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Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

YANGON, 22 Oct—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint looked into production process of factories during their tour of South Okkalapa industrial zone this afternoon.

Upon arrival at Thakayta industrial zone, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party oversaw processing of fish and prawn at Twin Brothers Seafood Cold Storage of Grand Wynn Manufacturing Ltd on Yan Naing Swe 2nd Street and production process of the garment factory of Jewoo Manufacturing Co Ltd on Myamala Street.—MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects garment factory of Jewoo Manufacturing Co Ltd in Thakayta Industrial Zone, Thakayta Township.—MNA

Maternal and child care is important for all of us as it plays a pivotal role in making endeavours to reach the health-related Millennium Development Goals.

Bird-watcher heaven on the Baltic Sea Coast

BERLIN, 22 Oct—Fall in northern Germany is crane-spotting season. And every year, the northern German coast plays host to one of the largest gatherings of the birds in the world as they rest up for their long journey southward.

Up to 70,000 birds make a stopover in the area, home to both farmland and wetlands, every year. Cranes from Russia, Ukraine and the Baltics are the first to arrive, soon to be joined by their brethren that live in Scandinavia. After weeks of feeding on the harvested fields, the birds head off in enormous groups for southern Spain or for northern and central Africa.—Internet

Factories in Okkalapana, Thakayta industrial zones taking shape

Garment factory of Jewoo Manufacturing Co Ltd in Thakayta Industrial Zone, Thakayta Township.—MNA
Maternal and child care deserves high priority

The National Health Committee is implementing the objective of uplift of health and fitness of the entire national people, one of the social objectives of the State. The Ministry of Health is drafting plans to put them into action under the supervision of the National Health Committee.

Priority is being given to maternal and child health care with the aim of reducing outbreaks of diseases among mothers and children including newborn babies and those under one-year old and their mortality rate.

There are about 1.3 million pregnant women every year in the country. This is why the government is giving priority to improvement of health care services for mothers and newborn babies and safety of maternal life.

Systematic arrangements are being made to improve maternal and child health care service which is the primary task of health care centres in urban and rural regions.

The government is carrying out the reproductive health care tasks in accord with the changing social and economic conditions after 1988 while providing maternal and child care services for the public.

Maternal and child care is important for all of us as it plays a pivotal role in making endeavours to reach the health-related Millennium Development Goals.

Pyapon Township sees progress

Farmers spray insecticide on rice field in Kyakhmaw Village, Labutta Township.—MNA

Yangon, 22 Oct—Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing met with local residents and members of social organizations at Daw Nyein village in Amar Township, Pyapon District, on 19 October.

The minister and party inspected the production process of dried prawn at Pyanthlar fishery work shop.

Afterwards, the minister and party inspected site for construction of new school building of Basic Primary School in Kharpyat village. They also inspected fishing along the Kharpyat-Daw Nyein creek by boat and repairing of land to carry out salt industry in Daw Nyein village-tract.

The minister and party attended the ceremony to donate computers, generators and seeds donated by the Prime Minister. The minister gave an opening speech on the occasion and donated 5 sets of computer, one generator and seeds on behalf of the Prime Minister through responsible persons.

The minister and party inspected sanitation and agricultural work and also inspected the site for construction of station hospital in Daw Nyein village. The minister and party inspected construction of school building of Kyonkadun BEHS donated by U Wai Lwin of Kyonkadun village in Pyapon township and thriving paddy field.

The minister and party inspected the construction of new school building of Kansie village BEPS donated by a tour guide group, new school building of Thein Gon (2) BEPS in Thamein Htaw Thein Gon village donated by Daw Than Than Lay and construction of new school buildings of Thein Gon (1) BEPS and Thameinhtawgon school post-primary school.—MNA

International Tourism Course introduced

Yangon, 22 Oct—A ceremony to introduce a course on International Tourism conducted by Ocean Gate was held at Ocean Gate Training Centre on Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyunt township, here yesterday.

CEO of Ocean Gate Training Centre U Thein Soe explained facts about the course and answered queries raised by those present. The six-month course includes seven subjects focusing on basic concepts and regulations of international tourism industry, promotion of tourism industry and ways and means to promote international tourism market, providing services plus local tourism industry.

English for occupational purpose and computer skills.

Those who complete the course can grasp their career opportunity in international and local tourism industry as tourist guides and tour operators. In addition, they can pursue higher diplomas and degrees in international universities and other advanced occupational training centres as a bridge course.

The first of International Tourism course will start in November and those interested may contact Ocean Gate Training Centre No 355, Room 206, Theinbyu Road, Mingala Taungnyunt township (Ph:01-380130).—MNA
Iraqi Cabinet says US security pact needs changes

BAGHDAD, 22 Oct—Iraq’s Cabinet decided Tuesday to ask the US for changes to the draft agreement that would keep American troops here three more years, as key Shiite lawmakers warned the deal stands little chance of approval as it stands.

The decision, reached in a closed-door meeting that lasted nearly six hours, raised doubt that the agreement can be ratified before a new American president is elected next month.

Parliament must approve the draft before the current UN mandate expires on 31 Dec or no legal basis will exist for the US-led military mission.

Such an outcome would force hard decisions in Baghdad and Washington on the future of the unpopular war. Critics maintain the draft falls short of Iraqi demands for full control of their own country after nearly six years of US occupation.

Supporters insist Iraq still needs US military and political support as it builds its security forces and governmental institutions.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 23 October, 2008

Fifteen dead as Iraq tribe clashes with militants

HILLA, 22 Oct—At least 15 men were killed and 14 more wounded on Tuesday in fierce early morning clashes between insurgents and Sunni tribes in the central Iraq Shiite province of Babil, police and a medic said.

The ferocious firefight came just two days ahead of a planned transfer of security control in Babil by US forces to Iraqi troops.

Police lieutenant Haider al-Lami from Hillah, the capital of Babil, said the battle broke out in Jurf al-Sakhra, a town located on the border of the Sunni Anbar province and Shiite Babil, around 5.00am (0200GMT) and raged for about two hours.

Lami said the fighting pitted suspected insurgents against members of the Sunni tribes Al-Osan and Al-Ojjan, who had formed anti-Qaeda militia to oust the jihadists from their areas.

An Iraqi boy stands next to a machinegun and a bullet-riddled door in Barwanah al-Saghira, 60 kms northeast of Baghdad. At least 15 men have been killed and 14 more wounded in fierce early-morning clashes between insurgents and Sunni tribes in the central Iraq Shiite province of Babil, Babil, and a medic have said.—INTERNET

Fifteen dead as Iraq tribe clashes with militants

As of Tuesday, 21 Oct, 2008, at least 548 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defense Department. The department last updated its figures Tuesday at 10 am EDT.

Of those, the military reports 396 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 66 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action.

The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen.—INTERNET

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 548

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct—A car bomb exploded Wednesday in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, killing four civilians, police said.

A police officer in Nineveh province said the bomb went off in a parked car in a predominantly Sunni area of this city, where violence has continued against Christians and other religious minorities despite months of US and Iraqi military operations to chase out extremists.

In Baghdad, meanwhile, police and hospital officials said three separate blasts killed a sick man being transported in an ambulance and wounded 11 others. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the information.

The bombings highlight the continued security challenges in Iraq amid a national debate over the future role of American troops in the country.
Three out of four Americans believe country’s economy in recession

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct — About three-fourth Americans believe that their country is going through economic recession now, according to a poll released on Tuesday.

The survey conducted by CNN and the Opinion Research Corporation from 17 to 19 Oct found that 76 percent of the 1,058 respondents believe the country’s economy is in a recession, and about 40 percent think it would descend into a depression within one year.

It also found that 75 percent of Americans think the country is “fairly badly” or “very badly” because of the current economic crisis. Compared to 49 percent who gave the same answer last year.

The poll showed that most Americans blame the economic crisis on the Republican administration led by President George W Bush and believe Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama would do better job on the economy than his Republican rival, John McCain.

If Americans are angry about the state of the country, they’re probably more angry at the Republicans than the Democrats, since the GOP (Republican party) has controlled the White House for the past eight years,” said Keating Holland, CNN’s polling director.—Internet

Gunmen seize oil worker’s children in Niger Delta

LAGOS, 22 Oct — Gunmen have kidnapped two children of a Nigerian oil worker in the Niger Delta oil city of Port Harcourt, police said on Tuesday.

The children were being driven to school when they were abducted in the Abuloma area of the city and taken to an unknown location, said Rita Abbey, police spokeswoman for Rivers state, of which Port Harcourt is the capital.

“They were kidnapped this morning by gunmen who were in a black jeep. They are a boy and a girl aged between 7 and 9. Children of a Nigerian Shell worker,” Abbey was quoted as saying by Lagos-based Channels TV on Tuesday.

Police said no group had yet claimed responsibility for the latest kidnappings.—Internet

India launches 1st unmanned moon mission

NEW DELHI, 22 Oct — India launched its first mission to the moon Wednesday, rocketing a satellite up into the pale dawn sky in a two-year mission to redraw maps of the lunar surface.

Clapping and cheering scientists tracked the ascent on computer screens after they lost sight of Chandrayaan-1 from the Sriharikota space centre in southern India.

“Moon Craft” in ancient Sanskrit. Indian Space Research Organization chairman G Madhavan Nair said the mission is to “unravel the mystery of the moon.”

“We have started our journey to the moon and the first leg has gone perfectly well,” he said.

Chief among the mission’s goals is mapping not only the surface of the moon, but what lies beneath. If successful, India will join what’s shaping up as a 21st century space race with Chinese and Japanese crafts already in orbit around the moon.

To date only the US, Russia, the European Space Agency, Japan and China have sent missions to the moon.

As India’s economy has boomed in recent years, it has sought to convert its newfound wealth — built on the nation’s high-tech sector — into political and military clout. It is hoping that the moon mission — coming just months after finalizing a deal with the United States that recognizes India as a nuclear power — will further enhance its status.

Members of outlaw motorcycle gang arrested in California, other states

LOUISIANA, 22 Oct — Dozens of members of an outlaw motorcycle club were arrested Tuesday in California and other states on federal racketeering charges following a three-year investigation, US authorities said.

The massive crackdown against the Mongol motorcycle gang, dubbed “Operation Black Rain,” were jointly conducted by various law enforcement agencies, including the US Attorney’s Office, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and local police departments, officials said.—Internet

Blast in Indian city kills 17, injures 16

MUMBAI, 22 Oct — At least 17 people were killed and 16 injured in a massive bomb explosion in Imphal, the capital of Manipur Tuesday evening, two days after a blast near the Manipur’s chief minister’s official residence here, according to NDTV.

“A bomb kept on a motorbike went off around 8 pm,” Imphal superintendent of Police Radheshyam said.

Eleven people were killed on the spot and three people succumbed to injuries in hospital, he said.

The blast took place close to a Manipur Police commando complex, which is a residential area.

“We are not yet sure if any of the police commandos are among those killed or injured,” Radheshyam said.

The injured have been rushed to various hospitals in the city.

This is by far the biggest bombs attack in Manipur’s capital, a heavily guarded city that has seen frequent bomb or grenade attacks.
5th China-ASEAN Expo opens

NANNING, 22 Oct—The 5th China-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Expo opened here Wednesday to further cooperation in this region and will propose measures to deal with the financial crisis in the Western world. Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan attended the opening ceremony of the Expo in Nanning, capital city of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 22 Oct, 2008.—Xinhua

The 5th China-ASEAN Expo is held in Nanning, capital of southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 22 Oct, 2008.—Xinhua

Australia to withdraw troops from Timor-Leste

CANBERRA, 22 Oct—Australian Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon said here on Wednesday his country was to withdraw the number of soldiers operating in Timor-Leste because of the improved security situation. Fitzgibbon said the Australian Defence Force would cut back its total force presence in Timor-Leste to approximately 650 personnel by early next year.

Currently, the Australian-led International Stabilization Force (ISF) comprises around 750 Australian troops plus some from New Zealand.

“The reduction in the total number of deployed personnel under Operation Astute is appropriate given improvements in the security situation in East Timor,” Fitzgibbon said in a statement.

Xinhua

Paulson calls on next US President to strengthen relations with China

NEW YORK, 22 Oct—The next US President should fully recognize China’s emergence as a global economic leader, and take US-China relations to the next level through more engagement, US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said here Tuesday.

Addressing the annual gala of the National Committee on US-China Relations (NCUSCR) in New York, Paulson advised the next US president to start from the perspective that China will continue to play a key role in the world economy.

“We must recognize that China’s growth is an opportunity for US companies and consumers, for our producers, exporters and investors,” he said, “A stable, prosperous and peaceful China is in the best interest of the Chinese people, the American people and the rest of the world.”—Xinhua

Small sport aircraft crashes near Vienna

VIENNA, 22 Oct—A small single-engine sport aircraft crashed in Wiener Neustadt near here on Tuesday, likely killing its pilot, an emergency centre official said.

The aircraft crashed on top of the headquarters building of Austrian Cobra Special Forces located in the west of Wiener Neustadt city, about 60 kilometres away from Vienna, at 6 pm local time. The aircraft was totally burnt and the pilot was believed to have been killed.

There has been no report of casualty inside the headquarters building of Austrian Cobra Special Forces so far. Spokesperson of the Austrian Interior Ministry Rudolf Gollia confirmed that personnel inside have already left the headquarters building when the crash occurred.

The cause of the accident and the number of casualties still remain unknown.

Xinhua

Qassam rocket launched from Gaza into Israel

JERUSALEM, 22 Oct—A Qassam rocket was launched into Israel from the Gaza Strip Tuesday evening, in violation of a four-month-old ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

The rocket fell in an open area north of the strip, local daily The Jerusalem Post reported on its website, adding that there were no casualties or damages.

Earlier in the day, a new militant group in Gaza called “the Brigades of Hezbollah in Palestine” claimed responsibility for launching a homemade rocket from northern Gaza at southern Israel. A spokesman for the organization said the attack was carried out in response to ongoing Israeli transgressions against Palestinians, according to local daily Yedioth Ahronoth.

Following the attack, Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak instructed security forces to keep the crossings with Gaza closed on Wednesday, as has been routinely done in the past.

The latest rocket attack was in late September. The projectile failed to cross the border, and landed on Palestinian territory. No injuries or damage were reported.

Since the ceasefire agreement mediated by Egypt went into effect on 19 June, Israel has seen a sharp decline in the number of rockets fired into its territory from Gaza.—Xinhua

Xinhua

Two visitors look at a sculpture at the 3rd Exhibition of Myriad Exquisite Hotan Jade-Carvings held in Beijing, on 21 Oct, 2008. The exhibition, slated from 20 Oct to 19 Nov, is open to visitors free of charge.—Xinhua

Peru, Russia launch economic, political partnership

LIMA, 22 Oct—Peru and Russia have launched a partnership aimed at strengthening economic and political ties, Peru’s Foreign Ministry said in a communiqué Tuesday.

The agreement was signed back in November 2006, during the 14th summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC).

Under the agreement, Russia pledges to help Peru make advances in agriculture, health, nuclear energy, IT, the environment, and the sustainable use of natural resources.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency
**Yahoo cuts 10% workforce to cut costs**

**BEIJING, Oct 22 —** Yahoo said Tuesday that it would cut at least 10 percent of its workforce, or 1,500 workers, as its business continued to falter in the third quarter.

Investors, disappointed by its performance, had continued to sell the company's shares which closed the same day at 12.07 dollars, down nearly 50 percent since the beginning of the year. Yahoo added the purpose of the workforce cut is to reduce costs as its net income for the quarter fell 64 percent, to 54 million dollars, or 4 cents a share, from 151 million, or 11 cents a share, a year earlier.

Excluding the cost of stock options and other items, the company's income was 123 million dollars, or 9 cents a share, compared with 11 cents a share a year ago. Against the Wall Street financial recession and an economic slowdown nationwide, Yahoo said its online advertising business revenue rose more 1 percent to 1.786 billion dollars, from 1.768 billion a year ago. Net revenue, which excludes commissions paid to advertising partners, was 1.32 billion dollars, compared with 1.28 billion a year ago, a 3 percent jump.

**Two merchant ships attacked by rebels in Sri Lanka**

COLOMBO, Oct 22 — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels managed a merchant ship Wednesday morning in a suicide attack against two ships carrying supplies to war-affected civilians in the north sea, defence officials said.

Defence officials said the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) carried out the suicide attack targeting Merchant Ship Rahuna and Nimalawa in the north sea off Kankasanturai at 5:10 am (2340 GMT).

Navy spokesman D P Dassanayake said three LTTE suicide vessels have come for the attack. “Navy sailors providing security onboard the targeted vessels have engaged machine gun fire at the approaching suicide boats effectively, and destroyed two of them before ramming on the ships,” Dassanayake said.

However, he added that one of the suicide boats exploded in close proximity to Merchant Ship Nimalawa causing a considerable damage to the ship’s hull.

The spokesman said that the third suicide craft has been captured by Navy boats and at least six rebels might have been killed in the attack.

The government said the two ships were carrying essential supplies to the civilians living in war affected areas in the north when they were attacked.

**Airliner had near miss with UFO**

The captain of the Altitalia airliner shouted “Look out” to his co-pilot at the sight of a brown missile-shaped object shooting past them overhead.

Civil Aviation Authority and military investigations could not explain the 1991 incident near Lydd in Kent.

The unsolved close encounter features in UFO-related military documents made available by the National Archives.

After ruling out the object flying past the Altitalia jet being a missile, weather balloon or space rocket, the MoD closed the inquiry.

Nineteen files covering sightings between 1986 and 1992 are being made available online.

**Japanese climbers say find footprints of abominable snowman**

Japanese climbers returning from a mountain in western Nepal said on Tuesday they had found footprints they think belonged to the abominable snowman or Yeti.

“We saw three footprints which looked like that of human beings,” Kuniaki Yagihara, a member of the Yeti Project Japan, said in Kathmandu, after returning from the mountain with photographs of the footprints.

The climbers, equipped with long-lens cameras, video cameras and telescopes, said, however, that they did not see or take any photographs of the creature.

The Yeti is said to live in the Himalayan regions of Nepal and is largely regarded by the scientific community as a mythical creature.

**Abandoned toddler found locked inside burning building**

A three-year-old British boy has been taken into care and his mother has been arrested after he was found alone in a burning house.

The toddler was found sitting on the floor of a locked bedroom with a doughnut and a bowl of milk by his side, according to the News Shopper newspaper.

He was rescued from a first-floor room in a maisonette in Deptford, south east London, just after 9:30 am yesterday.

Watch manager John Banks told the newspaper: “We have never seen anything like this. We have found kids alone before — but not locked in a room in a burning building.”

**French artist Domnique Gonzalez-Foerster’s installation piece entitled ‘Th.2058’ is seen during a media preview at the Tate Modern gallery in London. Visitors to the gallery are previewing features in UFO-related military documents made available by the National Archives.**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 22 Oct — The second earth resource satellite, CBERS-2, developed jointly by Brazil and China, fulfilled its five years’ mission in orbit Tuesday, the National Institute of Space Investigations of Brazil (INPE) said.

The CBERS-2 was launched on 21 Oct, 2003 by the Chinese Long March 4B rocket from Taiyuan launch facilities in China.

Sample images from CBERS-2 were made available on 10 Jan, 2007. It was the second satellite of the Chinese-Brazilian Earth Resource Sat-ellite (CBERS) programme, agreed by both countries 20 years ago to develop, launch and operate satellites together.

The first satellite, CBERS-1, was launched on 14 Oct, 1999 and operated for four years till August 2003.

The agreement between the two countries foresees the launch of two other satellites, the CBERS-3 and CBERS-4, till 2013.

The CBERS is currently part of the main Earth-observing mission programmes in the world, together with the US Landsat, French Spot and Indian ResourceSat.

**Japanese climbers say find footprints of abominable snowman**

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The Yeti is said to live in the Himalayan regions of Nepal and is largely regarded by the scientific community as a mythical creature.

**Aboard the second Chinese-Brazilian satellite fulfils 5-year mission in orbit**

**2nd Chinese-Brazilian satellite fulfils 5-year mission in orbit**

French artist Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster’s installation piece entitled ‘Th.2058’ is seen during a media preview at the Tate Modern gallery in London. Visitors to the gallery are previewing features in UFO-related military documents made available by the National Archives.
Wagadok Supporting Dam benefits development of agriculture in Bago Township

(from page 16)

Bago Division was the 207th irrigation facility of the entire nation inaugurated earlier this year. It was built by Construction 1 of the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Wagadok Supporting Dam is an earthen facility. The embankment measures 86 feet high and 6,400 feet long. The dam can store 32,600 acre-feet of water at the highest level. The conduit was of reinforced concrete type.

The supporting dam, the 44th irrigation facility in Bago Division, supplies water to farmlands for exceeding the targeted acreage of monsoon and summer paddy in the division.

Thanks to construction of the dam, water can be supplied to 1,200 acres of farmlands in villages of Thanatpin and Thongwa and can benefit 43,000 irrigated acres of Moeyungyi Lake.

The government has built the dam not only for supplying water for agricultural purposes but also for contributing to greening 30-mile radius of Yangon City.

Indeed, Bago Division has been accelerating the functions of agriculture sector. The dams, sluice gates and diversion weirs built by the government have resulted in regional development. The farmers who relied on the rain water in the past enjoy the irrigation facilities of dams and reservoirs to cultivate various kinds of crops today.

At present, the government has been building many dams throughout the nation year after year for agricultural purpose and for greening of the respective regions. The local authorities and farmers can use water from the dams and reservoirs efficiently. Cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and double cropping contribute much to the uplift of living standards of the local people.

Wagadok Supporting Dam supplies water to Moeyungyi Lake along Wagadok Creek through the conduit. Water from Moeyungyi Lake contributes to agriculture and greening of Bago Division.

A total of 40 trainees are attending in the two-week course. — MNA

Progress in construction of houses in Labutta Township inspected

YANGON, 22 Oct.—Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended the coordination meeting on construction of rural houses in Labutta Township at Bayinnaung hall in Labutta on 19 October.

At the briefing hall in Kanyinkwin village, the minister heard reports on progress in construction of 71 houses in the village presented by Managing Director U Kyaw Khang of Myanmar Ahla Co on 20 October.

Next, the minister inspected construction of houses and met with responsible persons of the company, local people and members of social organizations at Hlwazar village BEPS. The minister also looked into 91 houses being built by Myanmar Ahla Co. The minister also met with departmental personnel, townelders, members of social organizations and salt entrepreneurs in Labutta. — MNA

Article: Nyein Khin Khin

Course on natural disaster preparedness opened

YANGON, 22 Oct.—Natural Disaster Preparedness Instructor course No. 3/2008 was opened at the Head Office of Fire Services Department in Mayangon Township today.

It was jointly organized by Relief and Resettlement Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, UNICEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNOCHA, Malteser International, IMC, Mercy Corps, Action Aid, ACF, JICA of INGO, Myanmar Red Cross Society and Mingala Myanmar Foundation of local NGO.

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe delivered an opening address. Next, Prof Dr Aung Tun Thet of Mingala Myanmar Foundation explained facts about the course. A total of 40 trainees are attending in the two-week course. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe gives speech at the opening ceremony of natural disaster preparedness instructor course. — MNA
Namhsan, Laikha Townships enjoying greater development


Next, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing visited the office of Namhsan Township Myanmar Agriculture Service. He also inspected thriving edible oil crop and paddy plantations and bridges along Namhsan-Laikha road and learning of school children at multimedia classrooms in Basic Education High School in Laikha.

At the 25-bed People’s Hospital in Laikha, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing provided patients with cash and refreshment and presented medicines donated by the Ministry of Health to Medical Superintendent Dr Ngwe Yi Khine.

Next, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing inspected learning of school children at Laikha Township BEHS (branch) and construction of new school building.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and the commander met with officials of road and bridge construction. After hearing reports on progress of repairing Laikha-Wumphon-Mongnaung-Wun Hoke and Loilem-Pankaytu-Hsipaw roads and condition of roads and bridges in Loilem and Taunggyi Districts, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing gave necessary instructions.

At the tea plantation of the Forest Department in Mann Forest Reserve of Natyegan Mountain region, the minister and party heard reports presented by two officials of the department on cultivation of tea plants on one acre of plot and weather condition. Deputy Director-General U Aye Myint Aung made a supplementary report.

After inspecting tea plantations, the minister discussed needs of favourable weather, water and land to cultivate the tea plants and economic opportunities.

At Mount Popa area, private entrepreneurs plan to grow tea on vacant and virgin lands. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Forestry will cooperate with local authorities to undertake systematic cultivation of tea in Natyegan mountain region of Ngaphe Township in Magway Division and Mount Popa Garden region of Kyaunkpadaung Township in Mandalay Division yearly.

A-G Office conducts Work Efficiency Course No. 19

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct – The opening of Work Efficiency Course No. 19 for Auditors was held at the training school of Auditor-General’s Office here this morning, with an address by Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung.

It was also attended by the director-general, deputy directors-general, directors, officials, course instructors and trainees.

A total of 70 trainees are attending the eight-week course.

Grade I, II and III courses for service personnel of departments concerned and work efficiency course for auditors will be opened at the training school in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

During the tour, he presented journals and periodicals on agriculture to local farmers. He also inspected beautifying tasks along the roads and the beach resort in Sittway.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party visited the 300-ton cold storage and the 50-ton ice factory of Minzarni Co Ltd and inspected running of the factory with the use of power supplied by husk plus diesel-powered engine. They inspected packaging fish and prawn at the cold storage factory.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw also inspected the construction of Sittway University and disaster preparedness works in Sittway. He went to Kandawgyi Reservoir which has supplied water to Sittway and inspected storage of water and pilot plantation of paddy at a model paddy field near the lake. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Oct — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Lazaro Herrea Martinez as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to the Union of Myanmar.

H.E Mr Lazaro Herrea Martinez was born on 20th January 1950. He obtained Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1980 and worked there in various capacities. He served at the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in China as Third Secretary from 1983 to 1986, as Second Secretary from 1990 to 1994 and as Minister-Counsellor from 1997 to 1999. He was Consul General to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas from 1999 to 2001. He has served as Senior Desk Officer in the Asia and Oceania Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba since 2006.

Mr Martinez will be concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok. He is married with two children. — MNA

Production process of fish and prawn at Twin Brothers Seafood Cold Storage of Grand Wynn Manufacturing Ltd in Thakayta Industrial Zone. (News on page 1)

MNA

Production process at garment factory of Jewoo Manufacturing Co Ltd in Thakayta Industrial Zone. (News on page 1)

MNA
Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continues for seventh day

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—The 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the seventh day at the designated places, here, today.

Among the audience were Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, Secretary of the Leading Committee Director-General U Sann Win of the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library and members, members of the subcommittees, judges (central), judges from States and Division, supervisors, contestants and people.

Classical song
Ten men participated in the higher education level contest and 14 girls in the basic education level (aged 5-10) contest at the Assembly Hall of University of Agriculture today.

Dancing
Eleven women took part in the higher education level dancing contest and 16 boys in the basic education level (aged 5-10) contest at the Convocation Hall of University of Veterinary Science.

Song composing
A total of 12 contestants competed in the amateur level (first class) men’s and women’s song composing contest at the training hall of Ywadaw No. 7 Transit Centre, here.

Mandolin
At the hall of Forest Research Division, nine men took part in the amateur level (first class) men’s mandolin contest, three women in the amateur level (first class) women’s contest, five students in the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys’ contest and four in the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls’ contest.

Guitar
At the lecture hall of University of Agriculture, nine men participated in the amateur level (second class) contest and four in the women’s guitar contest. The higher education level guitar contests were held with the participation of four men and four women. Three students competed in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys’ contest and four students in the girls’ contest.

Orchestra
A total of nine contestant troupes took part in the amateur level (second class) men’s troupe orchestra contest at the convocation hall of the University of Agriculture.

Oboe
At the hall of Agricultural Research Department, six students showed off their skills in the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys’ contest, six in the (aged 10-15) boys’ contest and four in the (aged 5-10) boys’ contest.
Buridat Drama Contest commences

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—The Buridat Drama Contest of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions commenced at the Convocation Hall of the University of Veterinary Science, here, this evening.

The drama troupe representing Magway Division took part in the contest. Among the audience were Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, the secretaries of the Leading Committee and the Work Committee and members, members of the panel of judges (central), judges of States and Divisions and officials.—MNA

Cash donations for sinking tube wells

YANGON, 22 Oct — Wellwishers contributed cash for sinking tube wells in Meiktila and Thazi townships at Irrigation Department here yesterday.

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation organized wellwishers and NGOs to donate cash, to grow crops with underground water in the townships. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received K 25 million donated by Resident Representative Mr Shihab Uddin Ahmmad of Network Action Group (NAG), K 5 million by Mr Chen Wei of Yunnan Machinery & Equipment Import/Export Co Ltd and K 2.5 million by U Hla Maung Shwe and U Zaw Win Oo of Pyay Phyo Kyaw group, and gave certificates of honour to them.

At present, 200 tube wells out of 800 tube wells for 11,897 acres of farmland have been sunk.—MNA

School management course for township education officers concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct — The school management course for township education officers concluded at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Education here this afternoon with an address by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein.

In his address, the minister said that students must have sound foundation of education at the primary school level so that they can further pursue education at the middle school level. In the same manner, they need to have sound foundation of education at the middle school level so that they can be ready for study of education at high school level. Only then, will the pass rate of the matriculation exam be high. This being the case, the assistant township education officers, the township education officers, the state and division school inspection teams and the state and division education officers are to supervise the respective school heads and teachers based on experiences gained from the course.

The school management course was attended by 369 trainees from the states and divisions.—MNA

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Minister Dr Chan Nyein gives speech at the ceremony to conclude the school management course for township education officers.—MNA

Sinking of tube well seen at the corner of Hanthawady Street and Baho Street in Kamayut Township.—MNA

Yangon Mayor looks into sinking of tube well in Kamayut Township

YANGON, 22 Oct — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected sinking of tube well being implemented by Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) at the compound of YCDC staff quarters in Kamayut Township yesterday.

Upon completion, the well can pump out 2 million gallons to supply portable water to Sangyoung, Kyimyintone and Ahlon Townships.—MNA

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo receiving K 25 million

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The school management course was attended by 369 trainees from the states and divisions.—MNA

Sinking of tube well seen at the corner of Hanthawady Street and Baho Street in Kamayut Township.—MNA
Darfur violence caused 230,000 to flee in ‘08

United Nations, 22 Oct—Nearly a quarter of a million civilians have been forced to flee violence in Sudan’s war-torn Darfur region this year as the conflict shows no sign of abating, the UN chief said in a report on Tuesday. In a bleak new report to the UN Security Council, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the humanitarian situation in Darfur was desperate, while international peacekeepers and aid workers found themselves increasingly at risk from attack.

UN officials say that as many as 300,000 people have died and some 2.5 million fled their homes since violence broke out in Darfur in 2003, when mostly African rebels took up arms against the Arab-dominated Khartoum government. The Sudanese government says 10,000 have died. Ban’s report said 10,000 have died. Ban’s report said one million people have died and some 2.5 million have been forced to flee their homes.

Billions of people were forced to flee violence in Darfur has caused more than 230,000 people to flee this year, at a rate of around 1,000 per day. UN officials said it was not clear how many of these people were newly displaced and how many were “re-displaced” from other camps.

INTERNET

A couple and their four-month old son stand in front of their hut at Djabal refugee camp near Goz Beida in eastern Chad, on 20 June, 2008.

Soldier charged with murder, adultery at Mo post

FORT LEONARD WOOD, 22 Oct—A soldier is accused of killing the wife of another soldier at Fort Leonard Wood in central Missouri.

Twenty-six-year-old Spc Jermaine Johnson, a specialist at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, was accused of killing the wife of another soldier at Fort Leonard Wood on 22 Oct in Webster County.

Fort officials say Silva’s body was found on 14 Oct in Webster County. The post did not say how Silva died.

Her husband, Pfc Benjamin Silva, was serving in Iraq when she died. Johnson, an Army reservist, was charged Monday with murder, adultery at Mo post, manslaughter, attempted murder, supplying false information, counseling, weapons violation, and possession of a weapon in a school zone.

Myra Silva.

Fort officials say Silva’s body was found on 14 Oct in Webster County. The post did not say how Silva died.

Her husband, Pfc Benjamin Silva, was serving in Iraq when she died. Johnson, an Army reservist, was charged Monday with murder, adultery, obstruction of justice in the death of 23-year-old Myra Silva.

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New TB blood test seen more accurate

LONDON, 22 Oct—A new blood test will allow doctors more accurately to pinpoint patients likely to develop the symptoms of tuberculosis, researchers said on Monday.

Traditional testing for the disease involves injecting the subject with components of the TB bacterium; a resultant swelling of the skin can signal dormant tuberculosis.

Such skin tests are prone to false positives—people wrongly identified as needing treatment—and, conversely, can sometimes wrongly show TB carriers to be free of the infection.

A new blood test known as ELISpot is 1.5 times better at spotting tuberculosis carriers, said Ajit Lalvani, a researcher at Imperial College London.

"On a global level, when you stack up those numbers, that is going to make a huge difference," Lalvani, whose findings were published in the Annals of Internal Medicine, said in a telephone interview.

Tuberculosis is an infectious bacterial disease which typically attacks the lungs and affects about 9.2 million more people each year, killing an estimated 1.7 million. Many of its victims are in developing countries whose cash-strapped heath systems have limited means of screening for the disease.

Crane collapse kills two, injures four in China

HANGZHOU, 22 Oct—Two people were killed and four others injured when two cranes collapsed on Monday at a construction site in east China’s Zhejiang Province, a local government spokesman said.

The accident happened around 3 pm in Taizhou City. A crane suddenly collapsed and then crashed into another crane.

A construction worker on the ground was killed at the scene. Another died later at the hospital.

Four others were injured and are receiving treatment at Shuguang Hospital. Their conditions were not available. The cranes belonged to the local Fangyuan Construction Group Co Ltd, the spokesman said.

An investigation into the cause of the accident is underway.—Internet

Bird flu pushed back, pandemic threat remains

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Oct—International efforts have pushed back the spread of bird flu this year, but the risk of a global influenza pandemic killing millions is as great as ever, the United Nations and World Bank reported on Tuesday.

Most countries now have plans to combat a pandemic, but many of the plans are defective, said the report, issued ahead of a bird flu conference due to be attended by ministers from some 60 countries in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 24-26 October.

The report, fourth in a series since a bird flu scare swept the globe three years ago, followed a new World Bank estimate that a severe flu pandemic could cost $3 trillion and result in a drop of nearly 5 percent in world gross domestic product.

The highly pathogenic H5N1 bird flu virus is endemic in poultry in parts of Asia, but experts fear it will mutate into a form that is easily passed from human to human, sparking a pandemic similar to three others in the past century.

The UN-World Bank report said that in the first nine months of this year no countries were newly infected with highly pathogenic bird flu, compared with four in the first half of 2007.—Internet

Russia set to invest heavily in space industry

MOSCOW, 22 Oct—Russia will spend billions of dollars over the next three years to consolidate its leading role in the space industry, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday.

The former president, quoted by local news agencies, told a government meeting that Russia, which accounts for 40 percent of all space launches, would earn much more than 200 billion roubles ($7.68 billion) from the federal budget for development of the space industry in 2009-2011.

Russia's Soyuz manned spacecraft and Progress cargo vehicles have been the main workhorses serving the International Space Station (ISS) since the US Shuttle Columbia disintegrated on re-entry in 2003. "It is obvious that this status of a reliable international partner should be constantly upheld," Putin said.

He told the special meeting in Krasnoyarsk region in Siberia.

US space agency NASA plans to mothball its entire Space Shuttle fleet by 2011. "Evidently...between 2011 and 2016 the United States will not possess a new spaceship to replace the Space Shuttle," news agencies quoted Anatoly Perminov, the head of Russia's space agency Roskosmos, as telling Putin.—Internet

Explorers to measure Arctic’s vanishing summer ice

LONDON, 22 Oct—British explorer Pen Hadow is to return to the North Pole five years after his record solo trek, in an attempt to establish when Arctic summer sea ice will disappear for good.

The recoiling ice has proved a battleground for countries surrounding the region as they race to stake claims on some of the richest untapped mineral and marine resources on the planet.

Hadow, the first person to walk solo from Canada to the Pole without aircraft resupply, will be part of a three-man team collecting accurate readings of the ice’s thickness. Current estimates suggest the year-round ice is receding at a rate of 300,000 square km (116,000 square miles) per decade—about the size of the British Isles.

But despite some submarine and satellite measurements there is no accurate measure of how rapidly it is thinning.

“Our physical efforts hauling equipment over the surface will amassedata in unprecedented detail,” Hadow said.—Internet

Pig cell transplant trial for diabetes approved in NZ

WELLINGTON, 21 Oct—New Zealand Health Minister David Cunliffe on Tuesday gave conditional approval to allow pig cells to be transplanted into eight people with Type 1 diabetes as part of a clinical trial.

The approval followed an application from a New Zealand-based firm, the Living Cell Technologies, which has been in the pipeline for two years.

The LCT wants to try a form of xenotransplantation which involves injecting pig cells that produce insulin into people with Type 1 diabetes to reduce their need for regular insulin doses, Radio New Zealand reported.

Cunliffe said the trial will be held shortly at the Middle more Hospital in Auckland, subject to one final review.

Cunliffe said his decision followed consideration of a report by the National Health Committee and further advice from medicines safety agency Medsafe regarding international regulatory developments.
Arsenal’s young guns come of age in Fenerbahce victory

**ISTANBUL, 22 Oct** — Arsene Wenger believes Arsenal’s young guns have come of age after their stunning 5-2 Champions League victory at Fenerbahce.

Wenger sent out a team with an average age of just 23 but they made a mockery of the Sukru Saracooglu Stadium’s intimidating reputation to hand Fenerbahce their first European home defeat for nearly three years.

It was 15 matches since Fenerbahce had last been beaten in front of their fiercely-passionate fans. That didn’t frighten Arsenal and Emmanuel Adebayor and Theo Walcott put Wenger’s side in control with two goals in a minute early in the first half.

Adebayor after his goal

Ramsey celebrates with teammate Emmanuel Adebayor after his goal

Juventus’ Brazilian forward Amauri Carvalho de Oliveira eyes the ball during an action against Real Madrid during their Group H Champion’s League football match at Turin’s Olympic Stadium. Juve won 2-1. — Internet

Win over Fiorentina puts Bayern on the brink

**MUNICH, 22 Oct** — Bayern Munich ignored their poor league form to secure a convincing 3-0 win over Fiorentina in Tuesday’s Champions League match in Munich to take control of Group F. First-half goals by German striker Miroslav Klose and Bastian Schweinsteiger, as well as a late strike by Brazilian Ze Roberto on 90 minutes, made the win safe.

Despite a dramatic slump in recent weeks which has seen them crash to 11th in the Bundesliga, Bayern forgot their domestic league form to take another three points in the quest to add to their 2001 Champions League crown. — Internet

United team-mates starting to get Berbatov: Ferguson

**MANCHESTER, 22 Oct** — Sir Alex Ferguson has hailed Dimitar Berbatov’s double against Celtic as fresh evidence of the added dimension brought to his squad by the Bulgarian forward’s subtle touch and intelligence.

Two close-range strikes from Berbatov helped United cruise to a 3-0 win over the Scottish champions and brought his United tally to five goals in seven matches since his 30-million-pound move from Tottenham.

But it was the striker’s all-round contribution to the fluency of United’s offensive game that had Ferguson purring with enthusiasm. — Internet

Lyon sink Steaua as Benzema and Fred hit two apiece

**BUCHAREST, 22 Oct** — Two goals apiece from French starlet Karim Benzema and Fred gave Lyon a 5-3 Champions League victory against Steaua Bucharest here Tuesday, as the visitors moved into second place in Group F.

Double strikes from Benzema and Brazilian Fred, and a potential goal of the tournament from Kader Keita was enough to see off a solid Steaua, who twice took the lead.

Lyon coach Claude Puel hailed the result as “magnificent” given that his side were 2-0 down after 11 minutes.

“We were up against it with those two stupidly conceded goals before a third in the same conditions a little before half-time,” said Puel. “Many teams would have faded by we knew how to react.” — Internet

**Villarreal daze Danes in nine-goal thriller**

**MADRID, 22 Oct** — Spain’s Villarreal came from behind to defeat a determined Aalborg 6-3 in a thrilling Champions League match that saw a hat-trick from second-half substitute Josera Llorente.

Villarreal, third in the Spanish Primera Liga, have seven points from three matches in Group E, which also includes Manchester United. Llorente said that despite the convincing result, it was a difficult match for Villarreal.

“We were suffering a lot, it was a tricky match against a team that appeared inferior but which showed that they can do something if you let them,” said the 28-year-old, who was bought from Valladolid last season. “It was not a good first half, but in the end it came out alright.” — Internet

**Federer squeezes past inspired American underdog in Basel tennis**

**BASEL, Switzerland, 22 Oct** — Roger Federer won his 11th successive match on his home court but had to fight hard to keep a hat-trick of victories at Basel on course at the Swiss Indoors on Tuesday.

The top-seeded local who has won the last two editions was cheered by a sellout crowd at the St Jakobsballe as he laboured to defeat American Bobby Reynolds 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3.

It was his 25th Basel match victory as he played for the ninth time in the city of his birth. — Internet

**Arsenal’s Aaron Ramsey celebrates with teammate Emmanuel Adebayor after his goal against Fenerbahce during their UEFA Champions League Group G match in Istanbul. Arsena won 5-2. — Internet**

**Juventus’ Brazilian forward Amauri Carvalho de Oliveira eyes the ball during an action against Real Madrid during their Group H Champion’s League football match at Turin’s Olympic Stadium. Juve won 2-1. — Internet**

**Manchester United’s Bulgarian forward Dimitar Berbatov(C) is congratulated by teammates Jonny Evans(L) and Nemanja Vidic after scoring against Celtic during their UEFA Champions League Group E football match in Manchester. Manchester won 3-0. — Internet**

**Olympique Lyonnais’s Kader Keita(L) vies for the ball with Dayro Moreno(R) from Steaua Bucharest at Gheneza stadium during their Champions League Group F football match in Bucharest. Lyon won 5-3. — Internet**

**Roman Shirokov(R) of Russia’s Zenit vies with Vitaly Rodionov of Belarus’s BATE during their UEFA Champions League Group H football match in St Petersburg. The match ended on a 1-1 draw. — Internet**

**Villarreal’s Joseba Llorente celebrates after scoring against Aalborg during their Group E Champions League football match at the Madrigal Stadium in Villarreal. — Internet**

**FIA, F1 teams agree to cut costs for Formula One**

**GENEVA, 22 Oct** — The governing body of motorsports and Formula One have reached a deal to cut costs for smaller teams beginning next season.

FIA president Max Mosley and Ferrari chairman Luca di Montezemolo say the agreement will produce cut costs for independent teams beginning next season.

The engines will also cost of engines supplied to independent teams will be capped at $13.2 million a year. The engines will also run for three instead of two race weekends. — Internet
Sarkozy urges EU summit ahead of global finance talks

BRUSSELS, 22 Oct—French President Nicolas Sarkozy Tuesday called for a special summit with other European Union (EU) leaders ahead of global finance talks on reforming the international financial system.

“I will have the opportunity to propose to my fellow heads of states and governments a meeting to prepare for these (global) summits,” Sarkozy, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, told the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. Sarkozy, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and US President George W Bush agreed Saturday to hold a series of world summits on the global financial crisis, probably soon after the US presidential elections in November.

Sarkozy said the summits should bring together the Group of Eight (G-8) and the five biggest emerging economies, including China, India, Brazil, South Africa and Mexico. “With President Barroso, we are going to visit China, the aim being also to convince China and India to take part in this summit,” Sarkozy said. He will visit Beijing later this week for the Asia-Europe summit. MNA/Xinhua

Russian President visits Armenia to push ties

MOSCOW, 22 Oct—Visiting Russian President Dmitry Medvedev met with his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sarkissian in the capital Yerevan Tuesday, with both leaders hailing bilateral ties and pledging to settle regional disputes via dialogue, reports reaching here said.

“We attach much importance to interaction of our countries in the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Commonwealth of Independent States and other international structures,” ITAR-TASS quoted the Armenian President as saying.

“We are going to continue joint work to strengthen security, stability and cooperation in the South Caucasus,” added the head of state of the former Soviet republic, which is surrounded by Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran. The events in August showed that “any complicated issue should be resolved on the basis of international principles...there is nothing that can bring more positive results,” Interfax cited Medvedev as saying, referring to the five-day conflict between Russia and Georgia over the latter’s breakaway region of South Ossetia. —MNA/Xinhua

Two Nicaraguan municipal candidates killed

MANAGUA, 22 Oct—Two Sandinista candidates for municipal elections in Nicaragua were killed on the weekend in two separate incidents, local media reported. Erling Cruz, Sandinista leader of the northern municipality of Terrabona, died Monday in a hospital in Matagalpa Province, northeast of Managua. He was allegedly shot by Edwin Borjorge, a member of the Constitutional Liberal Party (PLC). Cruz was reported to receive nine gun shots Sunday in Matagalpa after he had a verbal confrontation with Borjorge.

The other victim, Juan Robledo, is the Sandinista candidate for the councillor in the Caribbean municipality of El Rama. He was killed on the weekend by unknown people during an ambush in the community El Toro, some 300 kilometres east of Managua. Local media blamed PLC activists for the violence. MNA/Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 23 October, 2008

WEATHER

Wednesday, 22 October, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan State and Yangon Division, isolated in Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawkerak (2.36) inches, Gwa (1.10) inches and Yangon/Mingaladon (0.99) inch.

Maximum temperature on 21-10-2008 was 97°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 22-10-2008 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 21-10-2008 was (8.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 22-10-2008 was (0.99) inch at Mingaladon, (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (102.56) inches at Mingaladon, (112.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (132.28) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from East at (12:30) hours MST on 21-10-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Southwest Bay and West Central Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 23rd October 2008: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Shan State and Taninthayi Division, isolated in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagain, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayesawaddy Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas.

Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers are likely in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 23-10-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-10-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-10-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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R 489
Tea plantations thriving in Natyegan mountain region of Ngaphe Township

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung had made field trips to two regions — one in Magway Division and other in Mandalay Division — on 18 and 19 October to inspect tea plantation in central Myanmar region in line with the guidance of Head of State.

On 18 October, the minister and party arrived at Natyegan mountain region in Ngaphe Township, Minbu District, Magway Division, and inspected test-planting of tea together with coffee at Natyegan coffee farm of Myanma Industrial Crops Development Enterprise Assistant Director U Kyaw Win of Forest Department conducted the minister round the plantation.

(See page 8)

Wagadok Supporting Dam benefits development of agriculture in Bago Township

The agriculture sector plays a key role in strengthening the State economy. To sufficiently supply water to the farmlands, the government has built dams, sluice gates and diversion weirs. Of them, Wagadok Supporting Dam built near Taungsat-in Village of Bago Township.

(See page 7)

Ince backs Becks

MILAN, 22 Oct—Blackburn manager Paul Ince is backing David Beckham to be a success in Italy if he joins AC Milan on loan.

Ince, who had a spell with Inter Milan after leaving Manchester United, said: “His quality with the ball is the best I have ever witnessed.

“He is an inspirational player, he has been great for English football, he’s an ambassador and a really good friend.

“It will be interesting to see how he gets on with the language but he can call me for a few tips.

“Mind you I would rather he signed for Inter than AC! I wish him all the best though.”

Ince has ruled out the possibility of moving in for his former Old Trafford team-mate, adding: “I would love to sign him but I just can’t.”—Internet

Liverpool’s season depends on Chelsea showdown as Benitez wants title warning to direct rivals

LIVERPOOL, 22 Oct—Liverpool’s direction for the season will be defined with the outcome of Sunday’s top-of-the-table Premiership showdown at leaders Chelsea, according to Reds boss Rafa Benitez.

The Blues lead the Reds only on goal-difference, but the former are unbeaten in the league at