Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Thein Sein on his return from PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Oct—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe welcomed back Prime Minister General Thein Sein, who had attended the 5th China-ASEAN Expo and the 5th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit held in Nanning at the invitation of the Government of the People’s Republic of China, at Nay Pyi Taw Airport at 4.30 p.m. today. The Prime Minister was also welcomed by Vice-Chairman of the SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, SPDC Member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tha Aye, SPDC Member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Adjoint-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan, senior military officers, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, heads of department, Charge d’Affaires of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar Mr Wang Zongying and officials.

Maj-Gen Maung Shein of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Communications Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Khang, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin and departmental heads, who accompanied the Prime Minister, also arrived back on the same flight.

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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
Fulfil the purposes of the United Nations Charter

The United Nations was established on 24 October 1945, so it is in its 63rd anniversary this year.

Now, the international organization has a membership of 192, each of which celebrates the UN founding day commemorative ceremony.

The United Nations puts in the fore the purposes of its Charter such as “to maintain international peace and security” and “to achieve international cooperation in solving the problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character”.

Since its membership of the United Nations, Myanmar has constantly cooperated with its fellow members in the international affairs and the functions of the Organization.

The United Nations has set up its agencies in Myanmar since 1948.

Myanmar exercises the independent and active foreign policy and upholds the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

In implementing its noble tasks, the United Nations is based on the principle of the sovereignty equality of all its members and cooperates with members, big or small. Myanmar will, therefore, keep on cooperating with all other members in the international affairs for the well-being of global people.
Five dead in US missile strike in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 23 Oct—US missiles struck a Taleban-linked school in northwest Pakistan on Thursday, killing five people in an apparent sign of US frustration with the country’s anti-terror efforts, intelligence officials said.

The strike came hours after Parliament warned against “incursions” on Pakistani soil in a resolution that also called for reviewing the national security strategy and making dialogue with militants the highest priority.

The US missiles hit the religious school on the outskirts of Miran Shah, the main town in the militant-infested North Waziristan region, four intelligence officials said. Relying on informants and agents in the area, two officials said at least five people were killed and two wounded.

The religious school belonged to a local pro-Taleban cleric, the intelligence officials said. The cleric has been linked to veteran Taleban commander Jalaluddin Haqqani, considered a top foe of the United States, they said.

Pakistani tribesmen gather over the destroyed residence of suspected Taleban militant Omar Duraz following a US missile strike in Miranshah, on 12 October. Suspected US spy drones fired missiles early Thursday into a Pakistani tribal area seen as a safe haven for Al-Qaeda and Taleban militants, killing 11 people.—INTERNET

Iraqi officials find mass graves near Syrian border

BAGHDAD, 23 Oct—Iraqi officials say at least nine people have been killed and 14 wounded in a bombing in a busy area of Baghdad.

Police officials say the target was a Labour and Social Affairs Ministry convoy that was passing through the central Bab al-Sharji district.

The explosion happened during Thursday morning rush hour. Two hospital officials and two policemen gave the casualty toll on condition of anonymity because they aren’t authorized to release the information.—INTERNET

Bomb kills three US-led soldiers in Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 Oct—A roadside bomb has killed three soldiers from the US-led coalition force in Afghanistan, the US military said. Violence has surged to its worst level this year, resulting so far in the killing of some 4,000 people, a third of them civilians, the bloodiest period since US-led troops overthrew Taleban’s government in 2001.

The roadside bomb hit a vehicle of the coalition soldiers on Wednesday evening in the western part of the country, the US military said in a statement late the same day. It did not give the nationalities of the victims.

Resurgent Taleban rely heavily on suicide and roadside bomb attacks in their attempt to topple the Western-backed government and to cause the withdrawal of foreign forces from the country.—INTERNET

Bomb kills nine people in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 Oct—Iraqi officials say at least nine people have been killed and 14 wounded in a bomb attack in a busy area of Baghdad.

Police officials say the target was a Labour and Social Affairs Ministry convoy that was passing through the central Bab al-Sharji district.

The explosion happened during Thursday morning rush hour. Two hospital officials and two policemen gave the casualty toll on condition of anonymity because they aren’t authorized to release the information.—INTERNET

Iraqi men mourn over the coffin of a relative in a mosque, in Karbala, 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 Oct, 2008. Iraqi officials Wednesday reported finding mass graves with the remains of 34 people, most believed to have been Iraqi Army recruits waylaid three years ago by al-Qaeda gunmen as they travelled to a training base near the Syrian border.—INTERNET


Afghan refugees flee from the troubled Bajaur tribal region in Pakistan on 22 October, 2008. Pakistani authorities are expelling Afghan refugees from a tribal region that has become the main battleground between troops and fighters linked to the Taleban and al Qaeda.—INTERNET

A Pakistani official inspects a house hit by a US missile strike in Miranshah, on 12 October. Suspected US spy drones fired missiles early Thursday into a Pakistani tribal area seen as a safe haven for Al-Qaeda and Taleban militants, killing 11 people.—INTERNET

INTERNET
China calls on cooperation with Vietnam over South China Sea

BEIJING, 23 Oct — China called on Vietnam for cooperation in the South China Sea to discover ways to address bilateral disputes over the region.

In a meeting here with visiting Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung on Wednesday, Chinese President Hu Jintao proposed the two neighbouring countries always keep the overall situation of the bilateral relations in mind and make efforts to strengthen bilateral efforts and properly settle the issues concerning the South China Sea.

“We should make it (South China Sea) a place of peace, cooperation and friendship,” Hu said.

Vietnam was willing to resolve disputes with China concerning the issue in a spirit of cooperation and brotherhood

China makes remarkable success in poverty reduction

WASHINGTON, 23 Oct—China has made remarkable success in poverty reduction despite challenges ahead, according to a report released by the World Bank recently.

In a new paper, “The developing world is poorer than we thought but no less successful in the fight against poverty,” the Bank revised estimates of poverty since 1981, finding that 1.4 billion people in the developing world were living below 1.25 US dollars a day in 2005, down from 1.9 billion in 1981.

In China, the number of people living on less than 1.25 dollars a day in 2005 prices has dropped from 835 million in 1981 to 207 million in 2005.

The World Bank’s earlier 2004 estimate had 130 million people in China living on below 1 dollar a day based on the 1993 consumption purchasing power parity (PPP).

Thus, the new calculations reveal more poor people than assumed earlier. “But China’s remarkable success in reducing poverty still stands,” said the report.

The new estimates, which reflect improvements in internationally comparable price data, offer a much more accurate picture of the cost of living in developing countries and set a new poverty line of 1.25 dollars a day.

They are based on the results of the 2005 International Comparison Programme (ICP), released earlier this year.

Martin Ravallion, director of the World Bank’s Development Research Group, hailed China’s progress in reducing poverty.

“China’s been enormously successful against poverty,” he said. “I don’t think we’ve ever seen anything in human history that’s comparable.”

One woman shot dead by police in New Zealand hostage incident

WELLINGTON, 23 Oct — One woman was shot dead by police during a hostage incident in the New Zealand northern city of Whanganui on Thursday.

Police said the woman, aged in her mid 30s, entered a shop on Reyburn Street on Thursday morning, carrying what they believe was a firearm, Radio New Zealand reported.

The shop owner alerted the police and the armed offenders squad was called.

It was believed the woman knew a person working in the shop.

Police cordoned off several streets near the shop, evacuated some buildings and ordered people in other nearby buildings to stay back from the windows.

Police said the woman held a man hostage inside the shop and walked in and out of the shop.

When she pointed a firearm at police, she was shot. Despite resuscitation attempts, she died at the scene. Police were investigating the hostage incident.

Small aircraft crashes at Zurich Airport

GENEVA, 23 Oct — A small touring aircraft crashed at landing at Zurich Airport in Switzerland Wednesday afternoon, with two people on board killed and the other two injured, said Swiss air rescue service.

The single propeller Cirrus SR22 was originally flying from Geneva to Berlin. It is unknown why it was diverted to Zurich Airport.

The accident prompted a temporary close of Runway No 16 at Zurich Airport. The rescue service has yet to release more information about the staff abroad the plane.

Head of Mexican drug trafficking cartel captured

MEXICO CITY, 23 Oct—Head of a powerful Mexican drug cartel has been arrested in capital Mexico City and now faces charges, Mexico’s federal prosecutor confirmed Wednesday.

Police arrested Jesus Zambada Garcia, alias “the King,” top drug trafficker of Mexico and current leader of the Sinaloa cartel, after an intense shootout in the early hours Tuesday, the Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora said at a Press conference.

Zambada Garcia was detained along with 15 other drug trafficker suspects, and when questioned, he gave a false identity for which the anti-drug agents didn’t recognize him in the first instance, Medina said.

According to Medina, the ringleader of the rampant drug cartel was accused of controlling cocaine and methamphetamine trafficking via the International Airport of Mexico City.

Zambada was also believed to have plotted a murder attempt against Mexican capital’s police chief in February, Medina added.

Medina said Zambada heads the Sinaloa cartel along with one of Mexico’s most wanted mobsters, Joaquin Guzman, who escaped from a high security prison in 2001. —Xinhua

Visitors view the picture exhibition titled “Tibet of China” in Mexico City, on 21 Oct, 2008. The exhibition, initiated by the Chinese Embassy in Mexico, the China-Mexico Friendship Group of the Chamber of Deputies, the Cultural Commission of the Chamber of Deputies and Xinhua News Agency, was inaugurated in the Mexican Chamber of Deputies on Tuesday, where 195 images documenting Tibetan history, cultural and religious protection, and socio-economic development are exhibited.

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Images documenting Tibetan history, cultural and religious protection, and socio-economic development are exhibited.

---

Head of a powerful Mexican drug cartel has been arrested in capital Mexico City and now faces charges, Mexico’s federal prosecutor confirmed Wednesday.

Police arrested Jesus Zambada Garcia, alias “the King,” top drug trafficker of Mexico and current leader of the Sinaloa cartel, after an intense shootout in the early hours Tuesday, the Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora said at a Press conference.

Zambada Garcia was detained along with 15 other drug trafficker suspects, and when questioned, he gave a false identity for which the anti-drug agents didn’t recognize him in the first instance, Medina said.

---

China calls on cooperation with Vietnam over South China Sea

BEIJING, 23 Oct — China called on Vietnam for cooperation in the South China Sea to discover ways to address bilateral disputes over the region.

In a meeting here with visiting Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung on Wednesday, Chinese President Hu Jintao proposed the two neighbouring countries always keep the overall situation of the bilateral relations in mind and make efforts to strengthen bilateral efforts and properly settle the issues concerning the South China Sea.

“We should make it (South China Sea) a place of peace, cooperation and friendship,” Hu said.

Vietnam was willing to resolve disputes with China concerning the issue in a spirit of cooperation and brotherhood

---

Small aircraft crashes at Zurich Airport

GENEVA, 23 Oct — A small touring aircraft crashed at landing at Zurich Airport in Switzerland Wednesday afternoon, with two people on board killed and the other two injured, said Swiss air rescue service.

The single propeller Cirrus SR22 was originally flying from Geneva to Berlin. It is unknown why it was diverted to Zurich Airport.

The accident prompted a temporary close of Runway No 16 at Zurich Airport. The rescue service has yet to release more information about the staff abroad the plane.

---

One woman shot dead by police in New Zealand hostage incident

WELLINGTON, 23 Oct — One woman was shot dead by police during a hostage incident in the New Zealand northern city of Whanganui on Thursday.

Police said the woman, aged in her mid 30s, entered a shop on Reyburn Street on Thursday morning, carrying what they believe was a firearm, Radio New Zealand reported.

The shop owner alerted the police and the armed offenders squad was called.

It was believed the woman knew a person working in the shop.

Police cordoned off several streets near the shop, evacuated some buildings and ordered people in other nearby buildings to stay back from the windows.

Police said the woman held a man hostage inside the shop and walked in and out of the shop.

When she pointed a firearm at police, she was shot. Despite resuscitation attempts, she died at the scene. Police were investigating the hostage incident.
Winds return fire danger to Southern California

Residents watch as a brush fire fanned by Santa Ana winds burns out of control in Fontana, California on 22 Oct, 2008.—INTERNET

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, 23 Oct—Hot, dry Santa Ana winds — and a high risk of wildfires — returned to Southern California on Wednesday, but firefighters quickly jumped on the small brush blazes that erupted.

A 250-acre fire in foothills 60 miles east of Los Angeles gave an early morning scare to residents, but 30 mph winds pushed the flames away from homes and into mountains and canyons of Rancho Cucamonga.

Flames were out by midafternoon but the fire was technically only 60 percent contained because crews had not completely dug a line around it, San Bernardino County fire spokesman Tracey Martinez said.

Firefighters watched for signs of rekindling. “We can’t let our guards down with the wind blowing like it is,” Martinez said.

An evacuation advisory for about 100 homes was cancelled by midday as little remained of the fire.

Martinez said fires were the cause but authorities don’t know if it was deliberate or accidental. There were no arrests.

One blaze blackened a steep hillside above homes in the city of Ventura, quickly charring 30 acres of brush and grass, said Ventura County Fire Capt Ron Oatman.—INTERNET

Cathay denies British Airways takeover rumours

HONG KONG, 23 Oct—Hong Kong carrier Cathay Pacific on Thursday denied market rumours that it was planning a takeover of British Airways.

“These rumours are unfounded. We have no plans to buy British Airways,” a Cathay spokeswoman said in a brief statement.

London-listed shares of BA rose on Wednesday on speculation that the firm was a takeover target.

BA is in merger talks with Spanish national carrier Iberia, but company president Willie Walsh said in an interview in early October the move would take longer than expected due to the downturn in the aviation sector.

Cathay said last week its passenger numbers had dropped in September due to the global financial crisis, its first fall since 1993.

Six minutes for dads Down Under

Australian fathers spend only six minutes alone with their children on weekdays, according to new research which found that dads Down Under leave most child-raising chores to their female partners.

In a study which also looked at parenting roles in Denmark, France, Italy and the United States, researcher Lyn Craig found that Australian fathers were among the most traditional.

“The difference between men’s and women’s lives when they have children is particularly pronounced in Australia,” Craig told AFP.

“In terms of the total amount of child care that’s done within a household in Australia, 10% of it will be done alone by the father and 90% of it will be done alone by the mother.

“In Denmark, 17% of the household care will be done alone by the father. So it’s quite a lot better but it’s by no means equal.”

China finds fossils of small feathered dinosaur

Archaeologists in China have discovered a small, pigeon-sized feathered dinosaur which they believe to be an ancestor of birds.

Its remains were found 90 percent complete, preserved in a slab of rock in Inner Mongolia’s Ningcheng county in northern China, the researchers wrote in an article in Nature.

It’s four limbs lacked contour feathers for flight and it probably lived from the Middle to Late Jurassic periods, or 176 to 146 million years ago.

This means it is older than the Archaeopteryx, which lived around 155 to 150 million years ago.
Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Vice-Premier Mr Wang Qishan of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Oct—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein and Vice-Premier Mr Wang Qishan of the People’s Republic of China held a discussion at the Nanning International Convention & Exhibition Centre in Nanning of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region at 3:35 p.m. on 21 October.

It was also attended by Maj-Gen Maung Shein of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Khaing, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Vice-Premier of the PRC was accompanied by the Vice-Chairman of the China Political Consultative Conference, Minister of Commerce Mr Chen Deming, Secretary of the Permanent Committee of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Guo Shengkun, Governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Ma Biao, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Wu Dawei, Vice Minister of Commerce Mr Gao Hucheng, Head of State Tourism Bureau Mr Sha Qiwei and the Chairman of the China International Trade Promotion Committee.

At the meeting, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said that Myanmar, a member of ASEAN, highly appreciates Chinese leaders organizing the 5th China-ASEAN Expo and the 5th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit on a grand scale. He said he conveyed the greetings from Myanmar leaders — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann.

The Prime Minister continued to say that since he has assumed his duties his first visit to China was in August 2008 to attend the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games that was the grandest ceremony in the history of the World Olympic Games. He added that the leaders of the Union of Myanmar, the government and Myanmar people are pleased with the successful organizing of the opening ceremony and Olympic Games the same as the Chinese leaders, the government and the Chinese people.

He said that his presence at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games reflects further cementing the Myanmar-Chinese friendship that has been flourishing since yore. He noted that another victory of PRC was the launching of the third spacecraft (Shanzhou-7) on 2 September and the space walk of astronaut for the first time. So, he said that he took pride in the above-mentioned success that put on record once more for China as a world super power country.

Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao proposed summits for China-ASEAN Expo and Business and Investment in 2003 and the 1st summit for China-ASEAN Trade Expo and Business & Investment was held in 2004.

Nanning in China, has hosted China-ASEAN Expo and 5th China-ASEAN Business & Investment summits every year.

Thanks to China-ASEAN expos, the trade volume between China and ASEAN and China and Myanmar has increased, and at the expo and summit this year, arrangements were made for cooperation between China and ASEAN not only in trade, investment and tourism sectors but also in the information and communication technology and agriculture sectors.

Myanmar has participated in Nanning expo every year as from 2004 and it shows Myanmar’s serious attention to economic cooperation between China and ASEAN as well as China and Myanmar would be strengthened.

The 5th China-ASEAN Expo and the 5th China-ASEAN Business & Investment Summit will strengthen the economic cooperation between China and ASEAN nations by establishing a free trade zone. In accordance with the motto of 5th China-ASEAN Expo and 5th China-ASEAN Business & Investment Summit “Broader Vision, Move Action”, efforts for cooperation in various areas are to be stepped up effectively.

(See page 7)
Myanmar takes pride...
(from page 6)

Now, rescue work has been completed. The work for helping the storm victims return to normal and for their long-term development has showed successful to a certain degree, he said.

He said that as the second phase, rehabilitation tasks are being carried out step by step; that durable houses that are better than their houses in pre-storm period have been provided, and all necessary measures were taken for the victims to restore their agricultural farming, fishing and salt farming.

Those regions are located in the delta, so they have a large number of rivers and creeks, and are difficult of access; that therefore five roads are under construction for smooth transport; and that cyclone shelters are being constructed, he said.

Myanmar supports One-China Policy and considers Taiwan Island as an inseparable part of China, he said.

He wished Chinese leaders including the Chinese Vice-Premier physical and mental well-being; the People’s Republic of China and Chinese people greater development, China-Myanmar relations and friendly relations between the two peoples further cemented.

He said that after Chinese Vice-Premier Madam Wu Yi visited Myanmar in 2004, the trade between the two countries improved remarkably; and many cases the two countries have to deal with, some have been implemented, and some are yet to be implemented.

Chinese Vice-Premier Mr Wang Qishan said that in more than 50 years there had been a lot of changes in the international relations, but no changes in the relations between the two countries.

He said that the two countries managed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the political sector and bilateral cooperation in the economic and trade sectors is improving.

China appreciates China-Myanmar relations considerably. He believed bilateral cooperation would continue to improve, he said.

China wished Myanmar political stability, economic growth and reconciliation of ethnic groups, he said.

He said that the Myanmar government and the people alone can address the internal affairs of the nation with self-reliant basis; that the Chinese Government opposes any forms of alien interference in the internal affairs of Myanmar. China is one of Myanmar’s neighbouring countries that favour progress of Myanmar, and China places emphasis on mutual cooperation of the two countries in various sectors, he said.

He said that he was pleased to tell the Myanmar Prime Minister that the Chinese government has decided to provide 200 cargo coaches, 20 passenger coaches and five locomotives for Myanmar, and that therefore it is required of respective ministries of the two nations to coordinate as soon as possible.

In conclusion, he said that on behalf of the Chinese government he warmly welcomes the Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein to the 5th China-ASEAN Expo and the 5th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends opening ceremony of Myanmar pavilions

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends opening ceremony of Myanmar booths by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and UMFFCCI President U Win Myint at 5th China-ASEAN Expo.*—MNA

Myanmar booths seen at 5th China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning of Guanxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. —MNA
NAY PYI TAW, 23 Oct—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein attended a banquet hosted by the Government of the People’s Republic of China at International Conference Centre at Li Yun Hotel in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Nanning on 21 October, to mark the 5th China-ASEAN Expo and 5th China-ASEAN Business & Investment Summit. Also present at the banquet were Vice-Premier of the PRC Mr. Wang Qishan, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna of Brunei Darussalam and her consort, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen, Vice-President Mr. Boungnang Vorachit of Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Hoang Trung Hai, Maj.-Gen Maung Shein of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig.-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Mines Brig.-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Electric Power No-1 Col Zaw Min, Minister for Transport Maj.-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig.-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Maj.-Gen Kyaw Swa Khaing, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No-2 Brig.-Gen Win Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and departmental heads, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and PRC and ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein being welcomed by Permanent Committee Member of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Shen Bei Hai. — MNA
Private sector plays important role in...

(from page 16)
The Prime Minister added that the volume of China’s exports and imports is growing rapidly and it is most likely that there will be a greater inflow of foreign investment as China has created a favourable environment for investment.

ASEAN is taking effective measures for greater economic cooperation in the region with an object of forming an ASEAN economic community.

The Prime Minister continued that the plan for the ASEAN free trade area is now well on the road to success and that ASEAN, rich in natural and human resources, is a region that offers good business opportunities for investors, especially those from China.

Then, the Prime Minister touched on the trade and investment situations between Myanmar and China. An MoU on Trade and Investment Promotion and Economic Cooperation was signed during the Chinese Vice-Premier’s visit to Myanmar in 2004 and it was mentioned in it that Myanmar and China cooperated with each other to increase the trade volume between the two nations up to 1.5 billion US dollars in 2005 and that, in 2007-2008, the bilateral trade volume stood at 2.4 billion US dollars, which constituted 24.21 per cent of foreign trade volume of Myanmar.

China’s investment in Myanmar stands fourth and most of its investments are in the sectors of mining, industry, oil and gas and electricity. (See page 10)

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Oct
— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein attended the opening ceremony of the 5th China-ASEAN Expo at Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China yesterday morning.

It was also attended by Chinese Vice-Premier Mr Wang Qishan, heads of state/government of ASEAN countries, the ministers of the People’s Republic of China and ASEAN countries, the deputy ministers, high-ranking officials, businessmen of the People’s Republic of China and ASEAN including Myanmar, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan and officials and media men from ASEAN and international news agencies.

Chairman of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Ma Biao extended greetings at the opening ceremony.

ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan delivered an address.

Chinese Commerce Minister Mr Chen Deming made a speech.

Next, documentary video on opening of 3rd China-ASEAN Expo was presented.

Afterwards, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen delivered an address.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, heads of governments of ASEAN countries and the Secretary-General of ASEAN took the designated positions at the dais to open the ceremony.

The Commerce Ministers and businessmen of ASEAN countries including Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Myanmar Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China U Thein Lwin, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint who attended the China-ASEAN Expo five years in a row were presented sashes and commemorative plates by the Leading Committee for Holding the 5th China-ASEAN Expo.

Chinese Vice-Premier presented sash and commemorative plate to Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen who attended the China-ASEAN Expo five years in a row.

Next, Chinese Vice-Premier Mr Wang Qishan announced the opening of the ceremony.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and heads of governments of the PRC and ASEAN countries showed the emblems to mark the China-ASEAN Friendship Bridge and the 5th China-ASEAN Expo on the screen. — MNA
**Private sector plays important role in...**

(From page 9)

The trade volume between Myanmar and ASEAN countries in 2007-2008 stood at 51.88 percent. ASEAN’s investment stands first in Myanmar accounting for 63.8 percent of the total investment, followed by EU countries and other Asian countries second and third respectively.

The Prime Minister added that ASEAN-China all-round economic cooperation agreement was signed in 2003 for the establishment of China-ASEAN Free Trade Area and cooperative efforts are being made in accord with the provisions of the agreement. China and ASEAN signed trade in goods agreement in 2004 and trade in services agreement in 2006. Plans are under way to sign the remaining investment agreement at the ASEAN Summit to be held in December 2008. So it is necessary to make the private sector extensively understand the provisions of the agreements for their success.

As regards the economic cooperation, the joint-declaration issued by the leaders of the People’s Republic of China and ASEAN countries in 1997 highlighted the cooperation in five main sectors – agriculture, information and technology, human resource development, mutual investment and Greater Mekong Sub-region development, said the Prime Minister.

The 9th ASEAN-China Summit held in Malaysia in December 2005 also approved to make cooperation in five new main sectors – energy, transport, culture, public health and tourism. Besides, the 11th ASEAN-China Summit held in Singapore in 2007 added the sector of environmental conservation as a priority. Such an effort for promoting cooperation in more priority sectors reflects the objective of the summits.

Today’s world is facing uncertainties and challenges and among the main pressures are skyrocketing prices of oil and food and financial crisis in some regions.

Regarding the surging oil prices, ASEAN itself has adopted plans to ensure energy security. In this regard, cooperation is necessary in energy sector for seeking ways to use new energy resources, alternative energy and effective energy resources and not to cause any loss of energy resources.

The Prime Minister noted the agriculture sector still plays a main role in economic development of most ASEAN nations. As surging rice prices can affect the regional food security, exchange of technologies and research are necessary for boosting food production.

In order to meet the increasing demand of food and energy, more and more cooperation needed between ASEAN and China. In relation to the financial crisis occurring in some parts of the world, it requires the regional countries to be well aware of the impact of the crisis. Nowadays, climate change and the environment have become the hot issues across the globe. And cooperative efforts are needed to address the issues as they can harm the socio-economic development. The Prime Minister said Myanmar expressed her sincere thanks to ASEAN nations and the People’s Republic of China for rendering assistance to relief and rehabilitation work after the cyclone Nargis.

He said progress has been made in the effort to establish Free Trade Area under the cooperation between China and ASEAN. Therefore, the private sector plays an important role in the establishment of impeccable ASEAN-China Free Trade Area.

In conclusion, he said, the results of the summit will contribute to accelerating the momentum of trade and investment between ASEAN and China.

Next, Laotian Vice-President Mr Bounngang Vorachit, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines Hon Prospero C Nogales, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Mr Hoang Trung Hai, UNCTED Secretary-General Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi and Chinese Vice-Premier Mr Wang Qishan delivered speeches and the opening ceremony ended.—MNA

**Medicines, teaching aids donated to Health Department**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Oct—_ The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association donated medicines and teaching aids to the Ministry of Health at its head office, here, this morning, attended by President of MMCWA Daw Khin Saw Hnin and CEC members.

President Daw Khin Saw Hnin presented medicines and teaching aids worth K 20 million to Director-General Dr U Win Myint of Health Department, who spoke words of thanks.

---

**Low pressure area occurs**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Oct — _ According to the measurement at 11 am MST, a low pressure area occurred in the middle-west of the Bay of Bengal, Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced today.—MNA
Mandalay Div presents Buridat Drama

Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue for eighth day

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Oct—The 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the eighth day at the designated places here today. Among the audience were Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung, members of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Nyi Tun and U Kyaw Aung, Secretary of the leading committee Director-General U Sann Win of Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, Secretary of work committee Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of Fine Arts Department and members, judges (central), judges from states and divisions and contestants.

A total of five contestants took part in the Kwetseik contest under the supervision of leader of the panel of judges Rector U Tin Soe of University of National Culture and Fine Arts at the convocation hall of the University of Veterinary Science. Ten contestants participated in the amateur level (second class) women’s classical song contest and 12 in the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys’ contest at the assembly hall of the University of Agriculture. Altogether 10 contestants took part in the amateur level (first class) and higher education level competition in the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys’ xylophone contest and six in the amateur level (second class) women’s contest at the lecture hall of the University of Veterinary Science.

Eight contestants competed in the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls’ orchestra contest (individual) and basic education level (aged 5-10) girls’ orchestra contest (individual) at the convocation hall of the University of Agriculture. A total of 19 contestants participated in amateur level (first class) men’s domin contest and basic education level (aged 15-20) and (aged 10-15) girls’ contests at the assembly hall of the Agriculture Research Department. —MNA

Drama troupe representing Mandalay Division stages Buridat Drama.—MNA

Maung Nyi Nyi Lwin of Yangon Division competes in boys’ violin contest.—MNA

Daw Khin Khin Myint of Rakhine State participates in amateur level (first class) women’s orchestra (individual) contest.—MNA

Saw John Sky of Kayin State participates in singing contest.—MNA

U Zaw Hmu of Kachin State competes in Kwetseik contest.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Oct—The Buridat Drama Contest of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the Convocation Hall of the University of Veterinary Science here this evening.

The drama troupe representing Mandalay Division took part in the contest. Among the audience were Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of Ministry of Defence and wife, 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 Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and wife, Deputy Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, Member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Hla Myint Oo, Director-General of State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, members of the panel of judges (central), judges of States and Divisions and offices. —MNA
Five dead when fishing boat sinks off Alaska

ANCHORAGE, 23 Oct—Four crew members of a fishing boat were plucked alive from a life raft in frigid, stormy seas Wednesday, hours after their vessel was reported in distress, a Coast Guard spokesman says. Five crew members died, and two remained missing.

A search continued for the remaining two crew members of the Katmai, a 93-foot fish processor based on Alaska's Kodiak island, Coast Guard Petty Officer Levi Read said.

Read said two more deceased crew members were located Wednesday night by a fishing vessel assisting the Coast Guard in the search. Three bodies were recovered earlier.

The water was 43 degrees when rescuers hauled the survivors out of the raft, Read said. He couldn't speculate on how long they were in the raft because it was not known exactly when they abandoned their boat.

Still, he said, several factors helped them survive.

“Take what a lot of fortitude and a lot of heart,” Read said. Their survival suits, their physical condition, and an effort to keep one another semi-warm and awake all could have helped them endure, he said.

World Bank says West Bank land prices rocketing

JERUSALEM, 23 Oct—The price of property in the West Bank is rocketing beyond the reach of most local businesses and home buyers, pushed up by a weak dollar and Israeli control of large chunks of the territory, a World Bank report said Thursday.

The 41-page paper said local government data from the commercial and political centre of Ramallah indicates the value of prime downtown commercial plots has doubled each year since 2005, hitting the current average of about $372 a square foot.

Israel, citing the need to prevent Palestinian attacks inside Israel and on Jewish settlers in the West Bank, has kept large swathes of Palestinian land and roads off limits to Palestinians. It also maintains a complex network of checkpoints on roads that remain open to West Bankers.

That leaves the vast majority of Palestinians chasing land in the remaining 41 percent of the territory, which is home to at least 90 percent of the population, the World Bank said.

“As a result, land prices are shooting up and in certain towns are becoming prohibitive for all but high value commercial activities, or high rise apartment buildings,” the report said. “Residential development is crowding out other economic activities on scarce plots available for development, yet there remains a housing short- age.”

OPEC should cut oil output by two million barrels a day

VIENNA, 23 Oct—Iran’s oil minister on Thursday said that a drop in demand meant OPEC should decide to cut production by two million barrels per day when it meets for a meeting here on Friday.

“Two million will stabilise the market,” Ghomal Hossein Norazi told reporters on arrival in the Austrian capital.

On Tuesday he had said that Iran was looking for a cut of between 2 and 2.5 million barrels per day. “The rate of reduction of demand is good for a cut,” said Norazi.

OPEC’s member countries are calling for a cut to the cartel’s output to help shore up oil prices, which have tumbled in recent weeks as a global economic slowdown slashes demand. Analysts expect the cartel to decide on a reduction of at least one million barrels per day when it meets for an extraordinary meeting on Friday. OPEC produces 40 percent of the world’s oil and its official output quota stands at 28.8 million barrels per day.

Man arrested over Japan lottery winner killing

TOKYO, 23 Oct—Japanese police arrested a 51-year-old newspaper deliveryman this week on suspicion of killing his girlfriend after a row over her 200 million yen ($2 million) lottery winnings, Kyodo news agency said.

The arrest came after a three-year investigation into the disappearance of Hisako Yoshida from her home in the northern prefecture of Iwate in 2005, after she won a lottery the previous year, the agency said.

She appeared to have kept the win a secret from everyone but her boyfriend, Inuchi Kumagai, Kyodo quoted the police as saying.

Kumagai confessed to the killing on Wednesday and police following his directions found what they believe to be Yoshida’s remains, Kyodo said.

He told police he had used part of the prize money to pay off his debts. Kumagai’s electronic parts business went bankrupt in 2005, the agency said.

Two killed as military plane crashes in S Israel

JERUSALEM, 23 Oct—A military aircraft crashed in southern Israeli on Wednesday, both the pilot and the flight instructor were killed in the crash, local daily Yedioth Ahronoth reported on its website.

Israeli military personnel check the site of the training plane crash in the northern Negev Desert near Kibbutz Tzeelim, Israel, on 22 Oct, 2008. A military training plane crashed in southern Israel on Wednesday, killing an Israeli Air Force (IAF) officer and a soldier. —AP/INTERNET
South Korea finds melamine in Chinese egg products

SEOUL, 23 Oct—South Korea has ordered 23 tonnes of Chinese processed egg products to be destroyed after they were found to be tainted with melamine, the latest in a series of health scares blighting the “made in China” brand.

The move comes after South Korea found melamine in 10 Chinese dairy products earlier this month and ordered them to be taken off shop shelves.

Tens of thousands of Chinese children have fallen ill and at least four have died from drinking milk formula contaminated with melamine, which has since been found in a series of drinks and foods and led to products being pulled from shops worldwide.

Widely used in making plastic kitchen utensils, melamine is added to cheat nutrition tests and can pose serious health risks if consumed in quantity.

The tainted processed egg products were imported from China’s Dalian Hanovo Foods Co Ltd and Dalian Greensnow Egg Products Development, South Korea’s Farm Ministry said in a statement.

“We’ve ordered a halt to imports from the two companies and requested the Chinese government to find out the cause of the contamination,” it said.

Dalian Hanovo Foods was not immediately available for comment. A woman in the quality supervision department at Dalian Greensnow said she knew nothing about the recall.—Internet

Study finds leukaemia drug can halt, reverse effects of MS

LONDON, 23 Oct—Researchers at the University of Cambridge said Thursday they have found that a drug originally developed to treat leukaemia can halt and even reverse the debilitating effects of multiple sclerosis (MS).

In trials, alemtuzumab reduced the number of attacks in sufferers and also helped them recover lost functions, apparently allowing damaged brain tissue to repair so that individuals were less disabled than at the start of the study.

“The ability of an MS drug to promote brain repair is unprecedented,” said Dr Alasdair Coles, a lecturer at Cambridge University’s department of clinical neurosciences, who coordinated many aspects of the study.

“We are witnessing a drug which, if given early enough, might effectively stop the advancement of the disease and also restore lost function by promoting repair of the damaged brain tissue.”

The MS Society, Britain’s largest sup-

18 killed in Indian fireworks explosion

NEW DELHI, 23 Oct—Eighteen people were killed, many of them children, when an illegal fireworks factory exploded in northern India, police said Thursday. There was a house in which fireworks were being made illegally,” said police official Rohit Mahajan. “An explosion went off in one man’s house and it collapsed. “Four other houses also collapsed and 18 people were injured in the explosion late Wednesday,” he said. Ten of the dead were children.—Internet

Russia modernizes missiles in response to US plans

MOSCOW, 23 Oct—Russia’s efforts to upgrade its missile arsenals will help counter the planned US missile defence sites in Europe, a top general said Wednesday.

Russia’s Strategic Missile Force chief, Col-Gen Nikolai Solovtsov, said the military will commission a new type of intercontinental ballistic missile and modify the existing missiles.

Workers demolish a building in Saining, Sichuan Province on 23 Oct, 2008. China’s Ministry of Finance on Wednesday announced a series of policy changes that will make it easier for people to buy their first homes, fleshing out a directive approved last week by the cabinet.—INTERNET

Researchers at the University of Cambridge said they have found that alemtuzumab, a drug originally developed to treat leukaemia, can halt and even reverse the debilitating effects of multiple sclerosis (MS).—INTERNET

Resveratrol may treat alcoholic liver disease

NEW YORK, 23 Oct—Resveratrol, an antioxidant abundant in grapes, red wine, peanuts — and, according to a new study, dark chocolate and cocoa — may prevent and treat the build-up of fat in the liver caused by chronic alcohol drinking. In experiments with mice, resveratrol reduced the amount of fat produced in the liver of mice fed alcohol and increased the rate at which liver fat was broken down.

Chronic heavy alcohol drinking causes fat to accumulate in the liver and can lead to cirrhosis, fibrosis, and other liver diseases. “Our study suggests that resveratrol may serve as a promising agent for preventing or treating human alcoholic fatty liver disease,” the researchers conclude in a report in the American Journal of Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology.

Previous work has shown that chronic alcohol ingestion inhibits two proteins — AMPK and SIRT1 — that play a key role in the breakdown of fats in the liver. When alcohol inhibits these two proteins, it allows fat to accumulate. —INTERNET
Chelsea’s Terry ends Roma resistance

LONDON, 23 Oct — John Terry came to Chelsea’s rescue on Wednesday when he powered in a 77th-minute header to secure a 1-0 Champions League win over dogged AS Roma and put the Londoners firmly on course for the knockout phase.

The captain rose to glance in a Frank Lampard corner and put the Londoners in command in Group A on seven points from three games. Cluj have four with Roma and Bordeaux both on three.

Until the goal Roma, who had been thrashed 4-0 by Inter Milan in Serie A at the weekend, held out seven points from three games. Cluj have four with Roma and Bordeaux both on three.

The Blues top the Premier League on goal difference over dogged AS Roma and put the Londoners firmly on course for the knockout phase.

Ballack’s position as Germany captain under threat

Michael Ballack.

BERLIN, 23 Oct — Germany coach Joachim Loew summoned Michael Ballack to a meeting on Wednesday and hinted strongly that his future as captain was under threat after the midfielder criticised him in a newspaper interview.

Loew said in a strongly worded statement that he would wait to speak to Ballack in person before taking any action, after the Chelsea player made what Loew called “unacceptable” comments calling for senior players to be shown more respect.

“I will tell Michael that I’m extremely disappointed about the route he has chosen to take, and that his comments are unacceptable,” Loew said in a statement released by the German Football Association on Wednesday. “I will insist on the meeting... My decision on everything else will depend on how that conversation goes.”

Loew said in a strongly worded statement that he would wait to speak to Ballack in person before taking any action, after the Chelsea player made what Loew called “unacceptable” comments calling for senior players to be shown more respect.

“I will tell Michael that I’m extremely disappointed about the route he has chosen to take, and that his comments are unacceptable,” Loew said in a statement released by the German Football Association on Wednesday. “I will insist on the meeting... My decision on everything else will depend on how that conversation goes.”

Ballack, speaking in an interview with FAZ newspaper, was critical of the coach’s handling of selection issues in the squad after his midfield colleague Torsten Frings was dropped for the last two World Cup qualifiers.

Two-time US Open champion Pat Rafter.

BRISBANE (Australia), 23 Oct — Brisbane’s new 82 million Australian dollar (55 million US) tennis centre has been named after two-time US Open champion Pat Rafter.

The 5,500-seat Rafter Arena, officially named on Thursday, will open in January, hosting the Brisbane International men’s and women’s hardcourt championships on 4 January in the lead up to the Australian Open in Melbourne.

Novak Djokovic, Marcos Baghdatis and Ana Ivanovic have been confirmed for the event, which will be the first international tennis tournament to be played in Brisbane since 1994.


In-form Murray eases through St Petersburg opener

St Petersburg, 23 Oct — Top seed and defending champion Andy Murray cruised to a 6-3, 6-3 first round victory over Viktor Troicki of Serbia at the St Petersburg Open on Wednesday.

The 21-year-old Scot, the world number four who captured the Madrid Masters at the weekend, improved to 49-14 on the season and will take on Latvian Ernests Gulbis in the second round on Thursday.

In their previous meeting in the third round at Queen’s Club in June, Murray prevailed 5-7, 6-1, 6-4.

Third-seed and last year’s runner-up Fernando Verdasco needed

BRITAIN’S Andy Murray, only a little over an hour to defeat Latvian wild card Karis Lejnieks 6-1, 6-3, to advance to the quarter-finals.

In a first round match, eighth seed Marat Safin, who is coming off a run-up effort in Moscow 10 days ago, defeated top Ukrainian Sergiy Stakhovsky 6-2, 6-4 in 68 minutes.

Tennis ace Baghdatis smiles despite Swiss defeat

Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis.

BASL, 23 Oct — Former finalist Marcos Baghdatis lost 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 to Marcel Granollers at the Swiss Indoors Wednesday, but emerged smiling after finally completing a match following injury.

The Cypriot, who played the final three years ago against Fernando Gonzalez, couldn’t hide his renewed optimism — even in defeat — after failing to complete his last two matches over the past month.

“I’m not happy to lose, but it’s great to finally finish one,” said Baghdatis who lost in Orleans and Metz in France. “I shows I’m back on the Tour.”

The 43rd-ranked Baghdatis was playing his first event since retiring in a first-round clash against Ivo Karlovic with a back injury three weeks ago at Metz, when he had to be stretchered off court.

The Cypriot took treatment on his left thigh during the second set as he was laid on the sidelines by the trainer.

Chelsea’s John Terry (R) shakes hands with AS Roma’s Francesco Totti after their Champions League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 22 Oct, 2008.

Athletic Madrid’s Antonio Lopez (L) and Liverpool’s Dirk Kuyt try to control the ball during their Champions League soccer match at Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid on 22 Oct, 2008.

Rare corals breed their way out of trouble

SYDNEY, 23 Oct — Rare corals may be smarter than we thought. Faced with a dire shortage of mates of their own kind, new research suggests they may be able to cross-breed with certain other coral species to breed themselves out of a one-way trip to extinction.

This finding, released by scientists at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, has raised hopes for the ability of the world’s corals to withstand the rigors of changing climates and human impacts, says lead author Zoe Richards.

“Coral reefs worldwide face a variety of marine and land-based threats and hundreds of corals are now on the red list of threatened species. It is often assumed that rare coral species face higher risks of extinction and land-based threats and hundreds of corals are now on the red list of threatened species. It is often assumed that rare coral species face higher risks of extinction and high levels of inbreeding and therefore be unable to adapt to changing conditions,” Zoe says.

Acropora (staghorn corals) are the main reef-builders throughout the Indian and Pacific Oceans, and so of critical importance to the ability of reefs to represent the future of bioenergy in the Northeast.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences’ (CALS) Bioenergy Feedstock Project, now in its second year, is the only project of its kind devoted to exploring the many species of field grass that grow in the Northeast and their potential as sources for biofuels.

The project has roughly 80 acres of different warm- and cool-season perennial grass varieties, otherwise known as “feedstocks,” growing in 11 counties across New York.

Study to select northeast grasses that can power the bioenergy era

New York, 23 Oct — Cornell bioenergy plant experts are learning which field grasses are the best candidates for “dedicated energy” crops in the Northeast, considering the region’s climate and soil conditions.

The experts hosted their first field day Sept 10 to give farmers, government officials, extension educators and researchers the opportunity to view stands of tall grasses that represent the future of bioenergy in the Northeast.

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions, fairly widespread in Mon State, scattered in Shan and Kayin States, isolated in Chin and Kayah States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Chaung T and Co Co Island(0.87)inch each, Kyaukphataung and Thuton (0.55)inch each and Hpa-an (0.51) inch. Minimum temperature on 22-10-2008 was 93°F. Maximum temperature on 23-10-2008 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 23-10-2008 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 22-10-2008 was (4.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 23-10-2008 was (N) at Mingaladon, 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 (5) mph from Northeast at (14:15) hours MST on 22-10-2008.

Forecast valid until evening of 24 October 2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division. Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and scattered in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of the atmospheric unsettled conditions in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-10-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-10-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-10-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).
Private sector plays important role in establishment of impeccable ASEAN-China Free Trade Area

Prime Minister General Thein Sein addresses opening of 5th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit

Prime Minister General Thein Sein delivers an address at 5th China-ASEAN Business & Investment Summit. —MNA

The main purpose of this year’s summit is “Broader Vision, Move Action” and this reflects that China and ASEAN are increasing their cooperation with broader vision not only in trade and investment but also in other economic fields.

Myawady Bank Limited gets new building in Nay Pyi Taw

Myawady Bank Limited undertakes banking services such as accepting current and fixed accounts, opening savings account, carrying out the sale of bond, loan and remittance. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Oct —Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein delivered an address at the 5th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit at the People’s Hall of Guangxi in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China yesterday.

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Oct —Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thita Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attended the opening of new building for Myawady Bank Limited (Nay Pyi Taw) this morning.

It was also attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the director-general of SPDC Office and departmental heads, chairmen of private banks, executive directors and departmental officials.

First, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt formally opened the new building.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thita Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo formally unveiled the signboard of the new building.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party posed for a documentary photo together with staff.

The Secretary-1 presented prizes to members of the band.

SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye presented prizes to members of pom-pom dance troupe.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party looked into the new building and banking services.

Myawady Bank Limited undertakes banking services such as accepting current and fixed accounts, opening savings account, carrying out the sale of bond, loan and remittance. —MNA