Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to King of Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin Ibni Al-Mahum Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktafi Billah Shah, Yang di-Pertuan XIII of Malaysia, on the occasion of the 53rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of Malaysia which falls on 31 August 2010.—MNA

Prime Minister felicitates Malaysian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug—U Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dato' Seri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, on the occasion of the 53rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of Malaysia which falls on 31 August 2010.—MNA

Political parties submit lists of party members to UEC

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—Political parties are to submit lists of their party members organized in line with Article 13 (a) of Political Parties Registration Rules to the Union Election Commission within 90 days from the date they have been granted permission to register.

Ethnic National Development Party (ENDP) submitted the list of its members to the UEC today. Up to date, 32 of 42 parties that have been granted permission to register as political parties have already submitted lists of party members to the UEC within the prescribed date.—MNA

Thaukyaykhat Hydropower Project (2) under implementation

In its effort to boost the development of the country, the government is building a lot of power stations and hydropower stations across the nation.

To supply hydropower needed in the country, Thaukyaykhat hydropower project (2) is being implemented about 14 miles east of Toungoo. The hydropower project includes Sittoung basin development project. Experts from UNDP and Myanmar engineers carried out feasibility study the project in 1964.

The Ministry of Electric Power No.1 started the project in 2008. The purposes of building the project are to distribute electric power supply generated from the project to the whole country through the national grid and to irrigate many acres of farmlands in the region.

(See page 8)

Photo shows intake canal and sluice gate of Thaukyaykhat hydropower project (2).
Record paddy output on target

Agriculture is the major sector for economic growth of the nation. The agricultural sector makes greater contribution to GDP than any other sector. Now, agricultural production is on the increase year by year and so is agricultural export.

Agricultural farming is the main source of income for rural folks, who make up the great majority of the nation’s population. Boosting production of crops especially paddy can improve the social-economic status of rural people as well as the economy of the nation.

Now, annual paddy output has touched over 1500 million baskets from over 20 million acres of monsoon and summer paddy fields. This agricultural season, the paddy output of more than 1600 million baskets is on target. The goal calls for more sown acreage and scientific agricultural methods.

In this regard, the regions without favourable conditions to grow paddy extensively should focus greater attention to high-yield paddy strains. And the departments concerned should provide paddy seeds of quality strains and advanced agricultural methods.

Moreover, all farmers should use agricultural machinery and should be provided with many forms of agricultural assistance such as fertilizers and pesticides. Post-harvest methods should also be disseminated in order that farmers can minimize loss and wastage in the production processes.

So far, the government has constructed more than 200 dams for supply of adequate irrigation water. It is also providing paddy seeds of high-yield strains. Entrepreneurs, farmers and agriculturists are therefore to keep working harmoniously for boosting production of crops including paddy.

Concordia Int’l Co Ltd to launch Topcon brand land survey equipment

YANGON, 30 Aug — Concordia Int’l Co Ltd will introduce Japan-made Topcon branded (RTK) system DGPS, geodetic total station, portable GPS, digital theodolite and civilcad software at Union of Myanmar DGPS, geodetic total station, portable GPS, digital theodolite and civilcad software at Union of Myanmar.

As special programme, Concordia Co Ltd will import contour map and maps of 25 cities into GPS, computers and cellular phones at reasonable price. All land survey equipment imported by Concordia are suitable to weather of Myanmar and high-resistant ones. Products are on sale with one-year warranty at service centres in Shwegoan Plaza.

Upgrading of Minbu-An road section of Yangon-Sittway road in full swing

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug — Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint gave instructions on upgrading of Yangon-Sittway Road (Minbu-An) in meeting with departmental officials, engineers and officials of three road construction special groups, three district groups and 13 companies groups at the office of Minbu District Public Works on 28 August.

Next, the minister inspected upgrading of Minbu-An (Minbu-Padan) road section by Pann Thi company, and gave instructions on timely completion of works meeting set standard at the worksite of Bridge No (139).

After inspecting the roadwork between mile post No (5/5) and (5/6) by Mya Kantha company, the minister called for collaborative efforts between the Ministry of Construction and companies and instructed officials to upgrade the road and to build drains at the briefing hall of Setyaysan road.

The minister also looked into road work between mile post No (65/0) and (65/1) by Full Strength Co., Ltd and gave necessary instructions.

Health care for expectant mothers in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint yesterday viewed activities on health care for expectant mothers jointly carried out by specialists and health staff of Mandalay Women Hospital and members of social organizations at the health center in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region.

The minister called for more efforts on health care services for pregnant women to be able to reduce maternal and child mortality rate, and presented medicines and gifts to expectant mothers.

Next, the minister viewed giving pregnant women tetanus vaccines. The minister observed performing community-based home care services at the houses of patients with chronic illness and presented medicines and refreshment.

Foreign Minister felicitates Malaysian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug — on the occasion of the 53rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of Malaysia which falls on 31 August 2010, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Datuk Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. —MNA
971 killed in Afghan conflict over past month

KABUL, 30 Aug—Continued Taleban-led militancy in the war-ravaged Afghanistan have claimed 971 lives including 618 Taleban militants, 229 civilians and 124 personnel of Afghan National Police (ANP) over the past month, spokesman of the Interior Ministry Zamani said on Sunday.

These casualties have been reported from 23 July to 22 August, he said. “Some 691 terrorists and violent incidents, most of them roadside bomb blasts took place, which indicates 33 percent decrease from the previous month,” Bashari told a joint Press conference with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) spokesman Brigadier-General Josef Blotz in the interior ministry compound. He said that 434 Afghan civilians, 232 ANP personnel and 135 militants were also wounded over the same period.

According to Bashari, 593 Taleban and other anti-government militants had been arrested over the above period. Xinhua

Four NATO oil tankers destroyed by Taleban in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 30 Aug—At least four NATO supply oil tankers were completely destroyed on Sunday in an attack near Torkham, Pakistan-Afghanistan border area in northwest of Pakistan, local media reported.

Militants attacked NATO tankers supply caravan in with rockets turning the four tankers into ashes in Khyber Agency tribal area of Pakistan, local sources told Dawn. However, no casualties were reported.

Major incidents include an attack in June when 60 NATO supply trucks were burnt to ashes and eight local drivers were killed and several injured in an attack near capital city Islamabad. While in April four policemen were killed as 12 NATO trucks were burnt in eastern Punjab Province.

Police kill two suicide bombers in W Afghanistan

HERAT, 30 Aug—Police gunned down two suicide bombers who were attempting to enter the office of Farah’s provincial governor on Sunday, provincial police chief Mohammad Faqir Asfar said.

“Two suicide bombers equipped with suicide vests and explosive devices were attempting to enter the office of provincial governor this morning but police identified and shot them dead,” Askar told Xinhua.

Before opening fire, police wanted to check them but they refused and attempting to target policemen stationed around, the official further said. There were no casualties on civilians and passersby. Asker emphasized, saying both the suicide bombers killed on the spot were Taleban loyalists. Xinhua

Gunman kills four before committing suicide in US state of Arizona

LOS ANGELES, 30 Aug—A gunman fatally shot four people in an Arizona community of the United States early Sunday, authorities said.

The gunman entered a home in Lake Havasu City of Arizona and started shooting people inside, according to a police report.

The gunman fled with two of his children in a truck after the shooting, the report said.

Those killed were the children’s mother and three others. Two survived in the shooting, Lake Havasu police said.

The gunman had been fighting with his wife over custody of their young children, police said.

The suspect was found dead later Sunday in California of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said.

The two young children were found safe with their relatives. Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills three police, wounds one in N Afghanistan

KUNDUZ, 30 Aug—A roadside bomb organized by militants struck a police vehicle in Kunduz Province north of Afghanistan killing three police and injuring another one on Sunday, police said.

“The incident occurred in Kabrud District at 01:00 pm local time as a result three police constables were killed and their officer Jalal Khan sustained in-juries,” district police chief Mohammad Rahim told Xinhua. Meantime, Taleban outfit has claimed responsibility.

Nepal searches for black boxes after plane crash

KATHMANDU, 30 Aug—Nepalese investigators hoping to find the cause of a small plane crash last week that killed 14 people, including six foreigners, offered a reward Monday for help in finding the aircraft’s “black box” recorders. Investigators still have been unable to locate the voice and data recorders nearly a week after the 24 Aug crash near Shikharpur village, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Kathmandu.

The private Agni Air flight was heading to the Mount Everest region when it crashed in heavy rain outside Nepal’s capital, killing all 14 people aboard, including four Americans a Briton and a Japanese.

Suresh Acharya, a spokesman for the government appointed investigation team, said investigators distributed photos of such devices among villagers and offered a reward of 50,000 Nepalese rupees ($675) for anyone who finds them. —Xinhua

At least one killed in bomb attack in Iraq’s Mosul

MOSUL, 30 Aug—At least one civilian was killed and 12 others were wounded on Sunday in a coordinated bomb and hand grenades attack in the city of Mosul, the capital of Nineveh Province, a provincial police source said. The attack took place in the afternoon when a booby-trapped cart used for selling goods detonated in a marketplace in Bab al-Toub District in central Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The blast was followed by bomb explosions when unidentified gunmen threw hand grenades at the market, the source said.—Xinhua

The mother and family members of Yuki Hayashi, 19, a Japanese citizen from Kanagawa city, one of the Agni Air crash victim leaves after inspecting the remains of his son at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu on 27 August, 2010. Xinhua

Gunman had killed four before committing suicide in US state of Arizona.
Science

Computers take a closer look inside the Earth

SACRAMENTO, 30 Aug
—More detailed pictures of the processes that continuously reshape the Earth from the inside out are being generated by new, more sophisticated computer models, yielding new insights into the hidden world beneath our feet.

The added resolution that these models provide down to a single kilometre from a minimum of 20 kilometres (0.6 to 12 miles) in previous models — could improve our understanding of the forces behind the movement of the planet’s tectonic plates, which cause the rumblings of earthquake and explosion of volcanoes. It may also help explain why the Earth uniquely in our solar system has plate tectonics in the first place.

Some of the insights these models could provide are detailed in a study in the 27 Aug issue of the journal Science. The movement of plates depends on many complex factors, including temperature, stress and the composition of the local rock.

To include all these things in a model requires very high resolution explained Thorsten Becker of the University of Southern California, who was not part of the study but who wrote an accompanying editorial on the study in the same issue of Science.

From outer space, a new dilemma for old-growth forests

WASHINGTON, 30 Aug — A new study using laser pulses shot from satellites has found that the world’s tallest forests are those along the Pacific Northwest coast. Though the findings shouldn’t shock anyone who grew up in the region, they offer another indication of how important these ancient trees eventually could become.

The temperate forests of Douglas fir, Western hemlock, redwoods and sequoias that stretch from northern California into British Columbia easily reach an average height of more than 131 feet. That’s taller than the boreal forests of northern Canada and Eurasia, tropical rainforests and the broadleaf forests common in much of the United States and Europe. The only forests that come close are in Southeast Asia, along the southern rim of the Himalayas and in Indonesia, Malaysia and Laos. As scientists try to unravel the mystery of missing carbon, increasing attention is focused on these forests.

From 15 percent to 30 percent of the 7 billion tons of carbon that are released globally every year is unaccounted for, government scientists say. About 3 billion tons remain in the atmosphere, and the oceans absorb 2 billion tons. Vegetation, including the forests, probably absorbs the remaining 1 billion tons, but no one knows for sure how much and where.

Technology

New Yorker quietly updates Digital Edition for iPad

NEW YORK, 30 Aug — Subscribers to The New Yorker have been able to read their issues — as well as archived magazines going back to 1925 — online in a Web browser for a while thanks to The New Yorker Digital Edition. Unfortunately, the site was incompatible with Safari running on the iPad, making the feature a lot less useful for people on the go.

But now the magazine has quietly updated its site to give iPad users full access to 85 years of wit and wisdom from the pages of The New Yorker. The Digital Edition automatically recognizes you’re visiting from an iPad, and serves an optimized version of the site. You can view single pages in portrait orientation or spreads in landscape orientation, and you can double-tap to zoom in on a section and then scroll around the page. A single tap on the screen brings up controls for viewing thumbnails of pages, accessing archives by year, setting preferences, and more.

Playing with the iPad version in Safari, I found it to be pleasurable and easy to use, although not as slick and smooth as the magazines I read using Zinio. Publisher Conde Nast has announced it plans a native New Yorker app for the iPad sometime this year, but there’s been no indication whether it will offer free access to subscribers as the new People Magazine app does.

JVC’s new pocket camcorders shoot at 1080p

WASHINGTON, 30 Aug — JVC on Tuesday unveiled a pair of new pocket camcorders. Both the new Piccio GC-FM2 and the Piccio GC-WP10 record video at 1920 by 1080 progressive resolution at 30 frames per second. Both Piccio camcorders feature a 3-inch touchscreen. All the controls for recording, playback, zoom, and more are used by touching on-screen icons. Videos are formatted and MPEG-4 AVC/N.264 files and saved to SD cards. Still photos can also be taken.

Both camcorders have 4X digital zoom and each are equipped with a fixed focus lens. Both also have an HDMI output port and an AV output port.

The GC-FM2 has a built-in USB connector. The GC-WP10 is waterproof up to 10 feet. JVC says that video from both camcorders can be easily brought into iTunes or iMovie.

The Piccio GC-FM2 is $180 and available in black, blue, or yellow. The Piccio GC-WP10 is $200. Both camcorders will be available in September.

Gene testing war looms for AstraZeneca heart drug

STOCKHOLM, 30 Aug — Gene testing is shaping up to be a marketing battleground for new blood thinners like AstraZeneca’s Brilinta, underlining the power and limitations of genetics as a tool to predict medical outcomes.

The arrival of generic copies of Sanofi-Aventis and Bristol-Myers Squibb’s top-seller Plavix makes the issue a hot topic scientifically and commercially, new studies at the European Society of Cardiology congress on Sunday showed.

One study found AstraZeneca’s Brilinta, unlike Plavix, requires no genetic testing to check if it will work, while another showed Eli Lilly and Sanofi-Sankyo’s Effient also worked irrespective of gene variations.

On the face of it, the results of the two companies-sponsored trials give the firms valuable ammunition in a looming marketing war with cheap copies of Plavix, or clopidogrel.

“Physicians don’t like complications, so if there was an alternative to clopidogrel that worked the same way that did not have these variations then most people would jump on it,” said Alfred Bove of Philadelphia’s Temple University School of Medicine.

But the evidence is far from clear-cut. A third study, sponsored by Sanofi and Bristol, contradicted the idea that people with a certain genetic make-up don’t benefit from Plavix.

Travel, academics lead iPad Apps of the Week

WASHINGTON, 30 Aug — There was lots of good stuff in the iTunes App Store this week for the iPad.

Travel guides, cool games and a great tool for students and academics all make an appearance on the list this week, along with a physics game for your entertainment.

Cityscouter.com released several guide apps this week, including Chicago Travel Guide Offline ($3.99) that can be used offline — almost as much as you’ve got the Wi-Fi-only iPad and want to explore your destination. The app includes a handy map with several buttons — museums, shopping, entertainment, restaurants, and more. Tap a button and category-specific pins pop up on the map. A “Transport” section gives you everything you need to know to find and use public transportation lines in the city.

One of the business sites of Internet search engine Google Inc is shown on a computer screen in Encinitas, California in recently. Internet

One of the world’s most popular fruits, the apple, has been genetically sequenced, an exploit that could lead to crispier, juicier and more flavourosome harvests, scientists said on Sunday. Internet
Quality of care after joint surgery may affect heart health

CLAMART, 30 Aug—The quality of care a patient receives immediately after orthopedic surgery has a major impact on long-term heart health, a new study shows. A team of French researchers checked troponin levels in 378 patients for three days after they had orthopedic surgery, which includes procedures such as joint replacement. Troponin is a protein that’s measured to determine whether physiologic stress related to surgery has caused damage to the heart.

Dr Sylvain Ausset, of Percy Military Hospital in Clamart, France, and colleagues focused on troponin levels to detect myocardial ischemia (commonly called angina), which correlated with worse long-term cardiac outcomes. The researchers then modified postoperative care to reduce events believed to lead to increased episodes of angina based on elevated troponin levels. Doing so lowered the incidence of cardiac problems months, and even years, later, they found. The methods used to improve quality of care included tight control of oxygen and glucose levels in patients’ blood, along with consistency and continuity of care as hospital staff monitored and cared for patients, according to the report published in the October issue of Anesthesiology.

Electron micrograph of HIV

HIV virus may hide in brain

STOCKHOLM, 30 Aug—The brain can be a convenient hiding place for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. That’s the finding of Swedish researchers who analyzed samples from about 70 HIV-infected patients who’d been taking anti-HIV drugs. The tests showed that about 10 percent of the patients — a larger proportion than expected — had traces of HIV in their spinal fluid but not in their blood. Another study by the researchers found that 60 percent of 15 HIV-infected patients treated with medication for several years showed signs of inflammation in their spinal fluid, although the levels were lower than they were without treatment.

Prescription painkillers could be new ‘gateway’ drugs

BUFFALO, 30 Aug—Prescription medicines are the way that many drug addicts first get hooked, making these legal medicines the new “gateway” drugs, new study findings show.

University at Buffalo researchers interviewed 75 patients hospitalized for opioid detoxification and found that 31 of them said they first became addicted to legitimately prescribed painkillers. Another 24 patients said their addiction began when they used a friend’s left-over prescription pills or stole drugs from a parent’s medicine cabinet, while the remaining 20 patients said they got hooked on street drugs. But the study found that 92 percent of the patients said they eventually bought illegal drugs (usually heroin) because street drugs are less expensive and more effective than prescription drugs. Their reasons for continuing to use drugs included to feel “normal,” to feel “like a better person” or to ease emotional pain and stress. “We are seeing an increase in the number of patients addicted to prescription drugs, so we wanted to better understand how they first got hooked,” study senior author Dr Richard Blondell, a professor of family medicine, said in a University at Buffalo news release.

Global auto sales to hit 70mln units this year

BEIJING, 30 Aug—Global auto sales are expected to reach 70 million units this year, as China continues to lead the new car market, a senior executive with Japanese automaker Nissan Motor Co said. In 2009, global auto sales only reached 60.99 million units due to the global economic downturn, according to the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufactures (OICA).

China became the second largest market for Nissan in 2009, said Dr Andy Palmer, Senior Vice President and Executive Committee member of Nissan Motor, on Friday. Sales of Nissan’s luxury brand Infiniti in China hit 5,113 units in the first half year, more than double from a year earlier, said Palmer, adding that sales for the entire year could exceed 10,000 units, second only to the United States market. Nissan Motor is the seventh largest automaker worldwide, with total auto sale of 3.36 million in 2009.

Companies change marketing strategy

BEIJING, 30 Aug—Leading sportswear makers are readjusting the marketing strategies of their brands in China with two of the top sellers moving into lower-tier cities in order to be more competitive.

Nike Inc, the best-selling global sports brand, which is expecting record sales growth in China this year, is launching a range of low-priced products across the country rather than just focusing on high-end buyers. A similar drive is also being undertaken by Adidas AG, another major overseas sportswear brand in China. Managing Director Christophe Beru said the company’s strategy was to maintain its strong position and spread its influence throughout new areas of the country. “We are planning to introduce low-priced products in the second-tier, third-tier and even fourth-tier cities in China to appeal to more Chinese consumers,” said Charlie Denson, president of Nike, during a teleconference.

New Zealand exports increase in July

WELLINGTON, 30 Aug—Higher milk powder, butter and cheese exports led a 12 percent rise in the total value of exports in July to 3.6 billion NZ dollars (2.6 billion US dollars), showed figures released by Statistics New Zealand on Monday.

Dairy exports increased by almost a third in July, followed by strong increases in boats, ships and wood products. The value of imports also rose 12 percent, to 3.8 billion NZ dollars, led by higher petroleum, car and fertilizer imports, it said. The trade surplus narrowed in July to a deficit of 186 million NZ dollars, which was the first deficit in seven months.

People walk past advertising for the Agricultural Bank of China in Hong Kong in July 2010. The bank said on Monday that it has temporarily suspended property market loans to counter a surge in real-estate lending, but insisted the country’s property sector was ‘healthy.’
Mars’s mysterious elongated crater

NEW YORK, 30 Aug—Orcus Patera is an enigmatic elliptical depression near Mars’s equator, in the eastern hemisphere of the planet. Located between the volcanoes of Elysium Mons and Olympus Mons, its formation remains a mystery. Often overlooked, this well-defined depression extends approximately 380 km by 140 km in a NNE-SSW direction. It has a rim that rises up to 1800 m above the surrounding plains, while the floor of the depression lies 400-600 m below the surroundings.

The term ‘patera’ is used for deep, complex or irregularly shaped volcanic craters such as the Hadriaca Patera and Tyrrhena Patera at the north-eastern margin of the Hellas impact basin. However, despite its name and the fact that it is positioned in the eastern hemisphere of the planet, Orcus Patera remains unclear.

Aside from volcanism, there are a number of other possible origins. Orcus Patera may be a large and originally round impact crater, subsequently deformed by compressional forces. Alternatively, it could have formed after the erosion of aligned impact craters. However, the most likely explanation is that it was made in an oblique impact, when a small body struck the surface at a very shallow angle, perhaps less than five degrees from the horizontal.

The existence of tectonic forces at Orcus Patera is evident from the presence of the numerous ‘graben’, rift-valley-like structures that cut across its rim. Up to 2.5 km wide, these graben are oriented roughly east-west and are only visible on the rim and the nearby surroundings.

Newborn Hurricane Earl threatens north Caribbean

SAN JUAN, 30 Aug—Islanders set up emergency shelters and airlines canceled flights as newly born Hurricane Earl churned toward the northern Caribbean on Sunday. Cruise lines diverted ships to avoid the storm’s path.

The US National Hurricane Centre in Miami said Earl strengthened into a Category 2 storm with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph (160 kph), and was expected to continue picking up steam as it moved near the northern Leeward islands.

Steady bands of rain began lashing islands including Antigua, where the Grand Pineapple Beach Resort on the north side battened down early for the night and tourists sought shelter inside their rooms.

Winds were heavy but had not caused any major damage, and the surf was higher than normal but not punishing, general manager Courtney Miller told The Associated Press by phone.

Centre forecasters said Earl could strengthen into a major hurricane as soon as Monday—probably while east of Puerto Rico. Major hurricanes are those Category 3 and higher.

‘Spiderman’ arrested for scaling Sydney skyscraper

SYDNEY, 30 Aug—A French skyscraper climber nicknamed “Spiderman” was arrested on Monday after scaling a 57-story building in Sydney with his bare hands. Alain Robert, known for climbing some of the world’s tallest and best-known buildings without ropes or other equipment, was arrested at the top of the Lumiere building downtown. He climbed the building in about 20 minutes, as dozens of people watched from below.

“I’m sad he’s been arrested, but hopefully he’ll get out soon and we can have some champagne,” said his agent, Max Markson.

He has not yet been charged. Last year, Robert was fined 750 Australian dollars ($676) for climbing the 41-story Royal Bank of Scotland building in Sydney. Many of his past climbs have resulted in arrests and fines.

The 48-year-old has climbed more than 70 skyscrapers around the world, including the Empire State Building, the Sears Tower and the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, ac-cording to his website.

Philippine cable TV losing $140 mln yearly through illegal connections

MANILA, 30 Aug—Philippine cable operators intend to make their sector profitable again by going digital and gaining support from legislators to criminalize cable theft, after losing 6.3 billion pesos (140 million US dollars) to illegal cable television (CATV) connections annually, according to local media on Monday.

Already, Sky Cable is converting 80 percent of its half a million subscribers from analog to digital by year-end. The company will spend 200 million pesos (4.4 million US dollars) in 2010 for cable digitization. Signal theft is so rampant that the Philippine Cable TV Association or PCTA estimates that every legitimate cable TV line has an illegal connection because of “colorum” or illegally tapped lines, which adversely affect the signal fed into a subscriber’s home.

Prehistoric villages ruins found in North China

HORBIGHT, 30 Aug—Archaeologists in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region said on Monday they have found the ruins of two prehistoric villages in Tongliao City of eastern Inner Mongolia.

The ruins in Hami’ail Village, of Horqin Left-wing Middle Banner (County), were identified in the spring as possibly originating from Hongshan Culture, dating back 5,000 years, said Ji Ping, a researcher at the Institute of Cultural and Historical Relics and Archaeology of Inner Mongolia.

About 1,200 square meters had been excavated out of an estimated 200,000 square metres, and homes and tombs had been discovered, Ji said.

“Pitted earthenware, such as jars and pots, were also found, which was the first time that have been unearthed in the prehistoric ruins in northeast China,” he said.

POSCO closes 2.8 billion dollar deal for trading firm

SEUL, 30 Aug—South Korea’s top steelmaker POSCO signed a final deal on Monday to buy a 68 percent stake in trading and energy firm Daewoo International for 3.37 trillion won (2.83 billion dollars), officials said. The purchase is seen as helping POSCO, the world’s fourth largest steel firm, to secure a steady supply of raw materials and develop new revenue streams.

The agreement was announced by state debt clearer the Korea Asset Management Corpora-tion (KAMCO), which bailed out troubled firms after the 1997-1998 East Asian financial crisis. It was the largest shareholder in Daewoo International with a 35.5 percent stake while other creditors, including the Export-Import Bank of Korea, had a combined 32.65 percent.

Thousands affected by flooding in southern Mexico

VILLAHERMOSA, 30 Aug—Authorities in Mexico’s Gulf coast state of Tabasco are evacuating about 7,000 people and preparing to dig relief channels to avoid further flooding from the Grijalva River.

Weeks of steady rains have caused a half-dozen rivers to overflow, partially flooding the homes or croplands of more than 60,000 people in about 200 towns. Dambs in the area are near capacity.

The federal government has declared a state of emergency for 12 low-laying Tabasco towns, freeing emergency funds. The state government said it would evacuate people on Sunday, and authorities said relief ditches would be dug to channel water through less-populated areas to prevent flooding at the state capital, which was severely flooded in 2007.
India meets for decision on BlackBerry ban

NEW DELHI, 30 Aug—Indian officials meet on Monday to decide whether to ban some of Research In Motion’s BlackBerry services, a day before the deadline runs out for the firm to give security agencies access to its secure data.

Government sources have said the 31 August deadline could be extended if Research In Motion says it has a solution to allowing monitoring of emails and asks for more time to avoid disruption of its services in the world’s fastest-growing mobile phone market.

Monday’s meeting will consider a technical report prepared after two days of talks last week between RIM officials and Indian security agencies. The report, sources said, contains some suggestions on how a secure email on BlackBerry may be accessed. “A final decision will be taken after considering all aspects and national security interests,” a source in the interior ministry told Reuters. The outcome of the meeting may not be announced on Monday. The sources asked not to be identified because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The meeting is due to start at 5 pm local (7:30 am EDT). India says it wants the means to fully track and read BlackBerry’s secure email and instant messaging services that officials fear could be misused by militants.

Indonesia’s volcano re-erupts, threatens international aviation

JAKARTA, 30 Aug—Volcano in Sumatra Island of Indonesia erupted again on Monday morning, spewing smoke high, potential to disturb international flight. Volcanology Agency and Meteorology Agency said.

Mount Sinabung in North Sumatra Province re-erupted at 06:30 am Jakarta Time on Monday (2330 GMT Sunday), head of the Investigation Unit of the volcanology agency Muhammad Hendratno told Xinhua over phone from West Java Province.

Spokesman of Transport Ministry Bambang Ervan said that the eruption is potential to disturb aviation. “It will depend on the direction of wind blow.” he told Xinhua.

Should it direct to the north, it will hamper international flight, and if the wind blow direct to the east, it will disturb domestic flight,” he told Xinhua.

Most of international flights to the main airport in the province and other airports in the island come from north, said Ervan. Official of the information meteorology at the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency Agie Wandala said that the wind direction at this time is toward the north.

“The direction of wind blow at this period is toward the north,” he said. Spokesman of the transport ministry said that the flight must be canceled.—Xinhua

Death toll from Ecuador’s bus accident reaches 42

QUITO, 30 Aug—The death toll from Sunday morning’s bus accident in the Andean region of Ecuador has reached 42 with 11 others injured, the Ecuadorian Red Cross said.

Most of the injured were in serious conditions and had been taken to nearby hospitals, local media reported.

The accident occurred early Sunday morning at 3 am local time (0800 GMT) when a passenger bus carrying 53 passengers fell into a cliff. It was traveling from Cuenca, in the centre of the country, to Quito.

The latest death toll has not been confirmed by the Ecuadorian Interior Ministry and the police. Earlier, Ecuadorian Interior Minister Gustavo Jalkh said 38 people had died from the accident with 12 others injured.

Initial reports showed that the bus driver, who died in the accident, apparently lost the vehicle’s control and went off the line before falling to the cliff.

Bolivia finishes rescue of 12 pink river dolphins

LA PAZ, 30 Aug—Bolivian biologists say they have finished rescuing 12 pink, freshwater dolphins who were trapped in a river.

Rescue team member Mariana Escobar says the six-day effort to free the dolphins finished on Thursday.

The animals had swum from their normal home in the Rio Grande into the more tranquil Rio Paila to breed. Flooding blocked the river and prevented them from returning to their habitat. They were at risk of dying as the dry season lowers the smaller river.

Rescuers caught the dolphin in nets and carried them in padded containers in all-terrain vehicle to the larger river, where they were released. The dolphins weight about 65 to 90 pounds (30 to 40 kilogrammes).—Xinhua
Two naval ships of Chinese PLA visit Yangon

Yangon, 30 Aug — Two naval ships of the Naval Task Group of People’s Liberation Army of the People’s Republic of China arrived on a friendly call at Myanmar International Thilawa Terminal in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region, yesterday evening.

Destroyer 168 ‘Guangzho’ under the command of Rear Admiral Zhang Wendan first arrived at the terminal at 5:10 pm and Chinese Military Attaché to Myanmar Senior Colonel Gao Tiejun embarked and accorded welcome to the former. Next, Rear Admiral Zhang Wendan cordially greeted the Commander of Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters and senior naval officers. Next, he greeted Chinese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Ye Dabo and officials, naval officers and other ranks.

Frigate 568 ‘Chaohu’ arrived at the terminal at 5:30 pm. The two warships will be in Yangon till 2 September. The visit aims at further strengthening friendship and understanding between the navies of the two countries.

Commander of Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters welcomes Rear Admiral Zhang Wendan of Naval Task Group of Chinese People’s Liberation Army at MITT. — MNA

YANGON, 30 Aug — Using the Thilawa Terminal in Thanlyin Township, the opening of electoral work course for polling station officers, deputy polling station officers and members was held at Sasana Beikman in Thanlyin at noon today.

Chairman of Yangon South District subcommission U Myat Soe made an opening address and Chairman of Thanlyin Township subcommission U Chit Nyunt explained purpose of organizing the course.

Then demonstration on works of polling station followed. — MNA

Electoral Work Course organized in Thanlyin Township

Thaukyaykhat Hydropower Project (2) ...

(from page 1)

The project is located on Thaukyaykhat Creek about 14 miles, east of Toungoo. It includes construction of 8.6 miles long approach road, 42 bridges, 32,586 feet long road, 125,12 feet long concrete road and 144 buildings. It is being built by damming Thaukyaykhat creek. Its inflow water is 3.39 million acres feet annually and its generation capacity 120 mega watt. It can generate 604 million kwh and its 230KV cable line is nine miles long.

The project is being built by more than 2000 white-collar and blue-collar and completed by 60 percent. It will be completed by 2012. After completion of the project, it can generate 604 million kwh and distribute electric power to the whole county through the national grid.

Translation: MT Kyemon (30-8-2010)

Diversion tunnel of Thaukyaykhat hydropower project (2).
YANGON, 30 Aug — The opening of Commander’s Shield Football Tournament was held at the Region’s sports ground this evening, attended by Chairman of Yangon Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Tun Than, senior military officers, commandos of battalions and units, servicemen and athletes and their family members.

The commander spoke on the occasion and watched the opening match together with senior military officers.

**Calsome cares about kids**

YANGON, 30 Aug — Calsome Cereal of MDG Co Ltd sponsored funfair and general knowledge quiz at Mingala Parahita Training School in Phayagyi Village in Twantay Township on 25 August.

The event, aimed to promote health and knowledge on health of students, was participated by 510 basic education students of the care home.

Administration Director U Aung Maw Thein of MDG Co Ltd and wife Dr Moe Myat Win donated one-day meals and the Calsome Cereals to the schoolchildren on that day. Dream Boat accompanied Calsome Cereal staff in organizing the funfair. — MNA

**Funfair and general knowledge quiz of Calsome Cereal in progress.**

**Pwintbyu in pursuance of five methods to...**

(From page 16)

Staff Officer U Chit Hlaing of Pwintbyu Township Water Resources Utilization Department said that Mezali, Ai-ma and Linzin dams benefited 60,877 acres of farmlands and Ywathagyi, Kyaunggon, Yayokkalay and Phayagon river water pumping stations, 1100 acres of paddy fields; that the paddy fields used to be farmlands of other crops due to the fact that irrigation water was not available; that water was pumped from the creek Mone for agricultural purposes; that the water pumping station was put into commission in 2007-2008; and that two small dams and one lake irrigated 382 acres of paddy fields and tube-wells, 825 acres of paddy fields in the region.

Staff Officer U Maung Aye of Pwintbyu Township Irrigation Department said that owing to the five methods for irrigation water supply, the region could put 54,125 acres under paddy, exceeding the target of 54,119 acres. Chairman U Htay Myint of Hsedaw Village Peace and Development Council said that since September 2009, irrigation water had been supplied to 80 acres of paddy fields, and electricity, to the village from 7 pm to 10 pm daily.

Phayagon Village water pumping station commissioned on 12 February 2010 benefits 100 acres of paddy fields. Chairman U Aung Htay Win of the village PDC said that paddy farming was not successful previously; and that then farmers of the village were happy with the irrigation facilities built by the government. U Zeya and U Ohn Ngwe from Pedaw Village said that they would grow paddy if they got irrigation water. Farmer U Kyi, 75, said, “Agricultural farming is our family business. My daughter and son have

**Irrigation water is supplied through the secondary canal of 29.2 miles long Taungmone main canal.**

Minbu District, my heart was filled with pleasure to see farmers working hard for adequate irrigation for boosting their agricultural production.

Translation: MS Myanma Alin: 30-8-2010

**MWJA CEC meets**

YANGON, 30 Aug — The meeting (8/2010) of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Central Executive Committee took place at the office of Sarpay Beikman here on 27 August afternoon.

It was attended by Acting Chairman U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit), vice-chairmen, Secretary U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-Sathmu Tekkatho), joint-secretaries and CEC members.

The meeting discussed development of rural libraries, holding of talks for the public to have the reading habit, continued holding of Knowledge Bank paper reading sessions, conducting of journalism courses and implementation of organizational tasks in States and Regions. — MNA

**The 900 feet long main canal of Hsedaw Water Pumping Station.**
Oil hovers above $75 as Asian stocks rally

Singapore, 30 Aug—Oil prices hovered above $75 a barrel on Monday in Asia, buoyed by rallying global stock markets and improving investor sentiment.

Benchmark crude for October delivery was up 1 cent at $75.18 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The contract rose $1.81 to settle at $75.17 on Friday.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said on Friday the central bank was ready to step in if the US economy showed further signs of weakening. Bernanke’s comments sparked a stock market rally, with the Dow Jones industrial average jumping 1.7 percent on Friday.

All major Asia stock markets followed the US lead and rose Monday. They also got a boost from Japan’s central bank deciding at an emergency board meeting to further ease monetary policy by extending more cheap loans to financial institutions.

Oil traders often closely watch equities as a gauge of overall investor sentiment.

"Markets got the clarity they wanted," DBS bank said in a report. "The Fed will cut if it needs to." Oil prices have bobbed near $75 for most of the past year as the global economy recovered from last year’s recession, but developed countries struggle to regain strong growth.—Internet

Russian emergencies chief calls on volunteer firefighters

Moscow, 30 Aug—Russia, a vast country of 144 million people, needs as many as one million volunteer firefighters, said Emergencies Minister Sergei Shoigu on Sunday.

“We need an 800,000-, one million—volunteer fire department. But we would like it to be a service based on professionalism, so that these people are trained, so that they are well equipped,” said the minister as quoted by the RIA Novosti news agency. Shoigu also voiced hope that the new law on volunteer fire service could be enacted this year.

Currently Russia owns some 250,000 professional firefighters. Thousands of Russian volunteers have participated in the combat against hundreds of scorching wildfires amid abnormal heat waves this summer, along with firefighters and servicemen.

Also on Sunday, the regional administration of Ukraine’s Lugansk said Shoigu has voiced gratitude to the regional head Valery Golenko and local rescuers, for lending a hand in extinguishing wildfires in Russian region of Voronezh. The Lugansk region shares a 700-km border with Russia.

According to the Itar-Tass news agency, Ukraine sent two firefighting planes and other machinery to Russia this summer, helping put out blazes that devoured forests in 22 regions.—Xinhua

Singapore ramps up measures to cool property market

Singapore, 30 Aug—Singapore on Monday announced fresh anti-speculation measures to cool its private property market as the city-state’s double-digit economic growth keeps upward pressure on demand.

Owners who sell houses and apartments less than three years after buying them will have to pay a duty of three percent of the resale value — a measure previously applicable to transactions within one year of the purchase. For buyers with at least one outstanding loan, the minimum cash down payment was raised from five to 10 percent of valuation, while the maximum amount a bank can lend was capped at 70 percent, down from 80 percent. The balance of the purchase price can be taken from pension savings.

The measures, which take immediate effect, are designed to discourage “flipping” — buying properties on easy credit with low cash down payments, and then reselling them quickly for profit.

They were announced as a traditional lull in the property market in August was about to come to an end.

“The government’s objective is to ensure a stable and sustainable property market where prices move in line with economic fundamentals,” said a joint statement from the central bank and ministries of finance and national development.—Internet

Intel to buy Infineon’s wireless ops for $1.4 billion

Frankfurt, 30 Aug—German chipmaker Infineon has agreed to sell its wireless unit to Intel for $1.4 billion, enabling the US chipmaker to boost its presence in the smartphone market.

The cash transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2011, Infineon said in a statement on Monday. The wireless unit will remain a standalone business, Intel said.

“The acquisition of Infineon’s WLS business strengthens the second pillar of our computing strategy — Internet connectivity — and enables us to offer a portfolio of products,” Intel Chief Executive Paul Otellini said.

Three people familiar with the matter had told Reuters on Friday that Intel and Infineon would likely reach an agreement on the future of Infineon’s wireless operations within the next few days.

Infineon shares closed down 0.9 percent at 4.61 euros ($5.86) in Frankfurt on Friday, recouping some of the losses they posted after Intel warned that its third-quarter revenue would fall short of its own expectations due to weak consumer demand on personal computers. Intel shares closed largely flat at $18.37.—Reuters

Vodafone ‘to sell China Mobile stake’

London, 30 Aug—British mobile phone giant Vodafone is to sell its shares in China Mobile to raise more than $6.2 bln, a newspaper reported.

Vodafone is to sell its shares in China Mobile to raise more than four billion pounds (6.2 billion dollars, 4.9 billion euros), a newspaper reported on Sunday. The deal with China Telecom, the world’s biggest telecom operator, is expected to be the first in a series of planned sell-offs Vodafone will make in the coming months, according to the Sunday Times. The deal is expected to be rubber-stamped next month, although Vodafone is deciding whether to seek a strategic investor for the stake or sell the shares on the Hong Kong stock market, where China Mobile is listed, the report said.

A Vodafone spokeswoman told AFP the claim was “speculation” and the company would make no further comment.

Vodafone chief executive Vittorio Colao is taking an increasingly hardline on sell-offs, stressing to investors that the business — which once aimed to become “the Coca-Cola of mobile” — was now focusing on Europe, Asia and India.—Internet
Nine elderlies killed in Russian retirement home fire

MOSCOW, 30 Aug—At least nine elderly people lost their lives and another was seriously injured early Monday in fire in a retirement home in a region northwest of Moscow, Russian news agencies reported.

The fire broke out at 0105 GMT in a retirement home in the town of Vyshni Volochyok, but was brought under control by firemen at 0130 GMT, the agencies quoted a local emergency official as saying.

The victims died due to asphyxiation, said the official, adding that about 480 people were evacuated from the building. —Xinhua

Landslide kills at least five in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, 30 Aug—At least five people died, including one baby, on Sunday early morning when a big rock fell on their houses during a landslide in Tegucigalpa, Honduras' capital, Firemen spokesman Oscar Triminio said.

The accident occurred at about 4:30 am local time (1030 GMT) in 14 de Marzo District, northeast of Tegucigalpa, and completely destroyed two houses and damaged one.

Triminio said that the victims' ages were from 3 months old to 47 years old, and added that the rescuers suspect there is another person trapped under the rubble.

“We are working with a vibrate-scope to find more victims, but it is difficult to work in this place,” Triminio said, adding that three persons were rescued.

A strong storm hit Tegucigalpa on Saturday night, affecting many districts with flooding. In the last two weeks there have been 15 reported deaths due to the rains and about 2,000 people were affected. —Xinhua

Explosion at police station injures two in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 30 Aug—Two people were injured in an explosion at a police station in Mexico's northeastern state of Tamaulipas on Sunday, police sources said.

The explosion occurred on Sunday's early morning in a zone near the City Hall in the centre of Tampico, capital of Tamaulipas, Tamaulipas' Police said.

The explosion destroyed the vigilance entrance of the police station and injured the policeman on guard and another person who was at the place at the moment of the attack.

The injured were taken to a hospital near by, where the doctors said that both are out of danger now.

After the explosion, the police began an operation on the main avenues of Tampico, looking for the responsible ones. The sources added that the policemen had a short clash against the allegedly aggressors, however they were not able to capture them. —Xinhua

Conflict has cost Middle East $12 trillion

CAIRO, 30 Aug—The 20 years of conflict has cost the Middle East region 12 trillion US dollars during the period from 1991 to 2010, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported on Sunday quoting an Indian report.

The report was published in a book entitled “The Cost of Conflict in the Middle East” by the Strategic Foresight Group in India and translated by the Institute for Peace Studies of Egypt.

The Middle East region afforded a high record of military expenses in the past 20 years and is considered the most armed region in the world, the report said.

The conflict had a negative effect on the Palestinians. The death toll from the conflict has increased to 4,000 Palestinians since 2000, while the number of people living under poverty line has risen to more than one million since 2006, the report said.

The report added that 42 percent of Palestinian families were barred from health care facilities due to the segregating walls that divide their lands.

Countries in the region could have reached a 6 percent growth of its national domestic production, but they failed due to the lack of political stability, it added. —Xinhua

A special police demonstration of an exhibited robot in Nanning, capital of east China's Guangxi Province, on 29 Aug, 2010. An anti-terrorism equipment exhibition was held here on Sunday. —Xinhua

A Siberian tiger roams the grounds at the Badaling park near China's Great Wall outside Beijing. China and Russia have agreed to set up the first cross-border protection zone for Siberian tigers, as they try to boost efforts to save the endangered species, state media reported. —INTERNET

Three Russian pilots reportedly kidnapped in Sudan’s Darfur

KHARTOUM, 30 Aug—Three Russian pilots were kidnapped in Nyala, capital of the South Darfur State, on Sunday by unidentified gunmen, reported Khartoum Al Ahdath daily on Monday.

The paper quoted an anonymous local official in the South Darfur State as saying that “unidentified men in a Land Cruiser vehicle obstructed a mini-bus that was carrying the three pilots and kidnapped them at gun point.”

“The abductors drove with the kidnapped pilots to a remote area north of Nyala.”

The security authorities identified the area and presently surrounding the abductors,” the anonymous source said according to the paper.

The three Russian pilots were working for the Sudanese Badr Aviation Company, the paper said.

The incident came after a series of abductions against foreigners and humanitarian workers in the Darfur Region which has been suffering from a civil war since 2003. —Xinhua
CLAIRNS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAHMAT VOY NO (120)

Constaneees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAHMAT VOY NO (120) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.8.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINE
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIRNS DAY NOTICE

MV THIGAYU VOY NO (09/10)

Constaneees of cargo carried on MV THIGAYU VOY NO (09/10) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.8.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S K.M INTERTRANS CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIRNS DAY NOTICE

MV GATI PRIDE VOY NO (20811)

Constaneees of cargo carried on MV GATI PRIDE VOY NO (20811) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.8.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Sudan

Abducted US aid worker released in Darfur

KHARTOUM, 30 Aug — A US aid worker was released in Darfur on Monday after being held by her kidnappers for more than 100 days, a Sudanese foreign ministry spokesman said.

“She has been released this morning. She is in good health. Right now she is in the Walli’s (government’s) residence in Nyalia,” spokesman Moawia Osman said.

The woman was working for US charity Samaritan’s Purse in Darfur.

The kidnappers said they had released her to the South Darfur authorities without being paid a ransom.

“We have demands from the government like developing our areas, we want hospitals, education — if these demands are met these kidnappings will no longer happen,” one of the kidnappers, Abu Mohamed Ahmed, told Reuters by satellite phone from Darfur.

The abductions are mostly by young men from Arab tribes who demand ransoms.

Khartoum has yet to prosecute any of the kidnappers and reports of ransoms being paid in the past have fueled the crimes.

Records tumble at bog snorkelling

LONDON, 30 Aug — A record number of swimmers braved the murky waters of a peat bog today to contest the 25th World Bog Snorkelling Championships.

Crowds of spectators and 163 competitors from around the world, some in fancy dress, descended on Waen Rhydd Bog on the outskirts of Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys, mid Wales.

Winner Dan Morgan, from Brecon, beat the previous best time by almost eight seconds when he swam two lengths of a 55-metre (180ft) trench in one minute 30.66 seconds. Run by a team of volunteers, the annual competition is part of a roster of eccentric events held throughout the year at Llanwrtyd Wells, the UK’s smallest town.

It also hosts the Man Versus Horse Marathon and a bog snorkelling triathlon, which includes a seven and a half mile run and a 19-mile bike ride, as well as two lengths of the infamous bog...
Frenchman crowned air guitar champion once again

France’s Sylvain Quimene, or “Gunther Love,” performs during the 2010 Air Guitar World Championships in Oulu, Finland, on 27 August.

Sylvain “Gunther Love” Quimene of France won the annual Air Guitar World Championships for the second time in a row late Friday, the event’s organizers in Finland said.

“Last year’s World Champion Sylvain ‘Gunther Love’ Quimene gave once again a stunning performance and took the highest crown back to France,” they said in a statement.

Quimene wowed judges with his imaginary guitar renditions, performed wearing nothing but sunglasses and shiny, tight, gold-coloured trousers.

The 29-year-old Frenchman danced and lip-synched in front of a crowd of up to 8,000 air guitar fans gathered in the northern Finnish town of Oulu.

Man nabbed with fake $1 million bills in Abu Dhabi

US dollar notes being counted. A man has been arrested in the United Arab Emirates for tricking a woman into trying to get change at the central bank for two souvenir one million dollar notes he persuaded her were real, a local daily said.

Can you break a $1 million? Not a chance. But the story is rich in audacity.

A man from the Ivory Coast is in police custody in Abu Dhabi after allegedly persuading a woman to try to exchange two phony $1 million bills at the UAE’s Central Bank.

Injury faker caught on tape, arrested

A New York City woman has been arrested for allegedly faking an injury after a light pole knocked down by a truck missed her, police said.

Sherin Brown, 23, was walking on a Brooklyn borough street on Friday when an out-of-control truck hit the pole, which fell but did not hit Brown, the New York Post reported on Sunday.

As police responded to the accident scene, a surveillance camera allegedly caught Brown, unharmed, lying down on the ground near the felled light fixture and telling responding officers she was injured, the newspaper said. Taken to a hospital for examination, she was arrested after police viewed the surveillance tape. Brown faces a Class A misdemeanor charge for falsely reporting an emergency, the Post said.

‘Mad Men,’ ‘Modern Family’ win top Emmy Awards

LOS ANGELES, 30 Aug—The darkly intimate 1960s-era drama “Mad Men” and the comedy romp “Modern Family” were the top honorees at Sunday’s Emmy Awards as American life past and present proved a winning formula.

“Mad Men” earned its third consecutive best drama series trophy. Series creator Matthew Weiner seemed for Eric Stonestreet and a best writing trophy.

Los Angeles, 30 Aug—The spooky “The Last Exorcism” took the No 1 spot at the US box office with $21.3 million in gross receipts during the weekend. But “Takers,” starring Matt Dillon and others, was a close No 2 with $21 million.

All estimated studio receipts are via Box Office Mojo. Sylvester Stallone’s “The Expendables” was a distant No 3 with $9.5 million.

Julia Roberts “Eat Pray Love” was fourth with $7 million, “The Other Guys” fifth with $6.6 million, “Vampires Suck” sixth with $5.3 million, “Inception” seventh with more than $5 million, “Nanny McPhee Returns” eighth with more than $4.74 million and “The Switch” ninth with more than $4.65 million.

Directed by Zhang Yimou, Under The Hawthorn Tree, is a pure love story that strikes a chord with the audience. —Xinhua

Zhang Yimou’s “Under The Hawthorn Tree” trailer debut

BEIJING, 30 Aug—A romantic film set during China’s cultural revolution in the 1970s opens to the public on 16 September.

Directed by Zhang Yimou, Under The Hawthorn Tree, is a pure love story that strikes a chord with the audience.

A girl named Jing Qiu from the city is sent to a village at the age of 16 where she meets Mr Right. He’s the son of the village head whose family is superior over Jing’s during the Cultural revolution. Jing’s lover promises to wait for her until she grows up.

But the leading actor develops leukemia later on and forces himself to leave his sweetheart. Jing, without knowing about his deadly disease, is only reunited with him when he’s dying.—Xinhua

Frenchman crowned air guitar champion once again

France’s Sylvain Quimene, or “Gunther Love”, performs during the 2010 Air Guitar World Championships in Oulu, Finland, on 27 August.

‘Last Exorcism’ takes No 1 spot

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But the leading actor develops leukemia later on and forces himself to leave his sweetheart. Jing, without knowing about his deadly disease, is only reunited with him when he’s dying.—Xinhua
Bari stun Juventus in opener, Milan cruise

ROME, 30 Aug — Massimo Donati scored the only goal of the game as Bari stunned Juventus 1-0 in front of 60,000 fans in the San Nicola stadium on Saturday. There were no such problems for AC Milan at the San Siro, watched by new signing Zlatan Ibrahimovic, as they trounced promoted Lecce 4-0. Bari fully deserved their victory as they dominated throughout against a much-changed Juve side with the Turin giants suffering their first season-opening defeat in 28 years.

Milan’s John Carew (R) celebrates after scoring against Bari. — Internet

Villa defeat Everton to boost MacDonald’s job claims

BIRMINGHAM, 30 Aug — Aston Villa boosted caretaker manager Kevin MacDonald’s hopes of landing the job on a permanent basis as Luke Young’s goal secured a 1-0 win over Everton on Sunday.

Villa have been without a full-time manager since Martin O’Neill quit just before the start of the season and MacDonald has been holding the fort with mixed results since then.

After an impressive opening day win over West Ham, Villa were thrashed 6-0 at Newcastle and then crashed out of the Europa League against Rapid Vienna in the play-off round on Thursday.

Aston Villa’s Norwegian goalkeeper John Carew chases the ball during the game against Everton. — Internet

Robinho, Santa Cruz could leave City, says Mancini

SUNDERLAND, 30 Aug — Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini admitted after his side’s 1-0 defeat at Sunderland that unhappy forwards Robinho and Roque Santa Cruz could be on the move before the transfer window closes on Tuesday.

Mancini hopes to hang on to Republic of Ireland goalkeeper Shay Given who is wanted by Fulham manager Mark Hughes. But Brazil’s Robinho, loaned to Santos in his native country last season, is seeking an escape route and has been linked with Barcelona and clubs in Turkey, while Santa Cruz is another Fulham target.

Mancini confirmed: “I would prefer Shay to stay, but I spoke with Roque and he has two or three situations, and Robinho is in the same.

Bari’s midfielder Massimo Donati (R) celebrates after scoring against Juventus. — Internet

Real Madrid’s midfielder Lassana Diarra (R) vies with Mallorca’s midfielder Casadesus (L) during their Spanish league football match. — Internet

Roque Santa Cruz controls a ball during an earlier training session. — Internet

Mourinho bemoans missed Real chances

 MADRID, 30 Aug — Jose Mourinho admitted he was disappointed to begin his Real Madrid career with a 0-0 draw at Real Mallorca citing poor finishing as the reason for his team’s failure.

Mourinho was typically calm in his first post-match press conference acknowledging Real were far from their best but emphasising that positives could be taken from the performance.

“One positive is that from a defensive point of view we didn’t have any problems,” explained Mourinho. “Another positive is the enormous number of chances we created in the second half. The negative is obviously the result.” — Internet

Villa and Real Madrid’s Anthony Modeste (R) and Roque Santa Cruz (L) battle for the ball. — Internet

‘Gladbach run riot in nine-goal thriller

BERLIN, 30 Aug — Cameroon striker Mohamadou Idrissou was both goal-scorer and provider for Moenchengladbach as they upset Leverkusen 6-3 on Sunday in a nine-goal thriller on a weekend of shock results in the Bundesliga.

Leverkusen’s German defender Jacek Blaszczykowski gave the visitors a 12th-minute lead.

Gladbach had to play for over an hour with 10 men following the first-half dismissal of Edouard Cisse and they were within two minutes of their first league win at Bordeaux since 1977 when Modeste struck.

Bordeaux’s forward Anthony Modeste (L) fights for the ball with Marselles defender Taye Taiwo. — Internet

Bordeaux and they were within two minutes of their first league win at Bordeaux since 1977 when Modeste struck.

Hiw wins CN Canadian Open for second LPGA victory

WINNIPEG, 30 Aug — Michelle Wie closed with a 2-under 70 Sunday for a three-shot win at the CN Canadian Women’s Open, her second career victory on the LPGA Tour.

Wie, who was 12 under for the tournament, earned the winner’s check of $337,500 in the $2.25-million event at the St. Charles Country Club — the LPGA’s only stop in Canada. Wie had five birdies, including on the 13th, 14th and 15th holes.

“I made a lot of crucial putts today,” said Wie, who at 10 years old was the youngest player to qualify for the US Amateur Championship.

Robinho, Santa Cruz could leave City, says Mancini

Mancini hopes to hang on to Republic of Ireland goalkeeper Shay Given who is wanted by Fulham manager Mark Hughes. But Brazil’s Robinho, loaned to Santos in his native country last season, is seeking an escape route and has been linked with Barcelona and clubs in Turkey, while Santa Cruz is another Fulham target.

Mancini confirmed: “I would prefer Shay to stay, but I spoke with Roque and he has two or three situations, and Robinho is in the same.

Mourinho bemoans missed Real chances

Madrid, 30 Aug — Jose Mourinho admitted he was disappointed to begin his Real Madrid career with a 0-0 draw at Real Mallorca citing poor finishing as the reason for his team’s failure.

Mourinho was typically calm in his first post-match press conference acknowledging Real were far from their best but emphasising that positives could be taken from the performance.

“One positive is that from a defensive point of view we didn’t have any problems,” explained Mourinho. “Another positive is the enormous number of chances we created in the second half. The negative is obviously the result.” — Internet

‘Gladbach run riot in nine-goal thriller

Berlin, 30 Aug — Cameroon striker Mohamadou Idrissou was both goal-scorer and provider for Moenchengladbach as they upset Leverkusen 6-3 on Sunday in a nine-goal thriller on a weekend of shock results in the Bundesliga.

Leverkusen’s German defender Jacek Blaszczykowski gave the visitors a 12th-minute lead.

Gladbach had to play for over an hour with 10 men following the first-half dismissal of Edouard Cisse and they were within two minutes of their first league win at Bordeaux since 1977 when Modeste struck.

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“I made a lot of crucial putts today,” said Wie, who at 10 years old was the youngest player to qualify for the US Amateur Championship.

Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a forehand as Kim Clijsters of Belgium and Rafael Nadal.
Teen motorcycle racer killed in crash at Indy

INDIANAPOLIS, 30 Aug—The motorcycle racing community mourned the death of a promising 13-year-old rider in a crash at Indianapolis Motor Speedway while defending the youth circuit that allows teens to drive vehicles that can top 120 mph.

Peter Lenz of Vancouver, Wash., fell off his bike during the warmup lap for Sunday’s first race at Indianapolis and was run over by another motorcycle, driven by a 12-year-old. Medical workers immediately placed Lenz in a neck brace, put him on a stretcher and drove by a 12-year-old. Medical workers immediately placed Lenz in a neck brace, put him on a stretcher and taken to an ambulance at the speedway. Several hours later, he was pronounced dead.

“Peter passed away early this morning when he was apparently struck by another rider,” a post on Lenz’s Facebook page, which was signed “Dad.”

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Monday, 30th August, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. MST. During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan and Kayah States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Kachin and Chin States, and widespread in the remaining States and Regions with isolated heavy falls in Rakhine and Mon States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.27) inch, Mankaung (4.49) inches, Ye (3.84) inches, Thandwe (2.99) inches, Kyakham (2.91) inches, Dawei (2.72) inches and Thayawady (2.60) inches.

Nay Pyi Taw Weather

Maximum temperature on 29-8-2010 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 30-8-2010 was 77°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 30-8-2010 was (92%). Rainfall on 30-8-2010 was (0.27) inch.

Yangon (Kaba-Aye) Weather

Maximum temperature on 29-8-2010 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 30-8-2010 was 78°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 30-8-2010 was (82%). Total Sunshine hours on 29-8-2010 was (0.4) hours. Rainfall on 30-8-2010 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.43) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (59.17) inches at Mingaladon, (65.55) inches at Kaba-Aye and (75.51) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum windspeed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from west at (10:30) hours MST on 29-8-2010.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until afternoon of the 31-August 2010: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Regions and widespread in the remaining States and Regions with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 31-8-2010: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-8-2010: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-8-2010: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

MBN International Programme Schedule

(31-8-2010) (Tuesday)

Times

4:00 am
5:00 am
6:00 am
7:00 am
8:00 am
9:00 am
10:00 am
11:00 am
12:00 pm
1:00 pm
2:00 pm
3:00 pm
4:00 pm
5:00 pm
6:00 pm
7:00 pm
8:00 pm
9:00 pm
10:00 pm
11:00 pm

Local Transmission

Programmes

Opening

News

(Being Young) Youth and Art

Eight Essential Requisites "For Theravada Buddhist Monks in Myanmar"

News

Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay

News

Treasure Trove for Knowledge Seekers

Oversea Transmission

Opening

News

(Being Young) Youth and Art

Eight Essential Requisites "For Theravada Buddhist Monks in Myanmar"

News

Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay

News

Treasure Trove for Knowledge Seekers

Topic on Journal "Discussion on Measures to lay down Timber Certification Work Plan"

News

Historical Kyaukse and its Environ

Urbanized Kachin Traditional Cuisines

News

Bagan: The Land of Pagoda

Music Gallery

News

Myanmar Performing Arts Showroom

The Gok Hteik Viaduct

Fantastic Scene Sunsets of Myanmar

News

A Gift from The Sea

All Lives Under The Sky: “Catch of Fish by Cooperation of Fisher and Dolphin”

Myanmar Movie “As her real son”
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 killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Pwintbyu in pursuance of five methods to get adequate irrigation water

The Irrigation Department and the Water Resources Utilization Department are doing everything possible for supply of adequate irrigation water in central Myanmar. The drive covers five methods namely construction of dams of various sizes; construction of diversion weirs; digging lakes and repairing old lakes; pumping water with electric power from water sources; and sinking tube-wells.

Along our way to Pwintbyu, 26 miles from Minbu, we saw green paddy fields along with some summer paddy fields waiting for harvest.

Phayagon Village Water Pumping Station benefits 100 acres of paddy fields.

Bago River at danger level

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Bago River at Bago is (910) cm. It may remain above its danger level (910) cm during the next (24) hrs commencing noon today, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.—MNA

Earthquake jolts

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.6) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (130 miles west of Myitkyina) about (220) miles from Nord-Northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (16) hrs (10) min (44) sec M.S.T today, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.—MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (30-8-2010)

Nay Pyi Taw (0.27)inch
Manauung (4.49) inches
Ye (3.94) inches
Thandwe (2.99)inches
Kyaikhame (2.91) inches
Dawei (2.72) inches
Thayawady (2.60) inches