Established 1914

Volume XIX, Number 165                        6th Waxing of Thadingyut 1373 ME                            Monday, 3 October, 2011

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to President of ROK

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct — On the occasion of National Foundation Day of the Republic of Korea, which falls on 3 October 2011, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea. — MNA

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to German President

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Christian Wulff, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, on the occasion of the Day of German Unity of the Federal Republic of Germany, which falls on 3 October 2011. — MNA

Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union
* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity
* Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall

(2-10-2011)

Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) (1.26) inches
Kyaikkhmi (4.06) inches
Mawlamyine (3.31) inches
Gwa (2.99) inches

YANGON, 2 Oct — Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung this morning inspected samples of ceramic tiles to be placed at prayer halls, archways and Gandakuti chambers on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda for convenient public obeisance to Buddha images after paying homage to Padamya Myetshin Buddha Image on the upper terrace, and visited the museum, Pitakat building, archive building and Buddhological museum on lower terrace. He inspected the site for construction of a separate passage way for pilgrims to have easy access to Buddhological Museum after visiting the Shwedagon Pagoda Museum.

The Union Minister gave necessary instructions to members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees on holding the 2600th Anniversary Buddha Pujaniya of the pagoda. — MNA

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Prime Minister of ROK

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct — On the occasion of National Foundation Day of the Republic of Korea, which falls on 3 October 2011, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Kim Hwang-sik, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea. — MNA

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to German Chancellor

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Dr. Angela Dorothea Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, on the occasion of the Day of German Unity of the Federal Republic of Germany, which falls on 3 October 2011. — MNA

Decoration of religious edifices inspected at Shwedagon Pagoda

Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung looking into Buddha Museum at Shwedagon Pagoda. MNA

Star brand motorcycles donated to SWD

Bago Region Chief Minister addresses MPF anniversary and International Day of Older Persons ceremony

PAGE 2

PAGE 9
International Day of Older Persons, MPF Day observed in Kachin State

**NAV Pyi Taw, 2 Oct—**The International Day of Older Persons of Kachin State was observed at Sasana Beikman in Myitkyina yesterday.

Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai and the speaker of Kachin State Hluttaw presented gifts to older persons.

The Chief Minister attended the 47th Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force at the town hall in Myitkyina.

**Commander of Kachin State Police Force Police Col Myint Lwin read the message sent by the MPF Chief. Later, the Chief Minister, the Speaker of Kachin State Hluttaw, the Kachin State Chief Justice, the Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister, the State Advocate-General and the Commander of Kachin State Police Force presented prizes to outstanding police members.—MNA**

Star brand motorcycles donated to SWD

**NAV Pyi Taw, 2 Oct—**The Star Motorcycle and Farming Equipment Production Industry of Golden Dragon Industrial Co from Yenangyoung Industrial Zone donated five motorcycles to be used in welfare tasks of Social Welfare Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at the ministry, here, this afternoon.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Yenangyoung Constituency wellwisher Daw Win Maw Tun explained the purpose of donation and presented five Star brand motorcycles.

After accepting the donations, Deputy Minister for SWRR U Phone Swe presented certificate of honour to the wellwisher and spoke words of thanks.

MNA

Mandalay Region inter-basic education school cricket tourney held

**YANGON, 2 Oct—**Mandalay Region Basic Education Department organized inter-basic education school cricket tournament from 17 to 23 September.

At the prize presentation held on 21 September, President of Myanmar Sports and Myanmar Chess Federation U Nyunt Win, Mandalay Region Education Officer U Soe Myint Tun and officials presented prizes to winners. **MNA**

KIA mine injures innocent woman

**NAV Pyi Taw, 2 Oct—**Daw Tin Myaing, 50, of Sihat Village in Momauk Township, Kachin State, stepped on a mine planted by KIA (Kachin) group at about 1.30 pm yesterday, while going to the cropland.

**About one mile east of the village. In the incident, she suffered injuries at her calf with cuts and bruises. The injured was rushed to Bhamo People’s Hospital and provided with necessary assistance.—MNA**

36th Inter-Region/State Chess Tourney from 28 Oct to 7 Nov

**NAV Pyi Taw, 2 Oct—**Sports and Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Chess Federation will organize 36th Inter-Region/State Chess Tournament from 28 October to 7 November at Aung San Indoor Stadium. Team and individual events will be included in the tournament.

**MNA**

Arbiter Seminar on 7 Oct

**YANGON, 2 Oct—**High-level arbiters of FIDE, world chess governing body, will give Arbiter Seminar at Central Hotel here from 7 to 10 October to turn out chess officials for XXVII SEA Games. Myanmar Chess Federation will select those eligible for the seminar.

Those willing to attend seminar will enlist at MCF not later than 5 October. **MNA**

National Hockey Championship continues

**YANGON, 2 Oct—**The Third Inter-Region/State National Hockey Championship, jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Hockey Federation, continued at Thiripyu turf hockey pitch, here, today.

Shan State routed Kayah State 4-0 in the first match, and Yangon Region beat Rakhine State 4-2.

Tomorrow fixtures include Bago Region vs Mandalay Region; and Chin State vs Kayah State.

**NLM**

Painting contest commemorates International Year of Forests

**NAV Pyi Taw, 2 Oct—**Organized by the National Forest Department under the directive of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry in commemoration of International Year of Forests 2011, Myanmar Forest Week Basic Education High School Level Painting Contest was held under the title “Forest for People” at Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Basic Education High School No (1) this morning. A total of 66 students from basic education high schools of eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area took part in the contest. **MNA**
Gas leak kills four at Kuwait main refinery

Kuwait’s refinery of Al-Ahmadi.—Internet executive said. “What happened was a gas leak at the Gas Liquefaction Unit during maintenance work ... not an explosion,” as reported earlier, said the CEO of national oil conglomerate Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC), Faruq al-Zanki.

An investigation committee has been formed to probe the cause of the leak which killed the four Asian workers, Zanki said in a statement cited by the official KUWA news agency.

The four people killed worked for a private contractor, national refiner Kuwait National Petroleum Co (KNPC) and KPC subsidiary said in a separate statement.

The two injured workers were discharged from hospital after treatment. An industry source earlier told AFP that three firemen were also wounded in the incident. The refinery continued operations as usual and there was no impact on Kuwait’s oil output and exports.

Two opposition MPs called for an immediate investigation into the incident, with Islamist MP Waled al-Tabtabai calling on Oil Minister Mohammad al-Basem to step down.—Internet

Typhoons leave 55 dead, Filipinos trapped on roofs

Residents evacuate to safer grounds as massive flooding continues for the second day on 1 Oct, 2011 at Calumpit township, Bulacan province north of Manila, Philippines.—Internet

Typhoon Nalgae slammed ashore in northeastern Isabela Province Saturday then barreled across the main Luzon Island’s mountainous north and agricultural plains that were still sodden from fierce rain and wind unleashed by a howler just days earlier. Nalgae left at least three people dead Saturday while Typhoon Nesat killed 32 others in the same region before blowing out Friday.

Nalgae was whirling 124 miles (200 kilometres) over the South China Sea from the country’s northeast toward southeastern China early Sunday with sustained winds of 81 miles (130 kilometres) per hour and gusts of 99 mph (160 kph), according to the government weather agency.

Its ferocious wind set off a rockslide in northern Bontoc Province Saturday, causing boulders to roll down a mountainside and smash on a passing van, where a passenger was pinned to death and another was injured, police said.

In northern Tarlac Province’s Camiling town, an uncle sought safety with his two young nephews as flooding rose in their village Saturday. But one of the children was swept away by rampaging waters and drowned while his uncle and brother remained missing.—Internet

One civilian killed, one injured in blast in W Afghanistan

Herat, 2 Oct—One civilian was killed and another injured Sunday when a blast took place in western Afghanistan’s Herat Province, a police official said.

“A bomb placed in a tricycle was detonated by a remote control device in the border city of Torghandi near the border with neighbouring Turkmenistan and killed a civilian and injured another,” a police official in the town Niazami told Xinhua.

He said the blast, which took place at about 13:20 local time, also damaged a number of vehicles and shops around the blast site in the border town located in the northern part of the province, some 640 km west of Kabul.

The potential target of the attack might be a convoy of border police force expected to pass the areas, he said. No group has claimed responsibility for the incident so far.—Xinhua

Four killed, 11 injured in attacks in E Iraq

BAQUBA, 2 Oct—Four people were killed and 11 others injured Saturday in separate gunfire and bomb attacks in Iraq’s eastern province of Dialya, police told Xinhua.

Gunmen attacked the house of Ammar Kudthair al-Majmaie, a leader of the Awakening Council group, with their assault rifles in a village near the city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, killing Majmaie’s brother and wounding two of his family members along with setting his house on fire, a source from Dialya’s operations command said on condition of anonymity.

The attackers also blew up a roadside bomb near a police patrol which rushed to Majmaie’s house, the source said, adding that blast destroyed a police vehicle, killing a policeman and wounding four others aboard.

A police officer was among the wounded, while Majmaie himself escaped the attack unharmed, the source said.

The Awakening Council group, or Sahwa in Arabic, consists of armed groups, including some powerful anti-US Sunni militant which fought al-Qaeda group militants in the Sunni Arab areas after the US-led invasion of Iraq.

In a separate incident, gunmen using silenced weapons attacked the building of a private commercial company in the early hours of the day, in northern Baquba, killing a guard and wounding two others, the source said.—Xinhua

Bus crashes in central China, at least 16 dead

MANILA, 2 Oct—Back-to-back typhoons left at least 55 people dead and rescuers scrambling on Sunday to deliver food and water to hundreds of villagers stuck on rooftops for four days because of flooding in the northern Philippines.

A passenger was crushed to death in a collision with a passing van, according to the police.

Fourteen people were killed at the scene and two others were injured in a collision with a passing van, according to the police.

A passenger was crushed to death in a collision with a passing van, according to the police.

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A passenger was crushed to death in a collision with a passing van, according to the police.

Two opposition MPs called for an immediate investigation into the incident, with Islamist MP Waled al-Tabtabai calling on Oil Minister Mohammad al-Basem to step down.—Internet

Kuwait City, 2 Oct—Four Asian workers were killed and two employees injured in a gas leak on Saturday at Kuwait’s largest refinery of Mina al-Ahmadi, a top oil

People transfer an injured policeman to a hospital in Teer Khuna, Pakistan, on 1 Oct, 2011. At least 7 policemen were killed and 9 others injured on Saturday morning in a bomb blast in Pakistan’s northeastern Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said official sources. Xinhua
Ford bets on Russia

**Moscow**, 2 Oct—US carmaker Ford is confident sales growth in Russia will hold up amid tough economic conditions and that the government will support Western involvement in the industry long after upcoming elections, its new Russia chief said on Saturday.

“It seems the Russian market does not have any jitters. Demand remains strong,” said Ted Cannis, who took over as the new CEO of the joint venture between Ford and Russian player Sollers last month.

He said the company was expecting overall Russian car sales to be “2.6-2.7 million” for 2011, above the Association of European Businesses (AEB) forecast of 2.45 million.

Turkish womb transplant promises hope for women

**Ankara**, 2 Oct—Lying on a hospital bed in her laced violet nightgown, Derya Sert is the first woman in the world to receive a womb from a deceased donor, raising hopes for millions of women to bear a child.

Doctors at Akdeniz University Hospital in Turkey’s southern Province of Antalya successfuLY transplanted a womb on 9 August to Sert, 21, who was born without a uterus and came in every 5,000 women around the world.

“Happiness, excitement all the feelings are mixed,” said Sert, who has a living donor, but also some pain as she had just returned from her weekly check.

“I was never afraid of the surgery. I have never thought about the pain or suffering I would go through,” Sert said.

“The womb has already become one of my own organs ... We have been waiting for this day to come,” she said, adding that her family and relatives had supported her in finding a solution for her medical problem.

This was the second womb transplant to be performed in the world, the first being in Saudi Arabia in 2000 from a living donor, which failed after 99 days due to heavy clotting, media reports said. Doctors had to remove the organ.

“It was a handicap to have a living donor,” said micro-surgeon Omer Ozkan, part of the surgical team of eight doctors and seven medical staff at Akdeniz University.

“That operation the vein was too short for the uterus and the uterus was not supported very well,” added gynecologist Munire Erman Akar, from the same team.

The doctors are confident that they have overcome those problems. Taking advantage of working on a deceased donor, they were able to remove a wider tissue surrounding the womb to place it well inside the body of the recipient and longer vessels to support the organ.

*Reuters*

Danish levies world’s first fat tax

**Copenhagen**, 2 Oct—Denmark on Saturday became the first country in the world to impose a tax on fat after a week in which consumers hoarded butter, pizza, meat and milk to avoid the immediate effects.

“We have had to stock up with tonnes of butter and margarine in order to be able to supply outlets,” Soeren Joergensen of Arla Distribution said.

The new tax, designed by Denmark’s outgoing government as a health issue to limit the population’s intake of fatty foods, will add 16 kroner ($2.87, 2.15 euros) per kilo (2.2 pounds) of saturated fats in a product.

This means an increase in the price of a pack of 250 grammes of butter, for example, by 2.20 kroner to more than 18 kroner. “It has been a chaotic week with a lot of empty shelves. People have been filling their freezers,” Christian Jensen of an independent local Copenhagen supermarket told AFP.—*Reuters*

Daily aspirin tied to risk of vision loss

**New York**, 2 Oct—Seniors who take aspirin daily are twice as likely to have late stage macular degeneration, an age-related loss of vision, than people who never take the pain reliever, a new European study reports.

The data do not show that aspirin causes vision loss. But the findings are of concern if aspirin somehow exacerbates the eye disorder, researchers say, given how many seniors take it daily for heart disease.

“For people who have age-related macular degeneration, it probably isn’t wise to recommend taking aspirin,” said William Christen of Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, who was not involved in this study. Researchers led by Dr Paulus de Jong at the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience and Academic Medical Centre collected health and lifestyle information from nearly 4,700 people over age 65.

The study, published in the journal *Ophthalmology*, included Norwegian, Estonian, British, French, Italian, Greek and Spanish seniors. Of the 839 people who took aspirin each day, 36 had an advanced form of the disease called wet macular degeneration.

This equates to about four out of every 100 daily aspirin users. In comparison, roughly two out of every 100 people who took aspirin less frequently had the same type of macular degeneration. —*Reuters*

Tesla wannahe boss of Model S Sedan

**Fremont**, 2 Oct—Electric carmaker Tesla Motors threw open its factory doors to customers who have preordered its forthcoming Model S sedan on Saturday evening.

Customers got tours of the Fremont, California, factory, rides in a prototype of the Model S, and a plea for support from Tesla Chief Executive Elon Musk, a co-founder of eBay.

“We need your help,” he told hundreds of customers after driving onto a stage in a red Model S, saying many people thought of electric cars as unrealistic “unicorns.” He asked the crowd to talk up the car and announced Tesla would be introducing a faster Model S that goes from zero to 60 miles per hour/97 kph in 4.5 seconds, shaving more than a second off current acceleration. Tesla is hanging much of its future on the Model S, its first sedan, which it hopes to start delivering to customers next year. Its executives believe its production will help the company move into the black after years of losses. The goal is to widen Tesla’s scope beyond being a niche brand that sells only the expensive Roadster sports car. The base model of the Model S will cost about $57,400 compared to the Roadster’s base price of $109,000, before a $7,500 federal tax credit and other rebates.—*Reuters*
Alibaba’s Ma: “very interested” in buying Yahoo

PALO ALTO, (California) 2 Oct—Jack Ma, the founder and CEO of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, is keen on buying Yahoo Inc if the opportunity presents itself and has held discussions with other potential buyers about options. Asked whether Alibaba might like to pick up the ailing US Internet company, Ma told an audience at Stanford University that he would be “very interested in Yahoo.”

The former English schoolteacher later added that, were he to have his way, he would be eager to acquire all of Yahoo, not just the stake it owns in Alibaba. “The whole piece of Yahoo,” Ma said in answer to a question from the audience about what part of Yahoo he was interested in. “China is already ours, right? It’s already in my pocket.” Yahoo shares leaped 5 percent to $13.80 in after-hours trading.

Acquiring Yahoo could help Ma expand his online empire into one of the world’s most important Internet markets. Ma also said he planned to spend the next year in the United States learning more about the country and the market. An Alibaba spokeswoman said Ma would be based in the San Francisco Bay area, but would travel across the country and would continue his operational duties as chairman and CEO of the Alibaba Group.—Reuters

GE, Nissan join hands on electric cars

DETROIT, 2 Oct—General Electric and Nissan, maker of the all-electric Nissan Leaf, said Friday they will team up over the next two years to explore ways to promote the use of electric vehicles.

“We don’t want to build cars,” Mark Little, director of GE Global Research, said Friday. “However, GE can help Nissan make EVs easier to use and more consumer friendly... We want to get into this space in a big way.”

‘Recipe book’ to aid plastic production

LEEDS, (England) 2 Oct—British researchers say they’ve come up with a so-called recipe book that could change the way new plastics are discovered and developed.

Scientists at the University of Leeds and Durham University say the breakthrough will allow the creation of “perfect plastics” with desired properties for specific uses, a Leeds release said Thursday.

The “recipe book” is the result of 10 years research into building better giant “macromolecules,” long tangled molecules that dictate properties created during the melting, flowing and forming processes in plastics production. Until now, the industry either created a plastic and then tried to find a use for it, or tried hundreds of different “recipes” to see which worked, researchers said.

The new method uses mathematical models to predict how polymers will flow based on the connections in the molecules they are made from and the shape these molecules will take when they are created at a chemical level.—Internet

Indian scientists sequence entire genome of neem tree

NEW DELHI, 2 Oct—For the first time ever, researchers in India have sequenced the entire genome of neem tree (Azadirachta Indica) in its entirety, reported local media Friday.

A team of 10 researchers at Ganit Labs — an integrated genomics lab in Bangalore, southern India, set up earlier this year under a public-private partnership between Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology and Strand Life Sciences, a bioinformatics company — has successfully sequenced the genome of the plant known for its medicinal properties.

“This is the first time the genome of a higher organism has been sequenced in India,” the head of Ganit Labs Binay Panda told a Press conference Thursday. Researchers in the US and elsewhere have sequenced genomes of several complex organisms but neem plant is not one of them.

“We have traditionally known the medicinal properties of neem,” Panda said. “Understanding its genetic complexity will help in developing agriculturally important compounds and pharmaceuticals. For instance, pesticidal compound Azadirachtin is found in neem seeds in wildly varying concentrations. With genetic understanding and engineering, Azadirachtin content in neem could potentially be increased and normalized.” —Xinhua

ISS avoids collision with space junk

MOSCOW, 2 Oct—The International Space Station (ISS) underwent an emergency change of orbit to avoid colliding with a piece of space junk, local media reported Friday.

The Russian Federal Space Agency’s Mission Control Centre said the orbit of the space station had been lifted by 4.7 km Thursday to prevent a 10-cm fragment of the Tsiklone-3 carrier rocket, launched by Russia in 1991. The ISS crew continued to adjust its mission on board despite the adjustment, a mission control official told RIA Novosti news agency.

The official said a routine orbit adjustment, which had been scheduled for 6 Oct, would be canceled due to this unplanned lifting. This was the second debris-related emergency for the ISS this year. On 28 June, an unidentified piece of debris narrowly missed the station, forcing the six-member crew to scramble to their rescue craft.—Xinhua

Cosmo Power Co. President Shoji Tanaka crawls out from a spherical earthquake and tsunami shelter “Noah” made of fiber enforced plastic at the company’s factory in Hiratsuka, west of Tokyo, Friday, 30 Sept, 2011. The Japanese generator maker has developed a modern version of Noah’s Ark in case Japan is hit by another massive earthquake and tsunami. The company of just 10 employees completed the first Noah, that has 1.2 meters (4 feet) in diameter and can hold up to four adults inside, earlier this month and already has 500 orders.—INTERNET

‘Recipe book’ to aid plastic production

‘Recipe book’ to aid plastic production

GE, Nissan join hands on electric cars

Indian scientists sequence entire genome of neem tree
Cigarette vending machines banned in England

LONDON, 2 Oct—Cigarette vending machines were banned in England on Saturday, a move the government hopes will cut the numbers of children smoking.

Anyone caught selling cigarettes from the machines, usually found in pubs and clubs, could face a fine of £2,500 ($3,900, 2,900 euros). Pubs will still be able to sell cigarettes from behind the bar.

Health Secretary Andrew Lansley said: “Smoking is one of the biggest and most stubborn challenges in public health. Over eight million people (around 15 percent) in England still smoke and it causes more than 80,000 deaths each year. “Cigarette vending machines are often unsupervised, making it easy for children to purchase cigarettes from them.

“The ban on cigarette sales from vending machines will protect children by making cigarettes less accessible to them — we want to do everything we can to encourage young people not to start smoking in the first place.”

The British Heart Foundation charity said that around 200,000 youngsters start smoking regularly in England each year, with around 11 percent of regular smokers aged 11 to 15 getting their cigarettes from vending machines.

It is illegal to sell tobacco in Britain to anyone under the age of 18.—Internet

Somali gunman kidnap French woman on Kenya resort island

NAIROBI, 2 Oct—Somali gunman on Saturday snatched a disabled Frenchwoman from a Kenyan resort island and fled back across the border with her after a shootout with Kenyan’s navy, officials said. The 66-year-old wheelchair-bound woman, was taken from her home on the archipelago of Lamu in east Kenya at 3:30 am (0030 GMT) by “10 heavily armed Somali bandits,” a Kenyan government statement said, adding they were “suspected” members of Somalia’s Shebab Islamisr rebel group.

It was the second attack on foreigners in one month in this part of Kenya near the border with war torn Somalia.

Kenyan “security forces swung into immediate action and pursued the abductors” making their way to the town of Ras Kamboni in southern Somalia by speed boat, the statement said. Nairobi dispatched a helicopter and coastguard vessels which caught up with and surrounded the fleeing gunmen.

“In the ensuing shoot-out between the abductors and the Kenya Navy, several of the abductors were injured but managed to enter” Ras Kamboni, said the statement which offered no details on the abducted woman’s condition.

Shebab rebels control large swathes of territory in the southern Somalia, but Ras Kamboni, a former rebel bastion near the Kenyan border, is not currently under the control of any single group, with several gangs holding sway.

Somalia’s weak, Western-backed government is still largely confined to the capital, Mogadishu.—Internet

Floods inundate 200 houses in Thailand’s northern Lampang

BANGKOK, 2 Oct — Over 200 houses in Thailand’s northern Lampang’s Ko Kah District were submerged under flood waters early Sunday morning continued for hours causing high-level flood waters that inundated four villages, a home to over 200 households. Residents in flood-hit areas rushed to evacuate to higher grounds, a Ko Kah chief district officer said.

In related development, the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department announced on Sunday that the death toll from the nationwide flooding which had begun since 25 July now stood at 206. The department said a total of 150 districts in 23 provinces in northern, central, eastern and western regions are still under flood waters, affecting more than 1.8 million people.—Xinhua

Photo illustration of police in Sydney.—Internet

Two powerful cartels dominate in Mexico drug war

VERACRUZ, (Mexico) 2 Oct—Fiver years after President Felipe Calderon launched an offensive against Mexico’s five main drug cartels, the nation is now dominated by two powerful organizations that appear poised for a one-on-one battle to control drug markets and trafficking routes.

The government’s success in killing or arresting some cartel leaders has fractured most of the other gangs to such an extent that they have devolved into quarreling bands, or been forced to operate as subsidiaries of the two main cartels. That has often meant expanded territory and business opportunities for the hyper-violent Zetas and drug lord Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman’s Sinaloa cartel. “They are the two most successful cartels, or at least they have been able to expand in recent years,” said drug trade and security expert Jorge Chabat.

Mexican federal authorities, who asked not to be named for security reasons, told The Associated Press that the Zeta and Sinaloa cartels are now the nation’s two dominant drug traffickers. One or the other is present almost everywhere in Mexico, but officials are braced to see what happens next in a drug war that has already claimed an estimated 35,000 to 40,000 lives. So far, the signs are not hopeful. In the Gulf coast seaport of Veracruz, 35 pound, toasted bodies were dumped onto a main thoroughfare during the height of rush hour on 20 Sept.—Internet

Citizens visit a warship at a barric of People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Hong Kong Garrison in Hong Kong, south China, 1 Oct. 2011. A barric of PLA Hong Kong Garrison was open to public on Saturday in celebration of the National Day, which attracted some 15,000 visitors. —Xinhua

Kenyan John Lepapa Moyo partner to the kidnapped French woman, speaks on a phone outside their beach home where she was kidnapped at Ras Gitan, in Manda, part of the Lamu archipelago.—Internet
Rare white whale calf spotted off Australia

SYDNEY, 2 Oct—An extremely rare white humpback whale calf has been spotted near Australia’s Great Barrier Reef in an event witnesses described Thursday as a “once in a lifetime experience.” Believed to be just a few weeks old, the baby humpback was seen at Cid Harbour in the famous reef’s Whitsunday Islands area by local man Wayne Fawings, who was with his family in a boat when he spotted a whale pod.

“We were just drifting when I noticed the smaller whale in the pod was white. I couldn’t believe my eyes, and I just grabbed my camera,” Fawings said.

“Then the white calf approached my boat, seeming to want to check us out. I was just so amazed at seeing this animal, it made me think how truly astounding the Great Barrier Reef is,” he added of the sighting on Saturday. “I feel very lucky to have witnessed this, it’s a once in a lifetime experience.”

Reef official Mark Read said white whales were highly unusual, with only 10-15 believed to exist among the 10,000-15,000 humpbacks living along Australia’s east coast, and purely white ones — like the calf spotted on Saturday — rarer still.—Internet

Landmines kill 27 Cambodians, injuring 92 others in 7 months

PHNOM PENH, 2 Oct—Cambodia on Friday reported 119 landmine casualties in the first seven months of this year.

Of the casualties, 27 people were killed and other 92 were injured, according to the report from the Cambodian Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Victim Information System.

The report showed that the casualties represented the decrease of 36 percent compared with the same period last year of 186 casualties reported.

It recorded that 74 percent of the victims were men, 19 percent were boys, and 7 percent were women and girls.

Since 1979 to July 2011, landmines had killed 19,603 people and injured 44,322 others.

Cambodia is one of the worst countries suffered from mines in the world as the results of nearly 30 years of war and internal conflict from the mid 1960s until the end of 1998.

Cambodia’s five most mine-laid provinces are Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear.

Xinhua

Mosquitoes find human breath, odor

RIVERSIDE, 2 Oct—US scientists say they’ve studied the flight paths of disease-carrying mosquitoes to find out how they locate and zero in on human target hosts.

University of California, Riverside, entomologists say the carbon dioxide we exhale and the odors of our skin serve as crucial cues to female mosquitoes on the hunt for human hosts to bite.

Female Aedes aegypti mosquitoes can spread diseases such as malaria, dengue and yellow fever. Exhaled carbon dioxide is the first signal a mosquito detects, researchers said, and then it proceeds to follow a broad skin odor plume to its target, a university release said Friday.

The researchers released female yellow fever mosquitoes into a wind tunnel and filmed their flight paths while introducing carbon dioxide and skin odors.

“Carbon dioxide induces a faster and more direct upwind orientation than skin odor,” entomologist Ring Carde said. “Our experiments show that the response of yellow fever mosquitoes to skin odor requires an exposure longer than that of carbon dioxide to induce upwind flight.

“The mosquitoes’ carbon dioxide receptors allow the insects to respond almost instantly to the smallest amount of the gas,” Carde said.

“Skin odors, however, become important when the mosquito is near the host, selecting biting sites.”

Worldwide measles deaths declining


The report, published in the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, said about 77 percent of the deaths in 2008 occurred in Southeast Asia — with the majority of those deaths occurring in India.

“Reduction in measles deaths in India is essential to achieve the global goal of 95 percent reduction in measles deaths by 2015 compared to the number of deaths in 2000,” the report said. “Providing two doses of measles vaccine to all children is an important step to reduce measles deaths and until recently India was the only country to provide only one dose of measles vaccine.—Internet

Polar explorer Shackleton’s biscuit to sell for a packet

LONDON, 2 Oct—When polar explorer Ernest Shackleton handed a starving fellow traveller a biscuit on an expedition more than 100 years ago, his companion said he would not swap the morsel of food for “thousands of pounds.” Now one of the biscuits which nearly made it to the South Pole on the Anglo-Irish Shackleton’s Nimrod expedition is expected to sell for almost that amount when it is auctioned in London on Thursday. The biscuit, one of thousands which were the diet for Shackleton and his companions on the 1907-1909 expedition, has a catalogue price of up to £1,500, according to auctioneers Christie’s.

Made especially for the expedition by biscuit company Huntley and Palmers, the rations were fortified with milk protein to help the group on their arduous journey.

The explorers came to within around 160 kilometres of the pole but were forced to turn back and their return journey became a race against starvation, with the group surviving on half rations.
**47th MPF Day, International Day of Older Persons observed**

_NAY PYI TAW, 2 Oct—_ The 47th Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force was observed at the town hall in Taunggyi yesterday.

On behalf of the Shan State Chief Minister, Commander of Shan State Police Force Police Col Ye Thura Win Naing delivered an address.

Speaker of Shan State Hluttaw U Sai Lon Hsaing, on behalf of Shan State Hluttaw, and Shan State Advocate-General U Maung Maung presented certificates of honour to commanders of District Police Force, posthumous police members and others.

The Shan State Police Commander decorated the outstanding police members with insignia of one-step promotion rank.

The Shan State Hluttaw speaker and officials attended the 2011 International Day of Older Persons at Myole Dhammayon of Taunggyi. They presented gifts, cash assistance and medicines to older persons.—MNA

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**New vehicles to be swapped for the outdated**

_**Yangon, 2 Oct—**_ A total of 2427 vehicles from 141 bus lines under the Yangon Region All Private Bus-lines Supervisory Committee has been applying themselves to giving safe transportation services to the public.

According to average vehicle cancelation plan dated 10 September, 2011, 344 over-40-year-old prewar buses, 28 BM buses, three rangers and seven minibuses (bearing Sa, Has and Ka plate number), four BM buses, four rangers, six minibuses and three Hilux cars aged between 30 and 39 (bearing Za and Nya plate number), and five prewar buses, 18 minibuses and 149 Hilux cars aged between 20 and 29 (bearing Nagyi, Hta, Da, Dha, Na and Pa plate number) totaling 571 under the committee will be taken out of service.

Chairman U Win Htut of the committee explained that 571 overage vehicles of the committee are to be handed over to the Directorate of Road Administration according to rules and regulations, and plan has been drawn to use vehicles from other bus lines in the place of outdated vehicles for the time being, owners of overage vehicles can buy vehicles at their own discretion. He continued that the committee will take measures in coordination with the Yangon Region Government to contact foreign companies so as to replace outdated vehicles with new ones at reasonable price and to pay out loans with low interest rate to needy vehicle owners.

In doing so, a meeting between officials of the Yangon Region All Private Bus-lines Supervisory Committee and vehicle owners took place at 1 pm on 1 October, and vehicle owners questioned what they want to know.

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Translation: ZZS

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**Bogale River Bridge completed by over 45 per cent**

In a recent interview, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Thein Myint Lwin and Assistant Engineer (Civil) Daw Cho Mar Oo of Bridge Construction Project Special Group (5) of Public Works told the news crew of Myanmar News Agency that vigorous efforts are being made for timely completion of 3553 feet long Bogale River Bridge that will link Road No. 5 Bogale-Kyeinchaung-Kadonkani Road, Road No. 10 Bogale-Mawlamyinegyun-Kyonmang-Myaungmya Road and Road No. 6 Bogale-Setsan-Htawpaing-Ahmar Road of Ayeyawady Delta Road Network; and in August, the construction works have been completed by over 45 per cent.

They further explained that the main bridge construction work has been completed by 71.43 percent, the approach bridge on Bogale bank by 58.33 percent and the approach bridge on Thabaung bank by 66.67 percent.

Bogale River Bridge will be 3553 feet long and 28 feet wide, and it can withstand 75-ton loads of individual vehicle. The facility will have 36 feet high and 300 feet wide clearance. The lower structure of the bridge will be built of steel truss and RC concrete. The construction works commenced on 1 July 2010.

Translation: TTA

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**Translation: ZZZ**

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**Article: Soe Min (MNA)**

**Photograph:** Tha Nyan (MNA)

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**Article: Maung Maung Htwe (MNA)**

**Photo:** Tha Nyan (MNA)

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Photo shows construction site of Bogale River Bridge with 45 per cent completion.
Plan underway to grow 5000 acres of sunflower in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Oct—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing yesterday morning met administrators of townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, members of Township Agricultural Coordination Committee and 60 farmers from Mon State at 500-acre mechanized farmlands in Nyaungbingyu of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and explained establishment of model farmlands in townships for development of Agricultural sector and plans underway to broaden horizon of farmers in applying good agricultural methods.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Shwe explained development of agriculture in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Those present discussed cultivation of 5000 sunflower plantation. The Union Minister gave instructions on sufficiency of edible oil in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, growing of sunflower plants, and concerted efforts of township administrators, township agricultural coordination committee and farmers for transform of 12000 acres of irrigated summer paddy to GAP system.

The excursion team view 10-basket rice mill, thriving monsoon paddy plantation, use of paddy transplanting machines and combined harvesters.—MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister addresses MPF anniversary and International Day of Older Persons ceremony

Yangon, 2 Oct—Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win addressed 47th Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force in Bago Region and awarded prize-winning police members.

Bago Region Police Chief Police Col Mya Win read out message of 47th Anniversary of Myanmar Police Force and presented prizes to outstanding police members.

The chief minister also addressed International Day of Older Persons ceremony at Voice of Buddha Dhamma Beikman and presented cash and offertories to the elders. One of elders gave blessings. The chief minister greeted the elders. Cash donated to 388 older persons amounted to K 7760000.

Yangon Region honours victorious athletes

Yangon, 2 Oct—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe addressed the ceremony to honour victorious athletes of Yangon Region at the Office of Region Government yesterday.

The chief minister, the Region Hluttaw Speaker and Patron of Region Sportswomen Association wife of the chief minister and Yangon Region Road Transport Minister accepted shields from athletes and returned prizes.

A total of 290 athletes who clinched 25 shields in 13 games were awarded K 29.2 million.

A tale of two towns, PyinOoLwin…

Tarmacking work in progress with the use of heavy machinery on PyinOoLwin-Mogok road.

(from page 16)

The 82 miles and two furlongs long from Mile Post (46/3) on Mandalay-Lashio road near PyinOoLwin to Mogok comprises 71 miles and two furlongs long gravel road, 45 miles and three furlongs long tarred road, 45 miles and three furlong long concrete road, 84 conduits and box culverts and 61 bridges which are under fifty feet long.

No (910) Battlefield Engineering Battalion implemented 32 miles and six furlongs long one way road and Public Works (PyinOoLwin District), road construction special group (1) and nine companies namely Ayeayar Shwe Wah, Golden Lougar, BME, MMM, Myatnoethu, Shwe Wah Linn, MMC, Pandee and Sein Kaung Yadana extension of 40 feet wide earth road, Myat Min Kalayar Co, Public Works of Lashio District and Kyaukme District took part in tarmacking or road. Two 50-foot bridges are under construction by special group-5 (construction) and 200-foot Legyi bridge (Nantpan creek bridge) is being upgraded into RC type facility that can withstand 60 tons load by No (910) Battlefield Engineering Battalion. The road was built passing 17 villages. In the past, People who want to go to Mogok from PyinOoLwin have to pass Mandalay, Madaia, Singu and Thabeikkyin and climb the hill at an altitude of 3850 feet. They also have to use the same road on their way back to PyinOoLwin and climb the hill at an altitude of 3538 feet. The distance between the two towns was 170 miles. As the new road linking directly between the two towns is only 82 miles and two furlongs long, cutting 87 miles and six furlongs, it will benefit local people, improving their socioeconomic status.

Translation: YM
World’s highest webcam takes viewers close to Everest peak

**Mount Everest**

New York, 2 Oct—Spend some time looking at webcam images from New York’s Times Square or London’s Oxford Street and after a while you feel like you can almost taste the pollution from all the traffic. So for a bit of fresh air, though rather less action, how about switching to a webcam that has just taken the record for being the highest in the world.

Placed at 5,675 meters on Kala Patthar mountain in the Himalayas, the high-definition webcam gives a clear view (when there are no blizzards blowing) of the 8,848-meter peak of Mount Everest.

The special type-M12 camera, built by German camera tech company Mobotix, must also be one of the toughest webcams in the world, as it has to withstand strong winds and temperatures as low as -22F (-30C).

The camera, which is powered by a solar panel, is being used to document weather conditions as part of the international climate and environmental monitoring conference.

5.9 magnitude undersea earthquake hits New Zealand

Wellington, 2 Oct—A magnitude 5.9 undersea earthquake was recorded 420 km southwest of Invercargill on Saturday night.

New Zealand geological agency GNS Science said the quake occurred at 11.54 pm Saturday (1054 GMT), at a depth of 33 km.

**Photo taken on 23 Sept, 2011 shows the solar street lights on a road in Damxung County of Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region. Tibet has become one of the leading regions in China in using solar energy, as its solar capacity has reached 3 megawatts, or 13 percent of the total solar capacity in China. Some 700,000 local people have benefited from various solar power products. —Xinhua**

Connecticut toddler dies after pit bull attack

Conway, 2 Oct—A 20-month-old girl died after being attacked by as many as three pit bulls Friday evening inside an apartment house in West Haven, Connecticut, police said on Saturday.

After a neighbour from downstairs called police, officers and paramedics arrived at the top-floor apartment at about 6:13 pm Friday and found the toddler on the floor, bleeding and unconscious, said West Haven Police Officer Bret Schneider.

She was rushed to Yale-New Haven Hospital, where she was pronounced dead, he said. West Haven is located a few miles south of New Haven on the central Connecticut coast.

A member of the media takes a look at a Bluecar, an electric powered car made by French company Bollore, at a media presentation in Vaucresson, west of Paris, Friday on 30 Sept, 2011. The Bluecars have a range of 250km, 155 miles, in urban use, a maximum speed of 130km/h, 80 miles per hour, and will be available in the streets of Paris under the name of Autolib. The four-seated “Bluecar” can reach a top speed of 130 km an hour and has a range of 250 km with a single charge.—Internet

After people in the home had locked the dogs in another room, police managed to subtype and remove them from the three-story building. The dogs were then euthanized.

“We believe all three dogs were involved in the attack, but they have to have (a) necropsy done” to determine that as part of the investigation, Officer Schneider said, referring to a post-mortem examination of the dogs.

Police had not yet determined whether the girl was alone when the attack took place. The infant may have been with family, visiting friends who lived in the apartment and owned the dogs, said Schneider.

Britain has hottest October day on record

London, 2 Oct—Britain has experienced the hottest October day on record.

National weather service the Met Office says Saturday’s temperature reached 85.8 F (29.9 C) at Gravesend in southeast England. That is the highest October temperature since records began a century ago, beating the previous high of 84.9 F (29.4 C) reached on 4 Oct, 1985.

The average maximum temperature for early October is about 59 F (15 C). After a cool and wet summer, much of Britain has been basking in several days of sun and unseasonably high temperatures. Forecasters say cooler temperatures should return by Tuesday.—Internet

Paris launches electric car-sharing service

Paris, 2 Oct—People come to the French capital will be able to enjoy a new public service by leasing electric cars in the urban region from Sunday.

This car-sharing system is aimed to reduce the number of private cars as well as restrain pollution, according to the Paris municipal government.

The plan, dubbed “the Autolib” system, is similar to already functioning “velib system” which is a large-scale public bicycle sharing system in Paris launched in 2007. The first experimental stage of the Autolib project is said to last two month with 66 cars at 33 stations around the city.

Costumers can pay between 5 euros and 7 euros (6.7-9.4 US dollars) for every half-hour use or register for a yearly, weekly or 24-hour package with different cost and necessary identity cards, driving licences and an uncashed deposit. Once fully charged, the four-seated “Bluecar” can reach a top speed of 130 km an hour and has a range of 250 km with a single charge.—Xinhua

A spectator watches the US Navy’s Blue Angels’ performance during the Miramar Air Show in San Diego, California on 30 Sept, 2011. Miramar Air Show, the largest and best military air show in USA, was voted the “World’s Best Military Air Show” by the International Council of Air Shows in 2007. This year’s theme is “A Salute to San Diego: Birthplace of Naval Aviation 1911-2011”.—Xinhua
Teach languages from age five, says Gove

Education Secretary Michael Gove on Saturday hit out at the “perverse pride” Britain takes in not knowing a foreign tongue and insisted there is a “slam-dunk case” for extending language teaching.

Gove said some schools in deprived areas are teaching languages to five-year-olds and so it should be possible nationwide. However, he also indicated that there was a large task ahead to make that happen.

“If we pull all the levers, change teacher training, help training schools to support others to go down this path, get schools that have language potential to take over under-performing schools, and we move the curriculum review in the right direction, then we can move towards the goal,” he said. “The number of pupils sitting a language GCSE plummeted from 444,700 in the summer of 1998 to 273,000 in 2010. Internet

Affordable health screening for elderly

SINGAPORE, 2 Oct—The Health Promotion Board (HPB) has launched a community screening programme to get more senior citizens checked for chronic diseases and cancers.

It also wants to make sure that residents with health issues receive follow-up care.

It’s a one-stop shop—taking about an hour—-to test for conditions like obesity and high blood pressure, as well as cervical and colorectal cancer.

The idea is to persuade those who’ve put off the potential costs and inconvenience to make the effort to go for health screening.

The program was piloted at Whampoa on Saturday and will make its way to 87 locations over the next three years.

Residents may list their own GP, or be paired with a clinic under the network.

So far, nine GP clinics have signed up under the Whampoa network.

Residents from low-income households may also qualify for subsidised polyclinic rates when they see a GP under the Primary Care Partnership Scheme. Internet

Tokyo, seven other nations sign anti-counterfeiting treaty

TOKYO, 2 Oct—Japan, the United States and six other nations signed a treaty in Tokyo on Saturday to fight counterfeit and pirated goods, saying their proliferation hurts economic growth and helps organized crime.

At the signing ceremony, Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Gemba nonetheless said the treaty “turns a new page” in global crackdowns.

“We must stop damage from surging counterfeit and pirated products,” he said.

As well as Japan and the US, it was signed by Australia, Canada, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea. The EU, Mexico and Switzerland intend to sign once they have passed enabling legislation.

The treaty, for which negotiations began in 2008, is designed to enhance international frameworks for fighting the distribution of counterfeit brand goods and pirated music and film products.

The accord states that “the proliferation of counterfeit and pirated foods, as well as services that distribute infringing materials undermines legitimate trade and sustainable development of the world economy”.

Such proliferation also causes financial losses for rights holders and provides “a source of revenue for organized crime and otherwise poses risks to the public,” the treaty says.

The participating countries are expected to call on China and other nations to join the treaty to make it more effective. Internet

Qatar seals 1.6-bln-USD investment at Greek mining company

ATHENS, 2 Oct—Greece and Qatar sealed a 1.2-billion-euro (1.6 billion US dollars) investment at “Hellenic Gold” mining company during Qatar Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani’s visit to Athens on Saturday.

As a delegation of auditors from EU/International Monetary Fund lenders continue deliberations with Greek officials in Athens this weekend over the terms of the release of further funding to the debt-ridden country to avoid default, the Emir of Qatar held talks with Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou over the prospects of Qatar investments in Greece.

The deal signed in the presence of the two leaders was a large task ahead to create up to 1,500 job positions at the northern Greece mines. “This agreement sends a message to the international community that Greece offers development opportunities, following the reforms implemented by the government,” Papandreou—Xinhua.

People from home and abroad perform during the opening performance of 2011 Liuzhou International Water Carnival in Liuzhou, south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 1 Oct, 2011.—Xinhua

Models present creations by CHRISTIAN DIOR during the Spring/Summer 2012 women’s ready-to-wear fashion collection during Paris Fashion Week, in Paris, France, on 30 Sept, 2011.—Xinhua

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Maastricht bans cannabis

Maastricht, 2 Oct —
A ban on some foreign
travelers has come into
force in the cannabis-sell-
ing coffee shops of the
Dutch border city of
Maastricht. City authori-
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Horrified mother claims kindergarten children
sexually assaulted her five-year-old

He was 5 at the time. She alleges four
kindergarten boys held the victim down,
removed his pants and violated the boy
with at least one finger.

Now aged six, Miss Valero, of Astoria,
says her son is traumatised. ‘My son still
can’t sleep and he is very anxious, even
though he is going to therapy,’ she told

The boy has been transferred after
the incident which happened before the end
of the school year last June. According to
Miss Valero’s suit, the suffered perma-
nent physical and psychological injuries
from the attack.

Police were called in to investigate,
but detectives dropped the case because
of the young age of the children
involved.
Three brothers share same birthday

A British woman said her infant son is her third boy to be born on the same birthday, two days before their father’s birthday. Sammy Kellett, 24, of Preston, England, said her son Kyle was born 20 Sept, giving him the same birthday as brothers Keiran, 6, and Kaiden, 3, The Sun reported.

“I couldn’t believe it when I’d done it again,” Kellet said. “I still can’t. It’s crazy, it’s mad. I’ve got three KKs, all the 20th of the ninth.”

Paul Simon, Patriots owner inducted into academy

CAMBRIDGE, 2 Oct—Singer-songwriter Paul Simon and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft are among more than 175 artists, scientists and institutional leaders who have been inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The induction ceremony took place Saturday in Sanders Theater at Harvard University. Simon surprised the crowd by playing “American Tune” from his 1973 album “There Goes Rhymin’ Simon.” Other inductees included groundbreaking cancer researcher Clara Bloomfield and film producer Kathleen Kennedy, who’s well known for her work on “Jurassic Park” and “ET.” Founded in 1780, the Cambridge, Mass.-based academy is one of the country’s oldest learned societies. Its membership includes more than 250 Nobel laureates, some 100 Pulitzer Prize winners and many of the world’s most celebrated artists and performers.

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Bear walks into pizzeria, eats pizza

Authorities in British Columbia said they are searching for a black bear that strolled into a pizzeria, ate an entire pizza and skipped out on its bill.

Conservation officers said the bear was spotted riffling through the trash outside Fat Tony’s pizza parlor in Whistler Village shortly after 6 pm Monday and soon walked into the establishment through the door and grabbed a beef and blue cheese pizza from the counter, the Vancouver Sun reported.

Employee Colin Mont said the bear left after finishing the pie and did not damage anything at the store other than the outside trash can. Conservation officers said they are considering setting up a trap for the bear outside the restaurant.

Doctors reattach hiker’s thumb

Surgeons at a San Francisco hospital said they have reattached a thumb to a hiker whose digit was severed by a rope.

The California Pacific Medical Centre in San Francisco said the Australian hiker’s thumb was severed by the rope during a fall while climbing El Capitan at Yosemite National Park, KTLL-TV, Los Angeles, reported Friday.

The hiker was rescued by park rangers in a helicopter and his hiking partner was able to retrieve the thumb from a ledge about 80 feet down from where it was severed.

Black Eyed Peas play wet NYC Central Park

NEW YORK, 2 Oct—The Black Eyed Peas played a rain-soaked benefit concert in Central Park in front of nearly 60,000 wet fans.

The Friday night show was to make up for a 9 June concert that was rained out, New York Daily News reported.

“The rain makes it even more magical,” said concert-goer Gary Meltzer, 45, who was with his 4-year-old son, Zach. “Once you’re wet, you’re wet, and my little [ones] love the Black Eyed Peas.”

Most of the crowd got their tickets for free from an online lottery, but some paid for VIP passes, giving them front-stage access.—Internet

Harry Potter e-book sales postponed until 2012

LONDON, 2 Oct—Harry Potter fans will have to wait a bit longer to buy the magic tales in electronic form.

The creators of the online Potter portal said Friday that the launch of an e-book store has been pushed back to next year.

The seven Harry Potter books had been due to go on sale in October, exclusively through the “Pottermore” website.

The site is a combination of virtual encyclopedia, role-playing game and online community for fans of author J.K. Rowling’s boy wizard.

It launched in July and is so far accessible to 1 million registered users chosen through an online competition.

In a blog posting on the site, “Pottermore” management said registration would be open to everyone from the end of October, and the online store would open in “the first half of 2012.”

The posting said use of the site so far had been “phenomenal,” and the delay would “allow us to focus on our first priority: opening ‘Pottermore’ to as many people as possible and making the experience as good as it can be.”

Amped-up Cirque du Soleil show pays tribute to King of Pop

MONTREAL, 2 Oct—After paying tribute to The Beatles with its Fab Four-themed Love, Montreal’s famed Cirque du Soleil troupe of acrobatic performers is now taking on the King of Pop.

Michael Jackson The Immortal launches in Cirque’s hometown Montreal on 2 October and will travel to 47 cities around North America through 17 July in a splashy tribute filled with the music and iconic moves of Michael Jackson.
Frank Lampard scored a hat-trick as Chelsea cruised to a big win at Bolton Wanderers

LONDON, 2 Oct — Bolton had been beaten on Chelsea's eight previous visits and within two minutes they were behind. Juan Mata swung in a corner and Sturridge rose unmarked to convert, the forward choosing not to celebrate the goal against his former club. After 15 minutes it was 2-0 as Sturridge squared in the box for Lampard, who had the space to slot the ball past Adam Bogdan.

Chelsea then scored twice in as many minutes as stand-in keeper Bogdan let Sturridge's 18-yard shot loop in off him on 25 minutes. The Hungarian then parried David Luiz's strike straight at the feet of Lampard, who tucked it away gleefully. Wanderers pulled a goal back a minute after the break when Boyata nodded in Marc Petrow's free-kick and Lampard completed his hat-trick on 59 minutes, sweeping in from Didier Drogba's pass. —Internet

BUDAPEST, 2 Oct — Alesia Vazmitzl of Belarus won World Pole Dance gold in Hungary

Alesia Vazmitzl, 23, won the world title with a perfect free routine in Budapest, taking gold in the women's singles category and a doubles event were also won.

For the first time at a World Championship, two new categories, men's singles and a doubles event were included in the competition.

The men's singles gold medal was won by Evgeny Khan puts unified title on line against Peterson

LONDON, 2 Oct — England's Amir Khan will put his lightweight title belt on the line in a championship fight against Lamont Peterson in the American boxer's hometown of Washington, DC. Khan takes on No 1 contender Peterson on 10 December following his 140-pound unification win in July over American veteran Zab Judah in Las Vegas. Peterson is considered the top challenger to Olympic silver medalist Khan, who has a record of 26-1 with 18 knockouts. The 24-year-old fighter is making his sixth title defence. The 27-year-old Peterson is 29-1-1 with 15 KOs and is getting his second shot at the title after losing a decision to Timothy Bradley in 2009. —Internet

Mazzarri says Napoli deserve win over Inter

ROME, 2 Oct — Napoli head coach Walter Mazzarri claimed the side deserved the win after they beat Inter 3-0 on Saturday. "I thank my players for having given me the greatest birthday gift I could have asked for," said Mazzarri who turned 50 that day. "Incidents do happen in football and I said the same last season when we conceded a penalty and then lost against Milan. "It is that we played well and in terms of overall performance we deserved the win tonight. We were denied a clear penalty against Fiorentina last week, so mistakes happen to everyone over the course of a campaign. "Napoli can now be considered genuine Scudetto contenders, having beaten both Milan and Inter, not to mention ending an arun of seven consecutive San Siro defeats."

Napoli players celebrate their goal during a Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and Napoli at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, on 1 Oct, 2011. —Xinhua

Moyes fumes after Rodwell red card sinks Everton

LONDON, 2 Oct — Everton manager David Moyes couldn't contain his anger after Jack Rodwell's harsh red card helped Liverpool to a 2-0 victory in the 216th Merseyside derby.

Moyes' side were forced to play for more than an hour with 10 men after England under-21 midfielder Rodwell was given his marching orders by referee Martin Atkinson for a challenge on Liverpool striker Luis Suarez. It was an extremely harsh decision as replays showed Rodwell clearly won the ball.

Liverpool went on to make the extra man advantage count as goals by Andy Carroll and Suarez earned the visitors a fourth league win in six games. Rodwell is the 19th player to be sent off in the last 27 league and cup meetings between the neighbouring clubs.

"I'd have been disappointed if the referee had given a free-kick for that," Moyes said after his side lost back-to-back league games for the first time in nearly two years. —Internet

Spurs heap misery on Arsenal

LONDON, 2 Oct — Tottenham pipped the Gunners for second on the northern London rivals Arsenal as Kyle Walker's long-range strike clinched a 2-1 win.

Harry Redknapp's side condemned the Gunners to their fourth defeat in seven Premier League games this season after Arsenal goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny failed to deal with Walker's swerving 30-yard effort in the 73rd minute at White Hart Lane. Sixth-placed Spurs had taken the lead through Rafael van der Vaart's cool finish in the 40th minute, although the Dutch midfielder appeared to use the upper part of his arm to control Emmanuel Adebayor's pass prior to the goal.

Arsenal equalised in the 51st minute when Wales midfielder Aaron Ramsey finished off Alex Song's cross from close-range, but Walker settled a fiercely-fought derby when he shot his slip through Szczesny's grasp.

There was more bad news for Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger, whose side are languishing just two points off the relegation zone in 15th place, as France right-back Bacary Sagna was stretchered off in the second half. —Internet
Kvitova to break Grand Slam curse at China Open

BEIJING, 2 Oct—Three newly-crowned Grand Slam winners Li Na, Petra Kvitova and Samantha Stosur all suffered a downturn after winning the championship, while Kvitova expressed her determination to break the so-called Grand Slam champion curse here on Sunday.

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Marco Palacios (L) of Pumas fights for the ball with Aquirvaldo Mosquera of America during their Mexican soccer league match at Olimpico Stadium of Ciudad Universitaria in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, Oct. 1, 2011. Xinhua

Weather forecast for 3rd October, 2011

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Union Foreign Affairs Minister sends felicitations to ROK
NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct — On the occasion of National Foundation Day of the Republic of Korea, which falls on 3 October 2011, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Kim Sung-hwan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea.—MNA

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates German counterpart
NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Guido Wester Welle, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, on the occasion of the Day of German Unity of the Federal Republic of Germany, which falls on 3 October 2011. — MNA

A tale of two towns, PyinOoLwin and Mogok
Byline: Kayan Soe Myint; Photos: Kyaw Moe Lwin

No sooner had I arrived back from Bagan than I went to PyinOoLwin at an altitude of 3538 feet, 42-mile east of Mandalay. According to the order in the time of King Badon, it was founded in 1149 ME. After King Thibaw was dethroned, Colonel May of No (5) Bengal Battalion arrived there in 1886. It was upgraded into a town and renamed Maymyo. Although the name of Maymyo was changed again into PyinOoLwin in the time of Dr Ba Maw government, the former was still popular. In 1989, Maymyo was renamed PyinOoLwin by notification.

Mogok was founded after establishment of Thaphanbin village which was set up in 579 ME. As hunters who lost their way in the forest noticed crows and birds hovering over the region where Mogok was established later, they went there where they saw precious stones and rubies near the landslide. They took them and offered respectfully to Chieftain Thohanphat who governed Momeik and Moehlaing. An officer and members were sent there to safeguard the ruby land where they built a town together with their families. The word “Mogok” is derived from the word referring that this town sees sunset earlier than usual. Besides, the town has many other names in Shan language.

It has come to my attention that a road linking PyinOoLwin and Mogok, two towns which are within short distance but are not accessible easily each other, is being constructed by special groups of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction in cooperation with local construction companies commencing 2010. Now laying of gravel and tarmacking of road are in progress.

Rollers are ready for land preparation for tarmacking the road.