Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing leave for PRC to pay State visit

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Sept—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing left Nay Pyi Taw by special aircraft at 10.15 am today to pay a State visit to the People’s Republic of China at the invitation of Mr. Hu Jintao, President of the People’s Republic of China.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Member of the State Peace and Development Council U Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and wife, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and wife, Minister for Home Affairs U Maung Oo, Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan, departmental heads and Acting Charge d’ Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China Mr Wang Zong Ying.

The Senior General and wife were accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce U Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Thein Nyunt, Minister for Transport U Thein Swe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications U Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy U Lun Thi, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Director of Medical Services Maj-Gen Than Aung of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe and departmental heads.

MNA
Literacy programmes to gain higher momentum

The International Literacy Day falls on 8 September (today). Despite rapid advancements in science and technology, millions of people in the developing countries remain illiterate. Now, the number of adult illiterate around the world is over 700 million.

The United Nations General Assembly held in December 2001 reached a unanimous agreement to designate the decade from 2003 to 2012 as United Nations Literacy Decade. In the post-independence period, 11 million out of the Myanmar’s population of 17 million were illiterate. The nation’s literacy rate was 85 per cent in the times of monarchs. Since post-independence period, literacy campaigns have been implemented. In 2009, the literacy rate increased to 94.89 per cent. Now, Myanmar stands as one of the countries with highest literacy rate in Asia and Pacific region.

To ensure every citizen is literate is a national task. The continuing education programme is in progress for illiterates to become literate people. It is required to open more and more community learning centres in wards and villages with favourable conditions as part of the post-literacy programme.

Today, the government has set up a massive number of rural libraries and community learning centres the length and breadth of the country. Therefore, literacy campaigns are to go on with momentum in order to maintain fine traditions and promote the continuing education programme in pursuing international literacy movements.

Myanmar traditional Chinlon contests held

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Sept — The seventh Myanmar traditional Chinlon contest and the final match and prize-presentation ceremony of Yokpyo Cup Myanmar traditional Chinlon contest were held at Yanggyi Aung gymnasium in Shwemyaung Township, the mayor and officials reported to the platform of Yaytagontaung Sutaungpyae Pagoda and enjoyed tree-planting.

Minister Thura U Aye Myint presents championship trophies and prizes to the winning teams. — MNA

Tree-planting ceremony held in Pathein Tay Township

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Sept — Tree-growing ceremony took place at Yaytagontaung in Pathein Tay Township on 4 September. It was attended by Thura U Aye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay Region Peace and Development Council, and Commandant of Central Command Brig-Gen Ye Aung, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor U Phone Zaw Han, department officials and members of social organisations.

The commander and the mayor planted saplings and so did those present.

Concordia Int’l Co., Ltd to promote Fuji Xerox color printer

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Sept — Concordia Int’l Co., Ltd, a sole agent in Myanmar, sells Fuji Xerox copiers at Concordia showrooms in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay. It will take part in its Myanmar-Korea ICT Products & Solutions Exhibition 2010 to be held in Myanmar InfoTech from 9 to 11 September.

A 0 size photo copiers, A 3 size photo colour copiers, 3 in 4 in 1 copiers, A4 and A3 laser printers, colour laser printers, projectors and electronic copy board will be available at the exhibition. Up to 16 September, laser printer model DPC 1110 B will be sold at K 360,000 at computer sales centers. For further information, contact Concordia Int’l Co., Ltd on third and fifth floors of Shwegen Plaza, Bahan Township, Yangon (Ph: 01 73009221, 73009215, 73009216, 095062601 and 095031373 and Fax: 951 544199, No(5) on the ground floor of SY Building on 30 street between 77 and 78 streets in Chanaeyathazan Township, Mandalay (Ph: 095067172, 0291001983, 02 36478 and 02 96303 and No (144) in Thiri Yadana Market, Nay Pyi Taw (Ph: 0949200948, 067 420819 and 421362). — MNA
1,000 homes evacuated in Colo fire

DENVER, 7 Sept—A wind-driven wildfire in the rugged Colorado foothills spread across 5 1/2 square miles Monday, destroying an unknown number of homes and triggering the evacuation of 1,000 others, authorities said.

No injuries have been reported. Authorities didn’t immediately know how many structures burned in the 3,500-acre blaze. But at least some were homes, including four that belonged to firefighters battling the blaze, said Laura McComb, a spokeswoman for the fire management team.

Video from KUSA-TV showed at least one home engulfed in flames.

The fire started Monday morning in Four Mile Canyon northwest of Boulder, and erratic winds gusting to 45 mph spread the flames quickly, sometimes in two directions at once.

Tom Neur told KDVR-TV he had to drive through the fire after gathering up valuables in his house.

“I just drove through a wall of flames. The bumper is melted off in the front of the van,” he said. His wife, Anna, left earlier with other evacuees. “They said there was nobody going up there for him,” she said. The Neurs said their house was destroyed.

“I don’t care about the house,” Anna Neur told her husband. “I’m just glad you’re OK.” About 100 firefighters were on the scene, and the winds calmed enough by late afternoon that three aerial tankers could start dropping fire retardant before darkness.

Train crashes into truck in Spain; tow dead, eight hurt

In this framegrab made from video provided by KTNV via APTN, wreckage of a single-engine Piper Cherokee on a residential street in Henderson, Nev. The small plane crashed and burst into flames on a street in a southern Nevada residential neighbourhood on Monday, killing one person and badly injuring three others, authorities said.—INTERNET

Denver, 7 Sept—A passenger train crashed into a heavy-duty dump truck near Carmonita, southwestern Spain on 6 Sept, 2010. INTERNET

MADRID, 7 Sept—A passenger train crashed into a heavy-duty dump truck in southwestern Spain on Monday, killing two people and injuring eight others, a government official said.

The collision occurred about 1 pm Monday near the town of Carmonita, 56 miles (90 kilometres) from the border with Portugal, a regional spokeswoman for Spain’s Interior Ministry said.

The large truck was supporting work on Spain’s bullet train link to Portugal when the three-carriage regional train slammed into it and lifted the truck partially onto its roof, she said. The impact caused all the carriages to derail.

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Plane crash on NV street kills one, injures three

HENDERSON, 7 Sept—A small plane crashed and burst into flames on a street in a southern Nevada residential neighbourhood Monday, killing one person and badly injuring three others, authorities said.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Sgt John Sheahan said two males and two females were aboard the single-engine Piper Cherokee when it crashed in Henderson, just south of Las Vegas.

He said it was a miracle no one on the ground was injured.

“I think we can attribute that to the pilot trying to put it down in a safe place,” he said.

“You’re talking the plane crashed maybe 20 or 30 feet (from the nearest home).”

The debris field is a block long, and one of the wings ended up in the backyard of a home, the sergeant said.

The main body of the fuselage came to rest on Morning Mauve Avenue.

A witness, Robert Sutton, told KLAS-TV in Las Vegas that the flaming plane came to a rest upside-down, and he and other residents doused it with hoses before flipping it over to help two victims trapped inside.—INTERNET

Seven Somalis sentenced to five-year jail in Kenya on piracy charges

NAIROBI, 7 Sept—Seven men of Somali origin who were facing piracy charges were sentenced on Monday to five years in jail by a Mombasa court.

The suspects breathed a sigh of relief when the judgment was delivered to them by Chief Magistrate Rosemelle Mutoka as that was seen as the “most lenient” punishment meted out against pirates since Kenya agreed to handle and prosecute piracy cases.

In 2006, the first group was sentenced to seven years while early this year, another batch of seven were jailed for 20 years.

Senior Iraqi officer killed, 18 people wounded in Baghdad violence

BAGHDAD, 7 Sept—A high-ranking Iraqi army officer was killed and 18 people were wounded in separate bomb and gunfire attacks Monday morning, an Interior Ministry source said.

Gunmen with silenced pistols shot and killed Staff Brigadier Abdul Mezigh Kadhim, an officer of the Iraqi Defence Ministry, when he was driving his car in Baghdad’s western neighbourhood of Ameriyah, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Separately, Mohammed Ghazi, a director general in the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, was wounded when gunmen opened fire on him with silenced pistols in Baghdad’s western district of Qadiya, the source said.—Xinhua

Two blasts cause panic in Lahore, Pakistan

LAHORE, 7 Sept—Two blasts of late Monday night created panic in the eastern Pakistani City of Lahore, police said.

No one was hurt in both the blasts, police said. The first blast took place outside the office of Deputy Superintendent of Police at Township area of the city, police said. The blast caused minor damage to the car of the police officer. The second cracker exploded near a religious seminary at the same area, the police said. The seminary “Minhaj-ul-Quran” is run by anti-Taleban cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri. No group claimed responsibility for the blasts and police said the blasts were aimed at creating panic in the city.—Xinhua

A helicopter flies over the site where a passenger train crashed into a heavy-duty dump truck near Carmonita, southwestern Spain on 6 Sept, 2010. INTERNET

In this framegrab made from video provided by KTNV via APTN, wreckage of a single-engine Piper Cherokee on a residential street in Henderson, Nev. The small plane crashed and burst into flames on a street in a southern Nevada residential neighbourhood on Monday, killing one person and badly injuring three others, authorities said.—INTERNET

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The seven suspected Somali pirates sit in the dock at the Mombasa Law courts on 6 Sept, 2010.—Xinhua

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**Science**

**Japanese stem cell researcher wins Balzan prize**

**MILAN, 7 Sept—** A Japanese researcher who found a way to give adult cells certain characteristics of embryonic stem cells, a process scientists say could eventually lead to cures for spinal cord injuries and other ailments, has been awarded the Balzan Prize for biology.

Shinya Yamanaka’s prize is one of four—two for sciences, two in humanities—awarded this year by the foundation, with the goal of highlighting new or emerging areas of research and to sustain fields of study that may have been overlooked elsewhere.

Yamanaka has used his finding to treat spinal cord lesions in mice, though the process has not so far been applied in humans, said Nicole Le Douarin, an honorary professor at the College de France who has written a book on stem cells, and who presented the citation.

The process allows adult cells that have already been differentiated into, say, kidney cells or neural cells, to be transformed back into cells with the characteristics of embryonic cells—a breakthrough that could provide an alternative to the controversial use of human embryos in stem cell research.

Medical researchers value such cells because they are master cells that can turn into any tissue of the body, and they expect the research to eventually lead to cures for spinal cord injuries, Parkinson’s disease and other ailments.

Yamanaka works at the Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences at Kyoto University, as well as the Gladstone Laboratory at the University of California, San Francisco.

**Colourful mix of Asteroids discovered, may aid future space travel**

**NEW YORK, 7 Sept—** New research from NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope reveals that asteroids somewhat near Earth, termed near-Earth objects, are a mixed bunch, with a surprisingly wide array of compositions.

Like the chocolates and fruity candies inside a piñata, these asteroids come in assorted colours and compositions. Some are dark and dull; others are shiny and bright. The Spitzer observations of 100 known near-Earth asteroids demonstrate that their diversity is greater than previously thought.

The findings are helping astronomers better understand near-Earth objects as a whole, a population whose physical properties are not well known.

“These rocks are teaching us about the places they come from,” said David Trilling, assistant professor of physics and astronomy at Northern Arizona University, and lead author of a new paper on the research appearing in the September issue of Astronomical Journal.

“It’s like studying pebbles in a streambed to learn about the mountains they tumbled down.”

One of the mission’s programmes is to survey about 700 near-Earth objects.

**Technology**

**QuickBooks 2011 to deliver multi-user functionality to Macs**

**WASHINGTON, 7 Sept—** Mac users who’ve demanded the ability to have different people working on the same QuickBooks files at once will soon get their wish fulfilled when the next version of QuickBooks arrives for the Mac. Software maker Intuit says that the 2011 version of the accounting and small business management application will add multi-user functionality.

Intuit will announce QuickBooks 2011 for Mac on Tuesday. The finance application will be available for download or for phone and Web orders on 27 September, with copies arriving in retail outlets by October. When QuickBook 2011 does arrive, it will bring with it the ability to let up to five employees simultaneously view and edit QuickBook data files. The feature had been a much-requested one among Mac users of Intuit’s accounting programme.

“It’s been a long time coming,” William Lynes, QuickBooks product manager, told Macworld.

In addition to multi-user functionality, QuickBooks 2011 will allow the ability to set permissions in up to eight activity areas, spelling out what users do and don’t have access to. Everything from invoices to customer information gets updated dynamically, so that users can see records as they’re being created and updated.—INTERNET

**AOL teaming up with Ellen DeGeneres online**

**NEW YORK, 7 Sept—** AOL is adding talk show host Ellen DeGeneres to its family of Web properties as it looks for ways to draw more people to its sites.

The company will begin sharing traffic, content and promotions with the website for “The Ellen DeGeneres Show,” starting on Tuesday, AOL sites such as KitchenDaily.com and Popeater will promote DeGeneres and provide links to her site, and vice versa.

No money is changing hands. The company that produces the TV show, Telepictures Productions, will still have control over what appears on the show’s site and will sell the ad space next to it.

The deal is part of a strategy at AOL Inc. of hitching itself to established brands that complement its own original content. That, AOL hopes, will help it replace revenue from its shrinking dial-up Internet business with online advertising sales.

In a similar arrangement, AOL launched a new site this summer called Cambio with the Jonas Brothers, the famed Disney trio. The company says it expects more deals along these lines this fall.

Telepictures Productions is a unit of Time Warner Inc, which spun off AOL into a separate company last year.

**Nokia bets on new smartphones for recovery**

**HELSINKI, 7 Sept—** Nokia, the world’s biggest cellphone maker by volume, will introduce new smartphone models next week at its annual media and industry event, aiming to assure investors the company is on track to recovery.

Nokia, whose profits and share price have dived in the last few years, is now betting on the renewal of its line of smartphones, which could save the career of embattled CEO Olli-Pekka Kallasvuo.

The cell phone maker will unveil its new flagship model E7, which comes with a large touchscreen and full keyboard, at the show in London, two sources with direct knowledge of Nokia’s plans told Reuters.

Nokia will also introduce to the public its new N8 model, which is the first phone to use the new Symbian 3 software, along with other new smartphones, the sources said. The N8 — unveiled in April and due to go on sale later this month — stands out among its rivals for its 12-megapixel camera but has a slower processor than Samsung’s top model Galaxy S and the latest iPhone.

“As the N8 starts shipping and other devices are unveiled, Nokia will be hoping that it can lay the foundation stones for its recovery given the onslaught of competitive products currently hitting the market,” said Ben Wood, director of research at CCS Insight.—Reuters
Health

Obesity high among New York children

NEW YORK, 7 Sept—A new report found that two in every five children in New York City from kindergarten through eighth grade are either overweight or obese, according to The New York Times on Monday.

A whopping 22 percent have body mass indexes (BMI) high enough to be declared clinically obese, and another 18 percent are considered overweight. The study was based on the 2008-2009 data of 254,076 children gathered and analyzed by the City’s Departments of Education and Health.

Evidence shows less-affluent neighbourhoods tended to have heavier children. The highest rate this year was in Corona, Queens, where 51 percent of schoolchildren were overweight or obese. Comparatively, just 12 percent of students were overweight or obese on the Upper West Side.

Cathy Nonas, who is responsible for NYC’s physical activity and nutrition programmes, told the press she was “sorry to say the figure is in line with the nation.” Across America, roughly 35 percent of six to 11 year olds are overweight or obese. “We’re certainly working hard to get obesity down from here,” she said.

Overcoming obesity among NYC’s children will be tough. The city has already taken some useful measures, including replacing full fat milk with one percent fat milk, and banning sugar-sweetened beverages from vending machines on school premises. Officials say they will try to prioritize and target physical exercise and nutrition programmes for schoolchildren better.

WHO wants faster, more flu vaccine production

HONG KONG, 7 Sept—The vaccine used to contain the recent swine flu pandemic was effective, but health authorities will need to ramp up the speed and volume of production during the next global outbreak, a World Health Organization official said on Monday.

The WHO declared last month that the swine flu pandemic that started in June 2009 was over, after it killed about 18,600 people worldwide, far less than the worst-case scenarios in which authorities said millions could die.

The widespread use of vaccines was critical in limiting the number of casualties, with studies showing they offered protection in up to 95 percent of cases, WHO official David Wood said at a news conference on the sidelines of an influenza conference in Hong Kong.

Some 350 million doses of the vaccine were administered worldwide, according to WHO figures.

“That gives us considerable hope for the future, for the future pandemics, that the technologies that we have to actually make the vaccines are effective,” said Wood, the quality and safety team coordinator for the WHO’s immunization and vaccines department.

“Magic mushrooms” ease anxiety of terminal cancer patients

BEIJING, 7 Sept—US researchers said on Monday the “magic mushrooms” ingredient, hallucinogen psilocybin, proved beneficial to cancer patients as it eased the depression of terminal cancer patients.

The pilot study involved 12 cancer patients, who took a small dose of psilocybin — the active ingredient in “magic mushrooms.”

After six months, the group’s average score on a common scale used to measure depression had declined by 30 percent, according to the study published in the Archives of General Psychiatry.

In follow-up interviews with the researchers, some patients said their experience with psilocybin gave them a new perspective on their illness and brought them closer to family and friends, according to health.com.

The study revives a field of study from the 1950s to the early 1970s that suggested some patients experienced powerful and sustained improvement in mood and anxiety from hallucinogens.

Business

Kia’s top executive resigns after recalls

SEOUL, 7 Sept—The top executive at Kia Motors has resigned after the company recalled more than 100,000 vehicles worldwide over defective wiring, the automaker said on Tuesday.

Chung Sang-eun, vice chairman and CEO of South Korea’s No 2 automaker, stepped down on Friday, according to company spokesman Michael Choo.

“His resignation comes in the light of the recent global recall issued by Kia Motors,” Choo said, without elaborating. He said no successor has been named. Chung was one of two Kia CEOs.

Kia Motors Corp is an affiliate of South Korea’s top automaker Hyundai Motor Co. Together they form the world’s fifth-largest automotive group.

Chung’s resignation comes amid a wave of recalls that have shaken the global auto industry since Japan’s Toyota Motor Corp began calling in vehicles in October last year.

The world’s top automaker has recalled more than 10 million vehicles for problems including faulty gas pedals and floor mats.

S Korea’s IT exports expand 26.5% in August

SEOUL, 7 Sept—South Korea’s information technology (IT) product exports expanded 26.5 percent in August from a year ago, on the back of a surge in semiconductor and smartphone shipments, the government said on Tuesday.

According to the Ministry of Knowledge Economy, the country’s IT product exports totaled 13.4 billion US dollars last month, up from 10.6 billion US dollars tallied a year ago. Thanks to the strong exports, the country’s trade surplus in the IT sector reached as high as 7.03 billion US dollars, up 37 percent from 5.12 billion US dollars tallied the previous month.

The cumulative amount of IT exports for the first eight months of 2010 totaled 51.52 billion US dollars, up 48 percent from 34.75 billion US dollars the same period last year.

WTO to issue Boeing subsidies verdict on 15 Sept

BRUSSELS, 7 Sept—The World Trade Organization will issue its long-awaited opinion on Europe’s challenge to American subsidies to US aerospace giant Boeing next week, a source close to the matter said on Monday.

The interim panel report “will be given to both parties”—the European Commission and the United States—on 15 September, the source told AFP.

The upcoming report is the latest chapter in a long-running dispute between Boeing and European rival Airbus over multi-billion-dollar government subsidies, with both sides filing rival complaints with the WTO.

The WTO had been expected to issue its opinion on US subsidies to Boeing in July, but it decided to postpone the release.
Xinhua

tribal belt bordering Afghanistan, local sources told
an airstrike at North Waziristan in Pakistan’s northwest
killed on Monday when a suspected US drone launched
the border, but many civilians were also mistakenly
militants hiding in the deep mountainous areas along
six. The US army has intensified the cross-border
by the US drones over the last four days. On Friday
sources said, adding that the killed were not
vehicle in Datta Khel area of North Waziristan, the
hospital,” the official said.

Drone attack kills five
in Pakistan’s tribal area

ISLAMABAD, 7 Sept—At least five people were
killed on Monday when a suspected US drone launched
an airstrike at North Waziristan in Pakistan’s northwest
tribal belt bordering Afghanistan, local sources told
Xinhua.
The pilotless aircraft fired missiles targeting a
vehicle in Datta Khel area of North Waziristan, the
sources said, adding that the killed were not
immediately identified.
It is the third time that the area has been stricken
by the US drones over the last four days. On Friday
night, a US drone strike killed 14 people including
children and women.
A second attack on Saturday night killed another
six. The US army has intensified the cross-border
airstrikes from Afghanistan, intending to kill the
militants hiding in the deep mountainous areas along
the border, but many civilians were also mistakenly
killed in such strikes.—Xinhua

United Nations
Secretary-General’s Message on International Literacy Day
(8 September 2010)

Following is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s message on International Literacy Day, observed
8 September, 2010:

This year’s observance of International Literacy Day highlights the central role of literacy in the
empowerment of women. Literacy transforms the lives of women, their families, communities and
societies. Literate women are more likely to send their children, especially their girls, to school. By
acquiring literacy, women become more economically self-reliant and more actively engaged in their
country’s social, political and cultural life. All evidence shows that investment in literacy for women yields
high development dividends.

Women’s literacy has gained greater prominence on political agendas over the past decade, ever since
the World Education Forum, in Dakar, at which governments set the goal of halving the number of adult
illiterates by 2015. The UN Literacy Decade, running from 2003 to 2012, has given further impetus to
reducing illiteracy. Illiteracy rates are dropping, yet approximately one adult in six is still unable to read or
write; two out of three illiterate adults are women.

The world needs increased funding and sustained advocacy for quality literacy programmes that
empower women and ensure that girls and boys at primary and secondary level do not become a new
generation of young illiterates. The International Literacy Prizes awarded by UNESCO today to programmes
in Cape Verde, Egypt, Germany and Nepal are examples of excellence and innovation. Each is tangible proof
of literacy’s profound and positive influence on women living in very different circumstances—from rural
environments to immigrant urban communities. Such programmes deserve to be widely replicated and
expanded.

Every literate woman marks a victory over poverty. On this International Literacy Day I urge
governments, donors, non-governmental organizations and all development partners to make literacy
accessible to women everywhere. Literacy is an essential foundation for development and prosperity.
Empowering women through literacy empowers us all.—UNIC

Message from Irina Bokova,
Director-General of UNESCO
on the occasion of International Literacy Day
(8 September 2010)

When a woman is literate, she can make choices to dramatically change her life for the better.
But ten years into the 21st century, two in every three of the world’s 759 million illiterate adults are
women. This is an intolerable situation reflecting one of the most persistent injustices of our times:
unequal access to education.

There is no justification—for it cultural, economic or social—for denying girls and women an
education. It is a basic right and an absolute condition for reaching all the internationally agreed
development goals.

Illiteracy keeps women marginalized and constitutes a foremost obstacle to reducing extreme
poverty in a technology-driven world where reading, writing and numeracy are indispensable for
enjoying basic rights and opportunities.

For all these reasons, this year’s International Literacy Day puts the spotlight on the highly
influential role that literacy plays in empowering women.

Acquiring literacy skills gives women a sense of self-confidence and control over their life and future.
This is what empowerment is about: gaining the knowledge to make informed decisions, sharing power
in the household and in wider political life. Testimonies from newly literate women bear witness to the
far-reaching transformation that new knowledge and skills have on all aspects of their lives.

As the first woman elected to the post of Director-General of UNESCO, I am profoundly committed
to advancing the rights of girls and women everywhere, especially through education. Gender equality is
one of our global strategic priorities because there can be no sustainable development when women do not
enjoy equal rights and opportunities.

Investing in women’s literacy carries very high returns: it improves livelihoods, leads to better child
and maternal health, and favours girls’ access to education. In short newly literate women have a positive
ripple effect on all development indicators.

This international day aims to mobilize everyone’s attention to the urgent need for increased
commitment to literacy, especially for girls and women. UNESCO’s International Literacy Prizes provide
inspiring and creative examples of programmes that have had a profound impact on individuals and their
communities. They show what works and how well.

Over the past decade, the gender gap in education has narrowed in many countries. Gender parity
in literacy has also improved, but all too slowly. But far more has to be done.

I take this occasion to call upon governments, international organizations, civil society and the
private sector to scale up their support to literacy. I am confident that the momentum exists to make
women’s literacy a priority: we have seen in the past months a bid to accelerate progress towards gender
equality with the creation of UN Women.

Literacy gives women a voice—in their families, in political life and on the world stage. It is a first
step towards personal freedom and broader prosperity. When women are literate, it is all society that
gains.

UNESCO

Six dead after consuming illicit
liquor in southern India

NEW DELHI, 7 Sept—At least six people died and
two others fell ill after consuming illicit liquor,
popularly known as hooch, in the southern Indian
state of Kerala on Monday, a senior police official
said.

“The victims consumed hooch from a local
shop at Kuttippuram. While bodies of two persons
were found at Kuttippuram railway station, four
others died at a hospital after getting admitted
there. The others are undergoing treatment at the
hospital,” the official said.

“The manager of the toddy shop has been
arrested. A probe has been ordered into the
incident,” he added.

Xinhua

Photo taken on 7 May, 2010 shows the natural
beauty of Sand Lake in Yinchuan, capital of
northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous
Region. Sand Lake is one of the best places for
bird watching in China.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 6 Sept, 2010 in Shenzhen, south
China’s Guangdong Province, shows fireworks
which is set off to celebrate the 30th anniversary
of the establishing of Shenzhen Special
Economic Zone.—Xinhua

UNESCO
Background History of Literacy Movement

Education in Myanmar enjoys a favourable environment. People have traditionally placed education very high priority since the time of King Anawrahta (1044-1077 AD). Monastic Education has always played a major role in fostering basic literacy among people from all walks of life. This accounts for the solid tradition for education and the high literacy rate which Myanmar has had for centuries. During the British occupation of Myanmar, the western model of school education was introduced and monastic education assumed the role of a parallel non-formal education system. After independence, successive expansions of the school system were introduced making education increasingly accessible and equitable. As compared to the countries of South Asia, Myanmar relatively has a high literacy rate.

However, the people suffered a great deal during the Second World War and education was also adversely affected. In order to combat the increased illiteracy rate, a nationwide literacy campaign was begun in 1965 and much success was gained. The Central Literacy and Coordinating Committee organized the Literacy Programme through mass campaigns in which entire townships in selected states/divisions became literate. This was recognized by UNESCO which awarded Myanmar two prizes — the Mohammad Reza Pahlavi Prize in 1971 and the Noma Prize in 1983.

NFE Programmes under the Ministry of Education

The term “Non-formal Education” has relatively been an unrecognized area of education in Myanmar till the year 1990. After the Jomtien Declaration of EFA in 1990, the EFA Central Coordinating Committee, headed by the chairman of Myanmar Naing-Ngan Education Committee was formed to give guidelines for EFA programmes. The executive arm of the Central Committee is the EFA Executive Committee, which is headed by the Minister for Education who is also the chairman of the Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO. Based on the “APPEAL. Training Materials for Literacy Personnel (ATLP)” approach, Myanmar Education Research Bureau (MERB), Ministry of Education, Research Bureau (MERB), Ministry of Education, and the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO have been conducting yearly by MERB for the development of Non-formal Functional Literacy Programme in six townships which aims to bring literacy skills with the UNICEF and other related departments has carried out a project on the “Skills-based Literacy Programmes for Women and Girls” in Twantay Township. The first workshop was held in January 1992, the second workshop was held in November 1992 and the third workshop was held in March 1993. In the 3 workshops, 12 packages of learning materials (level 1), another 12 packages of learning materials (level 2), and 8 packages of self-learning materials (level 3) were developed. To meet the demand of EFA 2000, a Working Committee for EFA (NFE) was formed and the expansion and extension of functional and skills-based literacy programmes were organized on the findings of literacy projects.

Continuing Education

In Myanmar, it is adopted that continuing education (CE) is a broad concept of education which includes all form of lifelong learning. UNESCO has recognized the need for continuing education as a follow-up to literacy training, and has produced a series of training manuals entitled the “APPEAL Training Materials for Continuing Education Personnel (ATLP-CE)” in 8 volumes. The six types of continuing education programmes as outlined in the ATLP-CE are as follows:

1. Post-literacy Programmes (PLP)
2. Equivalency Programmes (EP)
3. Income-Generating Programmes (IGPs)
4. Quality of Life Improvement Programmes (QLIP)
5. Individual Interest Promotion Programmes (IPP)
6. Future Oriented Programmes (FOP)

Community Learning Centres

Community Learning Centres (CLCs) have been emerged as key institutions for the delivery of literacy and continuing education. A learning centre is defined under ATLP-CE volume 8, as: “Local education institutions outside the formal education system, for villagers or urban areas usually set up and managed by local people to provide various learning opportunities for community development and improvement of people’s quality of life.”

Establishment of Community Learning Centres (CLCs)

The concept of CLC was first introduced in Myanmar in 1995. A memorandum of agreement was made between the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and UNESCO to establish a pilot project. One village from each township was selected for the establishment of a CLC. Under Human Development Index (HDI) Education Project, CLCs were established with an aim to enlarge the knowledge horizon of the community for promotion of the socio-economic and cultural levels in general and education in particular. Human Development Index-Education (HDI-E) project continued the community learning centre (CLC) establishment programme, covering 11 townships, 5 in Shan State, 3 in Dry Zone, and 3 in Delta. In addition to 7 existing CLCs, 31 new CLCs were identified in 11 project townships.

In addition to non-formal functional literacy projects, Myanmar is also participating in a 10 countries UNESCO project on skills-based literacy for women. MERB, in collaboration with UNDP, UNESCO and other related departments, has carried out a project on “Skills-based Literacy Programmes for Women and Girls” in Twantay Township. The first workshop was held in January 1992, the second workshop was held in November 1992 and the third workshop was held in March 1993. In the 3 workshops, 12 packages of learning materials (level 1), another 12 packages of learning materials (level 2), and 8 packages of self-learning materials (level 3) were developed. To meet the set goal of EFA 2000, a Working Committee for EFA (NFE) was formed; and the expansion and extension of functional and skills-based literacy programmes were organized on the findings of literacy projects.

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Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe of Ministry of Defence...

(from page 16)

In the afternoon, Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe arrived at the model agricultural special zone in Dagon Myothit (East) Township and met departmental officials and entrepreneurs. After attending to the needs, he viewed progress of works and cultivation of monsoon paddy at the special zone.

At special zone No. 1 and No. 2, Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe heard reports on progress of cultivation tasks presented by officials. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe viewed quality paddy strains displayed at the hall and visited the special zone No. 1.

At the hall of the special zone No. 2, he fulfilled the requirements of the officials.—MNA

Industry-2 Minister receives Japanese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Sept—Minister for Industry-2 U Soe Thein received five Japanese MPs led by former member of House of Councillors of Japan as well as President of the Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe at his office here this afternoon.

The two sides held talks about industrial development and technology assistance.—MNA

Labour Minister visits Training School (Yankin)

Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi made a speech in meeting with the principal, course instructors, staff and trainees at Training School of Labour Department in Yankin Township here yesterday.

After hearing reports on courses presented by the principal, the minister called for opening of more courses to be able to raise skills and expertise of workers, compete in labour market of ASEAN region and to meet the demand of industrial zones and companies.

The minister inspected learning of trainees at the school and gave necessary instructions.—MNA

Upgrading of PyinOoLwin-Mogok Road into tarred one

Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe views quality paddy strains planted at the special zone in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.—MNA

Pyinnya Tanhsaung Literary Competitions invite enthusiasts

YANGON, 7 Sept—Literary Competitions of Pyinnya Tanhsaung Magazine, published since January, 1952, is held yearly.

Headmasters and headmistress of basic education schools including branches affiliated schools, education staff, teachers and trainees of Nationalities Youth Development University, Institutes of Education and Education Colleges, officers and other ranks including retired officers and other ranks of Education Planning and Training Department, Basic Education Department and Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau are invited to take part in translation contest, reading skill contest, article contest, Pyinnya Tanhsaung U Than Nyunt Literary Award novella contest, one-page short story contest and poem contest of Pyinnya Tanhsaung Literary Competitions 2010 and to send manuscripts to Deputy Chief Editor of Pyinnya Tanhsaung Magazine at No. (6) on Yan Aung Street in Sanyoung Township, Yangoon not later than 4 p.m. on 15 September.

Essay contest for basic education students will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. on 19 September under the supervision of township education officers. Townships were informed by mail to send the best two manuscripts scrutinized by the committees not later than 11 October.

MNA

CENSTER brand Fuel Dispenser & Petroleum Equipment introduces

YANGON, 7 Sept—A launch of CENSTER brand Fuel Dispenser & Petroleum Equipment which is on the Top Brand list of China was held at Sedona Hotel on Kalay Aye Pagoda Road here on 29 August.

Managing Director U Zaw Min Thant of PSH Petroleum Equipment made a greeting speech. Vice-General Manager Mr Yu Wei of CENSTER Science and Technology Co., Ltd explained facts about CENSTER company and Fuel Dispenser. After that, marketing manager U Kyaw Kyaw Htay explained station management software system and engineer Mr Tony Chen, petrol station management software.

CENSTER fuel dispenser is more cost-effective and much better than normal dispensers. Gasoline and diesel as well as octane can be used in this dispenser. For more information, contact PSH Petroleum Equipment No.160, 10th road, Thirimun Yeiktha, Bayintnaung junction, Mayangon Township, here and dial ph-682989, 098020922 and 098619954.
NAY PYI TAW, 7 Sept — Information Minister U Kyaw Hsan inspected self-reliant libraries in Pale Township in Monywa District, Sagaing Region, on 4 and 5 September and donated books to them. During the tour of Pale Township to assist in development of libraries, the minister inspected collection of books at the self-reliant libraries and donated books and periodicals to the libraries.

On 4 September, the minister visited Pale Township Information and Public Relations Department and inspected tasks being carried out by the department and systems of Pyinnya Alin Library of the department for sustainable development of the library. Afterwards, the minister proceeded to Alebon, Kabar and Monthwin Villages and inspected self-reliant libraries at the villages. The minister visited self-reliant libraries at Pale, Kandtaunt and Kyatyin Villages and donated books to the libraries. He also cordially greeted local people reading books at the libraries. — MNA

Minister U Kyaw Hsan donates books to Phu Pwint Wai library in Alebon Village in Pale Township. — MNA

Information Minister U Kyaw Hsan cordially greets local people reading at Minthiha library in Kandtaunt Village, Pale Township. — MNA

Tanai, a naturally beautiful township...

The official in charge of Hukaung Sanctuary for Tigers explaining environmental conservation tasks.

(from page 16) Being surrounded completely by mountain ranges and located in the Hukaung Valley, the township is a plain and has many creeks that rise on mountain ranges.

Tanai Township is surrounded by Naga mountain ranges in the west, Gyabubum and Bamabum mountain ranges in the south, Sumprabum, Kyawmungbum and Magyibum mountain ranges in the east, and Mt. Patqai and Dagubum, Sumprabum and Palaungbum mountain ranges in the north. So, it gets rainfall all year round. The average highest temperature of the township is 38 degree Centigrade and the lowest temperature 9 degree Centigrade. It has average annual rainfall of 115 inches.

Last season, the total sown acreage of summer paddy was 450 acres as against the target of 100 acres. The harvest from 360 acres of summer paddy fields stood at 18,785 baskets, accounting for per acre yield of 52.18 baskets.

Not only that, sown acreage of monsoon paddy was 26,829, exceeding the target of 26,829 baskets of monsoon paddy for 2009-2010 season.

The region could meet the targeted acreages of pigeon pea, beans and pulses, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, corn and sugarcane as scheduled. And it could put 5945 acres under edible oil crops such as sesame, niger, sunflower, mustard and groundnut. Producing 249,320 viss of edible oil, the township gained edible oil sufficiency touched 243.33 per cent.

As to health care, the township has a 50-bed general hospital, a hospital in Shinbweyan, three rural health centres, 10 sub-rural health centres, one maternal and child welfare centre and one malaria control unit.

Tanai Township has a sanctuary with an area of 2460 square miles. The sanctuary administrative officer’s office was opened on 30 June 2003.

Hukaung Wildlife Sanctuary under the Environmental and Wildlife Conservation Department of the Forest Department of the Ministry of Forestry is proud to be the largest wildlife sanctuary in Southeast Asia.

Translation: MS Myanma Alin: 7-9-2010

Paddy thrives in Tanai Township.
Trade fair a “golden opportunity”

BEIJING, 7 Sept.—The Ningxia international investment and trade fair and the first Sino-Arabian economic forum will be held 26 to 30 September in Yinchuan.

Founded in 2006 as a local exhibition, the fair was recognized by the State and international corporations last year. The annual event has promoted development in Ningxia by leaps and bounds, said its organizing committee.

“It has created a golden opportunity for domestic and foreign guests to visit Ningxia, know Ningxia, and invest in Ningxia,” committee officials said in a statement.

Last year’s six-day session attracted more than 270,000 visitors from 81 countries and regions. Nearly 170 cooperative projects were signed. The fair hosts commodity exhibitions, trade exchange events, investment talks and high-level forums. It is a bridge between China and the rest of the world, said organizers. Special attention will be given to promoting investment and friendly exchange with Arab League countries and Muslim trade areas.

This year’s featured events include the China (Wuzhong) conference for Hui merchants and the Wuzhong summit for Chinese-Muslim entrepreneurs.

A variety of other events will emphasize Hui and Muslim cuisine and culture. Promotional activities are set for the Arabian states and China’s provincial, municipal, and autonomous regions. The trade fair and Sino-Arabian forum are sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce, China’s International Trade Promotion Committee and the Ningxia government.

Top Egyptian official to face trial over Van Gogh theft

CAIRO, 7 Sept.—Egypt’s first undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture and 10 other people will be put on trial over Van Gogh’s painting theft from a Cairo museum.

Egypt’s MENA news agency quoted the country’s top prosecutor as saying on Monday.

Mohsen Shaalan was working as head of the Fine Arts Sector in the ministry and 10 others from the Mahmoud Khalil museum were charged with negligence, which led to the theft of a Van Gogh painting valued 50 million US dollars, said MENA.

According to investigations, Shaalan was well aware that surveillance cameras at the museum were out of order and that he failed to take any measure in this respect though he has an independent budget to secure the museum.

The museum’s electronic gates and security cameras were all out of order at the time of theft.

The defendants will face up to three years behind bars if convicted in a trial that will start next Tuesday.

Local shrimp has remained available in Morgan City despite the oil spill, which forced less fortunate Gulf coast communities to look elsewhere for their crustaceans as shrimping grounds were closed for fear of contamination. A less-than-obvious pairing for outsiders, the shrimp and oil industries are key employers here and celebrating both industries makes sense for locals. “It’s a tradition,” said theater worker Randi Falcon, who returned to her childhood home in Morgan City for the festival this year from Mississippi.

“It’s something that brings us closer together,” and if anything the oil has brought us even closer.”

BP contributed 5,000 dollars to the festival this year, a fraction of the cost of the event, said festival president, Nathalie Weber, 1968’s Shrimp and Petroleum Queen.

Top Egyptian official to face trial over Van Gogh theft

A worker decorates a large sign board at the International Conference & Exhibition Centre in Xiamen, southeast China’s Fujian Province, on 6 Sept, 2010. The 14th China International Fair for Investment & Trade (CIFIT) will kick off at the center on 8 Sept.—Xinhua

Three suspects in Mexico migrant massacre found dead

MEXICO CITY, 7 Sept.—The bodies of three men suspected of participating in the massacre of 72 migrants last month were found by the side of a road in northern Mexico after an anonymous caller told authorities where to find the cadavers, federal officials said on Monday.

Prosecutors’ spokesman Ricardo Najera said authorities have no information on who made the call, but in the past suspects in especially brutal killings that draw too much attention to Mexico’s authorities have no information on who made the call, but in the past suspects in especially brutal killings that draw too much attention to Mexico’s.

Federal security spokesman Alejandro Poire said the bodies of the three men — along with two women not identified as culprits — were found by marines last week after an anonymous caller on 30 Aug tipped authorities off to the presence of the bodies in Tamaulipas state. It was unclear why authorities waited almost a week to announce the discovery.

The caller said the dead people participated in the 23 Aug massacre. Poire said a Honduran man who survived the slaughter and is currently under police protection in Mexico had identified the three men as having been among the killers.

A total of seven men have now been identified as suspects in the massacre. The only one still alive was caught in a raid on 24 Aug at the site of the killings, and identified by a survivor. Three other suspects died in a shootout with authorities at the scene of the killings. —Internet

Oil well capped, ‘shrimp and petroleum’ festival goes ahead

MORGAN CITY, 7 Sept.—Eager to move past the devastating Gulf of Mexico oil spill and celebrate a local tradition, thousands of people flocked this weekend to Louisiana’s annual Shrimp and Petroleum Festival.

Is the festival’s unusual title reflects two of the region’s main industries, both affected by the disastrous spill from BP’s busted Macondo well.

But with US officials saying the capped and sealed well no longer poses a threat, an estimated 150,000 people turned out to celebrate the region’s seafood and watch the blessing of the local fleet of boats.

“Red tide” found in New York Harbour

NEW YORK, 7 Sept.—A nearly 10-mile-long ribbon of “red tide” has been spotted on Monday in New York Harbour, the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) reported on Monday. The “red tide” — an accumulation of bacteria whose dense concentration turns the affected water a reddish brown color — was found early Monday in New York Harbour and also in the Long Island Sound near Jones Beach inlet, according to the NBC report.

The algae concentration is moving from north to south, slowly drifting down the harbour and out to sea. The red tide stretches down the Hudson from the USS Intrepid Museum in Manhattan to Hoffman Island off Staten Island. —Internet
**Tropical Storm Hermine threatens northern Mexico**

**Mexico City,** 7 Sept—Tropical Storm Hermine, now in the Gulf of Mexico, might make landfall on northeastern Mexico state Tamaulipas, and cause heavy rains and a surge of water in major rivers there, the National Meteorology Service (SMN) said Monday. “We forecast Hermine will turn northeast and increase speed so that it will affect northeastern Mexico and southern Texas in the early hours of Tuesday,” the SMN said. Hermine, the eighth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, has sustained winds of 75 kilometers an hour (kph), with gusts reaching 90 kph. The tropical storm force winds extended out up to 165 kilometres from the storm’s centre.

The SMN forecasts heavy rains in the centre, east, north and northeast of the nation, and moderate rains in Caribbean coast states. East coast state such as Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Veracruz and Yucatan will also experience strong winds.—Xinhua

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**India to develop hypersonic cruise missile with Mach 6**

**Mumbai,** 7 Sept—India will develop the hypersonic cruise missile with the maximum speed of 6000 km per hour to boost aerial fast strike capability, local media reported on Monday.

The hypersonic cruise missile will be developed on the basis of the present supersonic cruise missile BrahMos, and Russia will offer the technical support, the Indian newspaper The Times of India reported, citing an official’s saying of the Indian Defence Ministry. An agreement with Russia will be signed during the visit of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to India in December, said the official. The existing supersonic variants of BrahMos could travel at a speed of Mach 3, half that of the hypersonic versions, and the hypersonic cruise missile would have more powerful target penetration capability than those supersonic versions, the official said. At present, only a few countries in the world are developing hypersonic cruise missiles, such as the US and Russia. On 26 May, the US Air Force test-launched a hypersonic cruise missile carried under a wing of a B-52 bomber in the Pacific Ocean. The missile reached a top speed of 6 Mach, but the flight only lasted about 200 seconds due to a vehicle anomaly.—Xinhua

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**Int’l lenders consider loans for Nabucco gas pipeline**

**Brussels,** 7 Sept—Three international financial institutions agreed on Monday to consider loans totaling 4 billion euros (5.1 billion US dollars) for the Nabucco gas pipeline, a key project to reduce EU dependence on Russian gas.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), as well as the Nabucco Gas Pipeline International GmbH and the shareholders of Nabucco, signed a mandate letter on Monday. The letter formalized the conditions under which the three lenders would conduct their appraisal of the Nabucco project and decide whether to lend as much as four billion euros. The final decision was not expected until sometime next year.

Among the four billion euros, the EIB was expected to lend up to 2 billion euros (2.6 billion dollars) to the project, the EBRD up to 1.2 billion (1.5 billion dollars) and the IFC up to 800 million (1 billion dollars). The total cost of the Nabucco gas pipeline was estimated at 7.9 billion euros (10.1 billion dollars).

The European Commission, the EU’s executive arm, welcomed the commitment by the three financial institutions.—Xinhua

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**5.2-magnitude earthquake rattles east New Zealand**

**Wellington,** 7 Sept—There were no reports of injury or damage after a magnitude 5.2 earthquake shook Hawke’s Bay, in New Zealand’s eastern North Island, on Tuesday morning.

The 15 km deep quake struck about 20 km southeast of Porangahau in the southern Hawke’s Bay at 10.48 am local time (2248 GMT on Monday), GNS Science said.

It was felt widely in the Hawke’s Bay. The National Crisis Management Centre said local Civil Defence authorities reported no damage or injuries.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre did not issue a tsunami alert after the quake.

The quake comes just days after a magnitude 7.1 quake devastated parts of central South Island’s Canterbury region and left hundreds homeless.—Xinhua

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**Average inflation in Russia in August hits 0.6 percent**

**Moscow,** 7 Sept—The average inflation in Russia in August hit 0.6 percent, announced the Federal Statistics Service Rosstat on Monday.

Since the start of the year, inflation rate has been 5.4 percent. In 16 regions the inflation rate was over 1 percent, and in the North Caucasus republic of Chechnya, the figure hit 2.1 percent with tariffs on services rising 15.4 percent in August.

In Chukotka, Far North, consumer prices fell by 1.6 percent, in Kaliningrad and Tyumen regions inflation rate also was negative by 0.1 percent each. In Moscow, prices rose 0.4 percent in August and 5.8 percent since the start of 2010.

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**5.2 magnitude earthquake hits Chile, 4 Sept, 2010. — Xinhua**

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**Rear Admiral Zhang Wendan (L), commander of the visiting Chinese fleet, receives flowers from a staff member of the Chinese Embassy to Singapore, at Changi port of Singapore, 5 Sept, 2010. Two Chinese naval warships, destroyer Guangzhou and frigate Chaohu, part of the fifth Chinese naval escort flotilla, stopped over at Changi port of Singapore on Sunday.—Xinhua**

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**A car lies under fallen rubble in Christchurch, New Zealand after a powerful earthquake struck much of New Zealand’s South Island early Saturday on 4 Sept, 2010. — Xinhua**

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**Families talk to the trapped miners in Copiapo, Chile, on 4 September, 2010. The 33 men trapped deep below ground in a Chilean mine face a grim milestone Sunday, a month since the cave-in that stranded them, as officials warn it could take months more to rescue them. —Xinhua**

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**THE  NEW  LIGHT  OF  MYANMAR Wednesday, 8 September, 2010**
**Tianshan’s Crown Exploring the land of glaciers and snow leopards**

**BEIJING, 7 Sept—**The first Chinese expedition to Mount Tomur was politically driven: a move to declare the mountain part of China. It also confirmed Tomur as the highest peak in the Tianshan Mountains, opening the way to scientific expeditions. The breathtaking re-assertion in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region contains some of the world’s most extensive glaciers as well as rich wildlife, including the snow leopard. It is now a nature preserve.

Located in the county of Wensu (Onsu), Mt Tomur — meaning “iron” in Uygur — lies on the border with the former Soviet Union, an area that is now China’s agreed border with Kyrgyzstan.

Xinhu
Test launch of Danish amateur-built rocket fails due to mechanical glitch

The first launch attempt of “Heat-IXTycho Brahe,” a private Danish rocket built by two amateur Danes, failed on Sunday because of a mechanical glitch. And the mission has been postponed indefinitely, according to Danish media reports.

Live footage of the launch off a metal platform in the Baltic Sea off the coast of Bornholm showed brown smoke coming out of the rocket after the countdown.

According to Ingenioeren.dk, the two rocket builders, Peter Madsen and Kristian von Bengtson, confirmed that it was a mechanical fault in the main valve on liquid oxygen tank. And they decided against a second launch and did not set a date for a new attempt.

During the day there have been several postponements due to adjustments in the launcher and various security checks.

Blind golfers to tee-up with pros on Asian Tour

Three blind golfers will test their skills this week against Asian Tour professionals during the inaugural Honda Singapore Classic in a drive to encourage more people with disabilities to tee-off.

A golf ball lies close to the cup. Three blind golfers are to test their skills against Asian Tour professionals during the inaugural Honda Singapore Classic in a bid to encourage more people with disabilities to tee-off.

“Steven Seagal Lawman” returning to A&E

LOS ANGELES, 7 Sept—Steven Seagal is back on patrol for a second season of his reality show “Lawman.”

Production order of the suburban New Orleans-based law enforcement show was shut down in April after the martial-arts star was accused of sexual harassment. The suspension order was given by deputy Seagal’s boss, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff, who ruled the accusations would be a “distraction.” After all, nobody is above the law.

But then the accuser dropped the lawsuit in July.

The eight episodes airing this fall were all previously shot. There’s no decision on whether A&E will order additional episodes, and it’s unclear if the sheriff’s production ban is still in place.

“Steven Seagal Lawman” will return 6 October with back-to-back episodes at 10 pm. The actor is also co-starring the new Robert Rodriguez film “Machete.”

Singer, actress Cheryl Cole is divorced

LONDON, 7 Sept—Singer, actress and dancer Cheryl Cole, who came to prominence with the London-based group Girls Aloud, says she was granted a divorce in 60 seconds.

Cole married soccer-player Ashley Cole in 2006. His cheating was the cause of their divorce, Britain’s Daily Mail said on Monday. “There’s no children. I’m very thankful for that,” Cole said. She said her divorce in London last week was a “quickie” ceremony lasting 60 seconds. In an interview in the October issue of Vogue magazine, Cole said she has plenty to be happy about.

“I’ve just got to be grateful that I’ve got so many good things going on I have. And there’s no children you know? Some people’s lives fall apart,” she said in the Vogue interview. “Of course, it’s heartbreaking, but it’s not anything remotely like it could have been, and I’m very, very grateful for that.”

“Twilight” star settles $300,000 RV lawsuit

LOS ANGELES, 7 Sept—“Twilight” star Taylor Lautner has settled his lawsuit against a California RV dealership that failed to deliver his $300,000 trailer in time for the shoot of his latest movie.

According to US magazine.com, McMahon’s RV has agreed to pay $40,000, which Lautner lawyer Robert Barta says will be donated to the Lollipop Theater Network, a children’s charity supported by the actor.

McMahon’s lawyer, Adam Obeid, declined to comment beyond confirming the basic details. The company probably got more than $40,000 worth of publicity when owner Brent McMahon offered to settle the case with a push-up contest, drawing the immediate scorn of Lautner’s lawyer.
Stewart feeling good about Chase after 1st Cup win

**HAMPTON, 7 Sept—**One more race to go until the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship, and all of a sudden Tony Stewart looks like a serious contender.

Only it’s not that sudden. Stewart has been steadily improving over the past couple of months, consistently running in the top 10 and seeming to find a little bit more speed every week. He figured it was just a matter of time before he finally got back to Victory Lane.

Maradona plans Naples birthday bash—despite tax bill

**ROME, 7 Sept—**Diego Maradona is planning a 50th birthday party in Naples next month, despite owing the tax man there 37 million euros.

The controversial former World Cup winner spent seven seasons at Napoli, heralding the greatest period in the club’s history in which they won two Italian league titles.

And having been fired as Argentina coach following their disappointing World Cup campaign, Maradona now wants to return to his second home to have a fiesta.

**SPORTS**

Butt concedes defeat in Neuer ‘keeper battle

**BERLIN, 7 Sept—**Bayern Munich veteran Hans-Joerg Butt on Monday admitted he was unlikely to dislodge rival Manuel Neuer as Germany’s first-choice goalkeeper.

“I have to be realistic,” Butt, 36, told sport magazine Kicker.

“I’m not under any illusions about the Germany team. It’s always something special to be selected again. And I’m happy to have been able to play a match at the World Cup.”

Butt played for Germany in the third-place play-off match in South Africa, a 3-2 win over Uruguay. —Internet

Podolski vows to keep pace despite Kroos pressure

**BERLIN, 7 Sept—**Germany forward Lukas Podolski said on Monday that he intends to hold on to his starting place in the national team, despite Toni Kroos’s stated ambition to displace him.

“I know that when I’ve rediscovered my optimal form, it will be difficult to get in front of me,” Podolski said during a press conference. “A starting place is never guaranteed and I know that there are good players behind me, but I’m convinced that as long as I’m at my best level, it’ll be hard to get in front of me.”

That breakthrough came on Sunday night, when Stewart claimed his first win of the season with a dominating performance at Atlanta Motor Speedway. —Internet

Davies wins Austrian Ladies Open for 75th victory

**WIESEN, 7 Sept—**English star Laura Davies won the Austrian Ladies Open on Sunday for her 75th worldwide victory, closing with a 2-under 70 to beat France’s Virginie Lagoutte-Clement by a stroke.

Davies, also the winner at Golf Club Fochtenwald in 2007 and 2008 and second last year, finished at 11-under 205. She won with a birdie on the final hole after hitting a shot from a greenside bunker to 6 feet. “I was shaking,” Davies said. “Over that bunker shot, with all the water behind my legs, were a bit shaky on that and over the putt, but I guess that’s just the adrenaline and you’re just excited about trying to win a golf tournament.”—Internet

Wozniacki upsets Sharapova, Kuznetsova exits at US Open

**NEW YORK, 7 Sept—**Top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki snatched former champion Maria Sharapova in straight sets on Monday to advance to quarterfinals at the US Open.

Another champion ousted on Monday was Svetlana Kuznetsova as the 11th-seeded Russian became the major casualty at fourth round to Slovak Dominika Cibulkova, 7-5, 7-6 (7-4).

Wozniacki, last year’s US Open runner-up, got advantage of 36 unforced errors from Sharapova, the 2006 champion, to nail a 6-3, 6-4 victory in a little under two hours.

The weakest part of Sharapova’s game was undoubtedly her serve, as she gave Wozniacki the only break of the opening set when, from leading 40-30 in the fourth game, she produced three consecutive double-faults.

Sharapova’s serve failed her again in the second set when she double-faulted in the seventh game to provide Wozniacki with the only break. In all, Sharapova double-faulted nine times. —Xinhua

Hodgson’s hands tied until ownership settled

**LONDON, 7 Sept—**Roy Hodgson, 52, said his plans to revive Liverpool’s fortunes are on hold until new owners take over the club.

The Reds boss told the League Managers Association (LMA) official magazine that until Liverpool found a buyer, he would be forced to concentrate on hanging on to the players already at the club.

So far Hodgson has successfully persuaded Steven Gerrard and Fernando Torres to commit their futures to Anfield, although he was powerless to prevent Javier Mascherano leaving for Barcelona.

“The club is up for sale and nobody knows what direction it will take if and when new owners are found,” Hodgson told the LMA’s The Manager publication. —Internet

Nadal, Clijsters progress at US Open

**NEW YORK, 7 Sept—**Andy Murray was a major casualty at the US Open on Sunday but Rafael Nadal stormed through as did Kim Clijsters and Venus Williams in the women’s tournament.

The 23-year-old Scot was out of sorts against Switzerland’s Stanislas Wawrinka and his challenge to Nadal and Roger Federer ended in a crushing 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, 6-3 loss.

“He played better than me. There’s not a whole lot more to it,” the defeated fourth seed said. “He had a chance to win the first set.”—Internet

German striker Lukas Podolski smiles during a press conference in Cologne. —INTERNET

Top seed Rafael Nadal of Spain returns a shot to Gilles Simon of France during the US Open in New York. Internet didn’t take it. He had a chance to win the second set, didn’t take it. Just struggled from then on,” Nadal led a Spanish charge with five of their number making it through to the eight fourth-round slots available in the top half of the draw. —Internet

Tony Stewart holds the trophy after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race. —INTERNET

Maradona gestures during their 2010 World Cup quarter-final against Germany. —INTERNET

Germany’s first-choice goalkeeper Hans-Joerg Butt takes a goal-kick during his side’s third-place play-off. —INTERNET
Palestinian smuggler electrocuted in Gaza tunnel

GAZA, 7 Sept—A Palestinian smuggler was electrocuted in a tunnel beneath the Gaza-Egypt border in southern Gaza Strip, an unnamed hospital official said Monday.

The dead was identified as Ahmed Al-Astal, 22, from Khan Younis City, an official at a hospital in the border city of Rafah said, noting Al-Astal had died from the electric shock before being brought to the hospital. The tunnel business flourished after Israel imposed a blockade on Gaza in 2007, but it is sagging as Israel eased the restrictions following its deadly raid on a Gaza-bound Turkish aid flotilla in May.

Human rights group in Gaza said more than 150 people were killed in the tunnels over the past three years, most of them by natural caves.—Xinhua
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

Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe of Ministry of Defence sees off Myanmar Tatmadaw Track and Field Team

YANGON, 7 Sept—Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe of the Ministry of Defence saw off the Myanmar Tatmadaw Track and Field Team at Yangon International Airport this morning. Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Tun Than, senior military officers and officials, Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe met members of Myanmar Tatmadaw Track and Field Team at the lounge of the airport and gave necessary instructions to them. The sports team will take part in the Half Marathon Race of Singapore Armed Forces to be held in Singapore on 12 September.

(See page 8)

Tanai, a naturally beautiful township in Hukaung Valley

Byline: Reporter Tun Zaw (Sangyoung);
Photos: Reporter Myint Aung (Ahlon)

It was at daybreak on 4 September when we set out on a trip from Myitkyina Township in Kachin State to Tanai Township full of natural beauty.
Tanai Township is 119 miles and four furlongs from Myitkyina. Standing at an altitude of 675 to 688 feet, the region lies in Hukaung Valley northwest of Kachin State. It is bounded by Sumpyabum Township in the east, Hkamti and Nanyun townships in the west, Phakant Township in the south and Putao Township in the north.
Stretching for 70.13 miles from east to west and for 68.06 miles from south to north, the region has an area of 4772.92 square miles.

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