President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Algerian President

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1st November, 2011.—MNA

True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

President U Thein Sein felicitates Algerian Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia, Prime Minister of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1st November, 2011.—MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (31-10-2011)

Hmawby (1.06) inches
Khamti (0.59) inch

43rd day session of Pyithu Hluttaw continues

Three questions replied, representatives invited to discuss three bills

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 378 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives attended the 43rd day session of the Pyithu Hluttaw at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building, here, at 1 pm today.

At today’s session, three questions were asked and answered and the Hluttaw representatives were informed to enlist for discussions on three bills.

With regard to answer of the Union Minister to the question on stability and development of border areas raised by U Saw Thein Aung of Hlaingbwe Constituency, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw said that peace and stability of border areas and development is the matter that all national people aspire. Both the government and the Pyithu Hluttaw emphasize the above-mentioned matter. The Pyithu Hluttaw, on its part, has formed the National Race Affairs and Internal Peace Committee.

The Hluttaw representatives are to inform national race armed groups about objective conditions for peace and stability in their regions by taking their capabilities and strength of the people. Any requirement, submission, suggestion, question and discussion may be sent to the Hluttaw or National Race Affairs and Internal Peace Committee through Hluttaw representatives. With regard to the explanation of the Union Minister, the Hluttaw representatives are to make clarifications on actual situation in their respective regions.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay replied to two questions on border affairs raised by two Hluttaw representatives. U N Phon Hsan (a) U N Htu Phon Hsan of Machanbaw Constituency said that as five new students from Machanbaw Township were sent to Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Mandalay) for 2011-2012 academic year, two of five were rejected at the state level. Remaining three students from their arrival at the degree college lost the chance to attend the degree college. He asked he wanted to know the reason for missing the chance to attend the degree college, and whether there is an opportunity for national race youths from remote areas to attend the degree college next years. The Union Minister replied that opening of the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges and choosing of students have been explained on a wider scale at the session of the Pyithu Hluttaw held on 24 August. Two of five students form Machanbaw Township did not join the region/state level selection programme of their own accord. Remaining three students were tentatively selected. Priority will be given to choosing the students who were disqualified this year if they are qualified next academic year.

(See page 8)
Positive changes and developments

Myanmar has begun to witness a series of positive changes and developments following the Hluttaw sessions gathering momentum.

Social, health, education and economic development schemes, which are the main topics of Hluttaw representatives at the Hluttaw sessions, are beginning to show results that agricultural loans for farmers have doubled from previously 20,000 kyats to 40,000 kyats per acre. Under poverty alleviation programme, money is also loaned to hawkers and breeders.

Furthermore, in regions and states, national registration cards were once difficult to apply to is now much simplified. Moreover, in urban areas, in the interests of the middle class, the swap scheme for over-40-year-old vehicles has been introduced to substitute ageing cars with new ones and permission has been given for importation of new automobiles.

Suspension of Myitsone Dam Project by President U Thein Sein is a landmark in democratization process of Myanmar as the President has made the decision in response to the voices of people.

Again, the State has allowed private banks to officially run currency exchange services with a view to contributing smooth circulation of money for companies and businesses engaged in foreign trade. The result is local currency “Kyat” has become stable, driving the national economy.

The incumbent government, showing its loving-kindness and sympathy towards its citizens, has granted amnesty to over 6,000 prisoners who have been behind the bars for various reasons.

These are the tangible results of the reforms of the democratic government in consideration of national interests. And these are no doubt positive signs of development for Myanmar people, assumes the NLM.
DPRK, Russian, Chinese performers top circus prize as festival ends in north China

SHIJIAZHUANG, 31 Oct—Performers from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Russia and China won the top prize on circus as an international circus festival concluded Sunday in north China’s Hebei Province.

The nine-day 13th China Wuqiao International Circus Festival (CWICF), was held in the provincial Capital Shijiazhuang.

Flying Trapeze from the DPRK, Springboard Acrobatics on Monocycles from China were given the top prize “Golden Lion Award,” with 15 others winning the “Silver Lion Award” and “Bronze Lion Award,” said Bian Fajun, president of the China Acrobatics Association and also chairman of the judging committee.

More than 30 performances from 17 countries and regions were staged during the festival, originated in 1987 and held every other year, according to Bian.

The CWICF, named after the birthplace of Chinese acrobatics — Wuqiao County of Hebei, is considered one of the three most famed acrobatic competitions in the world along with the Monte-Carlo International Circus Festival in Monaco and the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain (the World Festival of the Circus of Tomorrow) in France.—Xinhua

India remembers Indira Gandhi on 27th death anniversary

NEW DELHI, 31 Oct—The country fondly remembers former prime minister Indira Gandhi on her 27th death anniversary on Monday with President Pratibha Patil leading the nation in paying rich tributes to the departed leader. Patil paid floral tributes at Shakti Sthal, the memorial of Gandhi, here this morning.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi were also present on the occasion. Delhi Lt Governor Tejinder Khanna, Union Ministers Vilasrao Deshmukh, Kamal Nath, K V Thomas, N Narayana Swamy and Krishna Tirath and senior Congress leaders Motilal Vohra, Manishankar Aiyar were also present.

Devolitional songs were played at the venue as the dignitaries sat at Shakti Sthal after paying tributes to the late leader.

A speech by Indira Gandhi was also played on the occasion.

The former prime minister was assassinated by her bodyguards on 31 October, 1984, the same year when she had launched ‘Operation Blue Star’ to crush secessionist movement in Punjab and sent troops into the Golden Temple of Amritsar. —MNA/PTI

Three killed, two wounded in south Thailand shootings

BANGKOK, 31 Oct—At least three people were killed and two others injured in two separate shootings in south Thailand’s Narathiwat Province on Sunday, local media reported.

Three people were shot dead by militants in a grocery store in Narathiwat, Thai media The Nation quoted police as saying.

Four militants came to the store on two motorcycles, pretending to buy goods. They shot a woman in front of her 8-year-old son. They killed the woman’s father-in-law and a custormer in the store, according to the report.

In a separate case, a gunman on a motorcycle shot at two government employees in Narathiwat’s Rueso District, injuring both of them. The injured were sent to hospital.

The shootings followed a series of bomb attacks last week. Last Tuesday, at least three people were killed in seven bombings in Yala Province, neighbouring Narathiwat. Last Sunday, a shooting and two bombings killed at least seven people, including two soldiers. More than 4,800 people have died in conflicts in southern Thailand for the past eight years.—Xinhua

Attack near UN office kills five in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 31 Oct—Militants driving a suicide truck bomb and attacking on foot killed five people, including three United Nations employees, near the offices of the UN’s refugee agency in the southern city of Kandahar on Monday, officials said. Afghan forces and the militants exchanged fire for nearly seven hours before the militants were killed.

One militant slammed an explosives-rigged pickup truck into a checkpoint near the UNHCR’s offices at about 6:10 am, and immediately afterward, three militants rushed into area, which houses several international aid organizations, the Interior Ministry said. The militants seized control of at least one building, and the ensuing gunbattle with Afghan and NATO forces lasted until 1 pm, the ministry said.

The UNCHR said three of its staff were killed and two wounded in the combined assault and bombing. It did not say whether they were Afghans or foreigners.—Internet

Treasure in US aid to Iraq said stolen

BAGHDAD, 31 Oct—Hundreds of millions of dollars in US aid to Iraq during the war were stolen by Iraqi officials, the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction says.

“Hundreds of millions if not billions of dollars [were] stolen by senior Iraqi officials for their own personal gain,” Inspecter General for Iraq Reconstruction Stuart W Bowen Jr told CNBC Saturday.

While Bowen said he was satisfied most of the money made it to the entities meant to get it, he said he still had questions about what happened to some of the money left over when the Coalition Provisional Authority was disbanded.

“Two hundred and 17 million [dollars] was in the basement of the US embassy,” Bowen said. “That last tranche is what we continue to be concerned about.” Bowen said he would investigate the status of as much as $12 billion in assets shipped to Baghdad between 2003 and 2004.

The United States should take some basic financial lessons from its experience in Iraq, he said. “Pouring cash—hundreds of millions in dollars of cash—across a war zone is a foolish thing to do,” he said.—Internet

Attacks on Indian embassy in Kyrgyzstan

AFGHANISTAN.—At least 21 people were killed and 95 injured in a series of bomb attacks on Indian embassy in Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek.

The Indian embassy is shuttered until further notice due to security reasons.

An Afghan security guard, who was wounded in a suicide bombing, is taken to the hospital for treatment, in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on 31 Oct, 2011. —INTERNET

Indian embassy in Kyrgyzstan closed

BISHKEK.—The Indian embassy in Bishkek was closed on Sunday after a series of bomb attacks on the facility.

Embassy personnel said they were concerned about the safety of the Indian embassy and its staffs.

India has been in Kyrgyzstan since 1992 and has been working on enhancing its trade and economic relations with the country.

India’s mission in Bishkek is a branch of its embassy in Moscow.

Indian embassy in Kyrgyzstan says it is safe

BISHKEK.—The Indian embassy in Bishkek said the situation around the embassy was under control.

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Asia stocks lower, dollar surges against yen

Bangkok, 31 Oct—Asian stock markets were mostly lower Monday as investors shifted their focus from Europe’s debt woes to the strength of the US economy. Japan sold the yen to limit its export-sapping strength. Japan’s Nikkei 225 index fell 0.2 percent to 9,035.95 despite the currency intervention. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng slipped 1.2 percent to 19,782.32 and South Korea’s Kospi was 0.9 percent lower at 1,912.58. Benchmarks in Australia, mainland China, Singapore and Taipei also fell, while those in New Zealand, India and Thailand rose.

The dollar surged about 5 percent to above 79 yen after Japan sold its currency, which had earlier hit a new post-World War II high against the greenback.

The strong yen has dented earnings of Japanese corporations such as Nintendo Co and Toyota Motor Corp and hurt the economy’s recovery from the 11 March earthquake and tsunami. Finance Minister Jun Azumi said monetary authorities could continue intervening. A report Thursday showed that the US economy expanded at a solid 2.5 percent annual rate in the July-September quarter. That helped ease concerns that another recession might be nearing.

While the economy is growing, it may not be enough to generate many jobs. The US unemployment rate has been stuck at 9.1 percent for three months. Analysts expect roughly 100,000 jobs to be added in October. Anything less could raise concerns that the economy may slow.

In currencies Monday, the euro fell to $1.4034 from $1.4170 on Friday in New York. The dollar sprinted to 79.18 yen from 75.76 yen.

Benchmark crude for December delivery was down 63 cents at $92.69 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 94 cents to settle at $93.32 in New York on Friday.

Joking helps kids ‘think out of the box’

Stirling, (England) 31 Oct—Joking and pretending with toddlers help them develop life skills such as “learning to think outside of the box,” British researchers found.

Dr Elena Hoicka of the University of Stirling and colleagues examined how the two very similar concepts of joking and pretending — both involve intentionally doing or saying the wrong thing — develop in children ages 15-24 months.

“Joking is about doing something wrong just for the sake of it. In contrast, pretending is about doing something wrong which is imagined to be right,” Hoicka said in a statement. “For example, parents might use a sponge like a duck while pretending but use a cat as a duck when joking.”

The study found parents rely on a range of language styles, sound and non-verbal cues such as when they talk slowly and loudly and repeat their actions.

Conversely, parents tend to cue their children to jokes by showing their disbelief through language, and using a more excited tone of voice.

“We found that most parents employ these different cues quite naturally to help their toddlers understand and differentiate these concepts,” Hoicka said in a statement.

“While not all parents feel confident in their natural abilities, the research does show that making the effort to interact in this way with toddlers is important,” Hoicka said in a statement.

“Knowing how to joke is great for making friends, dealing with stress, thinking creatively and learning to think outside the box.”

Bone strengthening drugs need monitoring

Dallas, 31 Oct—US bone specialists report the risk of fractures from bisphosphonates — bone strengthening drugs — is low, but should be monitored closely. Dr Khashayar Sakhaee, chief of mineral metabolism at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre, said bisphosphonates — a class of drugs designed to strengthen bone mass that include osteoporosis drugs like Fosamax and Actonel — have been linked recently to an increased risk of thigh bone breaks.

“Bisphosphonates are generally beneficial in the treatment of patients at high risk for osteoporosis-related fractures,” Sakhaee said in a statement.

“However, fracture risk has been shown to increase with longer duration of use.” Sakhaee said a study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, found among women age 55 and older who suffered atypical femur fractures, 78 percent were taking some form of bisphosphonate.

Women were more than 47 times more likely to suffer a femur fracture if they took a bisphosphonate drug, but the actual risk of suffering such a thigh fracture was still relatively low, Sakhaee said.
China announces launch time of Shenzhou-8

BOULDER, 31 Oct—A China manned space programme spokeswoman said here Monday that the unmanned spacecraft Shenzhou-8 is scheduled to be launched at 5:58 am Tuesday. A modified Long March-2F rocket, the fuel of which is being refilled, will carry the spacecraft from the launch pad at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest desert areas, spokeswoman Wu Ping said.

Wu said technical conditions of all systems are normal, interfaces of different systems are coordinated, ground tests are adequate, contingency plans are ready and all facilities are sound, which meet requirements for a launch. Shenzhou-8 is expected to dock with an experimental space module Tiangong-1 that was put into orbit on 29 Sept. The practice will take place within two days after the launch of Shenzhou-8, the latest step in what will be a decade-long effort to place a manned permanent space station in orbit.

Russian supply ship heads for ISS

MOSCOW, 31 Oct—Russia Sunday announced the launch of a Soyuz-U rocket on a mission to haul supplies to the International Space Station. The rocket sent a Progress cargo vessel into orbit where it will deliver food and a small weather-research satellite to the ISS. The cargo will replace the supplies that were lost in August when another unmanned Progress crashed after failing to separate from the rocket. Russia’s RIA Novosti news agency said.

The ISS is manned by a three-member crew that includes US astronaut Michael Fossum, cosmonaut Sergei Volkov and Japanese astronaut Satoshi Furukawa. They will return to Earth on 22 Nov.

Human activity called a drought factor

BOULDER, 31 Oct—Human-caused climate change is a major factor in the increase in the frequency of droughts in the Mediterranean region, US scientists say.

Scientists with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration said wintertime droughts are increasing—li common in the region and climate change from human activity is partly responsible, a NOAA release said Friday.

“The magnitude and frequency of the drying that has occurred is too great to be explained by natural variability alone,” Martin Hoerling of NOAA’s Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colo., said. “This is not encouraging news for a region that already experiences water stress, because it implies natural variability alone is unlikely to return the region’s climate to normal.”

Hoerling’s team discovered a pattern of increasing wintertime dryness that stretched from Gibraltar to the Middle East, and concluded climate change from greenhouse gases caused roughly half the increased dryness between 1902, the first year of a recorded rainfall data set, and 2010.

The Mediterranean has long been considered a “hot spot” for substantial impact from climate change in the latter decades of this century because of water scarcity in the region and a rapidly increasing population.

BlackBerry Bold 9900 gets the MasterCard mobile payment nod

NEW YORK, 31 Oct—Two BlackBerry models—the Bold 9900 and the Curve 9360—have been approved for MasterCard near-field communications payments.

The two devices join the Samsung Nexus S 4G as the only mobile phones that interact with the platform. However BlackBerry maker Research In Motion claims that the two phones are the world’s first SIM-based smartphones to receive such certification.

TMDB launches entertainment news app “IMDb Buzz”

NEW YORK, 31 Oct—IMDb continued its push into the mobile space on Thursday with the launch of IMDb Buzz, an entertainment news application for the iPhone and iPod touch. The app offers “up-to-the-minute entertainment news” from “hundreds” of sources, including this site. The customizable app will let users pick which news feeds they want to follow, which celebrities they want to see photos of and other such features. “With IMDb Buzz, our users can access breaking entertainment news from our extensive roster of top tier NewsDesk partners including Access Hollywood, indieWire and TheWrap, while following their favourite celebrities, TV shows, films and news sources in a customized newsfeed — all from the convenience of their iPhone,” said Kintan Brahmbhatt, head of mobile for IMDb.

After the success of its initial IMDb app, particularly on Apple devices, the company has aggressively pursued the mobile space this year. It launched the IMDb Trivia app in September, and Thursday it also announced new upgrades both to that app and its original IMDb app.

“Ace we laser-focused on building an unrivalled portfolio of leading entertainment apps,” Col Needham, founder and CEO of IMDb, said in a statement.

New research indicates that Atlantic Ocean temperatures during the greenhouse climate of the Late Cretaceous Epoch were influenced by circulation in the deep ocean. These changes in circulation patterns 70 million years ago could help scientists understand the consequences of modern increases in greenhouse gases.

If you have any of the phones and are approved by MasterCard, you can make a payment by merely waving it before a PayPass reader. PayPass is now available in 350,000 locations including McDonald’s, CVS, Macy’s and Walgreens, but MasterCard hopes one day to integrate the technology into Microsoft’s Kinect so you can wave your smartphone in front of your TV to buy things.
China’s Three Gorges hits full capacity

YICHANG, 31 Oct—China’s Three Gorges Dam on Sunday reached its designed highest mark, the second time for the world’s largest water control and hydropower project to run at full capacity. The water level hit 175 metres at 5 pm after storing water for nearly two months from the water level of 152 metres, said an official with the China Three Gorges Project Corporation (CTGPC), the developer of the project.

A dozen hydropower turbo-generator units started operation on Sunday, generating power capacity of 8.2 million kw, said the official.

The dam in central China’s Hubei Province completed its first full-capacity test last October. Operating at full capacity should give full play to the dam’s functions of generating hydro-electric power, delivering water to the lower reaches to alleviate spring flooding, and containing water from summer flooding, as required by the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters.

The Three Gorges Project was launched in 1993 with a budget equivalent to 22.5 billion US dollars.

So far, monitoring shows the dam is operating smoothly.

Fijian schools to implement bans on junk food

SUVA, 31 Oct—Fiji’s Ministry of Health said Monday that they want all school canteens in the island nation to enforce rules which promote healthy eating habits in children in a move to reduce Non Communicable Diseases.

Health Ministry spokesperson Peni Namotu said health inspectors from the food unit will be monitoring schools to ensure guidelines are followed.

The sale of oily food, sweets and fizzy drinks at the canteens are a major concern and Namotu said instead, school canteens should be selling fruit as well as vegetables and juice.

He said those schools which failed to comply with the guidelines should face legal action.

Canteen guidelines were implemented in partnership with the Education Ministry.

Fiji spends 39 percent of its health budget to tackle non-communicable diseases, which cause 80 percent of deaths and illnesses.

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Marine engineering student from Kerala creates world record in Martial arts

Kochi, 31 Oct—Midhun Jith, a marine engineering student made his way to the Guinness World Records for maximum number of kicks on one leg.

Standing on one leg he accomplished the feat in time duration of one and three minutes.

The 22-year-old student kicked over 310 times in the one-minute round and over 630 kicks in the three-minute performance.

A large number of onlookers were present to witness this achievement and cheered Jith.

“A few years ago, a Spanish expert Fabian had attempted the record for 129 kicks and after ten years, when I searched on You Tube I found that no one had broken the same record. So that was my whole motivation to break his record. Some one like Shijuh Shetri and Ahmed Hussain had already broken it, but I still tried and wanted to do it at any cost. I had never expected to do 310 kicks in a minute,” said Jith.

The new world record holder toiled for years to win the coveted title. Jith received his black belt in Karate when he had just stepped into his teens.—Xinhua

A female volunteer acts in the performance art entitled “The White Soldier” created by Yuda Braun, an artist and former Israeli soldier, in Jerusalem, on 30 Oct, 2011. White from head to toe and in full combat gear, the White Soldier “patrolled” along the narrow strip of land that is adjacent to the eastern section of the Old City walls in Jerusalem. This territory was declared “no man’s land” during the years between 1948 and 1967.—Xinhua

Philippines greets world’s possible symbolic 7 billionth baby

MANILA, 31 Oct—The Philippines greeted with excitement one of the symbolic 7 billionth babies in the world shortly after midnight Sunday in a hospital in Manila, local media reported Monday.

It’s a baby girl with 5.5-pound. Philippine Health Secretary Enrique Ona said they will submit the baby’s name and time of birth to the World Health Organization to see if the baby is indeed the world’s seventh billionth.

The Philippines is the 12th most populous country in the world with 94.9 million people, according to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA)’s State of the World Population Report.—Xinhua

UAE opens mobile hospital at Somali-Kenyan border

MOGADISHU, 31 Oct—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has opened a 50-bed mobile hospital at the Somali-Kenyan border to provide medical help to the needy in the refugee camps.

Opened as a charity initiative, the hospital will provide the diagnostic, curative and surgical services to sick children and elderly people at the refugee camps. The field hospital has 23 doctors, technicians and administrators.

The move is in line with the efforts of a charity initiative launched on the directions of Fatima bint Mubarak, chairperson of General Women’s Union and of Family Development Foundation.

The setting up of Emirates Mobile Hospital at the Somali-Kenyan Border is an extension to the humanitarian services being provided by the UAE to the victims and refugees at the camps under the directives by President Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Mubarak said.—Internet

People attend a ceremony at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 30 Oct, 2011. Cambodia on Sunday celebrated the 20th anniversary of ailing former retired King Norodom Sihanouk’s return from exile and his 89-year-old birthday turning to 90 on 31 Oct.—Xinhua

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He said those schools which failed to comply with the guidelines should face legal action.

Canteen guidelines were implemented in partnership with the Education Ministry.

Fiji spends 39 percent of its health budget to tackle obesity and related problems, only because citizens choose to eat unhealthy products and become less active as they got hooked to certain junk food advertisements.

Health Minister Doctor Neil Sharma urges parents not to remain idle in instilling proper eating habits in their children.

Sharma says mothers in the island nation were breastfeeding their infants less, and spending more money and time on formula and bottle feed.

In Fiji, a ban will soon waiting to pass a ship lock by the Three Gorges Dam, in Yichang, central China’s Hubei Province. The water level of the Three Gorges Dam, the world’s largest water control and hydropower project which spans China’s Yangtze River, reached its designed full capacity of 175 metres on Sunday.

The venue of the G20 summit is seen in Cannes, France, on 30 Oct, 2011.—INTERNET

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Xinhua
Kuwait to delay privatization of national airways

KUWAIT CITY, 31 Oct—The Kuwaiti government has decided to delay the privatization of the country’s national flat carrier and would put forward a restructuring plan instead, a committee overseeing the privatization said Sunday.

Kuwait Airways, established in 1954, has been locked in a prolonged privatization process since 2007, an effort by the Kuwaiti government to reverse hardship and cut consecutive losses in operation.

The cabinet has approved the recommendation and would provide the legal framework for restructuring the airline prior to its privatization, the Privatization Committee of Kuwait Airways said in a statement published by the official KUNA news agency.

The committee said the decision was in line with the successful steps taken by other regional and international airlines in their privatization and would provide long-term strategic benefits to the airline and the Gulf emirate’s economy.

According to a plan approved by Kuwait’s parliament in 2008, the government would sell 40 percent of the airline to the public and 35 percent to a long-term investor.

“The delay in privatizing Kuwait Airways gives us the opportunity to address a number of operational and structural issues ahead of a future privatization programme,” said Moqad Al-Sane, chairman of the committee.

Nepal's population increase lesser than estimated

KATHMANDU, 31 Oct—As the world crosses the 7 billion population mark on Monday, Nepal’s total population has remained lesser than 26.6 million, said the Nepali Government.

Talking to Xinhua, Joint Secretary and Chief of Population Department at the Ministry of Health and Population Padam Raj Bhatta said that the total population of Nepal is 26.6 million. “Our population is 1.7 million people live abroad,” Bhatta said.

“The Nepalese Government had expected that the population would reach 27.3 million but it has remained lesser,” he added. The world’s population will reach 7 billion on October 31, 2011, according to projections by the United Nations.

According to Bhatta, the population increase rate has decreased to 1.4 from 2.24 percent, while the birth rate has remained at 2.7 percent. “The government has been making serious efforts to decrease the birth rate at a targeted 2.2 percent,” Bhatta told Xinhua.

Bhatta further said that the population increase will not create a shortage in the supply of foodstuff. “However, due to lack of sufficient manpower in the agricultural sector, we have not been able to increase our agricultural products,” he said.

Brazil to be world’s 6th largest economy in 2011

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 Oct—Brazil will become the world’s sixth largest economy in 2011 due to the global financial crisis that has affected the main economic powers in including Britain, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and several other organizations said Sunday.

According to the data, which was quoted by local newspapers, Brazil’s gross domestic product (GDP) in 2011 will surpass Kuwait’s, reaching 2.44 trillion US dollars against Britain’s 2.41 trillion and making Brazil the world’s sixth largest economy.

In 2010, Brazil became the seventh largest economy in the world by surpassing Italy. At the end of the decade, the Brazilian GDP will be larger than any other European country’s, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU’s) forecast, which estimated that the Brazilian economy will surpass Germany’s in 2020.

Solar panel plant to address South Africa’s power shortage

EAST LONDON, (South Africa), 31 Oct.—A $1.3 million solar panel manufacturing plant has opened in South Africa that could go a long way in addressing the power shortage in the country, state-run news agency News24 reported.

Energy Minister Dipuo Peters, while opening the Ikhwezi Solar Energy plant in East London, said the government was looking into solar water heating (SWH) to supply hot water to under-served communities, especially in rural areas.

“We are also looking into this technology to address the demand-side management, so that the middle and upper income residential segment can reduce their own consumption of electricity,” said Peters.

She said her department was prepared to work with other companies like Ikhwezi to support development of the green economy.

“If Ikhwezi Solar’s technology is available at a reasonable price, there is a huge market out there, not only in the Eastern Cape, but throughout the country. I believe that competition is minimal and I challenge other companies to do the same,” said Peters.

The plant has been designed using green building principles, including natural lighting systems for the factory floor, with water requirements being met by a 20,000 litre rainwater harvesting system.

Iran to build new fighter jets

TEHRAN, 31 Oct.—Iranian Defence Minister Ahmad Vahidi has said that the country plans to build new fighter jets.

He added that the Iranian defence industry is making good progress despite US economic sanctions. He also announced the delivery of a new submarine to the navy in August to conduct missions in the Persian Gulf.

“This submarine is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and advanced weapons, high maneuver capabilities and suitable under-water operation capabilities,” the official IRNA news agency said Monday quoted him as saying.

Iran has been facing criticism in the international community for its nuclear programme.
43rd day session of Pyithu Hluttaw...

(Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges (Yangon and Mandalay) are training students in arts and science and engineering courses (AGTI). Moreover, MA and MSc qualification courses are being conducted at the degree college (Yangon) and B.Tech course in Mandalay. From 2000-2001 academic year to 2010-2011 academic year, the degree colleges have turned out 439 BA graduates, 815 BSc graduates and 526 AGTI diploma holders, totaling 1780. They all have been appointed at different ministries. This academic year, 1289 national race youths from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states and Sagaing and Taminthay regions are pursuing respective subjects. 

U Saw Thein Aung of Hlaingbwe Constituency asked how the Union Minister for Border Affairs will manage engagements in Kachin, Kayin and Shan States for ensuring peace and stability of border areas in the future. The Union Minister replied that the Union Minister for Border Affairs, on his single part, cannot manage ceasefire of engagements in Kachin, Kayin and Shan States and border area development in the future. The Union Government issued Announcement No. 1/2011 on 18-8-2011 to offer peace for all national race armed groups that have not transformed their stances in accord with the constitution. In line with the offer, the Union Government is striving for reconciliation with national race armed groups namely Kachin, “Wa”, Shan, Kayin and Mon groups. For the first step, state level peace talks were held and they adopted preliminary peace agreements on both side to ensure ceasefire, to take permission for their stances in accord with the constitution.

In holding the Union level peace talks with the national race armed groups that have already agreed the peace process, they held discussions not to secede from the Union, open liaison offices of both sides, send State service personnel to discharge duty at special regions for regional development and cooperate in development tasks of border areas. At present, preliminary peace agreements have been signed at the Union level with “Wa” Special Region (2) and Mongla Special Region (4).

It is opined that the root cause of armed struggle line of national race armed groups is casting doubt on the peace process and having no trust in each other. The problem can be solved only through mutual trust. In so doing, it is important that both sides are to attach great attention to avoiding the act of breaking the trust. In building peace with national brethren, the Union government is effectively undertaking regional development with the assistance and strength of the UN agencies, INGOs and friend countries.

While submitting their demand for peace to the government, the people on their part are to express their genuine sentiment of the majority for the peace process to national race armed groups and urge them to join the peace talks. Regional stability and development can be carried out only when there is peace and stability. If the region cannot restore peace and prevalence of law and order, the development tasks of the government will end in ruin.

With regard to the question, the State and international community will provide assistance for the armed groups to build mutual trust, hold peace talks.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Saw Thein Aung of Hlaingbwe Constituency asking question. MNA

Local Tatmadawmen helping residents undertaking relief tasks in flood-hit Pakokku

(Nay Pyi Taw, 31 Oct—Local Tatmadawmen yesterday joined hands with the locals in carrying out sanitation tasks such as clearing of debris, in the cleaning of villages and market areas. In addition, building of houses and school in Cheik Village in Pakokku Township. Thanks to their efforts, Basic Education Middle School in Cheik Village could be reopened today.

Also, the mobile Tatmadaw medical team in conjunction with Magway Region Health Department gave medical treatment to the patients at Myazigon Dhamayon in Cheik Village.

Likewise, the Basic Education High School was reopened today after local Tatmadawmen from Meiktila Station together with the locals gave a hand in clearing debris in west Kanbyu Village in Seikpyu Township. Besides, local Tatmadaw medical men took care of the residents in Kanbyu Village, promoting educative talks and putting chlorine into their drinking water tanks.

Similarly, while local Tatmadawmen from Monywa Station took sanitation tasks in Chauanga Village in Pauk Township, the mobile Tatmadaw medical team gave medical treatment to the patients at the relief camps there.

Local Tatmadawmen from Monywa and Pakokku Stations in rehabilitation tasks in Pakokku District.—MNA

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay replies to queries. MNA

Old engines can hazard the environment with disadvantages such as smoke, air pollution and high consumption of fuel.

At present, overage vehicles are handed over and then permits of importing vehicles were given to the new owners. For the disposal of overage vehicles. Likewise, arrangements are being made for sales of second-hand cars at used car saleroom centre and showroom at fair prices. After buying vehicles at reasonable prices, the owners will be allowed to import better engines and related equipment with low fuel consumption. Thus, these engines can be used in supply of electricity at villages.

The Bill Committee Chairman submitted the report on Bill on Environmental Conservation sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw with amendment.

The representatives wishing to submit amendment for the bill may enlist not later than 4 pm on 2 November.

The Amyotha Hluttaw sent back the Ward or Village-tract Administration Bill and the Peaceful Assembling and Peaceful Processing Bill, approved by the Pyithu Hluttaw, together with amendments. Those wishing to submit amendment proposals with exact presentation of paragraph and subparagraph may enlist not later than 4 pm on 1 November.

The Hluttaw Rights Committee submitted a letter on matters related to 13th point of the programme held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 28 October to the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw. After holding coordination, necessary tasks will be undertaken under the law. Accepting the letter will be put on record, and undertaking of remaining tasks will be depended on coordination between officials concerned.

The session of the Pyithu Hluttaw ended at 3.30 pm and the 44th day session continues at 1pm on 1 November.—MNA

Local Tatmadawmen from Monywa and Pakokku Stations in rehabilitation tasks in Pakokku District.—MNA
Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Aung Kyi receive Special Adviser to UNSG

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of United Nations and Under-Secretary-General Mr. Vijay Nambiar and party at his office here at 3:30 pm today. They had a discussion on changes and developments in Myanmar and cooperation between the UN and Myanmar. Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi received Special Adviser to the UNSG and Under-Secretary-General Mr. Vijay Nambiar and party at his office here at 4:00 pm today. They discussed political affairs and changes and developments in Myanmar.

In the evening, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin hosted a dinner to Mr. Vijay Nambiar and party at Thingaha Hotel.

Ceremony to mark world population reached 7 billion held

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—The Ministry of Health and UNFPA organized a ceremony to mark the world population reached seven billion at Nay Pyi Taw Hospital (100-bed) this afternoon with an address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint.

In his address, Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint said that the aim of ceremony is to make the Myanmar people know the world population has reached seven billion and realize differences and big gap between the rich and the poor. He called for the whole world including Myanmar to recall their pledges for ensuring healthy and sustainable planet and to seek ways and means to be able to address differences and big gap between the rich and the poor.

UNFPA Resident Representative Dr. Mohamed Abdel Ahad made a speech. This was followed by the singing of song titled “Welcome the child, the seven billion of the world”, and the showing of “A world of seven billions” video programme.

Afterwards, the deputy minister presented gifts to parents of a child who was born to reach the seven billion and health staff of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association who were engaged in the delivery of the child.

Next, UNFPA Resident Representative Dr. Mohamed Abdel Ahad presented gifts to midwife Daw Nan Than of Than Oo of Meyan rural health centre in Tachilek District who won Global Health Workforce Alliance Award-2011.

Border Affairs Ministry repairing damaged roads in flooded areas of Magway Region

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—Seven wards and 95 villages were flooded in Pakokku, Myaing, Pauk and Seikpyu townships of Magway Region due to heavy rains on 19 and 20 October. According to the statistics up to now, the flood left 161 dead and missing persons and 2657 households homeless. Five monasteries, four Dhammayangis, eight schools and 2927 animals were destroyed. The total loss in the flood amounted to K 1522.95 million.

The Ministry of Border Affairs is repairing the damaged roads with the use of heavy machinery for effectively providing assistance and relief works for the flooded areas. The ministry has repaired 382 miles long of 466 miles long roads in Seikpyu Township and 844 miles long of 750 miles long in Pauk Township. At present, relief and supply items are being transported, and the ministry supervises timely completion of repairing the roads as quickly as possible.

Likewise, the Ministry of Border Affairs repairs tube-wells for supply of clean drinking water to flood affected villages. A total of 180 wells of 781 have been repaired, and efforts are being made for soonest repairing the remaining tube-wells.

Verdicts given on special criminal appeal cases

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—Special Appeal Tribunal composed of Chief Justice of Union U Tun Tun Oo and Judges of the Union High Court U Soe Nyunt and U Myint Han gave verdict on 10 special criminal appeal cases at the Room No. 1 of the Union High Court and also heard seven special civil appeal cases.—MNA

Wellwishers from regions and states may contact respective government offices to make cash and kind donations to the flood victims in Pakokku District.—MNA

Ministry of Border Affairs repairing roads in Seikpyu Township of Pakokku District

MNA

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Ministry of Border Affairs repairing roads in Seikpyu Township of Pakokku District

MNA
US planning troop buildup in Gulf after pullout from Iraq

WASHINGTON, 31 Oct—The United States plans to bolster its military presence in the Gulf region after it withdraws the remaining troops from Iraq this year, according to a US newspaper report published on Sunday.

This planned restructuring of US troops could include deploying new combat forces in Kuwait, in order to respond to a possible collapse of security in Iraq or a military confrontation with Iran, the New York Times reported.

The plans, under discussion for months, gained new urgency after US President Barack Obama’s announcement on 21 Oct to withdraw the remaining US soldiers from Iraq by the end of this year, in a move to fulfill his campaign promise to end the eight-year war.

But Obama’s decision has stirred up worries among the US military and political officials, as well as several countries in the Gulf region, that the pullout could leave instability or worse in its wake.

So the Pentagon is now drawing up an alternative plan, which includes sending more naval warships through international waters in the region, in addition to negotiations over maintaining a ground combat presence in Kuwait, the report said.

The United States is also seeking to expand military ties with the six nations in the Gulf Cooperation Council—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

The Obama administration and the US military are trying to foster a new “security architecture” for the Gulf that would integrate air and naval patrols and missile defense.

Drunk and naked driver hits 17 cars in Moscow

MOSCOW, 31 Oct—A drunk and naked man lost control while driving in Moscow and smashed 17 cars, including four police vehicles, police said Sunday.

“One Sunday, an unknown man who was drunk and driving a Renault Megan car lost control during driving and damaged several cars. He did not respond to a police demand to stop, after which the police started to chase him,” a police spokesman said.

During the chase, the offender damaged the vehicles. The police managed to stop him without using their firearms.

But when the offender was pulled out of the car, it turned out that the man was naked and heavily drunk, the spokesman said.

An investigation is underway.—INTERNET

A train from Istanbul commemorating the 50th anniversary of Turkish migrant workers agreement between Turkey and Germany arrives in Munich on Sunday, 30 October, 2011. Dozens of Turkish pensioners and their families arrived in Munich on Sunday, dazed but elated after a four-day train journey from Istanbul to congratulate the trip they first made fifty years ago in answer to Germany’s call for workers.—INTERNET

Australia intercepts people smuggling vessel carrying 57

SYDNEY, 31 Oct—The Australian Navy on Sunday intercepted a suspected people smuggling vessel carrying more than 50 people, the government said. It is the third vessel in one week.

HMAS Maryborough, operating under the control of Border Protection Command, intercepted the vessel southwest of Browse Island, which is just off the northwest coast of Western Australia. The vessel was carrying a total of 57 people on board.

“The vessel was initially detected by a Customs and Border Protection Dash 8 surveillance aircraft, operating under the control of Border Protection Command,” said Maria Hawthorne, a government spokeswoman.

“The passengers will be transferred to Christmas Island, where they will undergo internal security, identity and health checks and their reasons for travel will be established.”

The Australian Navy frequently intercepts vessels carrying dozens of asylum seekers off its coast. Last Sunday, Navy vessels intercepted two vessels carrying a total of 128 people near Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean northwest of Australia.—INTERNET

Two killed in grenade attack during family dispute in Serbia

BELGRADE, 31 Oct—One man was killed on site and a police officer later died of injuries sustained from a hand grenade thrown during a family dispute Sunday in Serbia.

The incident took place in Ledinci, near the northern Serbian City of Novi Sad, reported the Serbian news agency Tanjug.

Police arrived on the scene after a report of domestic violence at the home. The father of the perpetrator was killed in the blast while an intervening police officer later died of life-threatening injuries.

The man allegedly responsible for detonating the grenade was taken to hospital with unspecified injuries along with a second police officer.

The incident began after the sister of the perpetrator called police to report that the unnamed young man was harassing their parents.—INTERNET

TV reporter shot at in Honduras

Tegucigalpa, 31 Oct—A television reporter was shot and wounded in San Pedro Sula, a city in northern Honduras.

“My colleague, Edy Andino, has (gunshot) wounds in the legs and back, but thanks to God his condition is stable,” said cameraman Orlin Castro of channel 6.

Andino was driving Friday night when four individuals in a vehicle opened fire, Castro said, adding that he took the reporter to a private clinic.

The reporter was driving to his house in San Pedro Sula’s Montefresco District when he was attacked, Castro said.

Investigators are working on the theory that the shooting is linked to a botched car robbery, a police spokesman said.

Andino’s vehicle is “one of the favourites” of car thieves, the police spokesman said.

A total of 16 journalists have been murdered in Honduras since 2009, according to official figures, with the majority of the killings going unsolved.—INTERNET

German navy sailing ship ‘Gorch Fock’ of the Deutsche Marine, navies forces of the German army Bundeswehr, is pictured on its way to a shipyard in Kiel, on 24 October, 2011.—INTERNET

Overseas Chinese dance to welcome the Chinese Navy “Peace Ark” hospital ship in Kingston, Jamaica, on 29 Oct, 2011. The Chinese Navy “Peace Ark” hospital ship arrived in Kingston for a six-day medical service and goodwill visit.—Xinhua

A child views a pumpkin lamp during an activity with the theme of pumpkin lamp creation held in Nanjing, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 30 Oct, 2011, ahead of Halloween.—Xinhua
Hackers threaten Mexican drug cartel

VERACRUZ, (Mexico), 31 Oct—Anonymous threatens to expose a Mexican drug cartel’s associates if it doesn’t free one of the international Internet hacking group’s members, a video shows.

The unidentified Anonymous member allegedly was kidnapped by the Zetas in the Mexican state of Veracruz, the Houston Chronicle reported Saturday.

“You made a huge mistake by taking one of us. Release him,” a masked man says in a video allegedly posted online on behalf of Anonymous. “We cannot defend ourselves with a weapon … but we can do this with their cars, homes, bars, brothels and everything else in their possession.

“It won’t be difficult; we all know who they are and where they are located. The videos claim Anonymous will publish the identities and addresses of the violent drug-trafficking syndicate’s associates, including corrupt police, and disclose the syndicate’s businesses, the newspaper said.

“It is a gutsy move,” said Mike Vigil, a retired head of international operations for the US Drug Enforcement Administration. “By publishing the names, they identify them to rivals, and trust me, they will go after them.”—Internet

Dense fog shrouds north, east China

BEIJING, 31 Oct—Thick fog continued to blanket China’s northern and eastern regions on Monday morning, the National Meteorological Centre said, warning of increased safety risks on roads and docks, as well as at airports. The country’s top meteorological authority issued a yellow alert, the second in a four-scale alert system, at 6 am, urging people in fog-affected areas to be aware of the air quality which will be worsened by the fog and to reduce driving speeds to ensure safety.

Fog and haze will decrease visibility to within 1,000 metres in some parts of Beijing, Tianjin, Liaoning, Hebei, Henan, Shandong, Anhui, Hunan, Hubei, Zhejiang and Guangxi, as low as 200 metres in some areas, the centre said.

In northeast China’s Liaoning Province, 41 toll gates on provincial expressways were closed Monday morning, said officials with the provincial transportation department. The City of Dalain in southern Liaoning has been worst hit by the fog and a red alert, the highest in the four-scale alert system, was issued by the Shenyang Meteorological Centre, as visibility was reduced to less than 50 metres in the city, the newspaper said.

The fog will disperse on Tuesday as rains move into north China, the national meteorological centre said.—Xinhua

Bulgarian police seizures 42 kg heroin

SOFIA, 31 Oct—Bulgarian police and customs officers have seized 42 kg heroin at the Danube Bridge checkpoint near Russe at the border with Romania, officials said on Sunday. According to the Ministry of Interior, the illicit drug split into 54 packages was found on Saturday afternoon inside the front fenders of an BMW vehicle.

The owner of the vehicle, a 44-year-old Bulgarian from Karlovo, and his 19-year-old daughter, were arrested on the scene. Bulgaria, with 20,000 to 30,000 heroin users, is a transit country for the highly addictive drug. The country seized more than 300 kg of heroin in 2010.—Xinhua

Rescue work halts in eastern Turkey seven days after deadly quake

ANKARA, 31 Oct—The death toll from Turkey’s deadly earthquake last Sunday rose to 601 on Saturday, while officials said the search for survivors stopped in the disaster-struck eastern province of Van Province and they would then focus on removing the wreckage and helping disaster victims left homeless.

Turkey’s Prime Ministry’s Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate (AFAD) said Sunday that the death toll reached 601 and the number of injured people was 4,152 in the 7.2-magnitude earthquake while 188 people have been pulled out alive from the rubble.

The AFAD said search and rescue efforts had been completed in Van, but relief efforts were underway at two spots in the worst-hit Town of Ercis. The rescue work would be halted overnight, Turkey’s Deputy Prime Minister Besir Atalay said Saturday. The last person rescued alive was 13-year-old Ferhat Tokay, who was pulled out from rubble six days after the disaster.

Local residents camped out in tents or shelters despite bad weather, fearing that more building rubble would collapse in aftershocks, as one aftershock on Sunday morning registered at 5.3-magnitude.

More than 43,000 tents had been delivered in Van, according to the government’s disaster management website.—Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 1 November, 2011

Five dead, three million without power, after early US snow

WASHINGTON, 31 Oct—About 3 million people are without power on Sunday after the US Northeast was struck by an unusually early snow which began to fall a day before, and at least five people have died of reasons related to the snow.

Electricity was out in large areas from Maryland to Maine, according to local authorities. The state of Connecticut was hit hardest, with more than 750,000 homes left without power, said Governor Dannel Malloy at a Press briefing on Sunday morning.

The number broke a state record set in August, when Hurricane Irene lashed the East Coast. Malloy warned some could see their power out for a week.

Things were also bad in other places. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency reported on Sunday that more than 650,000 people were without power in the state. The state of New Jersey also saw 271,000 without power. By Sunday morning, three deaths were cited related to the snow: one each in Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Massachusetts. The victims died from falling trees, traffic accident and downed power line.

Northeastern states with heavy and wet snow on Saturday that more than 650,000 people were without power in the state. The state of New Jersey also saw 271,000 without power. By Sunday morning, three deaths were cited related to the snow: one each in Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Massachusetts. The victims died from falling trees, traffic accident and downed power line.

The rare October snowstorm began to pelt the East Coast.

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The rare October snowstorm began to pelt the East Coast.
**Cambodia attracts investment projects worth $5.67B in 9 months**

Prithum Penvit, 31 Oct—The domestic and foreign investments in Cambodia have reached 5.67 billion US dollars in the first nine months of this year, an increase of 305 percent, compared to the same period last year of 1.4 billion US dollars, according to the reports of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) on Sunday.

It said from January to September this year the country had granted licenses to 101 investment projects, up 44 percent from 70 projects approved in the same period last year. During the period, England is the largest investor in the country with the total promised investment of 2.22 billion US dollars, followed by domestic investors with 1.36 billion US dollars and China with 1.14 billion US dollars.

Vietnam and Malaysia ranked No. 4 and No. 5 with 246 million US dollars and 230 million US dollars respectively.

The sector-by-sector figures showed that the industrial sector including garment industry, attracted the most investment of 2.69 billion US dollars in first nine months of this year, up 247 percent; tourism sector gained 2.5 billion US dollars, up from just 17.7 million US dollars; agriculture got 284 million US dollars, down 45 percent; and telecommunications sector received 192 million US dollars, up 126 percent.

**Eurozone October inflation estimated at 3.0%**

BRUSSELS, 31 Oct—Eurozone annual inflation is forecast to stay at 3 percent in October this year, the same level as in September, according to the statistics office of the European Union (EU) on Monday.

**EasyJet launches Manchester-Belfast**

which operate five times a week and provide the only direct service to the German capital from Manchester.

**Eurozone September jobless rate reaches 10.2%**

BRUSSELS, 31 Oct—The jobless rate in the 17-nation eurozone jumped to 10.2 percent in September, according to the statistics office of the European Union (EU) on Monday.
Woman hid crack pipe in Bible

Police in Florida said they found a crack pipe concealed in a Bible being carried by a woman busting for walking with an open alcohol container.

Fort Pierce police said Tonya Sutton, 42, was spotted walking with an open container of Colt 45 malt liquor at 11:30 am on 23 Oct and officers found the pipe concealing Bible in her purse, TCPalm.com reported Friday. Sutton was arrested on open container and possession of drug paraphernalia charges.

Luke Perry in online death hoax

LONDON, 31 Oct—Actor Luke Perry is the latest celebrity to have joined the list of online death hoaxes. It was reported that the “Beverly Hills 90210” star died in Switzerland while snowboarding. The Monroe County Sheriff’s Office said Michael Mitchell, 52, called a detective Wednesday and said he wanted to turn himself in for robbing a TIB Bank in the Florida Keys in 2007, the South Florida Sun Sentinel reported.

Borrowed car sold on Craigslist

Deputies said Mitchell, who lives in Louisville, Ky, provided detailed information about the robbery that was not released to the public. Mitchell told detectives the fake bomb he used in the holdup was made from a cellphone, wire, batteries and black electrical tape.

Michael Mitchell, 52, called a detective Wednesday and said he wanted to turn himself in for robbing a TIB Bank in the Florida Keys in 2007, the South Florida Sun Sentinel reported.

Police in Florida said they received a phone call from a man in Kentucky who wanted to turn himself in for robbing a bank four years ago.

The Monroe County Sheriff’s Office said Michael Mitchell, 52, called a detective Wednesday and said he wanted to turn himself in for robbing a TIB Bank in the Florida Keys in 2007, the South Florida Sun Sentinel reported.

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Stewart and I are technically married

LONDON, 31 Oct—Actor Robert Pattinson says he’s “technically” married to his “Twilight” co-star and girlfriend Kristen Stewart.

The actors tie the knot as young lovers Bella Swan and Edward Cullen in The “Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1”.

The wedding scene’s funny because we used a real priest. So technically we are already married because he did all the things you would do in a normal ceremony. So we don’t have a civil union in law, but I guess in the church we are actually married,” dailystar.co.uk quoted him as saying.

Stewart had confirmed long running rumours of romance between her and Pattinson during a recent interview.—Internet

Bank robber turns self in after 4 years

Authorities in Florida said they received a phone call from a man in Kentucky who wanted to turn himself in for robbing a bank four years ago.

The Monroe County Sheriff’s Office said Michael Mitchell, 52, called a detective Wednesday and said he wanted to turn himself in for robbing a TIB Bank in the Florida Keys in 2007, the South Florida Sun Sentinel reported.

Timberlake wants to star in a musical

LONDON, 31 Oct—Singer Justin Timberlake says he wants to star in a musical, but is still looking for the perfect role.

Dailystar.co.uk reports that Timberlake took a break from music industry to concentrate on his acting career. But he would consider combining his music industry to concentrate on his acting career. But he would consider combining his talents on screen if the right project comes along.

“That’s been discussed... I would love to do a musical one day. I think there might be a way to redefine what that is for this era... My problem with musicals today, and I think a lot of people in my generation probably feel this way too, is that we’re sitting here having a conversation and all of the sudden we’re singing. Time stops,” he said.

Rockstar Sting

Sting struggling to write songs

LONDON, 31 Oct—Rockstar Sting admits that he is struggling to write songs as he gets older.

The singer, who turned 60 earlier this month, is a prolific songwriter but admits he has become more critical of his work than before.

“Writing a song for me is a rare thing now. It gets more difficult as you get older because your filters are much more refined and your inner critic is very tough,” express.co.uk quoted him as saying. “When you’re younger, the filters aren’t on. Out it comes. Three songs a day, 21 a week. You have to put yourself in a state of grace where you’re open to ideas coming to you. It’s very satisfying when you find one but facing a blank page doesn’t get any easier,” he added.—Internet

Madonna plans London gig during Olympics

LONDON, 31 Oct—Pop singer Madonna is planning to stage a massive gig in Hyde Park here in the middle of the Olympics, next summer.

The Olympics are scheduled to take place 27 July-12 Aug, 2012.

The 53-year-old singer is planning to treat as many as 60,000 fans with the performance, reports thesun.co.uk.

“Madonna is planning a huge comeback and was determined to do it at Hyde Park while the Olympics are on. She’s been out of the limelight musically for while but is ready to jump back into the saddle and thinks there’s no better time to do it than when London hosts the Olympics,” a source said.

Madonna has so far, sold more than 300 million records worldwide and amassed a fortune of more than 400 million pounds.

She recently announced she would be releasing a 12th studio album. She had also said that the follow up to her 2008 album “Hard Candy” will be “more good music”.

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Corinthians returns to top of Brazilian championship

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 Oct — Corinthians reclaimed the top spot of Brazilian championship with a 2-1 win over Avaí on Sunday. Avaí took the early lead in the 12th minute when Robinho angled a perfect shot into the lower right corner of the Corinthians goal.

Returning to the second half, Corinthians grabbed the equalizer in the 61st minute. Weaving the ball through Emerson, William’s perfect pass reached an in-striker Emerson who pounced the ball past an approaching Avaí goalie

The home team claimed the lead for good in the 77th minute when Liedson headed home from a corner kick.

The win propels Corinthians back into first place with 56 points. Avaí remains among the league’s worst, remaining in 19th place with 29 points. — Xinhua

Mclroy wins Shanghai Masters in playoff

SHANGHAI, 31 Oct — US Open champion Rory Mclroy won $52 million in the Shanghai Masters on Sunday, beating Anthony Kim with a par on the first hole of a playoff.

Mclroy holed a 2-foot putt for the victory after Kim missed a 3-footer. Mclroy had a chance to win in regulation, but the 22-year-old star from Northern Ireland missed an 8-footer birdie putt. He closed with an even-par 72 to match Kim (69) at 18 under on Lake Malaren’s Jack Nicklaus-designed Masters course.

“It’s something that I feel like I can still get better at and winning and putting yourself in the position to win when you’re not playing your best,” Mclroy said.

“Even if it’s a scrappy golf where you grind it out, you’re going to win a lot more tournaments by doing that rather than playing your best golf the whole week. I was very happy I was able to pull this one out.”

Struggling Hamburg ties 1-1 with Kaiserslautern

BERLIN, 31 Oct — Hamburg shared points after a hectic match against Kaiserslautern while Cologne stopped a two-loss trend with a deserved 3-0 win over first division newcomers Augsburg in the 11th round of German Bundesliga on Sunday.

Hamburg were reduced to 10 men from the 22nd minute when defender Solbodan Rajkovic was sent off due to a rude foul play, and Kaiserslautern utilized the advantage through midfielder Pierre De Wit, who scored with a tremendous pass from 17 meters into top right.

After interval, Hamburg started a run on Kaiserslautern’s goal to equalize in the 63rd minute as striker Jose Paolo Guerrero headed home the leveller.

Hamburg climbed from 17th to 16th, a relegation spot, with only nine points out of 11 matches while Kaiserslautern jumped from 14th to 13th with 12 points.

“That was a great performance of my team. We have played 70 minutes with only ten men,” claimed coach Thorsten Fink.

Top-ranked Yani Tseng wins in China

SUZHOU, 31 Oct — Top-ranked Yani Tseng won the Suzhou Taihu Ladies Open on Sunday for her 11th worldwide victory of the season.

The victory was Tseng’s 30th in her professional career. She has won seven this season on the LPGA Tour, including major victories in the LPGA Championship and Women’s British Open. Lindberg shot a 70. South Africa’s Lee-Anne Pace, the 2010 winner, had a 70 to tie for third with England’s Melissa Reid (68) at 8 under.

Smalling out for a month

Sir Alex Ferguson confirmed the bad news on Saturday.

LONDON, 31 Oct — Manchester United defender Chris Smalling has been ruled out for a month with a broken foot. The 21-year-old missed the Barclays Premier League win at Everton with the injury. Smalling’s lay-off means he will miss England’s November friendlies against Spain and Sweden.

Ferguson said: “Smalling has a small fracture on his foot. I think he’ll be out for a month and it’s unfortunate that one. United won 1-0 at Everton and remain five points behind neighbours Manchester City.”

Chris Smalling will be out for around a month.

Top-ranked Yani Tseng wins in China

Suzhou, 31 Oct — Top-ranked Yani Tseng won the Suzhou Taihu Ladies Open on Sunday for her 11th worldwide victory of the year, closing with a 6-under 6 to beat Sweden’s Pernilla Lindberg by seven strokes.

The 22-year-old Taiwanese star, coming off a victory last week in the LPGA Tour’s Taipei Championship, finished at 16 under at Suzhou Inter-national in the Ladies European Tour event. “It’s very exciting,” Tseng said, “I played so consistently. I was really patient. I just played one shot at a time and be patient and keep learning.”

I just learn from mistakes.”

The victory was Tseng’s 30th in her professional career. She has won seven this season on the LPGA Tour, including major victories in the LPGA Championship and Women’s British Open. Lindberg shot a 70. South Africa’s Lee-Anne Pace, the 2010 winner, had a 70 to tie for third with England’s Melissa Reid (68) at 8 under. — Internet

Yani Tseng

Top-ranked Yani Tseng will qualify for the season-ending ATP finals in London next month.

“It was a special win,” the ninth-ranked Frenchman said. “I was supposed to win some points here and I did it… For now it’s good, but I will have to play well next week (in Valencia) so I will stay focused.” Tseng had lost all three previous matches against Del Potro but recovered strongly after falling a break down in the second set to win four straight games.

Mignonet suffers broken nose

LONDON, 31 Oct — Steve Bruce revealed Sunderland goalkeeper Simon Mignonet suffered broken nose in the 2-2 draw with Aston Villa. Mignonet was injured in an accidental clash when pushing away a corner just after halftime and was taken to hospital to undergo CT scans on a badly broken nose.

Bruce said: “It’s badly broken - he’s had CT scans to check his jaw and cheekbones and teeth. The ball was fizzed in and Simon was brave enough to go for it.”

Bruce heaped praise on substitute keeper Keiren Westwood, who marked his debut by diving bravely to dive what would have been a headline-grabbing goal for former Sunderland striker Darren Bent. He added: “Westy has saved us all. He has trained fantastically for weeks and weeks to get his chance and he has pulled off a great save.” — Internet

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Tsonga beats Del Potro in Vienna final

VIENNA, 31 Oct — Jo-Wilfried Tsonga rallied from a set and a break down to beat Juan Martin Del Potro 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-4 Sunday in the final of the Erste Bank Open, claiming his second title of the season and seventh overall.

The top-seeded Tsonga will officially move past Mardy Fish to No 7 in the 2011 points list.

The 22-year-old star from France, coming off a victory last week in the LPGA Tour’s Taipei Championship, finished at 16 under at Suzhou Inter-national in the Ladies European Tour event. “It’s very exciting,” Tseng said, “I played so consistently. I was really patient. I just played one shot at a time and be patient and keep learning.”

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A crowded world’s population hits 7 billion

LUCKNOW, 31 Oct—Wrapped in a white blanket, Nargis Yadav lies in the arms of her mother in a small rural clinic in north India — one of half a million babies born around the world on Monday that will push the global population to the milestone of seven billion.

The UN-declared landmark underscores the challenges faced by many countries in providing for the growing numbers of people on an already over-stretched and crowded planet. Nargis was born in the populous state of Uttar Pradesh, one of the poorest regions in India, a country that could soon overtake China as the world’s most populated nation.

Her parents, poor villagers who earn just over $100 (62.40 pound) a month, say they want her to go to school and be successful in life, but aid workers say this will be an uphill struggle, not only for her but others like her in the developing world.

“The child will face a lot of challenges,” said Sonu Sharma, director for advocacy and communications at the Population Foundation of India. “Getting proper nutritional food, clean drinking water and even basics such as medical care such as immunisations to help her survive the first few years will be challenging.”—MNA/Reuters

An Indian nurse observes newly born babies at a hospital in Ganhati, India, on 31 Oct, 2011. According to the UN Population Fund, there will be a symbolic “seven billion” baby sharing Earth’s resources and resources on 31 Oct. Already the second most populous country with 1.2 billion people, India is expected to overtake China around 2030 when its population soars to an estimated 1.6 billion.—INTERNET
Union A & I Minister attends 15th Council for Partnership on Rice Research in Asia

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—At the invitation of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), a Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing attended the 15th Council for Partnership on Rice Research in Asia-CORRA in Philippines from 23 to 28 October.

The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Myint Hlaing attended the 15th Council for Partnership on Rice Research in Asia-CORRA at Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) in Los Bonos City, Laguna Region, Philippines on 24 October morning.

The meeting focused on reviewing plans of the CORRA, programmes for boosting of international rice production with aim of perpetuation of rice and strategies for climate change, strategic matters related to intellectual property rights and genetics rights in Asian nations.

The Union Minister also held discussion with Director-General Dr. Robert S. Zeigler of the International Rice Research Department on exchange of technologies, bilateral cooperation, short-term and long-term scholarship programmes and paddy strain production techniques development for development of rice industry in Myanmar.

The Union Minister and party then visited SL8H paddy-strain nursery of S.L Co in Santa Cruz City of Laguna Region, Philippines on 24 October morning.

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Union FM sends message of felicitations to Algerian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—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. Mourad Medelci, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1st November, 2011.—MNA

Arsenal one-man team: Wenger

a hat-trick in his side’s 5-3 victory at Stamford Bridge and the Dutch forward has now scored 27 goals in his last 28 matches, including seven in his last three.

The 28-year-old’s heroics have led some critics to claim Arsenal are now too reliant on their in-form forward and will go to pieces if he suffers an injury.

But Wenger believes van Persie’s goal spree is a result of the team performing well as a unit to bring the best out of their skipper.

“Robin is an exceptional player who takes advantage of the team playing for him and working for him,” Wenger said on Monday.

“When you have a centre forward who doesn’t score people ask ‘why don’t you buy a forward’, then when a player scores lots people say are you too dependent on him.

“It is not so long ago that people asked me why I played him as a centre forward.

“He is scoring goals because the team works for him and he has an extraordinary talent to take those chances.

Arsenal’s Dutch forward Robin van Persie warms up during a training session at the club’s complex in London Colney. Arsene Wenger insists Arsenal captain Van Persie’s sensational form doesn’t make the Gunners a one-man team. —INTERNET

London, 31 Oct—Arsene Wenger insists Arsenal captain Robin van Persie’s sensational form doesn’t make the Gunners a one-man team.

Van Persie demolished Chelsea on Saturday with a hat-trick in his side’s 5-3 victory at Stamford Bridge and the Dutch forward has now scored 27 goals in his last 28 matches, including seven in his last three.

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“He is scoring goals because the team works for him and he has an extraordinary talent to take those chances.

Bakri Eid Day on 7 Nov

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar government announced that as 12th Waxing of Tazaungmon, 1373 ME (Monday, 7th November, 2011) is Bakri Eid Day, the government office will be closed on that day under section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.—MNA

Traffic rules educative talks in Dekkhinathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—Under the plan on reduction of traffic accidents of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee, Company Commander of Traffic Rule Enforcement Company (2) Police Captain Win Maung of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Police Force gave a traffic rules talk to the motorcycle taxi drivers from Dekkhinathiri Township at General Administration Department in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 28 October.

It was also attended by Dekkhinathiri Township Administrator U Wai Lwin Phyo, Township Police Force Commander Police Captain Shwe Mann and 173 motorcycle taxi drivers.—MNA

Border Affairs Ministry repairing damaged roads in flooded areas of Magway Region

Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Aung Kyi receive Special Adviser to UNSG

Special Adviser to UNSG arrives Nay Pyi Taw

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