Prime Minister of Kingdom of Thailand to pay goodwill visit to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct—At the invitation of His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Her Excellency Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, will pay an official visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future.—MNA

Quality paddy strains, utilization of modern agricultural machinery necessary for farmers to minimize wastage during harvest to ensure quality paddy

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein gave an address at work implementation meeting on agricultural development held at 500-acre model plantation of modern mechanized farming in Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at 8 am today.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Cooperatives U Ohn Myint, Union Minister for Industry-1 and for Industry-2 U Soe Thein, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Htay Oo of Hinthada Constituency, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Shwe, and directors-general and managing directors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing elaborated on continued implementation of irrigation systems of already-built 28 dams and progress in renovation of 16 canal systems which are basic needs for development of the agricultural sector of the nation; prevention of flood in townships and villages in Bago Region which experiences (See page 8)
Three libraries inaugurated with donations of furniture, publications in Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct—Three libraries were opened and furniture and publications were donated to libraries in Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Township today.

First, Alinyaung Library in Aungchantha Village was inaugurated by Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan and Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Htun Hla.

Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt unveiled the signboard of the library.

Afterwards, they viewed local people reading at the library.

Yaung-ni-oo Library in Thabyegon Ward was formally opened by Union Ministers U Tint Hsan and U Thein Nyunt and Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Htun Hla.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan unveiled the signboard of the library.

Sarpangin Library in Shwekyarbin Ward was opened by Union Ministers U Kyaw Hsan and U Thein Nyunt and Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Htun Hla.

Union Minister U Tint Hsan unveiled the signboard of the library.

A ceremony to donate furniture, publications and periodicals to the libraries was held at Zabuthiri Township Hall. Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said libraries had been established in almost all villages across the country. As part of efforts for development of the libraries, local people should cooperate with the State and Myanmar Libraries Foundation to disseminate knowledge to the people while efforts were being made for all-round development of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. The buildings for libraries were donated by ACE Company, furniture were provided by the Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee and power supply to libraries was arranged by Ministry of Industry-2. Local people could pursue knowledge at their villages without going to other areas as libraries were within their reach.

Afterwards, Managing Director of ACE Construction Company handed over documents related to the three libraries to Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Htut.

A total of 5366 books including 305 books donated by Myanmar Libraries Foundation, 1530 books by IPRD, 1741 books by local people and 360 books by ACE Construction Company were contributed to the libraries. Solar-power lampposts and furniture were donated by Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee.

A townsoilder spoke words of thanks for the establishment of libraries.

Flood warning

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct—According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Toungoo (605) cm has exceeded by (5) cm above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level (600) cm during the next (24) hours commencing noon today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.
Second typhoon slams Philippines
MANILA, 1 Oct—Typhoon Nalgae lashed the Philippines on Saturday, killing at least one person and bringing fresh misery for more than a million people still trapped by floods from a storm earlier this week, officials said.

Nalgae made landfall on the main island of Luzon at 9:00am (0100 GMT) and was tearing southwest with sustained winds of 160 kilometres (100 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 195 kilometres, the weather service said.

Science Undersecretary Graciano Yumul said the storm was tracking the same path as deadly Typhoon Nesat, which dumped the biggest single-day volume of rain on the area this year after hitting Luzon on Tuesday.

“At this point in time, all the flooded areas should be emptied of people. Local officials should implement forced evacuation,” he told a news conference.

One person was killed and another injured when a landslide buried a van on a mountain highway near the upland resort of Baguio, said Alex Uy of the local civil defence office.

“Baguio is being pummelled by strong rain and winds,” he told AFP.

There have been no deaths in the city of 360,000, but the winds uprooted trees, he added.

Typhoon Nesat killed 50 people and left 31 others missing, according to a government tally.

Death toll from cholera rises to 6,435 in Haiti
SANTO-DOMINGO, 10 Oct—Haitian health authorities on Friday said the number of deaths caused by cholera increased to 6,435 in the Caribbean country since October 2010.

The Haitian Health Ministry said the number of people infected with cholera almost reached half a million, although the ministry repeated the epidemic was decreasing.

The report said 455,727 people had been treated due to cholera, and 242,205 had to be hospitalized.

The western province of Artibonite suffered the plague most with 1,196 deaths. The southwest province of Nippes registered the smallest death toll of 181.

Cholera epidemic hits Central African Republic
BANGUI, 1 Oct—A new cholera epidemic has hit the Central African Republic and has already claimed at least 10 victims in the south, health minister Jean-Michel Mandaba said Friday.

His comments came the day after a health source said there was an alarm that cholera had killed six people in the Limbo region, 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the capital Bangui.

“The government of the Central African Republic would like to officially declare that there is a cholera epidemic in the (southern) health zones of Ombella-Mpoko and Lobaye, leaving at least 10 people dead,” Mandaba said.

The minister called for calm and urged the local population to go about their usual business while “scrupulously respecting basic hygiene and cleansing measures.”

Car bomb at Iraq funeral kills 10
BAGHDAD, 1 Oct—A car bomb ripped through a funeral procession near a mosque in central Iraq on Friday evening, killing at least 10 people, part of a nationwide violence that left 14 dead.

The explosion occurred at around 5:30pm (1430 GMT) outside the Nabi Ayub Shiite mosque, just south of Hilla, the capital of Babil Province, as mourners were gathering for the funeral of Abdelamir Jaffar al-Khafaji, a leader of the Al-Khafaja tribe who died of natural causes.

A doctor at Hilla’s main hospital put the toll at 10 killed and 45 wounded, while a police lieutenant said 10 people died and 29 were injured.

“I was 50 metres (yards) away from the explosion when it happened,” said mourner Mohammed Kadhim, 45.

“It happened near where the cars were parking, close to the entrance of the mosque.”

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The minister called for calm and urged the local population to go about their usual business while “scrupulously respecting basic hygiene and cleansing measures.”

People look at a Cheetah S200 airplane stuck in a ferris wheel after it crashed into the fairground attraction in Taree, New South Wales, on 1 October.—INTERNET

NATO helicopter makes precautionary landing in Afghanistan
KABUL, 1 Oct—A NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) CH-47 helicopter conducted a precautionary landing after receiving small arms fire in southern Afghanistan on Friday, the ISAF said.

“The helicopter was on a medical evacuation mission at the time and had one patient on board. Shortly after the landing, another ISAF helicopter arrived on the scene and transported the patient, passengers and aircrew to a nearby ISAF facility without further incident,” a Press release issued by the ISAF Friday evening said.

“The landing site has been secured and efforts are now underway to recover the aircraft. More details on this incident will be released as appropriate,” read the Press release.

Forty-nine countries are contributing 130,000-strong forces in Afghanistan with over 90,000 of them American mainly stationed in the east and south, followed by 9,500 from UK mainly based in southern Afghanistan.

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China factory activity picks up, export orders orders strengthen, offering some reassurance that the world’s second-largest economy can weather the global economic turmoil.

The official purchasing managers’ index showed inflation pressures eased slightly, but probably not enough for Beijing to relax in its battle against soaring prices. China’s PMI inched up to 51.2 from August’s 50.9, largely in line with a median forecast of 51.3 in a Reuters poll. The new export orders index rebounded to 50.9 from 48.3 in August, which was a 28-month low. The 50-point mark is the dividing line between expansion and contraction.

China is by no means immune to slowdowns in the United States and Europe, its two biggest export markets. However, strong domestic demand and solid Asian export growth have provided some insulation. Still, investors have grown increasingly concerned that China’s economy may slow more sharply than anticipated. Beijing has tried to orchestrate a modest cool-down to help curb inflation, but a deepening debt crisis in Europe threatens to trigger a recession there, which could trip up global growth. Saturday’s data suggested fears of a more pronounced China slowdown may be somewhat overblown. September’s PMI reading was the highest since May. The index had steadily declined from March through July as growth in new orders slowed. “September’s PMI should provide some support to global investor confidence, if only at the margin,” said Alistair Thornton, an economist at IHS Global Insight in Beijing.

“However, this does little to clarify policy stance,” he added. “Whether this increase in recognized cases is attributable to improved diagnostics or whether the clusters themselves represent an emergence of the pathogen is unknown.”

S Korea warns of slowing export growth

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The Ministry of Knowledge Economy on Saturday reported a $1.44 billion trade surplus compared to the $2.1 billion tipped in a Dow Jones Newswires poll of seven economists.

Exports grew 19.6 percent from September 2010, slower than the poll had predicted, while imports grew by 30.5 percent. “Export growth in the fourth quarter will slow because of deterioration in external conditions and high base effect,” the ministry said in a statement.

“The trade surplus is unlikely to widen as export conditions weaken from a global economic slowdown, while imports are expected to continue growing due to high oil prices.” The figure is the latest sign that South Korea’s export-dependent economy is feeling the pinch because of the eurozone debt crisis and the sluggish US economy.

But economic officials point out that emerging economies now account for much of the country’s exports. Exports to China were up 20.5 percent year-on-year in September, as measured over the first 20 days, while exports to members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations rose by 43.2 percent.

US death toll from bad cantaloupes rises to 15

WASHINGTON 1 Oct—With listeria from a Colorado farm, US health authorities said Friday the source of the United States’ worst foodborne disease outbreak in more than a decade has been traced to Jensen Farms, a family-owned operation, and a voluntary recall was issued two weeks ago.

However, investigators are still trying to figure out how the whole melons became contaminated, in what has been described as the first known outbreak of listeria in cantaloupes.

On Wednesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration warned that cases were sure to mount because of the long incubation period of the unusual bacterium. People can become sick up to two months after consuming a tainted product.

Listeriosis is particularly dangerous to the elderly, those with weakened immune systems and pregnant women because it can cause miscarriage or stillbirth.

Illnesses have been reported in 19 states, according to the CDC. The previous toll, announced on Wednesday, was 13 dead and 72 people sick.

The flu-like virus on the rise

WASHINGTON, 1 Oct—A rare virus has killed three people and sickened nearly 100 in Japan, the Philippines, the United States and the Netherlands over the past two years, US health authorities said Friday.

The culprit is human enterovirus 68 (HEV68), and its respiratory symptoms can be particularly dangerous to children, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. In six separate clusters of the virus that showed up worldwide, patients commonly experienced cough, difficulty breathing and wheezing.

The highest number of cases were found in Japan, where local public health authorities reported more than 120 cases last year. However, the CDC said it could only confirm clinical data for 11 of those patients, all of whom died. The Philippines had 21 cases in late 2008 and early 2009, causing two deaths, the CDC said.

Other cases surfaced in the Netherlands and the US states of Georgia, Pennsylvania and Arizona, for 95 total confirmed cases over two years. The virus was first discovered in four children who were sick with pneumonia in California in 1962, but subsequent incidences have been rare and sporadic, according to the CDC.

“Identification of a large number of patients with HEV68 respiratory disease detected during a single season, such as described in this report, is a recent phenomenon,” it added.

Whether this increase in recognized cases is attributable to improved diagnostics or whether the clusters themselves represent an emergence of the pathogen is unknown.”

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Twitter tells scientists how the world feels

WASHINGTON, 1 Oct—Hate mornings, especially on Mondays? You may be surprised to know that much of the world doesn’t share that grumpy feeling. Twitter shows people are more cheerful in the morning, get gloomier as the day wears on and rebound in the evening, with a peak right before bedtime. They’re also happier from December to late June, when days gradually lengthen in the Northern Hemisphere.

Using the microblogging site Twitter as a gauge of global sentiment, social scientists studied 509 million tweets from 2.4 million users in 84 countries between February 2008 and January 2010, according to research reported on Thursday in the journal Science.

Bad news, even if it happens to a complete stranger, brings Twitter users down, research by scientists from Cornell University suggests. Twitter, the five-year-old site that lets users communicate 140-character posts, offers an unprecedented chance to study human behavior and social networks, the scientists said. Those brief posts get down to the nitty-gritty, showing that Twitter users prefer bacon to sausage and Cherrios to Frosted Flakes, Cornell sociologist and co-author Michael Macy said in a telephone interview on Friday.

A Twitter page is displayed on a laptop computer in Los Angeles 13 October, 2009. (INTERNET)

You Tube video of deaf woman hearing for first time goes viral

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 Oct—Deaf since birth, 29-year-old Sloan Churman had been wearing hearing aids since the age of two. Eight weeks ago, she had a Esteem hearing implant surgically placed behind her ear. After allowing the implanted area to heal, Ms Churman went into the doctor’s office to have the device turned on. After a brief calibration, she was able to hear her voice for the very first time and her husband captured the moment of the first moments on video as well as uploaded the video to YouTube. The video of her first moment of hearing can be seen below. The technology behind the digital implant utilizes a sound processor to translate vibrations into electrical signals. However, there’s no microphone or speaker involved to capture and broadcast sounds.

The implant is placed beneath the skin making it invisible to anyone else and no external hardware, like a hearing aid, is required to make it work.

The outer portion of the ear takes in sound and funnels it through the ear canal. As the sounds reach the eardrum and causes it to vibrate, the implant senses the vibrations through tiny wires and converts them into electrical signals. These signals are run through the sound processor for adjustment.

The altered signals are sent to the driver which mechanically stimulates the stapes and the cochlea. These signals spark a wave that’s sent through the cochlea and the electrical signal is sent off to the brain for interpretation and understanding. After the surgical procedure, patients have to wait approximately six to eight weeks before the implant can be turned on.—Internet

Could you send up a couple of pizzas?

A Long March-2FT1 carrier rocket loaded with Tiangong-1 unmanned space lab module blasts off from the launch pad at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China's Gansu Province, 29 Sept, 2011.―Xinhua

CHICAGO, 1 Oct—The powering down of Fermilab’s Tevatron particle accelerator on Friday marked the end of a quarter-century of US dominance in high-energy particle physics.

The Tevatron, which accelerates and collides protons and antiprotons in a four-mile-long underground ring, has been replaced by the Large Hadron Collider operated by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) bigger, better atom smasher.

“Nothing lasts forever at the edge of science,” said Pier Oddone, director of the Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) in Batavia, Illinois. “We need to move on to those aspects of physics where we can put our mark.” Oddone said Europe has outspent the United States by a factor of three, and the United States now has to be very clever and define very carefully how it uses its resources.—Reuters

US closes atom smasher, passes baton to Europe

BENGALURU, 1 Oct—China is developing a cargo spaceship to supply the nation’s future space station, said Zhou Jianping, chief designer of China’s manned space programme. Supply technology is one of the keys to sustaining a space station’s operation with regular deliveries of fuel, food and equipment, as well as experimental devices.

“The Soviet Union’s Mir space station, which de-orbited in 2001, needed supplies from a cargo ship four times a year. Our cargo spaceship will have more capacity than that, so we will need to make fewer deliveries,” Zhou said. “It is unlikely we will rely on a manned spaceship to ferry food and fuel to a space station, as a manned spaceship can take only 500 kg of cargo, far from enough for future space station operations,” he said.

This cargo spaceship, yet unnamed, will weigh 13 tons when fully loaded, Zhou said without elaborating on how much cargo exactly it can carry. With a diameter of 3.35 metres, it will look like the Tiangong-1 space module that was launched on Thursday as part of China’s first spacecraft rendezvous and docking mission. It is a two-module structure - a resource module providing propellant and electricity and another module carrying supplies, he said.

Different from the manned Shenzhou spaceships that transport astronauts between Earth and space, a cargo spaceship will not return to Earth, which will save costs, he said. At present, a new launch vehicle, Long March VII, is under development for sending the cargo spaceship into space, he said.—Xinhua

Google opens its first retail store, located in London

LONDON, 1 Oct—Watching how Apple has made such a big success of its retail stores, it appears that Google now wants a piece of the action.

The Internet giant has taken over 285 square feet of space inside a computer store in central London, though it’ll only be there until Christmas.

The Chrome Zone store opened for business on Friday inside a PC World store on Tottenham Court Road and, according to an Evening Standard report, “only sells Google’s Chromebook laptop and a few accessories such as headsets.” Its opening was, by all accounts, a low key affair, and certainly a far cry from the commotion usually associated with the opening of Apple stores.

Google UK’s head of consumer marketing Arrvind Desikan told the Standard: “It is our first foray into physical retail. This is a new channel for us and it’s still very, very early days. It’s something Google is going to play with and see where it leads.”

Desikan went on to say that the Chrome Zone would give consumers a chance to try out a Chromebook for themselves and help them better understand what the device is all about. Up until now UK consumers have only been able to buy the Chromebook online, so Google will be hoping that giving people the opportunity to get hands-on with the machine will boost sales.—Internet
Two nine old kittens are seen in August 2011. The wife of a lawmaker was found guilty of burglary on Friday after being caught on CCTV stealing a kitten from the home of her husband’s lover.

Catnapping: MP’s wife convicted of stealing kitten

LONDON, 1 Oct—The wife of a lawmaker was found guilty of burglary on Friday after being caught on CCTV stealing a kitten from the home of her husband’s lover.

Christine Hemming, 53, had denied the charge, claiming she could not remember taking the four-month-old tabby cat named Beauty when she went to deliver her husband’s post on 29 September last year. The incident took place three days after she separated from John Hemming, a member of the Liberal Democrats, the junior partners in the British coalition government.

CCTV footage showed Christine Hemming crawling on her hands and knees underneath a window before sneaking into the property belonging to Emily Cox in Birmingham, central England.

After her conviction at Birmingham Crown Court, Christine Hemming was bailed to return for sentencing on 28 October. The kitten has never been found.—INTERNET

After cancer treatment, Chavez playing ball again

CARACAS, 1 Oct—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez tossed a softball overhand with gusto Thursday, said his latest medical checks have been stellar and ridiculed rumours that his health might have taken a turn for the worse.

Chavez said he is bouncing back vigorously from chemotherapy and gaining weight more than three months after he had surgery to remove a cancerous tumour from his pelvic region. He declined to say what type of cancer he was diagnosed with.

“You want me to tell you more? What for?” Chavez said when asked about the cancer at a news conference. “Go to the hospital and ask any person who has cancer: ... ‘What is it that you have? And what type is it?’ Isn’t there something morbid in that?”

“I had a tumour. Now, what do you want me to tell you? That I take the tumor and explain to you here what type of tumour it was and the causes?” Chavez said. “I’m not going to gratify you. A malignant tumour. What more do you all want? ... I had it here, they extracted it.”

Chavez motioned to the area where he said the tumor was removed, indicating a vertical incision on his abdomen crossing his waist line. —INTERNET

Flood death toll rises to 141 in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 1 Oct—At least 141 people were reported dead in the Mekong River and flash floods hitting Cambodia since last month, according to the report of the National Committee for Disaster Management on Friday.

The interim report recorded that from 13 August to 29 September, the flash and Mekong River floods have inundated 15 cities and provinces and had killed 141 people. Of the figure, Prey Veng province has the highest death toll of 39 people, Kampong Cham has 32 deaths, Kampong Thom, 22, and Kratie, 19. Besides human life claims, the floods have affected 173,063 people and forced another 17,273 people evacuated for higher grounds. Also, 130,220 homes have been inundated.

The report said that about 269,953 hectares of rice paddies have been affected and another 61,473 hectares were completely damaged.

About 817 schools and 358 Buddhist pagodas have been submerged and some 100 kilometres of national roads were affected, it said.—Xinhua

California man, 67, rescued after six days in ravine

LOS ANGELES, 1 Oct—A 67-year-old California grandfather has been rescued after surviving for six days trapped at the bottom of a forest ravine and was in serious condition on Friday in a local hospital, authorities said.

Los Angeles County firefighters airtifted David La Vau from the bottom of a steep, 200-foot-deep ravine along a winding mountain road on Thursday, fire inspector Matt Levesque said. La Vau’s family told rescuers that he had spent six days at the bottom of the ravine in the Los Angeles National Forest after his car careened off the road, Levesque said.

He was alert and talking at time of his rescue and was transported to Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital in serious but stable condition on Thursday, authorities said.

In the process of the rescue, another vehicle was found in the ravine, along with its deceased driver, Levesque said. It is not uncommon for cars to fall over the side of road in the steep, hilly terrain of the Angeles National Forest, Levesque said.—INTERNET

Reckless driving charge dropped in deadly Virginia bus crash

CHESPEAKE, 1 Oct—Virginia prosecutors on Friday dropped a misdemeanor reckless driving charge against the driver of a bus that crashed on I-95 when he fell asleep at the wheel, killing four people, a court clerk said.

That crash, along with several other East Coast bus accidents this year including one in March that killed 15 people returning to New York from a Connecticut casino, sparked calls for tighter regulation of discount bus operators. Driver Kin Yiu Cheung, 37, of New York, still faces four felony involuntary manslaughter charges linked to the I-95 crash and is scheduled to go to trial in January. He has pleaded not guilty to those charges.

Cheung admitted to falling asleep at the wheel of a Sky Express passenger bus travelling from Greensboro, North Carolina, to New York City, according to court filings. The bus veered off I-95 about 30 miles north of Richmond on 31 May, plowing into an embankment and overturning with 58 people aboard.—Reuters

A Virginia State Patrol cruiser sits in front of the aftermath of an early morning bus crash that killed four people, in the northbound lanes of Interstate 95 in Carmel Church, Virginia, on 31 May, 2011. —INTERNET
MPF, law enforcement force to constantly serve interest of race, religion and State

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct — Upholding Our Three Main National Causes and four-point oaths, members of Myanmar Police Forces is a law enforcement force to constantly serve the interest of race, religion and State; they must be one with the people in discharging duty by organizing the people; through this they would achieve remarkable achievements in undertaking prevalence of law and order and law enforcement; and MPF is to maintain their good morality and protect the public interest in line with the law procedure with appreciation for people’s sentiment and people’s voice while the entire people are marching to the discipline-flourishing democratic nation with new system, said Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko at the ceremony to mark the 47th Anniversary of MPF at Areindama Hall of MPF, here, this morning. He also honoured an outstanding police woman.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko decorated 2011 model police award winner Police Cpl May Zin Oo of Criminal Investigation Department with police Sgt badge as one-step promotion and model police sash and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint decorated police WO Naing Soe of Hsenwi Special Anti-Drug Squad of Lashio with insignia of Sub-Police Inspector as one step-promotion. MPF Chief Kyaw Kyaw Tun and MPF Vice-Chief Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win accepted cash donations from wellwishers and gave certificates of honour to them.

The Chief of MPF presented prizes to six outstanding police members and decorated them with insignia of one-step promotion each. The Vice-Chief of MPF also awarded winners in the police code of conduct contests and women’s outstanding award, sports and staff quarter sanitation award to the winners.

Also present on the occasion were Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, deputy ministers, deputy directors-general, guests and officials.—MNA

International Day of Older Persons-2011 observed

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct — Organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the ceremony to mark the International Day of Older Persons-2011 was held at the auditorium of the ministry, here, this morning with an address by Union Minister for Labour and Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi.

It was also attended by the deputy ministers for SWRR, Labour and Health, Hlutaw representative of Namshan Constituency, Chairman of Women and Children Protection Committee U Maung Maung Swe and members, department heads, the older persons of Pyinmana Home for the Aged and in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, resident representatives of UN agencies and officials, guests and responsible persons of social organizations.

The Union Minister stressed the need to maintain family value of Myanmar culture and tradition, provide necessary assistance for more opening of new homes for the aged while maintaining existing ones for their durability, to actively take part in Home Care Service for the Aged Plan in cooperation with ASEAN member countries, to contribute widely establishment of the inter-olders and the youths in shaping the nation into democratic one in accord with the motto “Towards A Society For All Ages”, and to put harmonious efforts in rural region development and poverty alleviation scheme.

UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Mohamed S Abdel-Ahad extended greetings.

The Union Minister presented cash assistance for oldest grandpa and grandma of Myanmar and government-recognized homes for the ages from Regions and States to Director-General U Soe Kyi of Social Welfare Department.

Wellwishers donated cash to the funds for the homes for the aged from Regions and States. The Union Minister and Deputy Minister for SWRR U Phone Swe accepted cash donations and presented certificates of honour to them.

The Union Minister and the Chairman of Women and Children Protection Committee donated medicines and cash assistance to the aged from Pyinmana Home for the Aged and those in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

On behalf of the aged, grandpa U Maung Maung Khin spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony, the Union Minister, the Deputy Ministers and guests viewed the documentary photos on activities of the Ministry of SWRR, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Children Welfare Association and the Aged Care Service displayed at the hall.

Today’s cash donations by wellwishers amounted to K11,449,950.—MNA

Young Indonesians paint the town green

JAKARTA, 1 Oct — Young Indonesians are breathing new life into their polluted concrete capital city with little more than buckets of soil and seeds.

A group of mostly young professionals, known as Gardening Indonesia, has joined the global urban farming movement, converting vacant patches of land between Jakarta’s skyscrapers into lush green vegetable gardens. “There’s concrete, concrete, everywhere. But if we look hard enough, there is vacant land we can farm,” said Sigit Kusumawijaya, 30, watering freshly planted tomato seeds.

On a one-hectare (2.5-acre) lot between luxury homes in a north Jakarta suburb, Kusumawijaya and his fellow gardeners grow tomatoes, cucumbers, corn and chillies where an eyesore dumping ground once stood.

The group’s goals are to encourage a healthy population and a green city while saving money on grocery bills.
Quality paddy strains, utilization of modern...

(fro m page 1)

flood yearly; greening works of 30-mile radius of Yangon City; situation for creating job opportunities for rural folks and gearing up rural development by implementing necessary irrigation and dam construction works in open season; and implementation of plan for reclamation of modern farm on 70,000-acre land in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area using heavy machinery with the fund of agricultural entrepreneurs in accord with the guidance of the President.

Deputy Minister U Khin Zaw reported the needs for implementation of each irrigation system; prevention of flood in Bago Region; simultaneous undertaking of greening works in 30-mile radius of Yangon City in three steps; and projects including Myitthar Multipurpose Dam Special Project to be implemented within three years with foreign loans.

Private agricultural entrepreneur U Kyi Sein presented plans to implement modern mechanized farming system in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area step by step with the use of heavy machinery.

The President in his address instructed to draft priority lists in each sector; to invite private companies to implement plans simultaneously and promptly; to assign experts to supervise the design works systematically for avoiding weakness in construction works; and to conduct quality control by forming expert teams systematically.

He also highlighted the need to construct production roads in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area; to build tributaries and canals systematically; to extend small farm plots to hectare plots with heavy machinery as a model, and to implement agricultural works in the entirety of the President.

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Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham...
(from page 16)
The Patron of the Competitions gave guidance to hold the competitions with essence and form. In accordan with the guidance, today’s competitions have been made with arrangements for renewing the policies to enable the youths to take part in the song composing contest and regions and states to participate in more sectors than that of the previous year, provide training on singing, dancing, song composing and music subjects through TV, radio and newspapers on a wider scale, send trainers to necessary regions and states, plan awarding of more special prizes, consolation prizes and honorary prizes to the winners than that of the previous year, to award winners deservedly, give championship title this year, arrange the three-year consecutive winning champion award to the winners for good, insert new events whether Anyeint and consecration events should be held in the competitions, and scrutinize the competitions to know whether their standards become higher. More funds are needed as State-provided funds and previous year’s balance are not sufficient. Therefore, wellwishers generously donated K 141,350,000 for the first time and K 85,700,000 for the second time, totaling K 227,050,000 with national outlook. Later, he thanked the wellwishers for their donation that is sufficiency not only for this year’s competitions but also for keeping as the fund for next year. After the ceremony, Patron of the Competitions Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham cordially greeted those present and wellwishers.—MNA

Winners awarded in International Grand Master Chess Tournament

YANGON, 1 Oct—Under the supervision of the Sports and Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Sports, the prize presentation for the International Grand Master Chess Tournament of the Myanmar Chess Federation was held at Central Hotel, here, yesterday.
Chairman of Myanmar Traditional Chess Subcommittee U Win Aung presented international level certificates to Nguyen Van Hai (Vietnam) and Win Zaw Tun (Myanmar), President of MCF U Maung Maung Lwin,
On behalf of the Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports, Yangon Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khan presented individual first, second and third prizes to International Grand Master Win Zaw Tun (Myanmar), FM Nguyen Van Hai (Vietnam) and GM Bui Vinh (Vietnam) and championship trophy to International Grand Master Win Zaw Tun (Myanmar).
The chairman of Myanmar Traditional Chess Subcommittee gave equipment of Myanmar international chess sport to chess federations of Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam.
The players participated in the demonstration of Myanmar traditional chess sport.
Altogether 13 international grand masters and masters from India, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore and Myanmar participated in the tournament. Wellwishers donated cash to the funds for the tournament.

Pathein Port facilitates export of rice

Apart from Yangon Port, Pathein Port can be used for exporting rice of Myanmar with smooth and speedy process, said U Thein Win, a rice merchant of Pathein recently. As of August this year, bags of rice were loaded onto the vessels for export purpose, he added. He continued to say that in the past, the merchants replied on Yangon Port only for exporting rice and they wasted time and expenditure than the Pathein Port.
Pathein Port has been provided with facilities to accommodate ocean liners, export process of rice can be done smoothly.
With a view to ensuring smooth and swift export of commodities from Myanmar, Pathein Port, one more facility, can be allowed for renovation. If the dream comes true for Sittway Port, transport of rice produced from Rakhine State by vessel will be speedy at home and abroad.
British military cuts 1,000 navy jobs

LONDON, 1 Oct—The British military made more than 1,000 sailors redundant as part of the country’s wider efforts to balance its military budget against a background of economic stagnation and sharp cutbacks in government spending, local media reported on Friday.

They are the first part of cuts that will see 5,000 jobs lost from the Royal Navy by 2015, as Prime Minister David Cameron’s coalition government, which came to power in 2010, struggles to keep its budgets under control.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said the cuts were “the next step after last year’s announcement of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). It was announced then that there would be 5,000 redundancies in the Royal Navy, 7,000 in the army, and 5,000 within the Royal Air Force.”

In addition, the MoD will also cut 32,000 civilian jobs, as part of a plan to save 5 billion pounds (about 7.8 billion US dollars).

A total of 1,020 jobs were cut on Friday, 350 of them compulsory redundancies. Defence Secretary Liam Fox said in an interview with the Guardian daily newspaper Friday that the military was partly to blame for the cuts because of its bad management of projects.

Fox said that the MoD and former military leaders had to accept responsibility for a “complete breakdown of trust” between the military and the British government.—Xinhua

All 18 people in Indonesia plane crash found dead

BUANA AIR Casa 212 turboprop plane went down on Thursday morning in the mountainous Bohorok area, about 70 kilometres (40 miles) northwest of the city of Medan in North Sumatra.

As Sandi confirmed the deaths, scores of relatives let out cries of despair, after their hopes were raised when a victim reportedly called her mother from the plane on Thursday night. The incident is Indonesia’s fourth fatal air crash in the past month.—Internet

Mexico navy nabs alleged cartel hit man

MEXICO CITY, 1 Oct—Mexican authorities detained the Zeta drug cartel’s alleged top hit man in the city of Veracruz for the disappearance of three marines, the navy announced Friday.

Angel Mora, nicknamed “Commander Devil,” was detained Thursday in a working-class neighbourhood in the Gulf coast port along with another gunman, the navy said in a statement.

He is the top hit man for the Zetas in the cities of Veracruz and neighbouring Boca del Rio, the statement said. Mora, 25, and Gregorio Maldonado are believed to be part of a Zetas cell that killed three marines who were kidnapped 29 July.

Troops seized six automatic rifles from the men, the navy said.

More than 20 arrested in anti-drug operation in Brazil

BRASILIA, 1 Oct—More than 20 people were arrested in an anti-drug operation led by Brazil’s police in several cities to combat cocaine trafficking from Bolivia, authorities announced Friday.

The Nocturnos operation was launched in several states of the South American country in a bid to disband an international criminal group involved in cocaine trade. About 390 kg cocaine, as well as some substance to prepare, produce, and refine drugs, was captured during the operation, the country’s Federal Police said. The authorities said the cocaine was brought into Brazil from neighboring Bolivia by people who traveled across the border at night.—Xinhua

4x4 left atop British mountain for second time

LONDON, 1 Oct—Authorities say a four-wheel drive vehicle has been abandoned near the summit of one of Britain’s highest mountains — for the second time this month. Mountain rescuers found the Vauxhall Frontera atop Mount Snowden in north Wales on Thursday. They say it is the same vehicle that was left there 3 Sept. Snowdenia National Park Authority chief executive Aneurin Phillips called the act “irresponsible” and “totally unacceptable.”

The car’s owner, Craig Anthony Williams, has been charged with dangerous driving over the earlier incident and is due in court next week. After his arrest Williams told the BBC that driving up the mountain was on his list of “50 things to do before you die.” The 3,560-foot (1,085 metre) mountain is the highest peak in England and Wales.—Internet
Iran discovers “world’s largest” helium reserve in southern country

Tehran, 1 Oct—The managing director of Iran’s Pars Oil and Gas Company said Iran has discovered the world’s biggest helium reserve in its South Pars gas field in southern Iran, the English language satellite Press TV reported on Friday.

Mousa Souri said Iran has signed an agreement with a Russian company to complete the feasibility studies for the gas reserve, said the report.

The volume of the world’s helium reserves is 40 billion cubic meters and the South Pars gas field holds 10 billion cubic meters of the total amount, Souri was quoted as saying. In August, the managing director of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), Ahmad Qalehbani, said that a new gas field holds 10 billion cubic meters of the total amount, 40 billion cubic meters and the South Pars gas field with a Russian company to complete the feasibility satellite Press TV reported on Friday.

The field had the capacity to produce up to 2 billion cubic feet (60 million cubic meters) of in-situ gas and some 50 billion barrels of condensates, roughly valued 133 billion US dollars was discovered at Assalouyeh region in south Iran. The field had the capacity to produce up to 2 billion cubic feet (60 million cubic meters) of gas and 88,000 barrels of condensates per day. Qalehbani was quoted as saying by semi-official Mehr news agency. The South Pars / North Dome field is a natural gas condensate field located in the Persian Gulf. It is the world’s largest gas field, shared between Iran and Qatar. According to the International Energy Agency, the field holds an estimated 50.97 trillion cubic meters (1,800 trillion cubic feet) of in-situ gas and some 50 billion barrels of condensates.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 29 Sept, 2011 shows a cargo ship in danger on the sea near Zhuhai City, south China’s Guangdong Province. Cargo ship Fangzhou 6 of Qingzhou of southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region lost control after water stormed into its cabin due to Typhoon Nesat on the sea near Zhuhai Thursday, leaving 12 crew members in danger. Rescuers rushed to the ship and saved them by using a helicopter.—Xinhua

Food inflation slows down in L America, Caribbean

SANTIAGO, 1 Oct—The annual food inflation slowed down by 0.2 percent to 8.5 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean region in August, the regional office of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported Friday. The falling inflation in food should be attributed to the slight decline of food price indices in almost all countries in the region, FAO said.

In August, the prices of cereals and meats increased while those of dairy, oil, fats as well as sugar declined.

Despite the decrease, the food inflation remained higher than the region’s general inflation, which was up to 7 percent, the highest level since 2009, a FAO regional representative said.

“It is the one that affects the most vulnerable population, who spend a larger proportion of their income on food,” Jose Graziano da Silva said.

In Chile, Paraguay and Mexico, however, the annual food price hikes have almost doubled those of ordinary commodities.—Xinhua

Gibson Guitars wood imports case raises concerns

NASHVILLE, 1 Oct—The chief executive of Gibson Guitars wants to talk to prosecutors about US allegations the legendary guitar maker imported rare ebony and rosewood illegally, the company said on Friday.

The highly publicized case is on hold under a judge’s order, with no charges filed yet, and a spokesman for the US attorney’s office in Nashville, Mousa Souri said Iran has signed an agreement with a Russian company to complete the feasibility studies for the gas reserve, said the report.

The ‘Gibson Firebird X’ guitar made by US guitar maker Gibson is seen during a press conference in New York, 28 October, 2010. Xinhua

A resident buys vegetable at a market in Wenchang City of south China’s Hainan Province, 30 Sept, 2011. Local people’s daily life is resumed after Typhoon Nesat left Hainan Province on Thursday.—Xinhua

Food aid to Pakistan reaches 7,000 tons

GENEVA, 1 Oct—Since the start of food distribution to Pakistan’s flooded areas in mid-September, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has distributed around 7,000 tons of monthly family food rations to some 490,000 people, the WFP announced here on Friday.

At least 5.4 million people are affected by excessive monsoon floods in Pakistan, out of which around 1.8 million are displaced. All 23 districts in the southern province of Sindh are reported to be affected.

Malnutrition level in the flooding area has reached alarming level. WFP said it had increased the pace of food distributions, reaching close to 50,000 new beneficiaries each day, covering six priority districts including Badin, Mirpur Khas, Sanghar, Tharparkar, Shahred Benazirabad and Umer Kot.—Xinhua

NANCHANG, 1 Oct—A copper sword dating back more than 2,200 years has been discovered in east China’s Jiangxi Province, local archaeologists said.

The design and shape of the sword indicate that it was forged during the Warring States Period (475 BC - 221 BC), according to Li Guoli, curator of the Nanchang Museum, where the sword is currently being stored.

Despite having little aesthetic or scientific value due to a lack of decor or inscriptions, the sword still offers insights into the type of military equipment used during the period, Li said.

The identity of the sword’s original owner and the precise location where the sword was forged and used are still unknown, Li said.

The sword was discovered by a laborer surnamed Xiong in Jiangxi’s capital of Nanchang. Xiong found the sword while sorting and cleaning stones that had been dredged up from a riverbank.

An argument between Xiong and another worker who was trying to claim the sword aroused attention from the local law enforcement, who then convinced Xiong to turn the sword over to archaeologists.

Ancient copper sword discovered in E China

Xinhua

Xinhua

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Study says 3D learning tools positive for pupils

Biology teacher says 3D projections of body organs have given lessons a new direction at the Abbey School in Reading.—INTERNET

A study of the impact of 3D technology in the classroom has found that it improves test results by an average of 17%. Increasingly schools are using 3D projectors and learning resources to add a new dimension to learning. The research, conducted across seven schools across Europe, found that 3D-enabled learning tools helped children concentrate more. It also led shy children to speak up in class discussions.

Only a handful of schools in the UK use the technology, which requires a 3D-enabled projector as well as 3D glasses for all pupils and a set of bespoke learning resources. The study, conducted by researchers from the International Research Agency on behalf of the HEFCE, assessed 740 students in schools across France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Turkey, the UK and Sweden.

Students were tested before and after the lessons with a control group learning with traditional learning resources. On average, 86% of pupils in 3D classrooms improved in test results, compared to 52% of children using traditional teaching methods. It also found that attention levels soared — with 92% of the class paying attention during 3D lessons compared to 46% in the traditional learning environment.

“It grabbed children’s attention and this carried on beyond the 3D episode, it seemed to trigger an interest in learning that maintained through the rest of the lesson,” said Prof Anne Bamford, who led the study. “The level of questioning also increased and anxiously teachers reported that the children asking questions were those that wouldn’t normally engage in class,” she told the BBC.

Researchers observed a series of biology lessons, in which children learned about the functions of the body. “Children can see how things function. Instead of learning about the heart statically they can see it in a solid way, literally see blood passing through the valves, see exchange of oxygen, rotate it, tilt it and zoom,” said Prof Bamford.

3D provides a wow factor in class but it has longer lasting effects, research says.—INTERNET

Ten die as cement truck crashes in north Nigeria

GOMBE, 1 Oct — Authorities say 10 people are dead after an out-of-control cement truck crashed into a taxi and bus stand in a northern Nigeria town. Sector commander Chukwu Osakwe of Nigeria’s Federal Road Safety Corps told The Associated Press the crash happened Thursday afternoon in the town of Dukku in Gombe state. Osakwe said the brakes on the cement truck failed, sending it speeding into the stand.

Osakwe said the truck also destroyed seven vehicles and 15 motorcycles parked there. Accidents are common on Nigeria’s poorly maintained roads. Drivers often travel at high speed and overtake slower vehicles, leading to such head-on collisions and high death rates. Even main cities are linked by pitted, two-lane roads crammed with passenger buses, trucks laden with goods and rickety private vehicles.

Internet

Man survives 200ft cliff plunge

LOS ANGELES, 1 Oct — One person was found dead and another alive in two cars that plunged 200 feet off a windy mountain road in Southern California. Los Angeles fire captain Mark Savage said family members found the survivor, a man, at the scene of the crash off Lake Hughes Road in the Angeles National Forest on Thursday, after conducting their own search and alerted authorities.

Internet

Planes diverted as Mexico City airport power fails

MEXICO CITY, 1 Oct — An unspecified number of flights have been diverted from Mexico City because a power failure darkened the capital's international airport. Airport managers say power and flight service is expected to be restored before midnight.

Officials say the apparent failure of a transformer threatened to start a fire at the facility. But they stress that passengers and planes were never at risk. The airport hasn’t said how many incoming flights were diverted to terminals at Acapulco, Veracruz, Monterrey and elsewhere in Mexico as a result of Wednesday’s outage. —INTERNET
Britain’s cure for economic slowdown - drive faster

Traffic moves on the M25 London Orbital motorway near junction 22 in Herfordshire.

The government has come up with a literal cure for economic slowdown — it wants drivers to drive faster on the nation’s motorways. “Now it is time to put Britain back in the fast lane of global economies and look again at the motorway speed limit which is nearly 50 years old, and out of date thanks to huge advances in safety and motoring technology,” Transport Secretary Philip Hammond said. The speed limit on Britain’s motorways is 70 miles per hour (120kph), lower than in many countries in continental Europe.

“Increasing the motorway speed limit to 80 mph would generate economic benefits of hundreds of millions of pounds through shorter journey times. So we will consult later this year on raising the limit to get Britain moving,” Hammond said.

Research: Women saving money for purses

A British building society said its research of 1,000 women found one in 10 have an average $135 hidden away in “handbag funds.”

The Skipton Building Society said the women told researchers they keep the funds hidden, even from their partners, until it becomes time to purchase their chosen handbag. 72pointblog reported Friday.

The society said some women also hide funds for shoes, vacations and plastic surgery, while one in five men have money saved for gadgets, games and clothes.

Idris Elba would love to be the next James Bond

Actor Idris Elba arrives at the premiere of “Takers” in Los Angeles, California, on 4 August, 2010.

You love him as British cop “Luther,” you loved him as the thinking man’s drug kingpin Stringer Bell on “The Wire,” and Idris Elba hopes one day you’ll love him as the post-Daniel Craig James Bond.

Asked in an interview with National Public Radio if he’d be interested in the role, the Emmy-nominated “Luther” star said he would be — but only he’s not known as the “black Bond.”

“I’d definitely consider it,” Elba said. “I just don’t want to be the black James Bond. Sean Connery wasn’t the Scottish James Bond, and Daniel Craig wasn’t the blue-eyed James Bond, so if I played him, I don’t want to be called the black James Bond.”

NPR interviewer Linda Wertheimer then tried to elicit a more committed response from Elba, asking if he’d “jump into a cab if Sony called and asked him to come to a meeting about a potential 007 movie.” — Internet

Sting: ‘I want 25 more years of music’

NEW YORK, 1 Oct.—At 65, Tony Bennett released an album that debuted at No 1 on the Billboard albums chart this week. Sting, who turns 60 on Sunday, is hoping he will still be going strong at 85, too. “Hopefully the next 25 years will be the same if I have it,” the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer said of his own success.

“I couldn’t live without music. I’d rather play music or die.” Sting is celebrating 25 years as solo artist; in the late 1970s he debuted as the leader of The Police, scoring massive hits with songs like “Every Breath You Take” and “Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic.” As a solo singer, he went on to sell multiple platinum albums — and overall, he is the owner of 16 Grammy Awards.

This week he released “Sting: 25 Years,” his 3-disc greatest hits set. On 18 Oct, he will release “Sting: The Best of 25 Years,” which features 12 remastered tracks from his solo career. Sting says he has no plans to release a new album, though he says he is writing a musical-play “based on my hometown in the north of England. It’s about shipbuilding.” It will be directed by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner Brian Yorkey. — Internet

Florida musicians play Cuba in cultural exchange

HAVANA, 1 Oct.—Lifting windtunes filled the pillared hall of a historic former church in Old Havana on Friday as a quintet of musicians from Florida performed in the latest of a string of US-Cuban cultural exchanges that have increased in recent years.

The five members of the Tampa-based Florida Orchestra, all principals on their instruments, played an all-wind programme of works from George Gershwin and five other composers during the evening recital at the San Felipe Neri Oratory, which dates to 1693 and was used as a bank for part of the 20th century before reopening as a concerthall in 2004. “It’s a historic opportunity to play in such a place,” bassoonist Anthony Georgeson told The Associated Press. “I never thought that I be in Havana playing a concerto.”

Earlier they held workshops with teens at the Amadeo Roldan Conservatory, where they were struck by the budding musicians’ acumen, obost Katherine Young said.

“As a group we were so impressed with the level of students at the conservatory and their maturity as young players.” Young said. “I think American students would be surprised at how sophisticated they are.”

Owner tracks stolen boat 2,500 miles away

The owner of a powerboat stolen in Florida was 2,500 miles away in Nevada but was still able to tell police where the stolen craft was headed, authorities said.

A Global Positioning System device on the 32-foot, $260,000 boat told the owner through his cellphone that the craft, stolen Wednesday in Jacksonville, Fla, was being hauled north on Interstate 95 in Brevard County, Florida Today reported.

With help from a police helicopter, deputies located the Ford F-250 towing the 2009 Yellowfin Yachts Centre Console and arrested two men after they exited the interstate. Maykel Calafet Calderon, 28, and Manuel I. Telles, 38, both Cuban natives living in Miami, were arrested on charges of theft. “The owner giving us updates was by far the thing that assisted us the most,” Todd Holland of the Brevard County Sheriff’s Office said.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes: Participants wearing high-heel shoes try to squat during the 3rd annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, an event when men literally walk in women’s shoes to raise awareness about ending violence against women, at Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto, Canada, on 29 Sept, 2011.

A model has her hair styled before the Alternative Hair Show in Moscow’s Kremlin, on 28 Sept, 2011.

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Walk a Mile in Her Shoes: Participants wearing high-heel shoes try to squat during the 3rd annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, an event when men literally walk in women’s shoes to raise awareness about ending violence against women, at Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto, Canada, on 29 Sept, 2011.

A model has her hair styled before the Alternative Hair Show in Moscow’s Kremlin, on 28 Sept, 2011.
**SPORTS**

**Everton 0 - 2 Liverpool**

Jubilant Liverpool players congratulate Andy Carroll (second right) after the opening goal. — Internet

**King eyes new Spurs deal**

London, 1 Oct — Defender Ledley King is determined to earn a new contract at Tottenham Hotspur. The 30-year-old is Spurs’ longest serving player having come through the youth ranks at White Hart Lane but his contract is up at the end of the season.

**Bayern’s Neuer eyes 1,000-minute clean sheet mark**

Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

Manchester City striker Edin Dzeko is ready to take out his frustrations angrily to being substituted.

**SPO K**

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**Athens, 1 Oct — Greece recall veteran strikers for Euro qualifiers**

Athens, 1 Oct — Greece coach Fernando Santos on Friday recalled veteran striker duo Fansi Gekas and Angelos Charisteas for the Euro 2012 Group F qualifiers at home against Croatia (October 7) and in Georgia (October 11). Eintracht Frankfurt’s Gekas, who is a former leading scorer in both the Greek Super League and in the Bundesliga, had announced his international retirement last year, but made himself again available this month.

He has been capped 52 times and has scored 20 goals. Charisteas is best known for scoring the winning goal against Portugal when Greece won Euro 2004 and last played for the national team in the 2010 World Cup qualifiers. — Internet

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**Inter Milan’s Dutch midfielder Wesley Sneijder**

NLD Amsterdam, 9 Oct — Wesley Sneijder has suffered a rib injury and is expected to miss Saturday’s Serie A match with Atalanta in Turin. The Holland international, now recovering from a foot injury and having played his last match for the country last month against Latvia, is a doubt for Saturday’s game.

**Dutch missing Sneijder for Euro qualifiers**

Amsterdam, 1 Oct — Holland will face Moldova and Sweden in their remaining two Euro 2012 qualifiers without injured trio Wesley Sneijder, John Heitinga and Ibrahim Afellay.

In contrast Tottenham’s Rafael van der Vaart and Nigel de Jong (Manchester City) are once again available after recovering full fitness and the Premier League duo duly figured in Oranje coach Bert van Marwijk’s squad announced on Friday for the October 7 and 11 ties.

Holland, beaten by Spain in last year’s World Cup final, have already sealed their place at next year’s European Championships co-hosted by Ukraine and Poland. — Internet

**Mancini over Tevez stance**

London, 1 Oct — Alex Ferguson has voiced his support for cross-town rival Roberto Mancini in the Manchester City manager’s much-publicised dispute with Carlos Tevez.

The Argentinian forward, who played for Ferguson at Manchester United before signing for City in the summer of 2009, is currently suspended by his club after apparently refusing to come off the bench against Bayern Munich on Tuesday.

Ferguson, who has enjoyed a number of verbal bouts with City and their Italian manager, refused to be drawn into specific comments about his former player Tevez. But he made it clear that he supports Mancini wholeheartedly and has been impressed by the Italian’s management style this week. “I have nothing to do with it,” said Ferguson. “But I think Roberto Mancini has come out showing his strength of character, his strength of management. That’s important in today’s management. That’s what we have all experienced our own difficulties in management. You cope with it best you can. My own experience is strong management is important. There is no body more important than a manager at a football club.” — Internet

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Contador to focus on Tour de France in 2012

MADRID, 1 Oct—Spanish cyclist Alberto Contador said this Saturday that he is targeting next year’s Tour de France cycle race as his priority for 2012.

Contador split his efforts this year and although he won the 3-week Giro de Italia in May, his efforts in that race took their toll as he could only finish fourth in the Tour, which was won by veteran Australian, Cadel Evans.

Speaking in sports paper Marca, Contador said that he would not repeat that mistake and focus his efforts instead on adding the three Tour de France titles he won in 2007, 2009 and 2010. “My clear objective in 2012 will be the Tour, although there is a chance that I could ride the Vuelta (Tour of Spain) later in the year,” said Contador to focus on Tour de France in 2012

Contador to focus on Tour de France in 2012

“After the Spanish test, I will focus my efforts on the Tour de France,” he said. “I think it can be done, but a lot of things have an influence. This year’s Giro was the hardest three week race that I have ever raced and that tires you out ahead of the Tour, but looking back, I don’t think this year’s Tour suited by characteristics, as there was team time trial rather than an individual prologue. Then there was only one 42 km time trial while in 2007, for example there were 120km of time trials,” said the rider.

There is still a chance that Contador will be suspended for next year and possibly even for 2013 should the Tribunal of Sporting Arbitration (TAS) decide to overturn the decision of the Spanish Cycling Federation to acquit him of doping charges after the Spaniard tested positive for small amounts of banned substance clenbuterol during the 2010 Tour. The TAS will announce its decision on a possible suspension this November.

Xinhua
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends 2nd cash donation ceremony for 18th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Oct — The second ceremony to donate cash to sub-committee for funds raising, prize presentation and holding prize-giving ceremony of 18th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the meeting hall of Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development here this morning, attended by Patron of Leading Committee for Organizing the 18th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Also present were Chairman of the leading committee Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan and the leading committee members Union Ministers, the work committee members the deputy ministers, departmental heads, wellwishers and guests.

Chairman of the Leading Committee Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan accepted K 15 million donated by Kanbawza Group Co Ltd, K 13.5 million by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and affiliated associations, K 10 million by Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited and K 5 million by Myanmar Winery & Distillery Co Ltd and presented certificates of honour to them.

Next, Union Ministers U Tin Naing Thein and Dr Mya Aye and the deputy ministers accepted K 85.7 million including K 5 million each donated by Supper Coffee Mix Co Ltd and Myanmar CP Livestock Co Ltd, K 3 million by Myanmar Lion Co Ltd, K 2.5 million by Myawady Bank, K 2 million by Triple A Cement, K 1.5 million by Ga Mone Pwint Co Ltd, K 1 million each by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Border Affairs, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Cooperatives, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Immigration and Population, Pyae Son Win Naing Co Ltd, Pyi Taw Moe Co Ltd, Songda Co Ltd, Shwe Thanlwin Co Ltd, Jewellery Luck Co Ltd, Chan Long Trading Co Ltd, Asia World Co Ltd, Seinwut Hmon Co Ltd, Good Brothers Co Ltd, Europe Asia Co Ltd, New Star Construction, Min Construction and Thein Construction and presented certificates of honour to them.

Next, Chairman of the Leading Committee Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan spoke words of thanks, saying that due to national requirements, the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions were organized, and now the new government continues holding the Performing Arts Competitions in accord with the nation’s demand.

(See page 9)