and evidence collection, suspect search and victim repatriation between the two countries, said Yuan Xiaoyin, an official with the criminal investigation department of the Public Security Ministry.

China has set up six similar liaison offices in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Yunnan Province, which border Vietnam and Cambodia.

Mengla County, which borders three provinces of northern Laos, has a 677.8 kilometers boundary line, where abduction and trafficking of women and children happen frequently. —MNA/Xinhua

China’s debt dilemma is the biggest test.

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Diplomatic wrangling delays Afghan vote decision

KABUL, 18 Oct—Global pressure mounted on President Hamid Karzai on Sunday to accept a possible runoff in Afghanistan’s disputed election as extended diplomacy delayed the announcement of official results from the August poll.

The row stemming from the election, marred by allegations of mass fraud, is a setback for the United States as President Barack Obama considers whether to send more troops to Afghanistan to fight a resurgent Taliban.

In Kabul, diplomats and observers said Karzai’s supporters resisted accepting the findings of an inquiry by the UN-backed Electoral Complaints Commission into poll fraud — a key factor behind delays in the announcing the outcome.

“They are putting up resistance,” said one official familiar with the discussions.

“Legally it is difficult to see on what grounds they can reject any of the findings.”

Under Afghan law, Afghanistan’s independent election commission has to accept ECC probe findings, adjust the election tally and announce the final result. —MNA/Reuters
Olive oil compound linked to Alzheimer’s

CHICAGO, 18 Oct—A compound in olive oil targets and blocks toxic proteins that damage brain cells and cause memory loss in Alzheimer’s disease victims, US researchers said.

The compound, oleocanthal, alters the structures of the proteins, ADDLs, said William L. Klein of Northwestern University and Paul AS Breslin of Monell Chemical Senses Centre.

“Binding of ADDLs is thought to be a crucial first step in the initiation of Alzheimer’s disease,” Klein said in a statement. “Oleocanthal alters ADDL structure in a way that deters the protein from binding to synapses that allow the nervous system to connect.”

ADDLs bind within the synapses of the brains of Alzheimer’s patients and are believed directly to disrupt nerve cell function, eventually leading to memory loss, cell death and global disruption of brain function, the researchers said.

The findings are published in the journal Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology.—Internet

Zimbabwe’s efforts to prevent new cholera outbreak

HARARE, 18 Oct—Workers trudge through foul-smelling mud in a trench seeping with clean drinking water and raw sewage in one of the Harare neighbourhoods hardest hit by last year’s cholera epidemic.

The repair work is a race against time to patch the city’s sewage system before the rainy season begins in November, when health workers fear the waterborne disease could erupt again.

The three-metre (10-foot) deep trench cuts through Usuf Austin’s driveway and runs the length of his block, forcing his family to leap across the hole to get into their house.

But he’s happy for the crew to replace the leaky pipes blamed for fueling the epidemic that killed more than 4,200 people and sickened nearly 100,000.

“The sewage was coming out day in and day out, 24 hours a day” when cholera first struck in August 2008, he said.

“This sewage water mixes with the rain water during the rainy season,” he added.

The epidemic erupted last year as post-election violence swept Zimbabwe, already crippled by a decade of economic decline blamed on controversial reforms by autocratic President Robert Mugabe.

The epidemic, which started in the densely populated capital Harare and then spread throughout the country, left an estimated 26,000 people dead and another 300,000 sick.

The administration said that they will send the repair work to be completed before the rainy season begins.

US researchers say an implantable device may be a cost-effective way to treat high blood pressure

ROCHESTER, 18 Oct—US researchers say an implantable device may be a cost-effective way to treat high blood pressure and its effects. The device, called Rheos, is being tested at the University of Rochester Medical Centre in New York on drug-resistant hypertension patients.

The findings, published in the Journal of Clinical Hypertension, are based on data from two large population-based studies that compare the incidence of adverse health events — such as stroke and heart attack — for groups of individuals with and without the device.

The researchers also projected the healthcare costs associated with those events over a patient’s lifetime and concluded if Rheos continues to perform as it has in ongoing clinical trials, the device is a cost-effective way to control hypertension.

Industrial salt found in food poisoning in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 18 Oct—Shanghai authorities said on Sunday that they found industrial salt in food that sickened 26 people at a local delicatessen.

One of the poisoned patients died in the Pudong District People’s Hospital and were still receiving treatment there. Those with light symptoms have left hospital, according to a health department official in Pudong District, on Saturday.

The patients were diagnosed with nitrate poisoning, according to the hospital.

The people showed symptoms of nausea, vomiting and rapid heartbeat, after eating food at “Zhibin Delicatessen” in Pudong.

The local administration for industry and commerce has shut down the shop, which was found to operate without valid business license, and confiscated more than 26 kg of processed food and processing facilities.

The administration said that they will send the food sample for further test, and traced the sales links that sold the industrial salt to the food shop.

The owner of the delicatessen has been detained by police.—Xinhua

Bootleg alcohol kills four in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 18 Oct—Four people died after drinking allegedly homemade toxic alcohol in Bangladesh’s southern Bogra district, some 197 km away from capital city Dhaka, early Sunday morning, local police said. The officer in charge of local Shibganj Police Station in BograABM Zahidul Islam told Xinhua Sunday, “It seemed that the deceased drank low-cost alcohol on Saturday night together.”

They were admitted to a local clinic after falling ill from drinking the liquor, where the doctors declared them dead, he said, adding a general diary was filed with the Police Station in this connection.—Xinhua
Barcelona remains atop as Real Madrid's Raul makes history

MADRID, 18 Oct — Barcelona drew 0-0 away to Valencia on Saturday night to remain leaders of the BBVA Primera Liga in Spain. The league leaders and reigning champions were on the back foot for most of the game, but held on for a draw thanks to a fine performance from goalkeeper Victor Valdes.

Valdes made four brilliant saves to deny Valencia forwards David Silva, Juan Mata and Pablo Hernandez as the home side produced a spirited and aggressive performance. In the end Barcelona will view the result as a point gained rather than two points dropped even if the result stopped the club from winning its seventh game of the season.

Meanwhile Real Madrid returned to within one point of the top of the table after beating Villaladolid 4-2 in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Real Madrid was without Cristiano Ronaldo, who aggravated an ankle injury playing for Portugal last weekend, while Kaka was rested after playing for World Cup qualifying matches for Brazil. —Xinhua

Ancelotti promises Chelsea crackdown

BIRMINGHAM, 18 Oct— Carlo Ancelotti has pledged to eradicate the dreadful defending that is threatening to increase the pressure on the Italian after a three-point lead at the top of Serie A on Saturday.

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Russian Middle East envoy in Beirut for peace talks

BEIRUT, 17 Oct—Russian Vice Foreign Minister and Middle East envoy Alexander Sultanov arrived here on Saturday in an attempt to shore up support for his country’s plan to host the Middle East peace talks, Lebanon’s state news agency reported.

“We agreed to double the efforts with the concerned parties and the international community to contribute to the resumption of talks as soon as possible,” Sultanov said. Sultanov was due to go on to Damascus before returning to Beirut. Sultanov’s visit to Lebanon came as part of a regional tour that will also take him to Tel Aviv, Ramallah and Cairo.—Xinhua

Followers surround Wang Ye’s boat during the traditional burning ceremony in the Tung-kang fishing township of Pingtung county on 17 October, 2009.—INTERNET

WEATHER

Sunday, 18th October, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30hr MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin, Kayah and Kayin States, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Kachin State and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfalls in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (Yezin) (0.40) inch, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) (0.08) inch, Mudon (3.90) inches, Kyaiakkime (3.23) inches, Mohnin (2.36) inches, Chaungzon (1.50) inches, Kawthoung (1.41) inches and Shwebo (0.15) inch.

Maximum temperature on 17-10-2009 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 18-10-2009 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 18-10-2009 was 79%. Total sun shine hours on 17-10-2009 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 18-10-2009 was Nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon each. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (110.83) inches at Mingaladon, (120.87) inches at Kaba-Aye and (128.15) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from North at (14:30) hours MST on 17-10-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 19th October 2009:
Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Shan, Kayin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: likelihood of increase of rain in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 19-10-2009: Isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-10-2009: Isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-10-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Myogyi Multipurpose Dam Project in Ywangan Township, Shan State (South)

Byline & Photos: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

Ongoing Myogyi Multipurpose Dam Project is intended to supply adequate irrigation water to some 30,000 acres of farmlands and further green Mekhila Plain with the effective use of water from Zawgyi Dam in Yaksawk Township, Shan State (South), and from the catchment areas between Zawgyi Dam and Myogyi Dam.

Recently, I made a tour of Myogyi Dam Project, about one and a half miles from Myogyi Village in Ywangan Township, Shan State (South). Upon arrival at the construction site, I saw many units of heavy machinery operating at full capacity.

I interviewed Staff Officer U Maw Maw Naing, Staff Officer (Division Weir) U Win Ko,
(See page 11)