Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of the Republic of Turkey

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Oct — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Gul, President of the Republic of Turkey, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October 2008. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann receives Chinese PLA Deputy Chief of General Staff General Zhang Li

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Oct—Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence received the visiting Chinese goodwill delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Staff General Zhang Li of Chinese People’s Liberation Army at the Bayintnaung Yeiktha here yesterday evening.

Present on the occasion together with General Thura Shwe Mann were Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Deputy Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice Quarter-master-General Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tun and senior military officers and together with Deputy Chief of General Staff General Zhang Li were Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and Military Attache’ Senior Colonel Fan Tianfeng. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann sees off Chinese goodwill delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence saw off Chinese delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Staff General Zhang Li of the People’s Liberation Army of the People’s Republic of China at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport this morning.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence together with Chinese Deputy Chief of General Staff General Zhang Li and party arrived at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport in a motorcade. At the lounge of the airport, General Thura Shwe Mann presented a documentary photo album on goodwill visit to the Chinese Deputy Chief of General Staff.

Next, the visiting Chinese delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Staff General Zhang Li left here for PyinOoLwin by special flight. They were seen off by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and senior military officers at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA

True patriotism

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

Established 1914

MNA
Use natural waste effectively to produce bio-fuel

The research on use of natural waste in the interests of human beings showed successful when biogas could be produced from animal manure.

The Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Factory (Yangon) of the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 managed to innovate to produce natural waste biogas digesters.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein on 26 October visited the factory and inspected the digester and its parts.

Local people of rural areas can do the cooking and light storm-lanterns with the use of bio-fuel derived from animal waste of five or six heads of cattle.

Therefore, rural people should be organized and inculcated with the knowledge that about 20 pounds of waste of buffalo, cows, goats and pigs are enough to run a bio-fuel digester.

The bio-fertilizer and waste liquid from the digester can be used for growing crops, and that helps the plants grow fast and boost agricultural production.

Use of bio-fuel can save expenses on agricultural farming and energy and help prevent environmental pollution and deforestation. Thus, it is required to disseminate the valuable knowledge to and organize rural folks on a wide scale.
Gunfire brings down US helicopter in Afghanistan

KABUL, 28 Oct—Insurgents exchanged fire with US troops aboard a Black Hawk helicopter in central Afghanistan on Monday before the aircraft was hit and forced to land. The crew was rescued, but in the north a suicide bomber killed two US soldiers.

Lt Cmrd Walter Matthews, a US military spokesman, said there were no US casualties as a result of the crash in a province neighboring Kabul. “The helicopter crew exchanged fire with the enemy before the damage brought the helicopter down,” Matthews said.

At least four militants were killed in the exchange, said Fazel Karim Muslim, the chief of Sayed Abad district. Another helicopter hovered as the US troops secured the area around the downed chopper, which didn’t appear to sustain major damage, Muslim said. The US and other foreign forces rely heavily on helicopters for transportation around Afghanistan, which is covered by rough mountains and long stretches of desert and has few decent roads. Insurgents rarely bring down military helicopters, though they have hit several in recent years.

Wardak province has seen an increase in insurgent activity the last two years, and its main highway is now extremely risky to travel on, particularly at night. —Internet

Syria orders US school, cultural centre closed

DAMASCUS, 28 Oct—The Syrian government has ordered that an American school and a US cultural centre in Damascus be closed in response to a deadly raid by US helicopters near the Syrian border with Iraq.

The official SANA news agency says the decision came at a Cabinet meeting Tuesday chaired by Prime Minister Naji Otari. The report says the Syrian education minister was given instructions to implement the decision.

Syria claims US troops in four helicopters attacked a building near the border with Iraq and killed eight people on Sunday. US officials said the raid killed a top operative of al-Qaeda in Iraq who intelligence suggested was about to conduct an attack in Iraq. —Internet

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 551

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct—As of Monday, 27 Oct, 2008, at least 551 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Monday at 10 am EDT.

Of those, the military reports 399 were killed by hostile action. Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 66 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen. —Internet

Syria condemns US “terrorist aggression”

LONDON, 28 Oct—Visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem on Monday condemned the United States for its “terrorist aggression” on Syria after the US launched a raid on a village near the Syria-Iraq border killing eight civilians. “The Americans do it in the daylight, this means it is not a mistake, it’s by blunt determination. For that we consider this criminal and terrorist aggression. We put the responsibility on the American government,” al-Muallem said at a press conference in London after talks with British Foreign Secretary David Miliband.

“Killing civilians in international law means a terrorist aggression,” said he, adding that Syria would “defend our territories” if the US launched a similar operation again. On Sunday, US forces ferried by helicopter crossed five miles into Syria from Iraq and launched a commando raid that left at least eight people dead. —Internet

Afghans increasingly pessimistic

KABUL, 28 Oct—Afghans are increasingly pessimistic about their country, with security, unemployment and high prices dominating concerns, according to an annual mood survey released Tuesday.

The proportion of people who said they were more prosperous today than under the 1996-2001 Taliban government had also “decreased significantly”, said The Asia Foundation poll.

The drop was from 54 percent in 2006 — five years after the ouster of the hardline Taliban government — to 56 percent this year, the US-based foundation said.

Thirty-eight percent of respondents this year said Afghanistan was moving in the right direction, compared with 42 percent in 2007 and 44 percent in 2006.

The number saying it was moving in the wrong direction was up to 32 percent, from 24 percent in 2007 and 21 percent in 2006.

Satisfaction with government at all levels has fallen since 2007 with the administration seen as doing best in the provision of education and health care and worst in the economic arena and in combating corruption, the Foundation said. —Internet

Syria claims US troops in four helicopters attacked a building near the border with Iraq and killed eight people on Sunday. US officials said the raid killed a top operative of al-Qaeda in Iraq who intelligence suggested was about to conduct an attack in Iraq. —Internet

The mother, left, and two sisters of Syrian Faysal el-Abdallah who died a day before when US military helicopters launched an attack on Syrian territory, look at his picture as they mourn during a funeral procession in the Sukkariyeh Farm near the town of Abu Kamal in an area of farms and brick factories about five miles (eight kilometres) inside the Syrian border, on 27 Oct, 2008. —INTERNET
Latest polls show US Presidential race uphill battle for McCain

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct — Latest poll results Monday suggested that US Republican presidential nominee John McCain faces an uphill battle just week ahead of the 4 Nov presidential elections.

His Democratic opponent Barack Obama is hanging onto leads in several battleground states as well as a handful of traditionally “red states” won by President George W. Bush in 2004. CNN’s average of several recent state polls shows.

According to a string of new polls of polls from CNN, Obama holds narrow leads in Ohio, Missouri, Florida, Nevada, and Virginia. McCain meanwhile is hanging onto his lead in Indiana and West Virginia.

In Ohio, the state no Republican has won the White House without, Obama is holding a 4 point lead, 50 percent to 46 percent. In Missouri, the state that voted for Bush twice, Obama holds a point lead over McCain.

Obama is holding onto a 2-point lead in Florida meanwhile, 48 percent to 46 percent.

In Nevada, Obama has a 4-point lead, 49 to 45 percent — a lead that hasn’t changed over the last week. —Internet

China to launch safety checkup of oil production enterprises

BEIJING, 28 Oct — China will launch a nationwide safety examination of domestic oil production enterprises, said the safe production commission under the State Council, or the country’s Cabinet, on Monday.

The checkup is scheduled to begin November and last for two months, according to the commission.

The move aims to make clear the number, scale and production situation of domestic oil enterprises, based on which a data base of the country’s oil enterprise will be set up, according to the commission.

The move also aims to dig out hidden risks and problems and work out feasible resolutions. —Internet

US astronauts to vote from space

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct — Americans from all over the world will vote for the next US president on 4 Nov, the election day, but few ballots will have traveled as far as those cast by two NASA astronauts.

Commander Edward Michael Fincke and Flight Engineer Gregory Chamitoff are living and working about 350 kilometres above earth and orbiting at 28,000 km per hour, they will still be able to participate in the upcoming election, NASA said on Monday.

A 1997 bill passed by Texas legislators sets up a technical procedure for astronauts — nearly all of whom live in Houston — to vote from space.

China makes tremendous progress in poverty reduction since reform, opening-up

ROME, 28 Oct — China has made tremendous progress in poverty alleviation since the country adopted its policy of reform and opening-up in 1978, according to a senior economist at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Fang Cheng, speaking in a recent interview with Xinhua at the headquarters of the FAO, said that in the past 30 years there has been a substantial reduction in the number of China’s rural poor population.

The number of people living on one US dollar a day decreased from 490 million in 1979 to about 90 million in 2002 in China’s rural areas, Fang said.

The country’s poverty alleviation made giant strides especially in the period from 1978 to 1984, during which the population living in poverty decreased by about 300 million.

Therefore, it is fair to say that China has made the biggest contribution to the world’s poverty reduction drive, said the FAO expert. —Internet

Value of total exports in HK up 3.6%

HONG KONG, 28 Oct— September saw the value of total goods exports of Hong Kong rise to 247.2 billion HK dollars (31.92 billion US dollars), up 3.6 percent on the same month last year, official figures released here Monday.

Within this total, the value of re-exports rose 4.6 percent to 239.4 billion HK dollars, while the value of domestic exports dropped 20 percent to 7.9 billion HK dollars, said the Census and Statistics Department of Hong Kong.

Rises were registered in the values of total exports to some major destinations, in particular India, Germany, the US, Britain, Vietnam, and Taiwan. Falls were seen in the values of total exports to South Korea and the Chinese Mainland.

For the first nine months of 2008, the value of total goods exports rose 7.8 percent over the same period last year. Within this total, the value of re-exports grew 8.6 percent, while the value of domestic exports fell 11.5 percent.

The value of goods imports increased 9.1 percent. A visible trade deficit of 167.3 billion HK dollars, equivalent to 7.3 percent of the value of goods imports, was recorded. (One US dollar = 7.7425 HK dollars). —Internet

China more than doubles ship exports in 1st seven months

BEIJING, 28 Oct — China sold abroad 1.4 million vessels in the first seven months of this year, a growth of 170 percent on the same period of last year, customs sources said on Tuesday.

The exports were valued at 10.58 billion US dollars, up 61.6 percent, according to the General Administration of Customs. The administration attributed the growth to the nation’s comparative advantages in labor cost, ship building technology and infrastructure for the business.

The total export value included 3.49 billion US dollars for container vessels, up 53.3 percent, and 2.04 billion dollars for bulk cargo ships, up 54.6 percent. —Internet

Tourists visit a shop with marionettes for sale in downtown Prague, Czech Republic, on 26 Oct, 2008. —INTERNET

Several TGVs sitting at a Paris train stations. A Frenchman became trapped while trying to fish his mobile phone out of the toilet on a high-speed train(TGV), forcing firefighters to cut through the U-bend to free him, passengers said.—INTERNET

Tourists in Kuala Lumpur. The “knighthing” of India’s top Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan will help boost tourism in Malaysia, an official from the western Malacca state government said.—INTERNET

Internet

Internet

Internet

Internet
Two US men charged in plot to kill Obama

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct—Two US men were charged Monday for plotting a “killing spree” against African-Americans that would have been capped with an attempt to kill Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama.

The US attorney’s office in Jackson, Tennessee, said Daniel Cowart, 20, and Paul Schlesselman, 18, were self-described white supremacists who met online through a mutual friend. The pair planned to kill more than 100 African-Americans, including 14 who would be beheaded. According to an affidavit from the federal agent who questioned them, Cowart, from Tennessee, and Schlesselman, from Arkansas, had any details of Obama’s schedule.

They would be dressed in white tuxedos and top hats during the attempt, the affidavit states.

However, officials have not found any evidence that Cowart, from Tennessee, and Schlesselman, from Arkansas, had any details of Obama’s schedule.

“Poland wants good relations with Russia more than anyone else because it has much more to lose if relations deteriorate. However, hoping for the best one must brace for the fact that one’s hopes may not come true,” Sikorski declared.

The minister noted Russia’s nationalist policy of fueling the feeling of external danger.

Porsche plans to raise Volkswagen holding to 75%

BEIJING, 28 Oct—Porsche SE, maker of the 911 sports car, plans to raise its holding in Volkswagen AG to 75 percent next year and outlined steps for reaching that goal in a way meant to reduce the stock’s volatility in the past two months.

Porsche now owns 42.6 percent of Volkswagen’s common stock, has cash-settled options for another 31.5 percent and is sticking to plans to obtain a stake exceeding 50 percent by December, the Stuttgart, Germany-based carmaker said Monday in a statement. The disclosure is aimed at giving “short-sellers the opportunity to close their positions unhurriedly and without bigger risk.”

China opens National Women’s Congress

BEIJING, 28 Oct—The Tenth National Women’s Congress which is expected to draw a blueprint for the development of Chinese women in the coming five years, began here Tuesday morning.

President Hu Jintao and other top state leaders Wu Bangguo, Jia Qinglin, Li Changchun, Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, He Guoqiang and Zhou Yongkang attended the opening ceremony at the Great Hall of the People.

Premier Wen Jiabao is in Russia for a visit.

Three-day congress will hear and discuss a work report by the Ninth Executive Committee of the All-China Women’s Federation (ACWF), deliberate and adopt amendments to the federation’s constitution, and elect the 10th ACWF Executive Committee.

Ecuadorian police seize more than 1,480 kg of cocaine

QUITO, 28 Oct—Ecuadorian Anti-narcotics Police seized more than 1,480 kg of cocaine and detained four Ecuadorians near the Galapagos Islands, about 1,000 km off the coast of Ecuador’s mainland.

Anti-narcotics Chief Freddy Martinez said on Monday the operation called “Maremoto (seaquake)” took place in the waters about 230 nautical miles (about 426 km) off the San Cristobal Island, when two small boats named “Dorado” and “Albacora” respectively were transporting 1,482.762 kg of cocaine.

The detainees were identified as Jose Javier Intriago Macias, Galvez Estupinan Preciado and Eduardo Giovanny Lopez Velez, Washington Eugenio Delgado Cusme, Luis Angel Estupinan Preciado and Eduardo Giovanny Lopez Macias.

International Airport at HCM City catches fire

HANOI, 28 Oct—A fire suddenly took place at the domestic terminal of the Tan Son Nhat International Airport at Vietnamese southern economic hub Ho Chi Minh City at 2:50 am on Monday, said source with the Vietnam’s Southern Airport Corporation.

No casualty was reported in the fire as there was no flight taking off or landing when the fire occurred, said the corporation. The domestic terminal was temporarily closed on Monday and passengers of domestic flights were served in the international terminal, said the corporation. A series of domestic flights have been delayed.

Models display costumes of ancient China’s Han Dynasty (206 BC- 220 AD) during a tourism festival featuring the culture of Han Dynasty held in Xuchou, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 27 Oct, 2008—XINHUA

Xinhu

Women's Congress attendees

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Pretoria is known as the Jacaranda City for all the purple blossom-bedecked trees which line its thoroughfares. —XINHUA

The jacaranda trees are seen in Pretoria, South Africa, on 26 Oct, 2008. Pretoria is known as the Jacaranda City for all the purple blossom-bedecked trees which line its thoroughfares. —XINHUA

A robot which could change facial expressions rapidly is seen at the 9th Western China International Economy and Trade Fair in Chengdu, capital city of southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 27 Oct, 2008. XINHUA

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All items from Xinhua News Agency

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Chinese scientists win Gates grants

BEIJING, 28 Oct— Two Chinese scientists have received 100,000 US dollars each from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for their novel ideas on fighting tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS.

The grants for Gao Qian from Fudan University and Chen Zhifei from University of Hong Kong are among 106 offered to explore bold and largely unproven ways to improve global health, the foundation’s China office said Monday. —Internet

Man drives drunk to protest drink-drive charge

An Austrian man, charged with drink-driving, drove to a police station to complain about the charge whilst drunk, officials said Monday.

The 65-year-old had his driving licence and car keys first taken away from him Sunday after driving while over the alcohol limit in the northern city of Linz.

He then went home, picked up his spare car keys, went back to the abandoned car and drove to police headquarters to explain why he was unhappy with the charge.

Heart device maker recalls implant

Amedical device company has ordered the recall of certain batches of a small mechanical heart pump, saying five people have died while using the device.

Thoratec Corp urged patients to have their implants checked after confirming 27 reports of cases in which wear and fatigue to an electrical wire required the devices to be replaced, the company said in a statement Friday.

The reports occurred over five years of clinical experience with 1,970 implants, the company said. In five cases, the device could not be replaced and the patients died.

Clean team supervisor charged with littering

Authorities said a supervisor for Tampa’s initiative to keep its downtown area clean has been charged with felony littering. The Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office reported that a 37-year-old man who works for the Tampa Downtown Partnership’s Clean Team, has been dumping lawn debris and miscellaneous household items on various streets in a Gibsonton subdivision since September.

Besides supervising Tampa’s Clean Team, the man owns a lawn care business.

US scientists create programme to calculate body shape

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct — Computer scientists at Brown University in the United States have created a computer program that for the first time can accurately estimate the human body’s shape from digital images or video.

This technology may be used in the fashion, film, video gaming and sports medicine industries, as well as forensics, the university announced in a press release on Monday.

Based on information from a person in multiple poses, the computer program was able to infer the gender of the person and the 3-D body shape.

This is an advance from current body scanning technology, which requires people to stand still without clothing in order to produce a 3-D model of the body.

Internet

Five Chinese workers killed by kidnappers in Sudan

KHARTOUM, 28 Oct — Five Chinese workers abducted in southwest Sudan by local militants in early October this month have been killed, two had gone missing and the two others had escaped the danger.

The Chinese embassy strongly condemned the killing, and was keeping contacts with the Sudanese authorities for more information about the incident, according to the Chinese officials.

internet

Internet

Michigan suggests.

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct — Wearing masks and using alcohol-based hand sanitizers may prevent the spread of flu symptoms by as much as 50 percent, a new study released Monday by University of Michigan researchers suggests.

In a first-of-its-kind look at the efficacy of non-pharmaceutical interventions in controlling the spread of the flu virus in a community setting, researchers studied more than 1,000 student subjects from seven U-M residence halls during last year’s flu season.

“The first-year results indicate that mask use and alcohol-based hand sanitizers help reduce influenza-like illnes rates, ranging from 10 percent to 50 percent over the study period,” said lead researcher Allison Aiello.

“These initial results are encouraging since masks and hand hygiene may be effective for preventing a range of respiratory illnesses,” She said.

Internet

Ohio woman gives birth to triplet granddaughters

Not only has a 56-year-old Ohio woman given birth to triplets, but they’re her own granddaughters. Jaci Dalenberg, of Wooster, carried the babies as a surrogate for her daughter, Kim Coseno.

The two identical twins and their sister were born by Caesarean section at the Cleveland Clinic’s Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights and are still in the hospital’s care. They were more than two months premature and each weighed less than three pounds.

A Cleveland Clinic news release says infants and grandmother are all doing well. According to a Clinic spokesman, Dalenberg offered herself as a surrogate when Kim Coseno and her husband, Joe, were waiting to adopt. The couple used in vitro fertilization, and embryos were implanted in Dalenberg’s uterus.

internet

Berlin’s TV tower is colourfully illuminated during the “Festival of Lights”. During the festival about 50 buildings in the German capital are illuminated by light artists during the night.

New ALBUM

Krystian Wierachowski polishes a sculpture in an exhibition hall of the Millionaire Fair in Munich, southern Germany.

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Krystian Wierachowski polishes a sculpture in an exhibition hall of the Millionaire Fair in Munich, southern Germany.
Sweetcorn farmers enjoying higher income

Article: Maung Maung Myint Swe, Photos: Tin Soe

From north of Nwe-yit Village in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township are plantations of various species of crops that are touching the horizon. Farmers and agricultural workers were bustling around the fields of corns and cauliflower. The place was found very lively and it was like an artistic painting. A villager guided me, substantial profits from their businesses that season.

Just as we got into the building, we received a warm welcome of farmer U Tun Aye who said, “Hello, Sirs, come and have boiled sweetcorns”. It was very hospitable of him to serve us what he had, without asking who we were. In the building, corns were in a pile. Skilled workers were at work, harvesting corns and carrying corns onto a bullock-cart.

U Tun Aye said, “This ground is in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon. Here, we farmers grow various species of crops. As you see, all the plantations are thriving. The corn I grow is sweetcorn. Try a boiled sweetcorn, it is very delicious. We can boil or fry it to eat.”

We tried it and found it sweet and soft. It had big kernels with no unsuccessful ones.

“Over there is the corn plantation of farmer U Tun Aye.” Then, I walking along the dyke, approached the farm but where workers were loading corns onto a bullock-cart.

I noticed that on both sides of the dyke were plantations of groundnut and carrot. Seeing thriving plantations, I thought local farmers would make one thing we have to take care of is that young plants are not resistant enough to rains. But, when they have grown up, they like rains. If it rains when they have grown up or are in bud, corn is very sweet” he said.

If a sweetcorn plantation does not get rainwater when the plants are in bud, the field is to be irrigated. He used five yokes of buffalo or cow to plough his field. And during the season, he hired about 30 workers.

“My field yields about 30,000 corns. The expense on the farm is not more than one million kyats, and I get about three million kyats when I harvest the crop. So, I make a good profit from the farm. What is the most important is to know agricultural methods.”

Representatives of purchase centres purchased corns in person at the corn fields. Now, local farmers have grown the profitable crop on a wider scale.

“Drop in my farm for the next time while you are passing,” said U Tun Aye. Waving goodbye to him, we returned home. I am sure farmers will earn higher incomes, growing sweetcorn.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 28-10-2008

Workers harvesting sweetcorns in a plantation.

Workers transporting corn.
Encourage farmers to produce bio-gas out ...

(from page 16) 

and Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Association U Than Myint on steps to be taken for the already-built houses to withstand the storm.

Responding to the report, the Prime Minister dealt with measures to be taken for the houses to withstand the storm with the use of charts.

Next, the Prime Minister met with families who moved into the houses and asked their socio-economic status and urged them to grow vegetables and crops in the compound of the house.

After that, the Prime Minister viewed thriving paddy plantations of Pyinsalu Township General Administration Department and the sites chosen for construction of cyclone shelters.

The Prime Minister and party left Pyinsalu and arrived in Ngwesinyaw model village in Mawlamyinegyun Township. Along the route, they looked into rehabilitation and reconstruction of Pyinsalu from the helicopter.

Next, the Prime Minister and party greeted local people and members of social organizations.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt reported to the Prime Minister and party on progress in construction of houses and construction of schools and dispensaries. After hearing the report, the Prime Minister stressed the need to build durable school buildings and houses that can withstand the impact of disaster and fulfilled the requirements.

Later, the Prime Minister and party observed the 4-inch tube-well sunk by the Development Affairs Department and UNICEF and they were briefed by Deputy Chief Engineer U Myint Oo.

After inspecting 12.5 kilowatt generator, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, the Prime Minister viewed wind breakers, fruit trees and flowering trees and greeted local people and fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister left the village by helicopter and arrived in Pyapon at 11.10 a.m and he was welcomed there by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and officials.

At the Pyapon District Peace and Development Council Office, the Prime Minister met with departmental personnel and members of social organizations and made a speech.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing reported to the Prime Minister on reconstruction tasks carried out in Pyapon, Kyaiklatt and Dedaye townships, provision of necessities to local people and development of agriculture sector.

Next, the Prime Minister presented K 6 million for the 200-bed Pyapon District Hospital through medical superintendent Dr Nyi Nyi Win.

Later, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

The Prime Minister and party left Pyapon by helicopter and arrived back here at 1.30 pm.

MNA
Prime Minister holds discussions with divisional level officials in Pathein

**Needs to improve transport for convenience of trucks in a bid to facilitate regeneration of storm-hit areas and reconstruction tasks stressed**

YANGON, 28 Oct—Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein had a meeting with divisional level departmental officials at South-West Command in Pathein yesterday afternoon.

It was also attended by Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, the director-general of the Government Office, and heads of department.

The Prime Minister in his address said that Yangon-Pathein Road and Pyapon-Bogale Road have gone to rack and ruin due to the facts that it have to cope with excessive traffic for rescue, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks being carried out in some storm-hit areas in the division in the post-storm period, along with heavy rains and lack of timely repair.

Accordingly, it is needed to improve the transport for convenience of the trucks in a bid to facilitate regeneration of the storm-hit areas and reconstruction tasks.

Permission has been granted to Asia World Co to upgrade Yangon-Pathein Road. In that regard, the Ministry of Construction is sharing the tasks with the company for stepping up the tasks of repairing the road. As the first phase, potholes along the roads were filled with laterite and sand for the convenience of the trucks, but the facilities are now deteriorating following heavy rains.

It is required to provide constant repair to the roads section-wise under daily supervision for smooth transport.

The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs is undertaking tasks for upgrading Pyapon-Bogale Road section.

This rainy season, the task most available in the process is the filling of the potholes on the surfaces of the roads. So, potholes are to be filled in the first stage. He called for resurfacing of the roads at the same time.

Divisional level officials have to provide supervisions in the regions concerned and hold coordination between departments.

Simultaneously, five roads leading to seaside regions in Ayeyawady Division are under construction to be able to evacuate people and farm animals in the face of a natural disaster and to speed up regional development tasks.

As a result of the five rural development work programmes, rural people have been able to enjoy the taste of development in the education, health, water supply, transport and economic sectors.

Now, it can be demonstrated for raising the living standard of rural people that a household with four or five heads of cattle can do the cooking, generate electric power with the use of the bio-fuel derived from the natural waste of the farm animals, and they can also use the bio-fertilizer and waste liquid from the digester for growing crops, and that helps the plants grow fast and boost agricultural production.

(See page 10)
Prime Minister looks into repair of Yangon-Pathein road

YANGON, 28 Oct—Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, deputy ministers, the Director General of the Government Office and departmental officials, yesterday morning inspected traffic along Yangon-Pathein Road, reconstruction of road sections with the use of heavy machinery and stockpiling of gravel for repair of the road by car.

Next, the Prime Minister and party went to mile post No. 22/6 on Yangon-Pathein Road where they looked into upgrading of the road by Asia World Co Ltd and heard a report presented by General Manager U Sai Myint Thein on work being carried and future tasks.

On arrival at mile post No. 46, the Prime Minister and party inspected reconstruction of the road with the use of heavy machinery and spoke of the need for officials to construct drains for proper flow of water, repair of road sections to ensure smooth traffic and carry out repair works roads section-wise.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party left there and arrived in Pathein in the afternoon and they were welcome there by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and officials.

Prime Minister holds discussions with divisional level...

(from page 9)

In conclusion he called on officials in the administrative bodies to encourage local people to use bio-gas fuel on a wider scale.

The commander reported on progress in growing monsoon paddy in the division, conditions of thriving paddy fields, provision of agricultural equipment, arrangements for control of pests, rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks, production of fish and prawn, and preparations for operation of salt farms.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt reported on progress in implementing rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks, construction of houses, the site chosen for construction of cyclone shelters in Labutta Township, plans for supply of clean water, progress in constructing roads and bridges in the urban areas, rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks in Mawlamyinegyun Township; Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, on progress in building houses in the storm-hit areas in Hainggyikyun Township; Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, on the number of houses to be built and work progress, donations and distribution of relief supplies; Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Zaw, on transport of construction materials and farm implements, and freights of floating hospitals; Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, on arrangements for improving the communication network in Ayeyawady Division; and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, on distribution of fishing boats and fishing nets, donations and distribution of cattle.

In response, the Prime Minister attended to the requirements, calling for inculcating all the households in the villages and townships in Ayeyawady Division to grow fruit and vegetables on a small scale.

He also called for establishment of model agricultural farms with the use of the bio-fertilizers and waste liquid by raising pigs on a commercial scale in the towns.

He said that all are to work hard for generating electric power with the use of bio-gas as part of the drive for rural development.—MNA

Myanmar secures gold and silver

YANGON, 28 Oct—Ma Aung Nghein of Myanmar secured one gold medal and one silver medal in the compound event of third world ranking Asian Circuit Archery held in Manila, the Philippines from 25 to 30 October.

A total of 116 athletes from Korea, China, India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Bhutan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Vietnam are participating in the competition.—MNA
Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects roads, bridges in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Oct—Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye, inspected dredging of drains on both sides of An-Padegyaw-Maei road, extension of the road with the use of heavy machinery and conditions of road sections and repair of bridges along Maei-Kyaukpyu road on 23 October.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party inspected repaving of road near the mile post No. 70/0, maintenance of Wan-fight bridges and conservation of mangroves, paddy fields around Thanthamagyi bridge and conditions of roads and bridges. They then proceeded to Pyinwon camp.

After inspecting Lamu Bridge on Taungup-Maei road, they visited farmer U Tin Nu’s five acres model paddy field in Kinghtauk village-tract, Taungup Township.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw cordially greeted families of servicemen in Taungup Station and presented supplies to them. They then arrived at Thandwe.

Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport meets

YANGON, 27 Oct—A Work coordination meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport was held at the meeting hall of All Bus Lines Control Committee (Head Office) on Laydankkan Road in Tamway Township, on 24 October.

Chairman of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint delivered an address.

Departmental personnel reported on matters related to university ferries, traffic rules enforcement and measures being taken for road safety. Afterwards, the commander fulfilled the requirements and made a concluding speech.—MNA

Myanmar Wushu team leaves for PRC

YANGON, 28 Oct—Myanmar Wushu team left here by air this morning to participate in World Traditional Wushu Championship to be held in Shiyian, the People’s Republic of China from 28 October to 2 November.—MNA
Chinese steel companies to forge united front on ore prices for 2009

Beijing, 28 Oct—China Iron and Steel Association has called a conference of the largest domestic steel makers to work out a common stand in bargaining with major iron ore producers in the 2009 round of price negotiations starting next month, the English newspaper China Daily reported on Tuesday. This round of negotiations is expected to be different from previous ones that were largely dominated by the ore suppliers. This time, the market situation has changed as fallout from the global credit crisis has greatly depressed demand, the daily said.

The enhanced bargaining power of Chinese steel makers in this buyers’ market was clearly demonstrated by their boycott of Brazil’s mining company, Companhia Vale do Rio Doce, which unilaterally raised ore prices on 3 Sept. Major Chinese steel makers and iron ore suppliers decided to suspend imports from Vale because of the company’s price hike on iron ore. Shrinking steel demand, plus a sagging property market and dropping car sales, has pushed the prices of Chinese steel products down by an aggregate of 40 to 50 percent since early October.

Arab League slams US raid inside Syria

CAIRO, 28 Oct—The Cairo-based Arab League (AL) on Monday denounced a US air strike on Sunday inside the Syrian territories that killed eight Syrian civilians. Such a violation undermines the efforts to establish regional security and may lead to more tensions in the region, the pan-Arab body said in a statement.

The US move spoils the credibility for peace efforts in the war-torn Iraq and its neighbors, said the AL. The US raid came because “Iraq government’s policy and its permanent constitution do not allow that Iraqi territories be locations to launch attacks against neighbouring countries,” Ali al-Dabbagh said in a statement obtained by Xinhua.

“The Iraqi government asserts its deep keenness over conducting better relationships with Syria,” the statement quoted Dabbagh as saying.

Iraq condemns US air strike on Syria

Baghdad, 28 Oct—The Iraqi government condemned on Tuesday the US raid on a Syrian area close to the border with Iraq that left eight civilians killed, Iraq’s government spokesman said.

Iraq’s denunciation to the US raid came because “Iraq government’s policy and its permanent constitution do not allow that Iraqi territories be locations to launch attacks against neighbouring countries,” Ali al-Dabbagh said in a statement obtained by Xinhua.

“The Iraqi government asserts its deep keenness over conducting better relationships with Syria,” the statement quoted Dabbagh as saying.

More than 1,000 soldiers killed in Afghanistan since 2001

KABUL, 27 Oct—The number of foreign soldiers killed in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban regime in late 2001 has passed 1,000, according to the casualties org website Monday. "There’s a lot of negative reporting. Somebody likes to report an attack somewhere and that becomes the trend in Afghanistan, or they don’t report the positive events or the absolute brutality or the illegitimacy of the Taliban," McKiernan told the Associated Press in an interview Sunday.

The independent site, which tracks casualties in the war-ravaged country, have remained to track insurgent and NATO troops have died than in any other year since the 2001 US invasion, in part because Taliban militants are launching increasingly complex and deadly attacks.

“The war is not going to be won until the Taliban are defeated, and the Taliban are not going to be defeated until we stop funding them,” McKiernan said in an interview last month. "The US raids will cost us a lot of money and it will cost us a lot of lives. We have to stop this and we have to find a way to win the war."
Epilepsy drug may help Alzheimer’s patients

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct — A popular epilepsy drug may also be beneficial in patients with Alzheimer’s disease (AD), according to a new study published in the 27 Oct issue of US Journal of Experimental Medicine.

The anti-seizure drug valproic acid improved memory and reduced brain lesions in mice with an AD-like disease, said researchers from University of British Columbia in Canada. Their study showed that treating mice with valproic acid soon after the onset of disease shrank the brain plaques typical of AD and even prompted damaged nerves to start repairing themselves.

Most importantly, the drug improved the animals’ performance in a variety of memory-related tests.

The acid worked by blocking a cascade of enzymatic reactions that culminates in the accumulation of a protein called beta-amyloid, which builds up to toxic levels in AD.

Valproic acid helped mice less as their disease progressed, suggesting that future clinical trials should focus on people with early signs of AD, said the researchers.

Microsoft to unveil Windows 7 at Los Angeles conference

LOS ANGELES, 28 Oct— US software giant Microsoft is expected to unveil its latest operating system, Windows 7, at the company’s Professional Developers Conference, which started here Monday.

Microsoft plans to provide for the first time details about Windows 7, the successor to its Windows Vista, Tuesday at the Los Angeles conference, industry sources said.

The new operating system is scheduled to premiere in early 2010. Boasting that Windows 7 will be an improved version of Vista, Microsoft expects that its new product would eliminate some of the problems that hampered Vista’s premiere two years ago and continue to define the operating system’s reputation.

Users have complained that the Vista system requires much more memory than its predecessor Windows XP and fails to run some applications. Many corporate users even reportedly asked to have their computers downgraded to XP. Microsoft promised that there will be much greater compatibility between Vista and Windows 7, but so far has been disclosed to disclose what features the new operating system will exactly have. — Internet

Confucius Institute unveiled at Moscow University

MOSCOW, 28 Oct— Visiting Chinese State Councilor Liu Yandong on Monday attended the unveiling ceremony of the Confucius Institute at Moscow University, pledging to further enhance cultural exchanges between China and Russia.

China and Russia are good neighbouring countries with a long history of friendship between the two peoples, Liu said at the ceremony.

The enhancement of China-Russia friendly cooperation is of special importance among the various fields in which China and Russia carry out cooperation, she noted. The fruitful cooperation in education, culture, health care, sports, tourism and media will deepen the understanding between the two peoples and the youth, and thus the concept of “friendship for generations” would take firm root in the hearts of both peoples, Liu said. — Internet

Bangladesh storm kills 15, injures 200

DHAKA, (Bangladesh), 28 Oct — A tropical storm lashed Bangladesh’s coast, killing at least 15 people and injuring 200 more, rescue officials said Tuesday. The storm, spawned by a depression in the Bay of Bengal, struck late Monday, inundating hundreds of villages, leveling several thousand huts and knocking down electricity poles, officials said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

At least 10 bodies were pulled from the rubble of collapsed houses in Biracal district, a hard-hit area 75 miles south of the capital, Dhaka, they said. Another five people drowned in neighbouring Patuakhali district.

At least 200 villagers were injured and many were taken to hospitals, they said.

Dhaka’s Iftefaq daily reported that the storm flooded parts of Bhola island, trapping about 10,000 people in their homes. It provided no further details.

INTERNET

Stress may make you itch

WASHINGTON, 28 Oct— Stress may activate immune cells in your skin, resulting in inflammatory skin diseases such as a topic dermatitis and psoriasis.

Stress can trigger an outbreak in patients suffering from inflammatory skin conditions. This cross talk between stress perception, which involves the brain, and the skin is mediated through the “brain-skin connection.” Yet, little is known about the means by which stress aggravates skin diseases. Researchers from Germany and Canada hypothesized that stress could exacerbate skin disease by increasing the number of immune cells in the skin. To test this hypothesis, they exposed mice to stress. They found that this stress challenge resulted in higher numbers of mature white blood cells in the skin.

Furthermore, blocking the function of two proteins that attract immune cells to the skin prevented the stress-induced increase in white blood cells in the skin.

Taken together, these data suggest that stress activates immune cells, which in turn are central in initiating and perpetuating skin diseases, said the researchers. — Internet

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INTERNET
Golarino suspended for two matches over handball goal

ROME, 28 Oct — Fiorentina's Italian international striker Alberto Gilardino was suspended for two matches on Monday by a sports judge for the goal he scored with his forearm in his side's 3-1 victory over Serie A rivals Palermo on Sunday.

Gilardino, the leading scorer in Serie A this season with seven goals, scored the goal in the 20th minute of their match, however, the referee did not see the infringement but television images did show him using his forearm.

According to the judge Gilardino intentionally touched the ball with his hand in what was a 'seriously unsporting gesture'.

FA rule out Rooney badge punishment

LONDON, 28 Oct — Wayne Rooney's gesture of kissing the badge on his Manchester United shirt during Saturday's match against former club Everton will go unpunished by the Football As-

Kinnear promises Barton fair chance

NEWCASTLE, 28 Oct — Joey Barton has been told by manager Joe Kinnear he will be treated like any other Newcastle United player when it comes to selection for Tuesday's match against West Bromwich Albion.

Barton made his return to action last weekend in the north-east derby against Sunderland after a six-game ban imposed by the Football Association (FA) after the 74 days he served in prison following assaults on a 16-year-old boy and former Manches-

ter City team-mate Ousmane Dabo.

The midfielder was only on the pitch for the final few minutes of a match which saw New-

Second seed Bammer bounced in Quebec WTA event

QUEBEC, 28 Oct — American Melanie Oudin upset Austrian second seed Sybille Bammer 6-6, 3-6, 7-5 here Monday in a first-round match at the 175,000-dollar WTA Que-

Ronaldinho and Flamin to miss Siena match

ROME, 28 Oct — AC Milan pair Ronaldinho and Mathieu Flamini are out of the club's Wednesday night match against Siena at the San Siro, the team's doctor said Monday.

Both players came off injured against Atalanta on Sunday and need a few days rest, according to Massimo Manara.

"(Ronaldinho) has twisted his knee. He under-

Simons tastes tennis top ten but keeps feet on ground

PARIS, 28 Oct — To be recognised as your country's best tennis player in a land with form and history in the sport is one thing - and Gilles Simon will be de-

Interestingly, the governing body has said.

Manchester United's England striker Wayne Rooney (right) listens to referee Alan Wiley during the Premier League match against Everton at Goodison Park in Liverpool, northwest England, on 25 October. Rooney's gesture of kissing the badge on his Manchester United shirt during Saturday's match will go unpunished by the Football Association, the governing body has said.

Internet

Internet
Turkish warplanes bomb Kurdish bases in N Iraq

ANKARA, 28 Oct — Turkey’s military has sent warplanes and artillery into northern Iraq, hitting a Kurdish workers’ party camp. The military describes the operation as a success. It is the latest in a series of Turkish attacks against rebel groups in northern Iraq, where the guerrillas are fighting for decades.

Workers’ Party, or PKK, has been fighting for self-rule in Turkey’s southeast since 1984. Turkey has launched several aerial attacks and one major ground operation against rebel bases across the border with Iraq this year.

Rival Lebanese factions meet to defuse tensions

BEIRUT, 28 Oct — Lebanon’s top rival Sunni and Shia Muslim leaders held a long-awaited meeting, the two sides reported Monday, as part of efforts to defuse sectarian tensions in the country.

The landmark meeting Sunday night between pro-Western parliament majority leader Saad Hariri and the Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah was the first face-to-face encounter between them since the 2006 Hezbollah-Israel war, when all Lebanese rallied behind the Iranian-backed militant Shi'ite group.

Long simmering tensions between Hariri’s Sunni supporters and Nasrallah’s Shiite militants broke out into street fighting in Beirut in May that killed 81 people and nearly plunged Lebanon into another civil war.

Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement, “We believe attacks that are worthy of condemnation should not be launched on the territory of sovereign states under the slogan of the fight against terrorism.”

It is obvious that such unilateral military actions have a sharply negative effect on the situation in the region, and widen the seat of dangerous armed tension.”

The United States, which accuses Syria of failing to stem the flow of al-Qaeda fighters and other insurgents into Iraq to attack US forces, has neither confirmed nor denied the incident. Syria said eight people were killed and accused the United States of committing a “terrible crime”.

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:
During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Mon State, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavy fall in Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall were Nay Pyi Taw (Yezin) (0.46) inch, Nay Pyi Taw (Akyar) (0.28) inch, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) (0.20) inch, Mogok (3.39) inches, Maungtaw (2.60) inches, Myitkyina (2.28) inches, Hkamti (2.13) inches, Sittway (2.01) inches, Bhamo (1.81) inches, Katha and Meiktila (1.57) inches each and Yamethin (1.50) inches.

Total maximum temperature on 27-10-2008 was 80°F. Minimum temperature on 28-10-2008 was 68°F. Relative humidity on (09.30) hours MST on 28-10-2008 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 27-10-2008 was (0.2) hr approx.

Rainfall on 28-10-2008 was (0.48) inch at Mingaladon, (0.43) inch at Kabah-Aye and (0.33) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (107.72) inches at Mingaladon, (119.25) inches at Kabah-Aye and (138.11) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from West at (09:30) hours MST on 28-10-2008.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, the land depression over Bangladesh has moved to Northeast wards and become unimportant. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 29th October 2008: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, scattered in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin and Shan States and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 29-10-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (90%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-10-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (90%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-10-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (90%).
Prime Minister General Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

YANGON, 29 Oct — General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, which falls on 29 October 2008. — MNA

Prime Minister inspects rehabilitation, reconstruction tasks in Ngwesinyaw model village and Pyinsalu

YANGON, 28 Oct — Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, the Director-General of the Government Office and departmental officials, this morning left Pathein by helicopter and arrived Pyinsalu, Labutta District at 8.45 p.m. Along the route, the Prime Minister and party inspected thriving paddy fields from the helicopter.

On arrival at Pyinsalu, the Prime Minister cordially greeted local people.

At the briefing hall, Head of the Township General Administration Department U Zaw Min Tun reported on the sites chosen for construction of cyclone shelters, progress in construction of houses, road works and cultivation of monsoon paddy.

Next, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Win Tint of Road Construction Project Group-15 reported on progress in construction of Labutta-Thingangyi-Pyinsalu road (See page 8)

Measures have been taken to build durable school buildings and houses that can withstand the impact of natural disaster.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects houses in Pyinsalu. — MNA

Ngwesinyaw Model Village in Mawlamyinegyun Township. — MNA