Development tasks facilitated in southern Shan State

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence yesterday morning met with departmental officials of the Zawgyi-1 hydel power station of Hydroelectric Power Generating Enterprise at Bahtoo Station Yeiktha, Yaksawk Township, Shan State (South) and gave instructions on regional development.

Next, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and party inspected the layers farm of U Law Kyan in Thitpintaung Village, Ayethaya Myothit, Taunggyi Township, thriving niger, pigeon pea and paddy on either side of the road, condition of roads and bridges. After that, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing met with officers and other ranks at Bayintnaung Hall of Mongping Station and presented medicines, sports equipment and provisions.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and party proceeded to Mongping Basic Education Middle School (Branch) and inspected construction of school buildings and its environs. During the tour, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing presented cash award to the headmistress of the school and medicines and medical equipment for Mongping Rural Health Centre through a health staff.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana-Myohaung dual railroad facilitates smooth transport of passengers, commodities

For ensuring smooth and speedy flow of passengers and commodities from Yangon to upper Myanmar, the Yangon-Mandalay railroad is most reliable facility. In the past, Yangon and Mandalay was connected with single railroad. Up-trains and down-trains waited for each other along the single way in their runs. Therefore, passengers encountered difficulties in erratic schedules of the trains and possible risks.

Despite trying to overcome the difficulties, partial success could be gained. Accomplishment of the plan could not be achieved. Nowadays, the government has overcome the difficulties on Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana-Myohaung dual railroad section.

(See page 11)
PERSPECTIVES
Sunday, 26 October, 2008

UN members to work hard together for more prosperous world

The United Nations established for the well-being of the world people is in its 63rd anniversary this year. The UN represents the global community more than any other international organization, and is struggling for realizing the Millennium Development Goals: common vision of building a better world in the 21st century.

Now, the whole world has come under the threats of climate change that has caused a growing number of natural disasters. And the world people are facing food insecurity, fuel insecurity, the spread of epidemics and deadly weapons, and the scourge of terrorism.

It is now shockingly alarming that food insecurity has posed a strong impact on about one billion people around the world. Food insecurity and soaring prices of food have exacerbated the hardships of the people of the developing countries.

Accordingly, members of the United Nations are obliged to work together to address the issues and problems including food insecurity. The advances in the fight against malaria throughout the world are the results of top-notch science and technology and harmonious implementation of control campaigns by the countries concerned.

UN member countries have yet to make continued efforts to deal with such great challenges as seeking alternative fuel for energy security, reduction of outbreak of natural disasters triggered by climate change, and long-term economic growth of world countries.

The United Nations is now in intensive pursuance of the Millennium Development Goals of building a better world in the 21st century. Therefore, all member countries are to work hard together for the future prosperity of world people.

Briefing on package tours of Ba Gyan & Brothers Co Ltd

YANGON, 25 Oct — A ceremony to honour the sales promoters, who had been on holiday in Bangkok, Thailand, during Thingyan holidays this year under the sponsorship of Ba Gyan & Brothers Co Ltd, the sole agent of UAE-made Golden Power Brand engine oil and RBl Brand rubber products, took place at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here in conjunction with a get-together on briefing on vacation programmes for 2009 to be organized by Ba Gyan & Brothers Co Ltd.

Managing Director U Ba Gyan extended greetings and Director Ma Aye Mya Yadana spoke words of thanks. The managing director briefed on sending of 35 sales promoters, who could carry out the biggest sales, to Bangkok for their Thingyan holiday in 2008 and sending of 50 sales promoters in 2009.

Ba Gyan & Brothers Co Ltd is also planning to distribute original spare parts of Toyota, Mitsubishi, Honda, Isuzu, Nissan and Mazda.

Spare parts of those cars will be available on the ground floor of Building No. 198, Bo Myat Tint Street, Pazundaung Township, here, beginning 1 December. The showroom will be opened at Room No. 1, Building No. 35, Bayintnaung Market in Mayangon Township (Ph: 680597).
Abbas’ forces deploy in West Bank city of Hebron

HEBRON, (West Bank), 25 Oct — Palestinian security forces are deploying in Hebron as part of President Mahmoud Abbas’ programme to strengthen his control over the West Bank.

Around 550 officers are taking up positions in the city, the third in the West bank to be reinforced with forces loyal to Abbas. Hebron is the West Bank’s largest city and considered a stronghold of the militant Islamic Hamas movement, which rivals Abbas’ Fatah. Hamas seized Gaza by force in June 2007 and Abbas wants to prevent a repeat in the West Bank.

Palestinian security officials said the deployment, which began in the early hours of Saturday, was coordinated with Israel. Several hundred Jewish settlers live in the center of Hebron, under heavy army guard.

Two foreigners, one Afghan shot to death in Kabul

KABUL, 25 Oct — An Afghan police official says two Germans and one Afghan have been shot to death in front of a Western shipping company in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Gen. Ali Shah Ahmadzai, Kabul’s deputy provincial police chief, says the two Germans worked for the international shipping company DHL. The shooting took place in front of DHL’s office.

Saturday’s shooting follows the slaying in Kabul of a dual South African-British citizen by Taliban gunning took place in front of DHL’s office.

Pakistan’s tribesmen hold remains of missile allegedly fired by US forces on the outskirts of Pakistan’s tribal area of Miran Shah along Afghanistan border on 23 Oct, 2008. Suspected US missiles struck a Taliban-linked school in northwestern Pakistan on Thursday, killing nine people, intelligence officials said, in an apparent sign of American frustration with the country’s anti-terror efforts.—INTERNET

Bangladeshi men kidnapped in Afghanistan

DHAKA, 25 Oct — Two Bangladeshi development workers in the Afghan province of Ghazni have been kidnapped, their employer said on Saturday, in the latest of a string of abductions in the troubled country.

Mahbub Hossain, executive director of the Bangladeshi Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), the largest foreign development organization in Afghanistan, said it was not known who abducted the men.

“Our Kabul office informed us on Friday two of our Bangladeshi men were abducted as they were going to a branch office in Ghazni,” Hossain said.

“We don’t know who abducted them and where they have been taken,” he said.

Brac is the biggest private charity working in Afghanistan since 2002. It works on development projects, including building schools, roads and clinics. The insurgent Taliban movement, which controlled Afghanistan until it was ousted by a US invasion in 2001, has been behind a string of abductions of Afghan and foreign nationals in the country.

The Taliban have tried to use hostages to barter with the government and have killed a number of them.

Pakistan troops capture militant stronghold

KHAK, (Pakistan), 25 Oct — Pakistan’s army captured a militant stronghold near the Afghan border, the military said Saturday, a breakthrough in an offensive against the Taliban and al-Qaeda that has sent nearly 200,000 civilians fleeing for safety.

Maj Gen Tariq Khan said government forces captured Loi Sam, a strategic town in the Bajur tribal region, earlier this week “and killed the militants who were hiding there.”

Bajur is part of Pakistan’s tribal belt that has become the refuge of Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters waging an intensifying insurgency on both sides of the frontier.

Pakistan’s army launched an offensive in Bajur in early August, saying the region had become a “mega-sanctuary” for militants who had set up a virtual mini-state.

Commanders had reported stiff resistance near Loi Sam, which sits on a key road, from local Taliban militants reinforced by foreign fighters including some from Afghanistan.

Khan said troops had now overrun the area and were in “complete control” of the town. Eleven tribal militias had joined the government side in the region, he said.

Khan said a total of 1,500 suspected militants and 73 troops had died in the operation so far.

The army has acknowledged civilian casualties have been badly damaged from fighting and its use of artillery and airstrikes, but has provided no figure for civilian casualties.—INTERNET
Statement: China, Vietnam agree to find lasting solution on South China Sea issue

BEIJING, 25 Oct — China and Vietnam agreed to find a "basic and lasting" solution acceptable by both, said a joint statement issued on Saturday in Beijing. The two sides reaffirmed to observe the consensus by both and the spirit of the Declaration on the Code of Conduct on the South China Sea, to keep in place the negotiation mechanism on this issue, and try to find a basic and lasting solution accepted by both in accordance with the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea in 1982.

Meanwhile, the two sides pledged to consult on finding a proper area and way of making joint exploration, said the statement.

The two sides would join hands to safeguard stability of the South China Sea, not take any action that would complicate or escalate disputes, said the statement.

It is difficult for OPEC to sustain oil price by cutting output

VIENNA, 25 Oct — In the face of the ongoing global financial crisis, it has proved difficult for the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to sustain oil prices by cutting the output, observers say.

On Friday, OPEC announced the cut of daily oil output by 1.5 million barrels. But instead of boosting the oil price in the international market, the move prompted world oil prices to plunge to a 17-month low.

A Russian technician works at the Bushehr nuclear power plant in the Iranian port town of Bushehr, 1200 km south of Tehran in 2007. US sanctions on a Russian firm which allegedly violated a ban on sales of sensitive military technology to Iran will have a "negative" impact on talks between world powers on Tehran's nuclear programme, Russia's foreign ministry said.

Russian passenger jet "hijacked"

MOSCOW, 25 Oct — A passenger on board a Russian domestic flight has attempted to hijack the plane, local media reports say.

Russia's Interfax news agency reported that the passenger demanded that the plane divert to Vienna, Austria, instead of landing in Moscow.

The passenger was described as drunk, reports said.

Air traffic control had been notified that crew quickly regained control of the SkyExpress flight, from the Black Sea resort of Sochi, police said.

An official at Moscow's Vnukovo airport told Interfax that the passenger had been "rendered harmless" and that security personnel were ready to meet him from the plane.

The flight landed in Moscow a little later than scheduled and investigations into the incident were continuing, said Russian media.

Bolivia alleges US role in violent jungle clash

LA PAZ (Bolivia), 25 Oct — A top Bolivian official on Friday accused the United States of backing armed anti-government groups in a violent jungle clash that left 15 people dead last month, including 13 supporters of leftist President Evo Morales.

Presidential Minister Juan Ramon Quintana said that Bolivia would "denounce before the entire world" that the US "accompained the criminal policies" of Pando's opposition governor, Leopoldo Fernandez, who has since been jailed for allegedly fomenting the violence.

Quintana also accused the US Agency for International Development of unspecified "direct involvement" in the province. US officials could not be reached for comment Friday night.

Morales has frequently accused the US and its aid programs of conspiring against his government. American officials have denied the charges.

An already tense relationship between the two countries has soared dramatically in recent months. Bolivia booted its US ambassador last month, and Washington quickly followed suit.

Britain’s SLA Mobile launches office in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 Oct — Britain’s mobile content provider SLA Mobile, which has made Malaysia’s capital Kuala Lumpur as its Asia-Pacific hub, is not unduly worried about the impact a global recession will have on its prospects in the region, local media reported on Saturday.

SLA Mobile data services market in Asia is one of the fastest growing, and Malaysia is leading it, SLA Mobile founder and chief executive officer Nic Stirk said.

“I do not see that the global financial turmoil will decrease demand for mobile content ... but a slowdown maybe,” he said after the launch of SLA Mobile’s office in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

The market for mobile content is developing fast due to increasing consumer demand, Stirk said.

“We registered our business in Kuala Lumpur in March 2007 and over the last 18 months a lot has happened,” the New Straits Times quoted Stirk as saying.

The company works closely with the local telco players and it hopes to expand the same kind of relationship with regional telcos as well, said its director for Asia Pacific, Craig Richards.

It can also be seen in March 2007. New York’s main contract, light sweet crude for December delivery slumped to 63.05 dollars a barrel, the lowest since May 2007.

On 11 July, 2008, the oil price hit a record high of 147.27 dollars per barrel, but it has plunged sharply thereafter. Over the past three months, oil price has seen a steep slide in the international market, partly triggered by the financial crisis across the world.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad points during the inauguration of Iran’s fourth gas refinery feeding on natural gas from the joint Iran-Qatar field in the Persian Gulf, in the port town of Assalouyeh 940 miles (1,500 kilometers), south of the capital Tehran, Iran, on 21 Oct, 2008.
Singapore Lee says world economy to recover in 3 to 5 years

SINGAPORE, 25 Oct — The world economy will be restored in three to five years if the banking system does not malfunction, Singapore's first prime minister, said no one can predict how long or deep the current market turmoil will be. But he predicted that Asia would do better than other regions, provided China and India continue with strong annual growth of around 8 to 9 percent.

Lee advised the audience to use the current downturn to upgrade employees.

"I think this is the time when things are down, when you have increased unemployment. Use that time to build up skills and knowledge. Invest in it. We do that each time, so when the recovery takes place, we got a better qualified workforce to go up to the next level," he was quoted as saying.

— Xinhua

Brazil willing to help Israel-Palestine peace talks

RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 Oct — Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Friday that his country would like to offer a helping hand in the peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

At a meeting in Brasilia with Palestinian Minister of Information and Foreign Affairs Riad Al Malki, Lula said that his administration is also willing to cooperate in the areas of energy, infrastructure and sports with Palestine.

Brazilian Foreign Relations Minister Celso Amorim said that Brazil’s involvement in the peace talks may be announced during French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Russian President Dmitri Medvedev’s visits to Brazil.

“We believe that countries like Brazil may bring some fresh air to the peace negotiations,” he said.

Amorim added that the current international financial crisis will be the prior subject to be discussed with the Russian and French presidents.

Malki thanked Lula’s willingness to help the negotiations and to receive Palestinians from Iraq. “Some of them are still having problems to adapt, but the Brazilian government has extended them warm help,” he said.— Xinhua

Venezuela announces slash on oil production

CARACAS, 25 Oct — The Venezuelan government announced Friday a slash on crude oil production by 129,000 barrels per day, from the current daily output of 3.6 million barrels.

The announcement was made by Rafael Ramirez, Venezuelan energy and oil minister and president of Petroleos de Venezuela, at an extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna.

OPEC announced at the meeting on Friday that it would slash oil production by 1.5 million barrels a day. The reduction will take effect on 1 Nov.

Ramirez said that OPEC’s move was very important to avoid the collapse of the oil prices.

— Xinhua

Moderate quake hits easternmost Indonesia

JAKARTA, 25 Oct — An earthquake with magnitude of 5.1 on the Richter Scale rocked easternmost of Indonesia on Saturday morning, with no report of damage or casualty, meteorology agency said here.

The quake struck at 7:31 am Jakarta time (0031 GMT) with epicenter at 122 km southeast of Manokwari in West Irian Province and at 34 km in depth, an official of the agency said.

Indonesia sits at a vulnerable zone called “the Pacific Ring of Fire” where two continental plates, stretching from the Western Hemisphere through Japan and Southeast Asia, meet, causing frequent volcanic movements.— Xinhua

Plane crash kills four in N Israel

JERUSALEM, 25 Oct — Four people were killed in a light plane crash in northern Israel on Friday, local daily Ha’aretz reported on its website.

The pilot and her three passengers of the Cessna 172 small plane were pronounced dead at the scene and investigation is underway on what caused the crash, said the report, adding the plane lost communication shortly after taking off.

Investigators were quoted as saying that evidence from the wreckage did not suggest the pilot attempted an emergency landing but rather the plane hit the ground at a steep angle while dropping with considerable momentum.— Xinhua

Colombian military helicopter crashes for engine failure

BOGOTA, 25 Oct — A Colombian military helicopter Friday went down due to engine failure in northwestern Colombia, with no casualties, military sources said.

The helicopter, which belongs to the Air Force of Colombia (FAC), crashed after engine failure in the municipality of Anori, said Colonel Juan Barrera, commander of the 14 Brigade of the Army in the department of Antioquia.

Barrera dismissed that the accident was caused by an attack from an armed group.— Xinhua

A Long March-4B rocket carrying satellites coded as the 03 Group of the Shijian-6 serial research satellites blasts off from the launch pad at the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center, north China’s Shanxi Province, on 25 Oct, 2008.— Xinhua
Paraguayan rescue workers inspect the remains of a Cessna 402 twin engine airplane that crashed in a wooded area in Limpio, 20 km (12.5 miles) north of Asuncion, on 24 Oct, 2008. The plane, property of medical insurance company Assised, crashed due to mechanical failure killing all five occupants, local aviation officials said.—INTERNET

**Veteran army leader dies at 102**

BEIJING, 25 Oct — General Xiao Ke, a former vice defence minister and president and first-political-commissar of the Military Academy, died of illness at the age of 102 in Beijing on Friday.

Xiao was “an excellent member of the Communist Party of China (CPC), a time-tested, faithful communist fighter, and a proletarian revolutionary and militarist,” according to an official press release.

Xiao was a former member of the Consultant Committee of the CPC Central Committee, a former vice chairman of the Fifth National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), and a former member of the Central Military Commission.—INTERNET

**Fat dolphins going on a diet at Japan aquarium**

Dolphins at a Japanese marine park are going on a low fat diet after developing pot bellies and failing to look sharp in their aquatic performances.

Kinosaki Marine World in western Japan said Tuesday that all its 19 dolphins have been on a low fat diet since late August, when they started failing to hit jumping targets and keep upright while treading water.

“We were puzzled by their poor performance, then we noticed they had developed pot bellies,” said park spokesperson Haruo Imazu.

**Poor sleep tied to memory trouble in black seniors**

Older African Americans who have difficulty falling asleep seem to be more likely to have memory problems, a new study suggests.

The study, of 174 African Americans ages 65 to 90, found that those who said they often had a hard time falling asleep tended to have poorer scores on standard tests of memory.

Researchers also found that up to 40 percent of older adults have sleep disturbances, particularly trouble falling asleep. Poor sleep has also been linked to problems with memory and other cognitive functions. However, no studies until now have looked at this relationship specifically in older black adults—who, some researchers suggest, tend to be especially vulnerable to sleep problems.

In the current study, reported in the journal Research on Ageing, investigators found that participants who confirmed having trouble falling asleep over the past year generally had lower scores on tests of short-term and working memory. Working memory refers to the ability to tackle multiple tasks at once. The link between sleep and memory problems held when researchers accounted for several other factors, including depression and overall physical health.

**Ruff journey: Atlanta dog found in Florida**

An Atlanta pooch traveled more than 400 miles for a Florida vacation, but even that might not have been enough for the golden retriever.

Pepper the dog was covered in fleas and dirt when a St Petersburg man found him outside a travel office during a thunderstorm. Jay Getman took the dog to a veterinarian. A microchip implanted in the dog’s neck helped him reunite the dog with his grateful owner last week.

Pepper went missing from a dog sitter’s home nine months ago when his family was in Mexico.

**Notorious Taleban commander arrested in S Afghanistan**

KABUL, 25 Oct — Afghan police on Thursday carried out an operation against a notorious Taleban commander, Mullah Juma Gul, Thursday morning and arrested the target successfully in southern Afghan province of Uruzgan, said a police official on Friday.

Juma Gul Hamat, the provincial police chief told Xinhua that police forces ambushed the regional Taleban leader Mullah Juma Gul outside his hideout in Chahar Chino district of Uruzgan, arresting him and one of his fellows Mullah Abdul Hakim.

“Mullah Juma Gul, who has over 150 armed men, was suspected of facilitating and involving in several attacks against Afghan and international troops,” the police chief said.

During the search of their hideout, two satellite phones, two AK-47s, some pistols and walkie-talkies were found and seized by police, he added. However, Taleban militants have yet to make any comment.

Separately, the US-led Coalition forces killed three armed militants and detained four suspected militants during an operation targeting the Haqanni terrorist network in eastern Afghan province of Paktika on Thursday, said a Coalition statement issued here on Friday.

**Salmonella outbreak sickens 32 people in Los Angeles**

LOS ANGELES, 25 Oct — The number of people sickened by a salmonella outbreak has risen to at least 32 in Los Angeles, health officials said on Friday.

The number of people sickened by a salmonella outbreak has risen to at least 32 in Los Angeles, health officials said on 24 Oct, 2008.—INTERNET

**Robbers leave loot because getaway car too small**

Two armed robbers hijacked a security van with $1.3 million inside but were forced to abandon more than half the cash because their small getaway car could not carry it all, Malaysian police said Tuesday.

The robbers and their compact getaway car were still at large with $524,000 following Monday’s heist near Kuala Lumpur, said district police chief Shukrudin Che Mood.

The robbers stole a small car then held up guards in the security van at a shopping mall. One robber drove the van away and the other followed in the car, Shukrudin said.

**Belarusian Leonid Kulakov feeds sparrows with seeds mouth-to-mouth in Minsk, Belarus.**

**Weifang inserts needles into his forehead during a self-acupuncture performance in Chongqing Municipality, China. Wei inserted 1,200 needles into his head during the show. According to local media, the sixty-year-old has the Guinness World Record for self-acupuncture.**

**Believers inserted 1,790 needles in his face.**
**Post-Disaster Mental Health Course concludes**

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct — The closing ceremony of Post-Disaster Mental Health Course, conducted by the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore, took place at Sedona Hotel, Yangon this evening.

The Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert H K Chua and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Chairman of the Tripartite Core Group U Kyaw Thu made speeches on the occasion.

The Singaporean Ambassador presented the completion certificates to the trainees. A total of 35 staff officers of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Education attended the ten-day course.

The course aimed at providing assistance in alleviating psychological impact of disaster and it was conducted under the train-the-trainers approach by experts from the related fields in Singapore. The topics of the course covered Overview of Disaster, Psychological Impact of a Disaster, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Guidelines in Psychological Intervention, Psychological First Aid, Crisis Intervention and Listening Skills, Community and Family Interventions, Death, Grief and Bereavement and Management of Depression.

**SWRR Minister receives IFRC officials**

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe received Head of Asia and the Pacific Zone Department Mr A Listair Henley and party of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies at Maykhal Hall of the ministry, here, this morning.—MNA

**Myanmar Medical Association conference on 14 Jan**

YANGON, 25 Oct — The 55th medical conference of Myanmar Medical Association will be held at the office of MMA from 14 to 20 January 2009. Those wishing to put forward their papers to the conference can contact the secretary of the education committee.

Myanmar Medical Association of No. 249, Theinbyu Street, Mingala Taung Nyunt Township, Yangon not later than 28 November.—MNA

**Archery team leaves for Philippines**

YANGON, 24 Oct — A Myanmar archery team led by Secretary U Kyaw Oo of Myanmar Archery Federation that will take part in the 3rd Asian Archery Grand Prix and the 3rd SEA Archery Championship to be held in Manila of the Philippines from 24 to 30 October left here by air this morning.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Sports and executives of the MAF.

**Quality PTT lubricant introduced**

YANGON, 25 Oct — A ceremony to introduce PTT lubricant was held in conjunction with the ceremony to honour the sales agents who stood first, second, third, fourth and fifth in the sale of PTT lubricant during the eight months of 2008.

Managing Director of Tunn Star Co Ltd U Aung Naing Tun and Executive Vice President of PTT Public Co Ltd Mr Artasith Pothiapinyanvivuth extended greetings and explained the background history and functions of PTT Public Co Ltd.

Next, those from the companies presented gifts to the sales agents who stood first, second, third, fourth and fifth in the sale of PTT lubricant during the eight months of 2008.

PTT Star Co Ltd is the sole agent to distribute quality PTT brand gasoline, diesel, various kinds of lubricant, hydraulic oil, gear oil, compressor oil, auto oil, engine oil for motorcycles and special lubricant for vessels produced by PTT Public Co Ltd of Thailand.—MNA
Ministers meet officials of companies from PRC

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein receives Chairman Mr Zhou Yu Hao of Guangxi Biayon Company of the PRC.—MNA

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw meets Mr Liu Peng Chang, SEA region In-charge of Alcatel Shanghai Bell Co.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct — The ministers and the deputy ministers met officials of the respective companies in Nanning, the People’s Republic of China after attending the 5th China-ASEAN Expo and the 5th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the PRC.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein met Chairman of Guangxi Biayon Co Mr Zhou Yu Hao on 20 October and Mayor of Nanning Mr Huang Fangfang at Liguang Resort on 21 October. They discussed matters on trade and investment of Myanmar trade representative’s office in Nanning.

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint met Managing Director Mr Liu Jinguan of BCK National Investment Co Ltd on 20 October, Board Chairman Secretary PHD Guan Yueqing Director General Manager Researcher and party on 21 October and Deputy Chief Mr Zhang De of Foreign Economic Cooperation Division of Department of Commerce of Yunnan Province at Liguang Resort on 23 October. They discussed matters on economy and investment.

Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min met Chairman of CGGC Co, Chairman of Ying Jing Duayan Hydro Power Development Co, Chairman of Guangxi Electric Power Investment Co, Chairman of China Datang Corporation, Chairman of Yunnan Provincial Power Investment Co, Yunnan United Power Development Co, Vice-Chairman of Henergy Group Co, Chairman of China Power Investment Co at Liguang Resort on 20 October. Their meetings focused on cooperation in hydro-electric power projects.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe met the Chairman of BCK National Investment Co Ltd and the Deputy Director of Foreign Economic Relations Division, Economic Division of Yunnan Province at Liguang Resort on 20 October. They discussed cooperation in transport sector and other sectors and mutual interest.

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw met South-East Asia region In-charge Mr Liu Peng Chang of Alcatel Shanghai Bell Co and discussed production of machinery parts at Liguang Resort on 21 October. On 22 October, the minister met Deputy Minister for Information and Communications of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Dr Tran Duc Lai and they discussed promotion of investment in communications sector.

West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe delivered an address at the opening of Sagaing Division PDC Chairman’s Cup Football Tournament at the sports ground in Monywa on 21 October and watched the match.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha attended dinner hosted by Minister for Commerce of the PRC Mr Chen Deming in honour of Economic Ministers from ASEAN nations who attended the 5th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit held at Jilinge Restaurant Qinxu Mountain Resort in Nanning.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and the Director-General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region discussed bilateral cooperation at Minyuan Shintu Hotel in Nanning on 22 October.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint met the Chairman of Yunnan United Development Co (YUPD), General Manager Mr Yuan Xizlung of Central China Power Grid Co (CCPG) and Chief Financial Officer Mr Xing Wei of Shichuan Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Co Ltd (SCMEC) at Liguang Resort on 21 October. They discussed matters relating to electric power equipment.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint meets the Chairman of Yunnan United Development Company (YUPD).—MNA

Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min receives the Chairman of China Power Investment Co and party. —MNA

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw meets Mr Liu Peng Chang, SEA region In-charge of Alcatel Shanghai Bell Co.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct — The ministers and the deputy ministers met officials of the respective companies in Nanning, the People’s Republic of China after attending the 5th China-ASEAN Expo and the 5th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the PRC.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein met Chairman of Guangxi Biayon Company of the PRC.—MNA
Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects regional development in…

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party inspected construction project of Ganantaung Bridge on Yangon-Sittway motor road, rubber plantation in Pyeinchaung village, thriving paddy fields along the road and condition of road sections, near milestone No (146/4).

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and party attended the ceremony to open husk-fired gas and diesel-mixed use power station. Chairman of Cooperative Limited and townssleider opened the station.

Afterwards, com-

mander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye pressed the button to unveil the station’s signboard and Maj-Gen Khin Zaw to open station’s switch, and sprinkled the station with scented water.

The power station is installed with the two turbines of 250 KVA and is built by Kyauktaw Township Electric Power Supply Board and Myanmar Inventors Cooperatives Ltd.

---

Marionette show presented

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—Htet Arkar Marionette Troupe of the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture presented their marionette drama entitled ‘Htwe Nyo’ at No. 7 Transit Centre in Ywadaw this evening.

Among the audience were Chairman of the leading committee for holding the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Vice-Chairman of the leading committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and wife and judges.

After the marionette drama, those responsible and judges reviewed and made an assessment.—MNA

Ayeyawady Division troupe presenting Buridat Drama.

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

The drama troupe representing Ayeyawady Division took part in the contest.

Among the audience were Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win, Secretary of Leading Committee for Performing Arts Competition Director-General of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department U San Win, judges, officials and enthusiasts.

Ayeyawady Division presents Buridat Drama

Myanmar get one more silver


The co-runners-up are host Indonesia and the Republic of Korea.

So far, Myanmar have won two golds and three silvers.

Model monsoon paddy plot in Pantanaw Township harvested

YANGON, 25 Oct—A ceremony to harvest the one-acre model monsoon paddy plantation of farmer U Kyaw Than Aung in Phayagyibet Village, Pantanaw Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Division was held at the plantation on 20 October.

Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Mya Oo made a speech on the occasion and adviser U Soe Myint of Supreme Group of Companies explained how to use Supreme bio-fertilizer, farmer U Kyaw Than Aung the advantages of using the fertilizer and deputy manager U Kyi Maung the effectiveness of the bio-fertilizer. The one-acre plot has produced 101.05 baskets of paddy but it produced only about 70 baskets of paddy as the bio-fertilizer was not used. Altogether 3 bags of Supreme bio-fertilizer and 1/4 bag of urea fertilizer were used in the model paddy plot.

Draught buffalo handed over in Hmawbi Village, Pyapon Township

YANGON, 25 Oct—Deputy Director-General Dr Aung Gyi of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries attended a ceremony to hand over draught cattle and buffalo to farmers of storm-hit regions.

Deputy Director-General Dr Aung Gyi of LBVD attends a ceremony to hand over draught cattle and buffalo to farmers of storm-hit regions.—MNA

LBVD Dr Myint Htun, Head of the District LBVD Dr Kaung Nyunt, Dr Thanawat Tiensin of FAO, Secretary of Pyapon Township PDC U Tin Htut and officials and farmers.

Next, Dr Aung Gyi and Dr Thanawat Tiensin handed over 150 draught buffalo and 150 bags of feedstuff to the farmers of Hmawby Township and Kyaing Village in Pyapon Township.

MNA

MNA
Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue for tenth day

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—The 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the tenth day at the Hlawga Wildlife Park opens on Depavali Day

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—The Forest Department opens Hlawga Wildlife Park from 8 a.m to 4 p.m every day. On Depavali Day (28 October), the park will be kept open from 8 a.m to 5 p.m for better comfort and convenience of the visitors. —MNA

Hlawga Wildlife Park opens on Depavali Day

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—The Forest Department opens Hlawga Wildlife Park from 8 a.m to 4 p.m every day. On Depavali Day (28 October), the park will be kept open from 8 a.m to 5 p.m for better comfort and convenience of the visitors. —MNA

Myanmar-Brazil soccer matches 26, 28 Oct

YANGON, 25 Oct—A press conference on introducing the team of old selected Brazilian footballers, who will play Myanmar-Brazil fund raising matches, took place at Hotel Yangon here this afternoon. President U Zaw Zaw of the Myanmar Football Federation delivered an introductory speech. President U Zaw Zaw and manager, coaches and players of the Brazil team replied to the queries raised by the journalists. Later in the afternoon, the Brazilians taught basic football to the trainees at the Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon).

The Brazilian team plays against the team of old selected Myanmar footballers at Thuwunna Sports Grounds on 26 October and against the selected Myanmar football team at Aung San Stadium on 28 October. The proceedings of the matches will go to the funds for the storm victims. —NLM

A Brazilian player demonstrates how to control the ball.—NLM

MFF President U Zaw Zaw, coaches and Brazilian players pose for photo.—NLM

A boy from Yangon Division taking part in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' violin contest.—MNA

A girl from Yangon Division participates in the amateur level (second class) women's orchestra contest (Individual). —MNA

A contestant from Mon State competes in Kwetseik contest.—MNA

designated places here today.

Among the audience were Chairman of Leading Committee for Holding the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Vice-Chairman Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, senior military officers, Secretary of leading committee Director-General U San 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, departmental officials, judges (central), judges from states and divisions, contestants and national races.

Altogether four contestants took part in the Kwetseik contest at the convocational hall of the University of Veterinary Science.

A total of 12 contestants took part in the amateur level (first class) men's and basic education level (aged 15-20) girls' xylophone contests at the training hall of the University of Agriculture. Altogether 13 contestants competed in the basic education level (aged 10-15) women’s and amateur level (second class) women's orchestra contests (individual) at the convocational hall of the University of Agriculture. —MNA

Altogether 13 contestants took part in the basic education level (aged 10-15) men's and (aged 15-20) girls' and amateur level (second class) women's orchestra contests at the convocational hall of the University of Agriculture. —MNA

A total of 43 contestants competed in the amateur level (second class) women’s and basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' and (aged 10-15) boys' classical song contests at the auditorium of the University of Agriculture. Altogether 19 contestants participated in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys', (aged 10-15) girls' and higher educational level men’s and women’s violin contests at the assembly hall of the Forest Research Division.

Myanmar-Brazil soccer matches 26, 28 Oct

YANGON, 25 Oct—A press conference on introducing the team of old selected Brazilian footballers, who will play Myanmar-Brazil fund raising matches, took place at Hotel Yangon here this afternoon. President U Zaw Zaw of the Myanmar Football Federation delivered an introductory speech. President U Zaw Zaw and manager, coaches and players of the Brazil team replied to the queries raised by the journalists. Later in the afternoon, the Brazilians taught basic football to the trainees at the Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon).

The Brazilian team plays against the team of old selected Myanmar footballers at Thuwunna Sports Grounds on 26 October and against the selected Myanmar football team at Aung San Stadium on 28 October. The proceedings of the matches will go to the funds for the storm victims. —NLM

A Brazilian player demonstrates how to control the ball.—NLM

MFF President U Zaw Zaw, coaches and Brazilian players pose for photo.—NLM
Genetics at University of California, Los Angeles, deficit schizophrenia, a severe chronic and debilitating brain function. The three CNVs were common in the genome that appear to interrupt genes associated with CNVs—deletions and duplications in the human genome. Researchers believe they may have identified three CNVs—deletions and duplications in the human genome that appear to interrupt genes associated with CNVs—deletions in the human genome. The findings were published in the October issue of The American Journal of Human Genetics.

Scientists ID three new candidate genes for schizophrenia

Los Angeles, 25 Oct—American and Dutch researchers believe they may have identified three genes tied to the development of schizophrenia. The suspects are rare copy number variants, or CNVs—deletions and duplications in the human genome that appear to interrupt genes associated with brain function. The three CNVs were common in the genetic makeup of 54 Dutch patients diagnosed with deficit schizophrenia, a severe chronic and debilitating form of the psychiatric disease.

“These genes were not implicated in schizophrenia before,” researcher Roel A. Ophoff, an assistant professor with the Center for Neurobehavioral Genetics at University of California, Los Angeles, said in a university news release. “So next, we tested these three genes in a large follow-up study of more than 750 general-schizophrenia patients and 700 controls. And what surprised us is that roughly 1 percent of schizophrenia patients harbor these genomic deletions.”

The findings were published in the October issue of The American Journal of Human Genetics. Scientists suspect that increased susceptibility to many other diseases may also be tied to such missing or duplicated segments of DNA.

Identifying these genes may provide a better insight into the biology of schizophrenia and why some people seem to be at a greater risk to develop the disease, Ophoff said.

A new way to make sticky tape see-through

Washington, 25 Oct—Researchers have found a new “see-through” use for clear sticky tape — it produces X-rays when it is peeled off the roll.

The report in the journal Nature confirms a theory dating back to 1930 — that the process of peeling the sticky tape releases energy not only in the form of a flash of visible light, but also an X-ray.

Many children hiding in closets have demonstrated that unwinding sticky tape produces sparks of light. The phenomenon is called triboluminescence and is caused by the movement of one surface against another.

Carlos Camara of University of California, Los Angeles and colleagues used a motorized peeling machine to unwind a roll of sticky tape in a vacuum. They generated enough X-rays to show the bones inside their fingers.

“The tape has to be in the vacuum. Your hand can be outside,” Camara said in a telephone interview on Thursday. “If you unroll the tape off your office desk in ambient conditions you only get visible light. You don’t get X-rays,” he added.

This is because gases in the air slow down the electrons that produce the X-rays.

“Whatever makes X-rays in general is electrons that are moving very fast and suddenly get stopped,” Camara, a physicist, said.

A hot cuppa helps melt hearts?

A waiter carries two cups of Turkish coffee at a coffee shop in Istanbul.—INTERNET

Chicago, 25 Oct—It may seem unlikely, but simply clutching a warm cup of coffee can bring on a flood of warm feelings, US researchers said on Thursday in a finding that suggests a strong link between physical and emotional warmth. “Physical warmth can make us see others as warmer people, but also cause us to be warmer—more generous and trusting—as well,” said John Bargh, a professor of psychology at Yale University in Connecticut, whose research appears in the journal Science.

Bargh and Lawrence Williams of University of Colorado at Boulder ran a series of experiments to test the ties between physical temperature and emotional warmth.—INTERNET

Polar bears dying out in Russian region

Moscow, 25 Oct—Polar bears are dying out in the remote Arctic region of Chukotka because of melting ice and increased killing by humans, an expert with the International Fund for Animal Welfare warned on Friday.

“If this tendency continues, the population will disappear very quickly,” said Nikita Ovsyanikov, a researcher from Wrangel Island natural park in Chukotka who has spent the past 18 years studying polar bears in the region.

“We need to create new protected areas in the Arctic,” said Ovsyanikov, who has conducted research on behalf of IFAW.

The shrinking of the Arctic ice sheet is forcing more bears to live on land in the summer where they often have trouble finding food, which means they have to go into villages to scavenge and are more likely to be shot, he said.

Polar bear furs are also becoming increasingly popular in Russia, where the killing of polar bears is strictly forbidden except for self-defence. IFAW estimates around 100 polar bears are killed illegally every year.

There are a total of around 22,000 polar bears in the Arctic. Five thousand of them live between Chukotka and the US state of Alaska and are being forced further and further north because of the melting ice, IFAW said.
Alleged drug cartel leader charged in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 25 Oct — Mexican prosecutors have charged an alleged cartel leader and brother of drug kingpin “El Mayo” Zambrada and 15 associates with organized crime, drug trafficking, weapons possession and attempted homicide.

Prosecutors said on Friday in a statement that Jesus “The King” Zambrada and the other suspects have been transferred to maximum-security prisons to await arraignment.

They were arrested in Mexico City earlier this week following a shootout in which several policemen were wounded.

Prosecutors describe Zambrada as a high-ranking member of the Sinaloa drug cartel in central Mexico. He allegedly was involved in crimes including smuggling cocaine and methamphetamine through the Mexico City airport.

Italian satellite launched from California

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, (Calif.), 25 Oct — A rocket carrying an Italian Earth-observation satellite blasted off on Friday evening from the California coast.

The Delta rocket II lifted off around 7:30 pm and made an arc south over the dark Pacific Ocean as it headed toward orbit.

The payload was the third part of a four-satellite system called COSMO-SkyMed — short for Constellation of Small Satellites for Mediterranean Basin Observation — developed under an agreement between the Italian Space Agency and Italy’s defense ministry.

The satellites use radar to create images for civil protection, defense, science and commercial purposes.

The first two satellites were launched last year from Vandenberg, 130 miles west of Los Angeles, and the system became operational in August.

Rail agency sues contractor over LA collision

LOS ANGELES, 25 Oct — The Southern California Regional Rail Authority has filed a federal lawsuit asking a judge to determine whether its contractor can be held responsible for the deadly collision of one of its Metrolink commuter trains and a freight train.

The rail agency, already facing two lawsuits related to the Dec. 2 disaster, sued Connex Railroad LLC after they could not agree on whether their contract protects the other from liability, according to court papers released Friday.

Connex provides engineers to the SCRRA and Connex,” according to the lawsuit, which asks the court to interpret the contract and determine which party could be held liable.

An actual controversy has arisen and now exists between SCRRA and Connex,” according to the lawsuit, which asks the court to interpret the contract and determine which party could be held liable.

A man identified by Mexico’s Attorney General’s office as Jesus Zambrada Garcia, known as Jesus “The King” Zambrada, center, one of the top four leaders of the Sinaloa drug cartel, was led away by a masked police officer as Garcia and other alleged Sinaloa drug cartel members are presented to the press in Mexico City, on 22 Oct, 2008. —Internet

Italian businesswoman kidnapped in Ghana

ACCRA, (Ghana), 25 Oct — A top security official says an Israeli businesswoman has been kidnapped in Ghana and the kidnappers have contacted her family to demand a $300,000 ransom.

National Security Coordinator Sam Amoo told the Ghana News Agency the businesswoman was kidnapped on Sunday in the West African nation and the kidnappers initially demanded $500,000 ransom, then lowered it to $300,000.

Officials refused to disclose the identity of the businesswoman or any further details about the case.

A task force had been set up to try to win the Israeli release. —Internet

Governer says at least a dozen dead in Yemen flooding

SANAA, 25 Oct — At least a dozen people have been reported dead and tens of thousands have evacuated an area of Yemen due to flooding, a local official told the Yemen Post on Friday.

Some evacuees are being taken to schools, but the schools can accommodate only 10 percent of the evacuees, an official told al-Masirah, leaving the rest without shelter at the moment.

The government has promised to send tents as emergency shelter, he said.

Some 80 people have been reported killed or missing.

The flooding comes after more than a full day of rain in the Middle Eastern country, which normally receives only a few inches of rain per year. —Internet

Men try to reach a vehicle carrying tourists stranded in floodwaters in the old district of Sanaa on Friday. —Internet

Sudanese forces, rebels clash in north Darfur

KHARTOUM, 25 Oct — Sudanese government forces and a rebel faction have clashed in north Darfur, two rebel groups said on Friday.

Mohamed Abdullah, a commander with a faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) headed by Abdel Wahab Mohamed el-Nur, said his group lost two fighters but captured a number of government vehicles and weapons in the clash on Thursday.

A spokesman for the Sudanese military could not confirm the incident but said the army had troops operating in north Darfur. —Internet

Rail agency sues contractor over LA collision

LOS ANGELES, 25 Oct — The Southern California Regional Rail Authority has filed a federal lawsuit asking a judge to determine whether its contractor can be held responsible for the deadly collision of one of its Metrolink commuter trains and a freight train.

The rail agency, already facing two lawsuits related to the Dec. 2 disaster, sued Connex Railroad LLC after they could not agree on whether their contract protects the other from liability, according to court papers released Friday.

Connex provides engineers to the SCRRA and Connex,” according to the lawsuit, which asks the court to interpret the contract and determine which party could be held liable.

An actual controversy has arisen and now exists between SCRRA and Connex,” according to the lawsuit, which asks the court to interpret the contract and determine which party could be held liable.

A man identified by Mexico’s Attorney General’s office as Jesus Zambrada Garcia, known as Jesus “The King” Zambrada, center, one of the top four leaders of the Sinaloa drug cartel, was led away by a masked police officer as Garcia and other alleged Sinaloa drug cartel members are presented to the press in Mexico City, on 22 Oct, 2008. —Internet

Italian businesswoman kidnapped in Ghana

ACCRA, (Ghana), 25 Oct — A top security official says an Israeli businesswoman has been kidnapped in Ghana and the kidnappers have contacted her family to demand a $300,000 ransom.

National Security Coordinator Sam Amoo told the Ghana News Agency the businesswoman was kidnapped on Sunday in the West African nation and the kidnappers initially demanded $500,000 ransom, then lowered it to $300,000.

Officials refused to disclose the identity of the businesswoman or any further details about the case.

A task force had been set up to try to win the Israeli release. —Internet

Governer says at least a dozen dead in Yemen flooding

SANAA, 25 Oct — At least a dozen people have been reported dead and tens of thousands have evacuated an area of Yemen due to flooding, a local official told the Yemen Post on Friday.

Some evacuees are being taken to schools, but the schools can accommodate only 10 percent of the evacuees, an official told al-Masirah, leaving the rest without shelter at the moment.

The government has promised to send tents as emergency shelter, he said.

Some 80 people have been reported killed or missing.

The flooding comes after more than a full day of rain in the Middle Eastern country, which normally receives only a few inches of rain per year. —Internet

Sudanese forces, rebels clash in north Darfur

KHARTOUM, 25 Oct — Sudanese government forces and a rebel faction have clashed in north Darfur, two rebel groups said on Friday.

Mohamed Abdullah, a commander with a faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) headed by Abdel Wahab Mohamed el-Nur, said his group lost two fighters but captured a number of government vehicles and weapons in the clash on Thursday.

A spokesman for the Sudanese military could not confirm the incident but said the army had troops operating in north Darfur. —Internet

Rail agency sues contractor over LA collision

LOS ANGELES, 25 Oct — The Southern California Regional Rail Authority has filed a federal lawsuit asking a judge to determine whether its contractor can be held responsible for the deadly collision of one of its Metrolink commuter trains and a freight train.

The rail agency, already facing two lawsuits related to the Dec. 2 disaster, sued Connex Railroad LLC after they could not agree on whether their contract protects the other from liability, according to court papers released Friday.

Connex provides engineers to the SCRRA and Connex,” according to the lawsuit, which asks the court to interpret the contract and determine which party could be held liable.

An actual controversy has arisen and now exists between SCRRA and Connex,” according to the lawsuit, which asks the court to interpret the contract and determine which party could be held liable.

A man identified by Mexico’s Attorney General’s office as Jesus Zambrada Garcia, known as Jesus “The King” Zambrada, center, one of the top four leaders of the Sinaloa drug cartel, was led away by a masked police officer as Garcia and other alleged Sinaloa drug cartel members are presented to the press in Mexico City, on 22 Oct, 2008. —Internet
Los Angeles sees highest number of infections by West Nile virus

US health officials said the Los Angeles area has seen the highest number of human infections by West Nile virus this year in its history, with 131 reported cases and three deaths.—Xinhua

Los Angeles, 25 Oct — The Los Angeles area has seen the highest number of human infections by West Nile virus this year in its history, with 131 reported cases and three deaths, health officials said on Thursday.

“All of Los Angeles County is considered endemic with West Nile virus,” said Robert Saviskas, executive director of the Los Angeles County West Vector and Vector-Borne Disease Control District.

Elderly people or those with compromised immune systems are more susceptible to West Nile virus, which can cause fever, encephalitis or meningitis.

Most people in good health who contract the virus do not show any symptoms and recover quickly, Saviskas said.

Seven Californians have died this year of the virus, which is transmitted by mosquito bites. There have been 345 reported human cases of West Nile virus this year in the state, according to the California Department of Public Health.—Internet

Study finds cold viruses activate killer gene

WASHINGTON, 24 Oct — The common cold virus activates dozens of immune system genes in the lining of the nose, including some natural anti-virals that might be used as the basis of new drugs, researchers reported on Friday.

It also appears to shut down some genes, but to a lesser degree, the international team reported in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

Of particular interest is a gene that controls a natural antiviral called viperin, said David Proud of the University of Calgary in Alberta, who led the study. Viperin, only discovered in the 1990s, was known to be involved in other viral infections but not the common cold, Proud said. “This had never been examined during rhinovirus infections,” he said.

Proud and colleagues, including a team at cold remedy maker Procter & Gamble Co, tested 35 people who agreed to be infected with a common cold virus called human rhinovirus 16.

Hours after infection, the researchers scraped a little bit of the lining from inside the volunteers’ noses and analyzed gene expression, or activity, in the cells.—Internet

Dengue fever claims 81 lives in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 Oct — A total of 81 people died of dengue fever in Malaysia from early this year to 18 Oct, the Health Ministry said, local media reported on Saturday.

A total of 36,991 cases of dengue fever had been reported, the Health Ministry’s disease control division director Hassan Abdul Rahman said.

Between 12 Oct and 18, 961 dengue cases were reported in the country.

Several states reported an increase in dengue cases. Among them were northern Perak state with a 214 percent increase, northern Terengganu state (78.9 percent), the administrative center Putrajaya (50 percent), central Selangor state (49.6 percent), southern Johor state (44.8 percent) and eastern Sabah state (20 percent), he said.

He blamed public apathy for the situation, according to report by the New StraitsTimes.

Ministry officials and district councils found that 78.9 percent of Aedes breeding grounds were in houses and shops, he said.

The ministry had distributed 68,665 leaflets on preventing dengue at Aedes-prone locations, Hassan said, adding that a total of 316 compounds worth 55,665 ringgit (15,549 US dollars) had also been issued.

He urged the public to spend 10 minutes every week to locate and destroy mosquito breeding spots around their house.—Internet

Panama Canal revenue hits record high in fiscal year 2008

PANAMA CITY, 25 Oct — The Panama Canal’s income hit a record high of 2.007 billion U.S. dollars in the 2008 fiscal year ending on 30 Sept, Panama Canal Authority said on Friday.

The figure represented a growth of 14 percent from the 1.76 billion dollars in fiscal 2007.

The canal authority said the canal had put up a good performance despite the impact of the world financial crisis.

Vice President of Canal Operation Manuel Benites said the canal saw an increase in passenger vessel transits from 205 to 241, up 17.6 percent.—Internet

A taxi enters a Pemex gasoline station in Mexico City in January 2008. Energy experts welcomed the Mexican Senate’s approval of a watered-down energy reform bill, after months of debate, that aims to boost falling production at state oil company Pemex.—Internet

The common cold virus activates dozens of immune system genes in the lining of the nose, including some natural anti-virals that might be used as the basis of new drugs, researchers reported on Friday. It also appears to shut down some genes, but to a lesser degree, the international team reported in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine. Of particular interest is a gene that controls a natural antiviral called viperin, said David Proud of the University of Calgary in Alberta, who led the study. Viperin, only discovered in the 1990s, was known to be involved in other viral infections but not the common cold, Proud said. “This had never been examined during rhinovirus infections,” he said. Proud and colleagues, including a team at cold remedy maker Procter & Gamble Co, tested 35 people who agreed to be infected with a common cold virus called human rhinovirus 16. Hours after infection, the researchers scraped a little bit of the lining from inside the volunteers’ noses and analyzed gene expression, or activity, in the cells.—Internet

Of particular interest is a gene that controls a natural antiviral called viperin, said David Proud of the University of Calgary in Alberta, who led the study. Viperin, only discovered in the 1990s, was known to be involved in other viral infections but not the common cold, Proud said. “This had never been examined during rhinovirus infections,” he said. Proud and colleagues, including a team at cold remedy maker Procter & Gamble Co, tested 35 people who agreed to be infected with a common cold virus called human rhinovirus 16. Hours after infection, the researchers scraped a little bit of the lining from inside the volunteers’ noses and analyzed gene expression, or activity, in the cells.—Internet
Scolari refuses to rule out new signings in January

LONDON, 25 Oct — Luiz Felipe Scolari has warned Peter Kenyon not to shut the Chelsea cheque book after the club’s chief executive claimed they were unlikely to make any more signings this season.

Kenyon hinted this week that the January transfer window would be a quiet period for the Blues because Scolari already has a squad packed with world-class talent.

But although Chelsea boss Scolari is happy with his team, he knows injuries or loss of form could force him into the transfer market when the window reopens on New Year’s Day. “Every week when I meet Peter I say I am happy with the squad but we don’t know what will happen until January,” Scolari said. “Peter says no until January but that is normal because it is impossible to buy players now.—Internet

Sunderland’s Djibril Cisse, left, vies with Newcastle United’s Fabricio Coloccini, right, during their English Premier League soccer match at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland, England, Saturday Oct. 25, 2008.—INTERNET

Genoa won’t fear Inter, says Milito

ROME, 25 Oct — Genoa’s Argentine hot-shot Diego Milito insists his team will not be intimidated by Jose Mourinho’s Inter Milan when they travel to face the champions on Sunday.

Striker Milito has made a dream start to his second spell at Genoa since returning to the club from Spaniards Real Zaragoza and has hit the net five times in five starts in Serie A.

He is third in the scoring charts, alongside Inter star Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

His goals have contributed to Genoa winning all four of their home matches this season, but their away form is a different story as they are yet to pick up a point on their travels.

Even so, Milito is confident they can turn the tables on Mourinho’s superstars.—INTERNET

Beckham confirms AC Milan loan


The former England captain will play his final game of the MLS season for the Los Angeles Galaxy here on Sunday and intends to be back in a Galaxy shirt by the start of next season in late March or early April.

“Although nothing is confirmed at present, we can confirm that talks are taking place with Milan with regard to a short-term loan move at the start of next year,” a short statement on Beckham’s official web site said.

“David very much remains a Galaxy player and he will be in Los Angeles for the start of the 2009 MLS season.”—INTERNET

Engage give up on Ronaldo

LONDON, 25 Oct — Real Madrid said on Friday that their pursuit of Manchester United’s Cristiano Ronaldo is over. The 23-year-old Portuguese winger, who is under contract at Old Trafford until 2012, was heavily linked with a switch to Spain earlier this year.

But Real president Ramon Calderon told the BBC: “Manchester (United) would not like to lose him - that is the situation. They are very clear about that so now it is a situation we have to forget.”

Ronaldo scored 41 goals last season for United to spark a Premier League-Champions League double and Calderon admitted that the player is unlikely to move to Spain.—Internet

Chris John of Indonesia keeps WBA title

TOKYO, 25 Oct — Chris John of Indonesia kept his WBA featherweight title Friday with a unanimous decision over Hiroyuki Enoki of Japan.

John took control from the outset and won by scores of 118-110, 118-110, 117-111. This was Enoki’s first shot at a world title. John improved to 42-0 with one draw. Enoki dropped to 27-1 with two draws.—INTERNET

WBA featherweight champion Chris John of Indonesia, right, fights challenger Hiroyuki Enoki of Japan in their boxing title bout in Tokyo, Japan, on 24 Oct, 2008. John won by 3-0 decision. — INTERNET
BBC apologizes to Filipinos for offending show

MANILA, 25 Oct — The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has formally apologized for a comedy show it aired that offended Filipinos both in the United Kingdom and in the Philippines, the Philippine Government said on Friday.

The apology was contained in a letter dated October 10, from BBC Director General Mark Thompson to Philippine Ambassador in London Edgardo Espiritu, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

In a 26 September episode of “Harry and Paul”, the comedy sketch showed comedian Harry Enfield ordering his Filipino maid to mate with his friend Paul Whitehouse. The Filipino woman was shown gyrating in front of Whitehouse in an effort to seduce him.

Following the release of the show, which obviously upset the 200,000-strong Filipino community in the United Kingdom, the Philippine Embassy in London sent letters to different British Government offices, including the Mayor of London, and the BBC itself to protest the “slur” on Filipino domestic workers in Britain.

Filipinos in both the Philippines and Britain protested the “insulting reference to Filipino women, typifying them in a dual role as domestic workers and sex toys of their British employers”.

In the letter, Thompson asked the Filipinos to accept his “sincere apologies, on behalf of the BBC, for the offense that this programme caused”.

MANA/Xinhua

Japan, Pakistan discuss economic crisis, terrorism

BEIJING, 25 Oct — Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso met Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on the sidelines of a summit in Beijing on Saturday to discuss the economic crisis, terrorism.

Cash-strapped Pakistan, facing the prospect of defaulting on its foreign debts, has approached the International Monetary Fund to discuss a possible bail out, although no formal request has been made.

According to Japan’s Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Jun Matsumoto, Aso told Gilani he understood that Pakistan faced a huge challenge in dealing with the country’s twin threats of Islamic militancy and looming bankruptcy.

Aso said Friday that Japan was ready to inject more capital into the IMF if necessary, while leaders at the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Beijing called for the IMF to play a vital role in helping nations struggling in the crisis.

The Japanese leader told Gilani that the world was at a “critical point in the war on terror,” and stressed the importance of international cooperation.—Internet

A hot air balloon is prepared for a flight as part of the Santa Lucia International Festival Monterrey, northern Mexico on 24 Oct, 2008.—INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Saturday, 25 October, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Mon State, scattered in Kachin, Kayah States and Bago Division, fairly widespread in Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay and Magway Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (Yezin) (1.34) inches, Nay Pyi Taw (Takone) (1.89) inches, Nay Pyi Taw (Lewe) and Magway (1.46) inches each, Sittway (2.12) inches, Pyapon (2.05) inches, Pinlaung (2.01) inches, Maungdaw (1.93) inches and Mibiu (1.53) inches. Maximum temperature on 24-10-2008 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 25-10-2008 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-10-2008 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 24-10-2008 was (5.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 25-10-2008 was (0.39) inch at Mingaladon, (0.32) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.76) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-10-2008 was (102.95) inches at Mingaladon, (113.31) inches at Kaba-Aye and (133.07) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southeast at (16:30) hours MST on 24-10-2008.

Bay inference: The depression over West Central Bay has moved into and is over northwestern Myanmar at (15:30) hrs MST today. It is forecast to intensify further and move northeastwards. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 26 October 2008: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin, Kayin, Kayah States and Bago Division, fairly widespread in Shan, Chin, Mon States, Sagag, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in the Southern Myanmar area.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 26-10-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (50%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-10-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (50%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-10-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (50%).
12th Waning of Thadingyut 1370 ME

Sunday, 26 October, 2008

**Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspects monsoon paddy harvesting in Hinthada, Kyonpyaw**

*Photo: Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence inspects the harvest of monsoon paddy at a model plot in Kyonpyaw Township.*

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct — Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and departmental officials, viewed harvesting of monsoon paddy, display of monsoon paddy, gram and edible oil crop seeds, natural fertilizers and insecticides and winnowing of paddy at the model plot No.1521 in Kyaungkwin village in Hinthada Township yesterday.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party met with departmental personnel at the office of Kyonpyaw Township PDC and servicemen and their families at the hall of local battalion in Kyonpyaw.

Next, Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party inspected harvesting of monsoon paddy, winnowing of paddy, display of monsoon paddy, gram and edible oil crop seeds, natural fertilizer and farm equipment at the model plot No.1001 in Aung San ward in Kyonpyaw Township, and visited the poultry and chick distribution centre of South-West Command in Apin Hnase village in Pathein Township and the breeding centre of the command.

 Afterwards, Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party attended the ceremony to harvest the monsoon paddy at the model plot No. (72-A/68) in Mgyaung Taya village in Kangyidaunk Township, and viewed harvesting of monsoon paddy, display of samples of Hsin Thukha paddy and Hsin Thukha rice and winnowing of paddy.

The plot has produced 120 baskets of Hsin Thukha paddy per acre.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party attended the monsoon paddy harvesting ceremony at the model plot in Latpanchaung village in Kyanggon Township and viewed harvesting of monsoon paddy.

The plot has produced 122 baskets of Hsin Thukha paddy per acre and a harvester can harvest an acre per day. — MNA

**Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects regional development in Rakhine State**

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct — Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence who arrived at Sittway, Rakhine State met with State and Division level departmental officials at the meeting hall of Sittway Station on 20 October. On arrival at Yotayoke village in Punnagyun Township, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw looked into the trial-running of power tillers and harvesting of the model paddy field of farmer U Sein Tun and presented cash assistance to farmers.

(See page 9)

**Storm news**

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct — According to the observations conducted at 11 p.m today, the depression over Westcentral Bay of Bengal is getting intensified and is moving northeast. It is forecast to cross the northeastern coast of India and then the west coast of Bangladesh to inland areas within 36 hours. — MNA

**Chelsea v Liverpool: All things point to a draw**

LIVERPOOL, 25 Oct— Chelsea, currently leading the English Premiership on goal difference over Liverpool, face one of the biggest threats to their unbeaten home-record (a record which has lasted since Claudio Ranieri’s reign as Blues boss back in 2004) when Rafael Benitez’s team travel to Stamford Bridge in Sunday’s early kick-off. Chelsea will go into this clash against their Premier League rivals full of confidence. Premiership Latest Verdict: Tight match which could go either way, but all things point to a draw. — Internet

---

**Maj-Gen Khin Zaw observes demonstration of power tillers.**

MNA