Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Thein Sein on PM’s departure for Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe saw off Prime Minister General Thein Sein, who left here by special aircraft to attend the 15th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits to be held in Hua Hin of Thailand at the invitation of Prime Minister Mr. Abhisit Vejajiva of Thailand, at Nay Pyi Taw Airport at 10.35 am today.

Also present at the airport to see off the Prime Minister were Vice-Chairman of the SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thihla Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, departmental heads, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar H.E. Mr Bansarn Bunnag, Military Attaché Col Ekachai Harnpoonvittaya and officials.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and departmental heads.

Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Secretary-1 General Thihla Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo on his return from PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe welcomed back Secretary-1 General Thihla Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo who arrived back by special flight from the People’s Republic of China at Nay Pyi Taw airport at 10 a.m today. At the invitation of the Government of the People’s Republic of China the Secretary-1 attended the 6th China-ASEAN Expo and the 6th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit.

Together with Senior General Than Shwe at the airport were Vice-Chairman of the SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun.

(See page 7)
Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State

Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views

Oppose foreign nations trying to jeopardize the stability of the State and progress of the nation

Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Work hard in concert for higher social and economic standards of rural people

As agricultural industry is the base of the rural economy, measures are being taken to be able to supply water sufficiently for agriculture. Clusters of dams and sluice gates have been built region-wise and therefore cultivation of summer and monsoon paddy as well as multiple and mixed crops has been thriving.

In addition, as education, health and economic requirements of the rural people are being fulfilled, rural areas are developing in parallel with urban areas. More and more basic education school buildings, rural affiliated high schools and self-reliance village libraries have also been built. As a result, rural youth have better opportunity to seek education and broaden the scope of their knowledge.

Bridges and inter-village roads are being constructed to improve transport development region-wise, to enable rural people to travel from one place to another easily and to facilitate trading. A new gravel road linking Sanyikon and Wayarchaung villages in Pathein Township in Ayeyawady Division was opened recently. An inter-village road linking Bontha, Bokkone and Plym villages in Natogyi Township in Mandalay Division was also opened on 13 October.

New buildings of Dawsanghka Basic Education Middle School in Dimawhis Township in Kayah State and of No (2) Basic Education Primary School in Thameintheye model village in Waw Township in Bago Division were opened recently. These are part of the government’s efforts to improve the education standard of rural areas.

As the government, regional authorities, social organizations and individual well-wishers have been working hard in concert and donating money and materials needed for rural development tasks, social and economic standards of rural people are becoming higher and higher.
Global pirate attacks on the increase

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct — The first nine months of this year have seen more pirate attacks than all of last year. And more than half of those attacks were carried out by suspected Somali pirates, an international maritime watch-}

ers who negotiated with the hostage-takers,” said

chain confirmed none of its employees had been

ployed at the scene where they negotiated the release

riot police, gendarmes, plain-clothes officers and hos-

before taking five women and a man hostage, deputy

industrial zone in Sevran north of Paris after it was

police deployed around the LIDL discount store in an

today, sparking a police siege, before being released

taken hostage by armed robbers in a store near Paris

The US manufacturer of the

The Arizona-based

company has issued new
guidelines saying it has

“lowered the recom-

ended point of aim from
center of mass to lower-
center of mass for front

shots”: “When possible,

avoiding chest shots with

ECDs (Electronic Control

Devices) avoids the con-

roversy about whether

ECDs do or do not affect

the human heart,” it ex-

plained.

“Researchers have

concluded that a close dis-
tance between the ECD
dart and the heart is the

primary factor in deter-
mining whether an ECD
will affect the heart. The
risk is judged to be ex-
tremely low in field use,”
it said.

Tasers, which pack a
50,000-volt punch that

can paralyze targets from

up to 10 metres (30 feet)
away, are used by several

police forces around the

world, including Aus-

tralia, the UK, Canada,

France, Israel, and the

United States.—Internet

Hijacking thwarted on flight
to Cairo

CAIRO, 22 Oct — Security guards thwarted an at-

tempted hijacking on Wednesday on an EgyptAir flight

from Istanbul to Cairo by overpowering a man who

threatened crew members with a knife, a security of-

ficial for the airline said.

A Sudanese man used a plastic knife from the in-flight

meal to threaten flight attendants after the plane left Turk-

ish airspace and demanded that the flight be diverted to

Jerusalem, the official said. Guards on the flight were

able to detain the man and no one was hurt, he said. The

flight landed safely at Cairo airport. The man was ar-

rested and was being questioned by state security, the

official said. The Boeing aircraft was carrying 87 pas-

sengers, a Cairo police official said. He identified the

suspect as Mohammed Hamad Nourain, 26, and said he

used a passport with a phony name to board the flight.

The man told flight attendants he wanted to “liber-

ate Jerusalem,” the police official said. Both officials

spoke on condition of anonymity because they were

not authorized to provide the information to journal-

ists.—Internet

Six hostages taken in Paris
supermarket siege

PARIS, 22 Oct — Six supermarket employees were
taken hostage by armed robbers in a store near Paris
today, sparking a police siege, before being released
unharmed as their captors were detained. Some 200
police deployed around the LIDL discount store in an
industrial zone in Sevran north of Paris after it was
attacked as the cashiers were setting up for the day.

Two attackers threatened staff with a pistol and a
tear gas canister demanding the keys to the store safe,
before taking five women and a man hostage, deputy
state prosecutor Solange Moracchini said. Some 200
riot police, gendarmes, plain-clothes officers and hos-
tage-negotiation experts, backed by a helicopter, de-
ployed at the scene where they negotiated the release
of the hostages during a three-hour siege.

Paris management of the German supermarket
chain confirmed none of its employees had been
hurt. “All the hostages were freed. They were not
harmed, they are being cared for by the police offi-
cers who negotiated with the hostage-takers,” said
Michel Lemble, LIDL France’s head of human re-

sources.—Internet

On 20 Oct, 2009, storm watchers run from the desk at a hotel on Medano Beach as a large wave overtakes their perch as Hurricane Rick approaches Cabo San Lucas, a popular tourist resort at the Southern tip of Baja California, Mexico. Internet

On 20 Oct, 2009, storm watchers run from the desk at a hotel on Medano Beach as a large wave overtakes their perch as Hurricane Rick approaches Cabo San Lucas, a popular tourist resort at the Southern tip of Baja California, Mexico. Internet

Remains of a car used in a bomb attack near Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad on 20 Oct, 2009. A car bomb killed four people including two policemen and wounded nine civilians in a town outside of Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, police said. Internet

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**China’s growth accelerates to 8.9 percent in 3Q**

**Shanghai**, 22 Oct — China’s economy expanded a blistering 8.9 percent in the third quarter, fueled by lavish government stimulus spending that has helped the nation spearhead recovery from the global recession.

In August, Boeing said it would postpone the first flight of the Dreamliner version of the jumbo jet.

**Technology**

**S Korea’s state-run corporation buys Canadian energy company**

**Seoul**, 22 Oct—The South Korean government on Thursday announced its state-run Korea National Oil Corp (KNOC) has bought Canada’s Harvest Energy.

According to the Ministry of Knowledge Economy, the 3.95 billion US dollars’ worth of merger and acquisition deal has successfully completed recently.

The Harvest Energy, one of Canada’s largest oil producer and refiner, currently has a capacity of 53,400 barrels of crude and gas per day. With the latest purchase project, the total volume of oil and gas that can be produced from fields controlled by South Korean companies could rise from current 188,000 barrels per day to 241,400 barrels, the ministry said.

South Korea is one of the largest oil-consumers in the world, and it almost relies on foreign imports.

It has put forward an overseas resources development plan aiming to achieve self-sufficiency — ownership of natural resources by South Korean companies — to a level of 30 percent by 2016.

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**E-commerce**

**eBay profits continue to fall**

**London**, 22 Oct — Profits at online auction giant eBay have fallen by 29% as it continued to struggle amid the weak economy.

It made $350m (£211m) in the third quarter from $492m in the same period a year earlier as customers showed reluctance to spend.

But the firm’s overall sales rose 6% to $2.4bn as more people used its PayPal division to pay for things online.

Shares fell 5% in after-hours trading as it forecast the fourth quarter would continue to be tough. Revenue from internet communications service Skype, row by 29%

Earlier this year eBay agreed to sell the business for about $2bn though will keep a 35% stake.

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**Energy**

**S Korea’s Samsung Electro-Mechanics report quadrupled net earnings in 3Q**

**Seoul**, 22 Oct — South Korea’s Samsung Electro-Mechanics Co said on Thursday its third-quarter earnings more than quadrupled from a year ago thanks to rising demand and cost-cutting efforts.

During the July-September period, Samsung’s net profit topped 123 billion won, or 104 million US dollars, sharply hiking from 26.4 billion won, or 22.4 million US dollars, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Total sales also marked a 30 percent leap, hitting 1.55 trillion won (1.31 billion US dollars) during the cited period. The company’s operating income soared to 207 billion won (175.57 million US dollars) as well, posting a three-fold increase.

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**Design changes cause Boeing loss**

**Chicago**, 22 Oct — Aircraft maker Boeing has blamed a third-quarter net loss of $1.6bn (£974m) on rising production costs and poor market conditions.

The latest results reflect charges incurred to modify Boeing’s 787 Dreamliner and the new updated version of its 747 jumbo jet.

The steeper-than-anticipated loss has left the company to cut its profit forecast for 2009. Shares in the firm fell 2.4% to $50.64 after the figures were announced. The loss compares with a profit of $695m.

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**Statistics**

**China’s economy charged ahead in third quarter, expanding by 8.9 percent thanks to lavish stimulus spending that sparked a boom in construction, share prices and consumer spending.**

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**Korea’s broadband networks said Internet**

**Stockholm**, 22 Oct — Wireless equipment maker LM Ericsson AB’s profits dropped 71.5 percent in the third quarter as the global financial crisis hit demand for network equipment, the Swedish company said on Thursday.

The downturn in investments has coincided with a drop in GSM sales, as telecommunication operators shift from voice telephony to mobile broadband, Ericsson said.

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**First Quarter**

**Dagens Industri, Stockholm-based Ericsson, which has previously seen only limited effects of the global recession, said the network market is now being hurt by the crisis.**

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**Infrastructure**

**The government on Thursday announced SKorea National Oil Corp (KNOC) has bought Canada’s Harvest Energy.**

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**Construction workers labour at the top of a building in Shanghai, China.**

China’s economy charged ahead in the third quarter, expanding by 8.9 percent thanks to lavish stimulus spending that sparked a boom in construction, share prices and consumer spending. — Internet
Hu, Obama hold telephone discussions

BEIJING, 22 Oct —Chinese President Hu Jintao and US counterpart Barack Obama exchanged views on bilateral ties and climate change during a phone conversation on Wednesday morning. Obama expressed appreciation over China’s contribution to the success of the G20 Pittsburgh summit in September, saying that he looked forward to visiting China in November and discussing with Hu issues of mutual concern.

Looking forward to exchanging views on their bilateral relations and important regional and international issues with Obama, Hu said, “China is ready to work with the US side to ensure a successful visit by President Obama and further promote the positive, cooperative and comprehensive relationship between the two countries.” On climate change, Hu said the Copenhagen Conference would be held in December and would be an important meeting of the international community in efforts to tackle climate change.

It conforms to the interests of all parties concerned, including China and the United States, to strive for a wide consensus and a successful Copenhagen Conference on the basis of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, under the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities” among developed and developing countries, and in line with the Bali Roadmap, Hu said. —Xinhua

Strong earthquake jolts Panama, no casualties reported

PANAMA CITY, 22 Oct —An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale rocked south of Panama on Wednesday, said the US Geological Survey (USGS) on its website. No casualties or damage were reported.

The quake at 9:51 pm local time Wednesday occurred near the border of Panama and Costa Rica with the epicenter being located 179 km south of the city of David at the Pacific Ocean and at a depth of 10 km, it said. —Xinhua

Urbanization means better rural areas, too

BEIJING, 22 Oct —China is undergoing unprecedented urbanization, which has sharpened social contradictions. To make the country’s urbanization sustainable, we have to develop modern agriculture, says an article in Changjiang Times.

The latest McKinsey & Company study shows about 1 billion people will be living in the country’s urban areas by 2025, and more than 200 cities will have a population of 1 million or more. Urbanization, in essence, is the expansion of urban areas resulting from the migration of the agricultural population. Yet the process is more complex than that.

The increasing expansion of big cities has sharpened social contradictions by widening people’s interests, which are related to money and power. Today’s China fits this model well. —Xinhua

Russia holds int’l symposium on China’s development, China-Russia ties

MOSCOW, 22 Oct —Russia opened an international symposium on Wednesday to mark its six-decade relations with China and celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of new China, with participants speaking highly of China-Russia relations.

The three-day international symposium focused on the theme of the experience and lessons of China’s development and China-Russia relations. Mikhail Tityurenko, president of the Russia-China Friendship Association, said at the opening ceremony that the development course of China exemplified how an impoverished, underdeveloped country could transform into a major global power.

He is also the director of the Far East Research Institute and Research Council on Problems of Contemporary China. The Russia-China relations have also undergone extraordinary twists and turns over the past 60 years, he said. —Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Afghan police capture 11 Taleban fighters in North

KABUL, 22 Oct —Police during an operation in Baghlan Province, north of Afghanistan detained 11 militants, provincial police chief Mohammad Kabir Andarabi said on Thursday.

“The operation was launched on Wednesday in some villages of Baghlan-e-Markazi district during which 11 mercenaries including two group commanders Mullah Zaman and Mullah Nasir were made captive,” Andarabi told Xinhua.

He further added that the villages of Kokchinar and Mangala had been cleaned up of militants. Militants have fled the area, the official stressed. However, Andarabi did not say if there were any casualties on the troops.

Taleban militants, who have intensified their assaults since the beginning of this year, have yet to make comment. —Xinhua

Vietnam to hold international agriculture exhibition 2009

HANOI, 22 Oct —An international agriculture exhibition, Agro Viet 2009, will be held in Vietnamese capital city of Hanoi from 12 to 16 Nov, according to the organizer on Thursday. The exhibition is held by the Trade Promotion Center for Agriculture under Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The exhibition will draw participation of over 220 domestic and foreign companies. It will showcase modern agriculture machinery, tools, and equipment, latest technology on seed and plant production, high-quality agricultural products and agricultural materials, according to a report posted on the center’s website.

The exhibition will serve as an opportunity for agricultural businesses seek more cooperation and investment. It is also a chance for Vietnam to introduce and promote its agricultural products, said the report. —Xinhua

A group of Chinese martial arts fans practise during a morning exercise session at the Temple of Heaven park in Beijing.

China has over 140 million people over the age of 60. —INTERNET

People walk through Tokyo’s Ginza shopping district in August. Japan’s heavy reliance on foreign markets to drive its economic growth left it highly vulnerable to the recent global recession. —INTERNET

A model is prepared backstage prior to showing off fashions by Mexico’s designer Louis Verdad at the Mercedes-Benz Fashion show in Mexico City, on 21 Oct, 2009. —INTERNET
**Fruitadens haagarorum ‘smaller than rabbit’**

**LOS ANGELES, 22 Oct** — Fossils from the smallest dinosaur found in North America, a fleet-footed species only 71 cm long and weighing less than a rabbit, have gone on public display for the first time at a Los Angeles museum.

The bones were discovered in western Colorado in the late 1970s but only recently identified and named Fruitadens haagarorum by an international team of scientists. The fossils represent the skulls, vertebrae, arms and legs of four individual dinosaurs and are housed at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, which put them on display on Tuesday.

“We’re really testing the limits of body size among dinosaurs,” Luis Chiappe, director of the museum’s Dinosaur Institute, said. “Here’s an animal that is estimated to have weighed about two pounds (0.91 kg) when it was fully grown, so this is a really tiny dinosaur.”

It is the smallest known dinosaur from North America and one of the smallest dinosaurs ever.

**US Southwest Airlines to test Green Plane**

**HOUSTON, 22 Oct** — US Southwest Airlines, the world’s largest airline by annual number of passengers, said on Wednesday it would test a “Green Plane” that could save more than 10 US million dollars a year in fuel costs and reduce emissions.

The modified Boeing 737-700 has environmentally friendly products sprinkled throughout the cabin and elsewhere, ranging from the carpet to seat covers to life vest pouches, according to the company’s web site.

The most interesting items to be tested include Interface FLOR carpet, which allows the replacement of individual pieces rather than the whole carpet and is 100 percent recyclable; twice as durable seat covers; and a lighter life vest pouch that provides more under-seat room.

“Southwest is committed to continuing to lead the industry in emissions reductions through fuel efficiency,” said Gary Kelly, Southwest’s chairman, president and CEO.

**Mexico university creates first network of telescopes in Latin American**

**MEXICO CITY, 22 Oct** — Experts from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) have created the first network of radio-telescopes in Latin America to promote the research of the activities of the sun, the moon and the planets.

The network aimed to promote the scientific research and facilitate the communication between radio-telescopes, the UNAM, one of the major universities in Latin America, said in a statement on Wednesday.

UNAM General Director of Science and Technology Jose de la Herran said in the statement that the university wants more radio-telescopes form different parts of the country to join the network and to encourage the study of the radio astronomy among Mexican youngsters.

De la Herran said in the event like sun storms, the intercommunication between local and global radio-telescopes is necessary to determining the sun’s radio emissions.

“The radio-telescopes study objects in the sky and the astrophysics phenomena, measuring the emission of electromagnetic radiation in the region of the spectrum’s radio,” de la Herran said.

De la Herran added that a minimum network set uses one antenna, one radio receiver and one computer with a software to translate the graphic signals.

**Purification of toilet water expected**

The growing population of the United States will one day make the purification of toilet water for use as drinking water a necessity, experts say.

Dozens of experts gathered during the past week at the Water Environment Federation conference in Orlando, Fla., said purifying wastewater will eventually be needed to meet a growing demand amid dwindling water supplies, the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel said.

The conference, held 10-14 Oct at the Orange County Convention Center, attracted 20,000 professionals in the water field and featured a wide assortment of valves, pumps, hardware for treating and transporting sewage, the newspaper said.

**Eight-year-old boy has “sex change”**

Just like any other little girls, 8-year-old Josie Romero loves wearing skirts and playing with dolls.

She was born into a boy’s body in Arizona, US, but now her sex has been legally changed and, with the help of drugs and surgery, she will grow up to be a woman.

She used to wrap up her army figures and rock them like a baby when she was a toddler, and she only wore colors like orange which were nearest to girly pink. When she started to talk, she always said “I’m a girl.” Whenever someone called her a boy, she would correct them. At the age of four, she insisted: “No, I really am a girl.”

The little girl’s favourite game was to wrap her mother’s scarf around her waist to make a skirt, according to the mother. By the time she reached six, Josie had been diagnosed as transgender and was beginning her transition to becoming a female.

**DNA prompts Japan murder retrial**

**OKINAWA, 22 Oct** — A Japanese man who spent 17 years in jail for the murder of a four-year-old girl has now pleaded not guilty in a retrial of his case.

Toshikazu Sugaya, 63, was released earlier this year after fresh DNA tests showed that evidence found at the murder scene did not match his DNA.

He was sentenced to life in jail after saying during a police interrogation that he committed the crime.

He later retracted this statement, saying it was made under duress.

Appearing at the Utsunomiya District Court on Wednesday, Mr Sugaya said he had nothing to do with the 1990 murder.

He then asked the court why he had been made to suffer 17-and-a-half years in jail for a crime he did not commit.

**Driver gets 15 citations in 11 minutes**

Swiss police said an Italian man set a record for traffic violations in their country by racking up 15 moving violations in the space of 11 minutes.

Police in St Gallen said the 47-year-old’s spree of road violations began when he drove past police while speeding 100 mph in a 60 mph zone during the weekend, the Daily Mail reported on Monday.

Officers said the ensuing offenses include driving too close to other cars, driving too close to the curb, weaving across the white dividing line, failing to stop for police sirens, barreling through red lights, speeding through a construction zone and driving on a hard shoulder of a roadway.

**Wild birds fly above Huangshui River in Xining, capital of northwest China’s Qinghai Province. As local environment improves and water area enlarges, more and more wild birds can be seen in the suburbs of Xining.**

**Elvis’ hair leaves the building**

A pile of hair believed snipped from Elvis Presley when he joined the US Army in 1958 sold for $18,300 (11,200 pounds) on Sunday, according to a Chicago auction house.

The King’s hair was one of up to 200 items of Elvis memorabilia collected by the late Gary Pepper, who was the president of the Tankers Fan Club set up for Elvis fans.

**Germany’s beaches are being prepared for the winter season. In the resort town of Ahlbeck on the Baltic Sea, horse carriage drivers are bringing in the traditional German beach chairs on 4 October. All summer long, the roofed wicker chairs line the country’s northern beaches.**

**Elvis fans.**

**Internet**

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Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Secretary-1 General

Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, departmental heads, Chinese Charge d’ Affaires to Myanmar Mr Wang Zongying, and officials.

Myanmar delegation led by Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo comprising Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and heads of department also arrived back.—MNA

Lt-Gen Tha Aye and party enjoy “Thakaung Yadana” Drama Contest

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—The second event of the fourth day of “Thakaung Yadana” Drama Contest of the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions took place at the convocation hall of the University of Veterinary Science in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin at 9 pm yesterday.

Among the audience were Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Wai Wai Khine, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo and wife, member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Soe Oo, departmental heads, officials of the work committee and subcommittees, members of the panel of judges (central) and those from States and Divisions.

Under the management of Academy Myodaw Maung Yin Aung, script writer and drama director gold medalist Chit Sayar, leading actor Soe Moe Aung, leading actress Su Nanda Kyaw and supporting artists performed entertainment to the accompaniment of pianist U Win Pe, leader of musicians Academy Sein Mutta and orchestra of U Bo Naing and party.

Commander attends opening of 227th Phayagon dam in Shan State (South)

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—The ceremony to open Phayagon dam built by Irrigation Department was held at Mingala pond near the dam this morning. The dam is situated near Phayagon Village, Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South).

The ceremony was attended by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ya Pyae, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, officials of the Irrigation Department, departmental heads, township chairman and district and township level officials, and members of social organizations.

The commander and deputy minister made the opening speeches.

Next, on behalf of locals, a local spoke words of thanks to the SPDC for construction of the dam.

The commander later unveiled the inscription and sprinkled scented water on it together with the deputy minister.

Afterwards, the commander and the deputy minister opened the dam by cutting the ribbon and posed for documentary photo with officials and locals. They later looked around the dam.

The newly-completed Phayagon dam is 227th dam for the country. It can store 686-acre feet water at the highest level. It is 42 feet high and 900 feet long. The dam can irrigate 200 acres of farmlands and also supply drinking water to Phayagon Nyomi Village.—MNA

Phayagon dam in Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South).—MNA
Bilateral cooperation deepened in various sectors due to reciprocal State visits of leaders of two countries, growing friendship, cooperation of two peoples

China will always support Myanmar's nation-building tasks carried out in national interest with massive support of Myanmar people

(Chinese Vice-Premier H.E Mr. Li Keqiang)

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo of the Union of Myanmar conferred with Chinese Vice-Premier H.E Mr Li Keqiang, Member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of Communist Party of the People’s Republic of China, at the International Conference Centre in Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. At the meeting, Chairman of People’s Congress Standing Committee of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Secretary of Chinese Communist Party of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Guo Shengkun, Governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Ma Biao and officials were together with the Chinese Vice-Premier.

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo in his speech said that Myanmar, an ASEAN member country, takes great pride in the fact that despite being in tight schedule of national duties, Chinese leaders including H.E Mr. Li Keqiang held the 6th China-ASEAN Expo, and the 6th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit on a grand scale and invited the PRC U Thein Lwin, Director-General of the SPDC Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win and heads of department, and Chinese Minister of Commerce H.E Mr Chen De Ming, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E Mr Mu Dawei, Deputy Minister for Commerce H.E Mr Gao Hucheng, to the PRC. Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greets Vice-Premier H.E Mr Li Keqiang, Member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of Communist Party of the PRC at the International Conference Centre in Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.—MNA

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo holds discussion with Vice-Premier H.E Mr Li Keqiang, Member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of Communist Party of the PRC at the International Conference Centre in Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.—MNA

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo holds discussion with Vice-Premier H.E Mr Li Keqiang, Member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of Communist Party of the PRC at the International Conference Centre in Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The meeting ended at 5.25 pm.—MNA

He said that he was very pleased as the Myanmar delegation led by him had an opportunity to pay a visit to Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and he believed that the visit will improve the bilateral friendship and cooperation. The bilateral cooperation has deepened in various sectors due to reciprocal State visits of leaders of the two countries and growing friendship and cooperation of the two peoples.

It is heartening to note that the two countries will be in its 60th anniversary next year. The 6th China-ASEAN Expo, and the 6th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit are pragmatic approach to boost China-ASEAN cooperation in the economic and commercial fields.

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo holds discussion with Vice-Premier H.E Mr Li Keqiang, Member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of Communist Party of the PRC at the International Conference Centre in Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.—MNA

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NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo on 19 October evening visited the Myanmar booth to be displayed at the 6th China-ASEAN Expo at Nanning International Convention & Exhibition Centre in Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China.

On arrival at the centre, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Vice-Presidents U Aung Lwin, U Zaw Min Win and U Tun Aye of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, officials and members of the organizing committee for the expo.

The Secretary-1 viewed the scale model of Muse 105-Mile Myanmar-China Border Trade Zone displayed at the Myanmar booth on the ground floor and heard reports on arrangements for the booth presented by officials of the Ministry of Commerce and UMFCCI.

The Secretary-1 and party viewed round the booths of the PRC and ASEAN member nations.

At the Myanmar booths on the second floor, the Secretary-1 viewed industrial products, agro-based foodstuffs, agricultural produce, marine products, finished wood products, jewellery and Myanmar handicraft of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestocks and Fisheries, UMFCCI, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Agro-based Foodstuff Producers and Exporters Association, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs’ Association, Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs, Association, Myanmar Marine Products Producers and Exporters Association, Muse-Namkhkam Border Trade Association, Myanmar Paddy Producers Association, UMEHL and private companies, entrepreneurs from Muangmya, Pyay, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Kalay, Monywa, Meiktila, Yenangyoung, Pathein, Myeik, Pyinnabbin and Yangon East Industrial Zones.—MNA

Myanmar booths seen at 6th China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning International Convention & Exhibition Centre in Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the PRC.—MNA

NAK PYI TAW, 22 Oct—The drama troupe that representing Arts Ayeyawady Division took part in the Uggasena Drama Contest of the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions at the convocation hall of the University of Veterinary Science in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin this evening. Among the audience were Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and wife, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint, Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Maj-Gen Thein Tun, departmental heads, members of the work committee and subcommittees, members of the panel of judges and those from States and Divisions.—MNA
NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—At the invitation of the government of the People’s Republic of China, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, left here by special flight at 9 am on 19 October to attend the 6th China-ASEAN Expo and the China-ASEAN Economic & Investment Summit to be held in Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China, and arrived at Nanning International Airport of the PRC at 1.50 pm local standard time.

Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin and Director Mr Tang Chong Guang of the Foreign Affairs Office of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region welcomed the Secretary-1 onboard the aircraft.

Next, member of the Standing Committee of Communist Party of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Wen Ka Hua and Deputy Head of Foreign Affairs Mr Zhu Shu Hua welcomed the Secretary-1.

Two children presented bouquet to the Secretary-1 and a local girl, a traditional gift.

The traditional culture troupe also welcomed the Secretary-1 with the entertainment of traditional dances.

The Secretary-1 and party posed for documentary photo together with local traditional cultural troupe members.

Later, the Secretary-1 and party left for Liyuan Resort.

Secretary-1 attends opening of 6th China-ASEAN Business & Investment Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attended the opening ceremony of the 6th China-ASEAN Business & Investment Summit held at Guangxi People’s Great Hall in Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China at 11 a.m. on 20 October.

Present at the Summit were member of Standing Committee of the Politburo of Communist Party of China Central Committee Vice Premier H.E. Mr Li Keqiang, Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic H.E. Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh, Speaker of House of Representatives H.E. Mr Prospero C Nogales of Philippines, Permanent Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Mr Nguyen Sinh Hung of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of SPDC Office, departmental heads, ministers and deputy ministers and senior officers from China and ASEAN countries, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan, officials and guests.

At the summit, Chairman of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Mr Wan Jifei delivered an opening speech.

Afterwards, Chairman of Standing Committee of People’s Congress of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Secretary of CPC Guangxi Committee Mr Guo Sheng Kun made a speech.

Next, Laoastian Prime Minister H.E. Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh and Member of Standing Committee of the Politburo of Communist Party of China Central Committee Vice Premier H.E. Mr Li Keqiang made speeches.—MNA

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo being welcomed by Mr Wen Ka Hua, member of Standing Committee of Communist Party of Guangxi of PRC at Nanning International Airport.—MNA

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attends the opening ceremony of 6th China-ASEAN Business & Investment Summit held at Guangxi People’s Great Hall in Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, PRC.—MNA
Secretary-1 attends dinner to mark 6th China-ASEAN Expo, China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo on 19 October evening attended a dinner to mark the 6th China-ASEAN Expo and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit hosted by the Central Government of the People’s Republic of China at International Conference Centre of Luyuan Resort in Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China.

Also present at the dinner were member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Politburo Vice President H.E. Mr Li Keqiang, Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic H.E. Mr Bouasone Bouaphavanh, Speaker of the Parliament of the Philippines H.E. Mr Prospero C. Nogurolas, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam H.E. Mr Nguyen Sinh Hung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Thu, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Myanmar Ambassador to PRC U Thein Sein, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, ministers, deputy ministers, senior officers and officials of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Singapore, Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and PRC and entrepreneurs of the respective countries. — MNA

17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—The 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for fifth day at the designated avenues today. Among the spectators were Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Hein, Minister for Electric Power No. 2 and for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt.-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing, members of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Nye Tun and U Kyaw Aung, departmental heads, members of the leading committee, chairmen, secretaries and members of work committee and subcommittees, members of the panel of judges (central) and supervisors.

In higher education level women’s Maha Gita singing contest, eight contestants took part in it. In the afternoon, 11 contestants participated in basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' Maha Gita contest.

In basic education level (aged 15-20) boys' harp contest held at the hall of No (7) Transit Center in Nay Pyi Taw, and contestants from amateur level (first class), amateur level (second class) and higher education level took part in the rehearsal. Six contestants took part in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' harp contest held at the hall of the University of Veterinary Science, 18 participants took part in the contest. In the afternoon, 15 contestants competed in basic education level (aged 15-20) women's harp contest. Eight contestants participated in amateur level (second class) men's harp contest.

The rehearsal for writing contest was held at the hall of No (7) Transit Center in Nay Pyi Taw, and contestants from amateur level (first class) women's piano contest. In amateur level (first class) men's Ozi contest held at Agricultural Research Department, seven groups participated in it, and six groups took part in the basic education level (aged 15-20) men's Ozi contest.

In the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' orchestra (group) contest, two groups competed in the contest. In the afternoon, two groups took part in the amateur level (first class) women's orchestra (group) contest.

In basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' piano contest, eight contestants competed in it, and two contestants took part in amateur level (first class) women's piano contest. In amateur level (first class) men's Ozi contest held at Agricultural Research Department, seven groups participated in it, and six groups took part in the basic education level (aged 15-20) men's Ozi contest.

UMFCCI's monthly talks on 24 October

YANGON, 22 Oct — Organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the monthly talks (2/October, 2009) will be held on the first floor of UMFCCI Office Tower at 2 p.m. on 24 October (Saturday).

U Thein Myint Wai, Assistant Director of Directorate of Trade, and U Kyaw Win, Director of Customs Department, will give talks. Every one including chairmen, executives and members of the affiliated associations of the UMFCCI and industrial zones may attend the talks. — MNA

Talks on success by successful spirit on 24 Oct

YANGON, 21 Oct — Jointly organized by the Myanmar Fishery Federation and the Myanmar Shrimp Association and sponsored by the City Mart Supermarket, writer Ledwinthar Saw Chit will gave talks on success by successful spirit at the hall of MFF on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township at 2 p.m. on 24 October. Those interested may attend the talks.— MNA

MGEA to hold AGM on 24 October

YANGON, 22 Oct — The seventh annual general meeting of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association will be held at 1 p.m. at Panda Hotel here on 24 October.

Members of the association are invited to attend the meeting without fail.— MNA
H1N1 vaccinations rolled out in UK

LONDON, 22 Oct—A mass H1N1 immunization programme began in the UK on Wednesday, with the country’s health minister urging all priority groups to take up the vaccine. Health and social care workers are among those identified in the “priority” group given first access to the vaccine against the H1N1 virus, commonly known as swine flu.

Others include pregnant women, those over 65, people with asthma, diabetes and those having cancer treatment, the country’s Department of Health has said. From Monday, this group will be given appointments to visit doctors surgeries to receive the vaccine.

The vast majority of people will be offered GlaxoSmithKline’s Pandemrix vaccination, which is effective after one dose but made using chicken eggs, according to the Department of Health. Those allergic to eggs will instead be offered Baxter’s Celvapan, which requires two doses three weeks apart.

Online

Latin America discusses distribution of A/H1N1 vaccines

PANAMA CITY, 22 Oct—Latin American countries, including Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela, began a series of meetings on Wednesday in Panama to discuss the purchase and use of the A/H1N1 influenza vaccine.

Jose A Escamilla, representative of the Pan American Health Organization, told Xinhua that participants will “define the procedures and the priority groups to receive the vaccine.”

The participants would also discuss their countries’ needs and the amount of vaccines needed to meet the demand of their people, Escamilla said. The specific amount of vaccines for all regions and nations would be determined at the end of the meeting, Escamilla added.

Online

India train crash leaves 22 dead

MATHURA, 22 Oct—Two passenger trains have collided near the city of Mathura in northern India, killing at least 22 people. One of the trains, the Mewar Express, was stopped at a red signal when the Goa Express rammed into it from behind, a railway official said.

Rescuers used gas cutters to enter the train. About 22 people were injured and taken to hospitals. Officials say the rescue operation is now over and all the passengers have been accounted for. The crash took place just before 5am local time (2330 GMT).

“The Goa Express train rammed into the Mewar Express train from behind, this is the situation. A coach of the Mewar Express was damaged, whereas, there has been damage in the pantry car of the Goa Express,” the Reuters news agency quoted railway official RD Tripathi as saying.

“We felt a massive jolt,” Ramesh Charan, a passenger aboard the Mewar Express, told Reuters. “Some people sleeping on upper berths fell to the coach floor by the impact of the collision,” he said.

Online

HIV vaccine trial was significant

BANGKOK, 22 Oct—A review of a trial of a HIV vaccine in Thailand has concluded that it does show real signs of a protective effect. Scientists announced last month that a combination of vaccines gave a 31% level of protection in trials among 16,000 heterosexuals aged 18-30. Doubts had been raised about whether the finding was significant.

But new data published at a conference in Paris indicates that, while small scale, the findings are robust and statistically significant. However, the scientists say they do not understand what is causing the effect, and it seems to offer less protection to those most at risk. Despite these drawbacks, Colonel Nelson Michael from the US military HIV research programme is it still a small step in the right direction.

He said: “It’s important that people understand that this is a scientific advance, a scientific breakthrough.”

It is not a public health breakthrough; there is not a vaccine that is around the corner.

“We now, after 26 years of trying, believe that we can go down that road with confidence that we will be able to develop a vaccine that is globally effective,” he said.

Despite their initial joy when the first results from the Thai trial were announced, many scientists were concerned that the protective effect was very small.

Online

Woman dies dolphin-swimming in New Zealand

PITCOW, 22 Oct—A 27-year-old American woman died in waters off New Zealand while swimming with dolphins, police said. The woman, while on a swimming excursion on Tuesday with Dolphin Watch Ecotours in the Marlborough Sounds near Picton New Zealand, went in the water mid-morning and was later spotted floating face down, the Dominion Post reported.

Emergency officials were contacted while other swimmers on the tour lifted the woman onto the tour boat. A doctor on the trip and coast guard workers tried unsuccessfully to revive the woman, whose name was not reported. The woman’s mother and husband were also on the trip, the newspaper said.

Dan and Amy Engelhaupt, Dolphin Watch Ecotour’s directors and marine biologists from the United States, had initially intended to hold a press conference, but were advised by police not to speak with media about the incident, the Dominion Post said. “The Engelhauts were well-respected operators who had built up a good business since moving to Picton about five years ago,” Marlborough District Mayor Alistair Sowman said. No cause of death was reported and an autopsy was scheduled, the newspaper said.

Online
Indian city bans kites after child deaths

CHENNAI, 22 Oct — Police have banned kite flying in the southern Indian city of Chennai after two children died in accidents and several motorcyclists were injured by kite string coated with glass powder.

The deaths occurred when boys chasing after kites fell from rooftops, city police commissioner T Rajendran said. In many parts of Asia where kite flying is a sport, participants use their kites to cut through rivals’ strings. Chennai temporarily banned kites in 2006 after an eight-year-old boy died when string caked in glass powder cut into his neck, and again in 2007 after a similar incident. —Internet

Divers recover anchor from reputed Blackbeard ship

BEAUFORT, 22 Oct — An anchor from a shipwreck thought to be Blackbeard’s flagship, the Queen Anne’s Revenge, was so unstable that divers in North Carolina retrieved it Wednesday rather than waiting until next year. Divers raised the 4.5-foot, 160-pound grapnel, or anchor, from the wreck in the Atlantic Ocean near Beaufort on Wednesday and will display it on Thursday at the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort. The anchor originally had four prongs, but now has 1 1/2. Two divers put straps on the anchor, then small lift bags that they filled with air, said Mark Wilde-Ramsing, the director of the Queen Anne’s Revenge shipwreck project. When the grapnel reached the surface, the crane brought it on the boat. “It went great,” he said. “It went as smooth as it could be.” The grapnel probably was an anchor for a smaller boat that would have been used to transport items between ships or from land to ship, Wilde-Ramsing said. —Internet

Food toxin may cause liver cancer

LOS ANGELES, 22 Oct — A toxin produced by mold on grains can cause liver cancer for large amount of consumption, researchers at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) has said. “It’s shocking how fundamentally these molds can affect public health,” Sheryl Tsai, associate professor in biochemistry and pharmaceutical sciences was quoted as saying by a study published in the journal Nature on Thursday. It is the first time scientists have discovered what triggers the toxin to form, which could lead to methods of limiting its production. Reports said about 4.5 billion people in developing countries are chronically exposed to levels of this toxin, called aflatoxin, which is often hundreds of times higher than safe levels.

In some countries, the consumption of aflatoxin continues to increase because of the high prevalence of aflatoxin contamination in grains, researchers said. The US Food & Drug Administration considers it an unavoidable food contaminant but sets maximum allowable limits.

Blood protein may predict heart attack but not stroke

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct — High blood levels of C-reactive protein (CRP) may increase a person’s risk for heart attack and death, but not for stroke, a new study has found. The study included 2,240 people in New York City who were 40 or older and stroke-free. At the start of the study, the participants’ blood was checked for levels of CRP (a marker for inflammation) and their heart attack and stroke risk factors were evaluated by researchers.

During an average follow-up of eight years, there were 198 strokes, 156 heart-related events and 586 deaths. People with CRP levels greater than 3 milligrams per liter of blood were 70 percent more likely to have a heart attack and 55 percent more likely to die than those with CRP levels of 1 milligram per liter or less, the researchers reported in the 20 Oct print issue of Neurology. After they took other risk factors into account, the study authors concluded that CRP levels didn’t influence stroke risk. “The role of this protein in predicting risk of stroke has been controversial, although prior studies have found it to be a marker for predicting risk of heart disease,” study author Dr Mitchell Elkind, of Columbia University Medical Center in New York City, said in a news release from the American Academy of Neurology. —Internet

Pouring cold water on fashionista swimmers

TOKYO, 22 Oct — Japan’s swimmers could face lifetime bans if they dye their hair, wear an earring or have brightly decorated fingernails. Japanese officials have launched a strict policy to prevent athletes turning up for competitions looking more like rock stars than swimmers.

Male and female swimmers caught sneaking into each others rooms at Japanese training camp, where the sexes have separate sleeping quarters, will also avoid a collision.

The JSF’s stringent new plan has been written into its charter following an executive board meeting on Tuesday and swimmers will have to sign a letter of oath. —Internet

Man staged nearly 100 car crashes in cash scam

LONDON, 22 Oct — A Briton who cost the insurance industry some 1.6 million pounds by staging almost 100 car crashes as part of a scam to win fraudulent payouts, was jailed for 4-1/2 years on Wednesday. Mohammed Patel, 24, charged 500 pounds a time to stage accidents which enabled fraudsters to claim an average of 17,000 pounds from their insurers. Police said he staged at least 92 crashes between 2005 and 2008, each time persuading the other driver to believe they were at fault. The plot was uncovered after workers in an office block by the main A34 road in Chaddle, near Manchester, became suspicious about a regular number of crashes taking place at a nearby roundabout.

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Axa Insurance, one of the firms caught up in the scam, investigated and contacted police. Detectives found that Patel deliberately caused crashes for his clients by braking suddenly so the vehicles behind could not avoid a collision. —Internet

Man staged nearly 100 car crashes in cash scam

LONDON, 22 Oct — An anchor from a shipwreck thought to be Blackbeard’s flagship, the Queen Anne’s Revenge, was so unstable that divers in North Carolina retrieved it Wednesday rather than waiting until next year. Divers raised the 4.5-foot, 160-pound grapnel, or anchor, from the wreck in the Atlantic Ocean near Beaufort on Wednesday and will display it on Thursday at the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort. The anchor originally had four prongs, but now has 1 1/2. Two divers put straps on the anchor, then small lift bags that they filled with air, said Mark Wilde-Ramsing, the director of the Queen Anne’s Revenge shipwreck project. When the grapnel reached the surface, the crane brought it on the boat. “It went great,” he said. “It went as smooth as it could be.” The grapnel probably was an anchor for a smaller boat that would have been used to transport items between ships or from land to ship, Wilde-Ramsing said. —Internet

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**SPORTS**

**United maintains perfect Champions League start**

The Ecuador winger signed for 17 million pounds from Wigan as a replacement for Cristiano Ronaldo, has struggled to convince the United faithful that he is up to the task. But after claiming his first United goal in the win over Bolton at the weekend, Valencia capped a fine performance with a late winner in United’s 1-0 Champions League win over CSKA Moscow on Wednesday.

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**Bordeaux miss penalties but beat nine-man Bayern**

PARIS, 22 Oct — Bordeaux fought back from a 1-0 Champions League defeat in Bordeaux, without Michael Ciani Wednesday. Bordeaux de-

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**Tennis vet Safin outs top seed Davydenko in Moscow**

MOSCOW, 22 Oct — Russian tennis icon Marat Safin battled from a set down to advance past top seeded compatriot Nikolay Davydenko into the second round of the joint ATP and WTA tournament here on Wednesday.

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**Heinze gives Marseille Champions League hope in Zurich**

ZURICH, 22 Oct — Gabriel Heinze delivered Marseille’s first points of this Champions League campaign, the Argentine lifting the French side to a 1-0 win at FC Zurich on Wednesday.

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**Belgian tennis star Henin set for Brisbane comeback**

SYDNEY, 22 Oct — Belgium’s seven-time Grand Slam winner Justine Henin confirmed she would make her comeback from a 15-month re-

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**Chelsea’s Ancelotti has eyes only for first place**

LONDON, 22 Oct — Carlo Ancelotti warned his Chelsea stars that only first place will do after Salomon Kalou and Frank Lampard inspired a 4-0 Champions League rout of Atletico Madrid. Ancelotti’s side moved within touching distance of a place in the last 16 thanks to their clinical display against the woeful Spaniards at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

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**Pressure on Celtic as Europa League group stage continues**

PARIS, 22 Oct — Celtic manager Tony Mowbray is under pressure to end a sorry run of home results that have left the Glasgow giants in a virtually must-win situa-

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Hong Kong proposes e-Learning pilot scheme

Hong Kong, 22 Oct—The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government is committed to developing e-learning which will enhance student learning and development, Secretary for Education Michael Suen said on Thursday. Suen committed to developing e-learning which will be expedited and strengthened at the primary and junior secondary levels with additional resources.

The working group has submitted a report proposing a three-year “promoting e-learning” pilot scheme be launched in up to 30 primary and secondary schools in the 2010-2011 school year. It also suggests the development of the depository of curriculum-based learning and teaching resources will be carefully considered.

The working group proposes e-learning pilot scheme which is located within the Naval training base. The Navy regularly supplies the off-shore island for reports that many drowned while trying to catch fish from the sea—INTERNET
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

Secretary-1 attends opening ceremony of 6th China-ASEAN Expo

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attended the opening ceremony of 6th China-ASEAN Expo, held at Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Nanning in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China at 9 am on 20 October.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of Communist Party of China Central Committee Vice Premier H.E. Mr Li Keqiang, Heads the State/Government of the ASEAN member countries, ministers, deputy ministers and senior officers from the People’s Republic of China and ASEAN member countries, ASEAN Secretary-General H.E. Dr Surin Pitsuwan and responsible persons, entrepreneurs of those countries and correspondents from international news agencies.

On the occasion, Governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Ma Biao extended greetings.

Next, ASEAN Secretary-General H.E. Dr Surin Pitsuwan and Minister of Commerce of the PRC H.E. Mr Chen Deming gave speeches on the occasion.

Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic H.E. Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh gave an opening speech.

After that, the documentary video on the previous China-ASEAN Expositions was presented to those present.

The Secretary-1, Heads of State/Government of the People’s Republic of China and ASEAN member countries and the ASEAN Secretary-General took the designated positions on the stage to open the ceremony.

Vice Premier H.E. Mr Li Keqiang announced the 6th China-ASEAN Expo open.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1, Heads of State/Government of PRC and ASEAN member countries and the ASEAN Secretary-General concluded the ceremony by throwing flowers into the air.—MNA