YANGON, 2 Nov—A ceremony to hand over locomotives bought from YMEC Company of the People’s Republic of China to the Ministry of Rail Transportation was held at No. 1 platform of Yangon Railway Station this morning, attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence.

Present also on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Ministers Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Than, the managing director of Myanma Railways, officials and staff, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu, Chairman of YMEC Company Mr Feng Ke and embassy staff and guests.

General Manager (Mechanical & Electrical) U Tun Oo explained the facts about the locomotives. Next, Chairman of YMEC Company Mr Feng Ke and Mr Liang Shangtong of Dalian Factory presented a scale model of locomotive to Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min. Afterwards, Chairman of YMEC Company Mr Feng Ke handed over the documents related to the locomotives to Managing Director U Min Swe of Myanma Railways.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the minister, the mayor and the deputy ministers sprinkled scented water on the locomotives.

While inspecting the devices with modern information system and black box installed inside the locomotives, they were conducted round by officials.

Eight locomotives out of 20 imported from Dalian Factory of YMEC Company of the People’s Republic of China were handed over to MRT as a first batch. CKD-7-B brand 2000 HP diesel locomotives were installed with Caterpillar 3516-B engine and it can be used not only in plains but also in hilly regions.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence looks into locomotive purchased from YMEC Co, People’s Republic of China.—MNA

Locomotive imported from YMEC Co of the People’s Republic of China seen at Yangon Railway Station.—MNA
Strive for development of industrial zones

The government is making earnest efforts to develop the industrial sector which is vital for national development. With the establishment of industrial zones and industrial regions and opening of new factories and workshops, there have now emerged import substitute products production enterprises.

Ironware industry and other related industries have gradually developed. Foundry shops in some industrial zones produce quality machinery. Out of the industrial zones in various parts of the country, modern foundry shops have been established in Taunggyi Ayethaya Industrial Zone, Mandalay Industrial Zone and Monywa Industrial Zone with the assistance of the government. Myaungdaga Steel Industrial Zone is under construction in Hmawby Township in Yangon Division for the manufacturing of ironwares.

Transformers, electrical goods, plastics, furniture and rattan-substitute furniture are produced in industrial zones in Dagon Myothit (South) Township and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township.

It is necessary for the industrial zones and private workshops and factories to increase manufacturing quality and marketable products for the customer satisfaction in accord with their requirements.

Industrial zones nationwide are endeavouring for development of the industrial sector while producing modern machines, foodstuff and personal goods. Full operation of workshops and factories will contribute towards the economic progress fulfilling requirements of the people.

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAЯ PYТAW, 3 NOV—The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Tjaco Theo Van Den Hout as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr. Tjaco Theo Van Den Hout was born in 1949, and received a Degree in Constitutional Law from the Leiden University. He joined the Netherlands Foreign Services in 1975 and since then he served in various capacities at the Netherlands Foreign Ministry and also at the Netherlands Embassies and Permanent Mission in Largos, Jakarta, Maputo and New York from 1975 to 1996. He served as the Deputy Secretary at the Permanent Court of Arbitration from 1996 to 1999. At present, he is serving as the Secretary-General at the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Mr. Tjaco Theo Van Den Hout will be concurrently accredited to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok, Thailand.—MNA

Mayor inspects upgrading of roads, pavements

YANGON, 2 NOV—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin viewed resurfacing of asphalt concrete on East Horse Race Course Road in Tamway Township, substitution of the pavements with multi-coloured tiles along Thanthuma Road in Thingangyun Township with the use of heavy machinery on 31 October.

The mayor also inspected maintenance of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road near Yankin tax-free market for smooth transportation, substitution of the road divider with multi-coloured tiles on the road and the platforms near the City Hall.

Billboard on Traffic Rules Enforcement Educative Show and Contest put up

YANGON, 2 NOV—As a gesture of hailing Traffic Rules Enforcement Educative Show and Contest and awarding ceremony, Yangon Division Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee put up a billboard in front of the City Hall here yesterday morning.

Chairman of the supervisory Committee Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and Vice-Chairman of the supervisory committee Joint Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Kyaw Soe unveiled the billboard.

Present also on the occasion were Joint-Secretary of the supervisory committee Commander of Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Naing and members, commanders of Wireless and Traffic Police units and officials.

MNA
Afghan abductors free Bangladeshi aid workers

Dhaka, 2 Nov — Two Bangladeshi aid workers abducted in Afghanistan last month have been freed, their aid agency said on Sunday.

Akhter Ali and Mohammad Shahjahan were employed by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) which has been operating in Afghanistan since 2002 providing micro-finance, education and health services to the poor.

“They were freed Saturday night at Ghazni and are now in our Kabul office,” Zia Hashan, manager of public affairs and communications of BRAC told Reuters.

A BRAC employee was shot dead in Afghanistan’s Badakshan province in September 2007, and in December another was released after three months in captivity. The aid agency has 180 Bangladeshi employees stationed in Afghanistan. The country does not have any troops there.

Pakistan suicide car bomb kills eight troops

Islamabad, 2 Nov — The Pakistani army’s chief spokesman says a suicide bomber rammed his vehicle into a group of paramilitary officers in a volatile region near the Afghan border, killing at least eight troops.

Sunday’s attack occurred in a tribal region considered a haven for al-Qaeda and Taliban-linked militants.

Army spokesman Maj Gen Athar Abbas says the attack in South Waziristan occurred at a checkpoint near the main gate of the Zalai Fort, where members of the Frontier Corps were gathered.

Police say Ohio minister shot dead near Ky church

Covington (Ky), 2 Nov — A gunman fatally shot a Cincinnati minister and wounded a church deacon just after the two men arrived at a northern Kentucky church to attend a funeral, police said.

Court records in Hamilton County, Ohio, revealed a year long dispute between the accused gunman and the minister, the Rev Donald Fairbanks Sr.

Fairbanks and Dowdell Cobb were shot just before 11 am on Saturday, police said. The gunman chased one of the men to a nearby park, where he shot the man a second time, said Lee Russo, the police chief in Covington, Ky. It was unclear which of the men was shot in the park.

Frederick L Davis, of Covington, quickly surrendered to police and was charged with murder, first degree assault, criminal mischief and violating an emergency protection order. He was being held without bail and is scheduled to appear in court on Monday. A Kenton County, Ky, jail representative said Davis had no attorney listed.

NATO friendly fire wounds five Afghan soldiers in eastern province

Kabul, 2 Nov — Five Afghan National Army soldiers were wounded by friendly fire from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in eastern Afghan province of Kunar on Sunday, an ISAF statement released here said.

“The ANA troops were on a patrol in the Pech district of Kunar in the vicinity of an ISAF combat outpost and ISAF troops fired on what they suspected were Anti-Afghan Forces within the area,” the statement said.

“The ANA were provided with immediate medical attention and were evacuated to the nearest medical facility,” it said.

“IT is with deep regret that this incident has taken place and we have initiated an investigation to determine how this happened and how to prevent any future occurrences,” it quoted an ISAF commander Col John Spiszer as saying.

Millions needed for Pakistan quake aid

Islamabad, 2 Nov — The Red Cross appealed on Sunday for $7.8 million in emergency funds to help victims of an earthquake in southwest Pakistan, saying the priority is to provide shelter to the homeless as winter sets in.

The 6.4-magnitude quake hit a poverty-stricken region near the Afghan border before dawn Wednesday, leaving thousands homeless. The official death toll is 215 but likely to rise to more than 300, officials said.

Relief workers were still discovering mountain villages wrecked by the temblor that have yet to receive aid, the International Committee of the Red Cross said in a statement.

It estimated some 20,000 to 30,000 people were affected. The UN has put the figure at more than 100,000, half of them children.

Worst-hit was Ziarat district, which has about 50,000 residents, the ICRC said.

Authorities and the army are transporting tents, sleeping bags and food packages to villagers in the affected valleys of Baluchistan province. Many tents need to be insulated or fitted with stoves as the weather cools, officials said.

The Red Cross and authorities were also mustering supplies of antibiotics for the few clinics in the region to combat a wave of chest infections among children.

People walk past a war damaged building in city of Fallujah, 50 kms west of the capital Baghdad, recently. —Internet

A tribe member holds a poster while taking part in a protest in Baghdad on 1 Nov, 2008. People took to the streets of Baghdad to protest against a pact that would allow US forces to stay in Iraq for three more years, on Saturday.

The writing on the poster reads “No, No to falseness”. —Internet

Medical staff attends to bomb blast victims in a hospital in Guwahati, the main city of India’s troubled north eastern Assam state, recently. —Internet

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People walk past a war damaged building in city of Fallujah, 50 kms west of the capital Baghdad, recently. —Internet
Abbas to attend Cairo dialogue opening as PLO chief

GAZA, 2 Nov—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas will participate in the opening session of an Egyptian-hosted national dialogue as head of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). “He will not attend as the chief of Fatah and will not participate in the discussions with Islamic Hamas movement,” said Yasser Abed Rabbo, an aide to Abbas. Earlier, Hamas announced that its delegation to the dialogue would be on the similar level as Fatah’s mission. It is yet unclear if Hamas exiled chief Khaled Meshal would participate in the negotiations. Egypt will host the reconciliation dialogue on Nov. 9 in a bid to overcome the aftermath of Hamas-Fatah fighting and the violent takeover of the Gaza Strip by Hamas in 2007. The rift turned the Palestinian territories into two politically-separated entities — the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip and the Fatah-ruled West Bank.

During the dialogue, the parties would be asked to endorse an Egyptian proposal that includes the formation of a unity government, reformation of the security services and holding of general elections to reinforce the reconciliation.

Britain’s small businesses struggle under weight of slowdown

LONDON, 2 Nov—Some 4.7 million small businesses in Britain that are beginning to feel the brutal effects of the financial crisis and the resulting slowdown, which experts predict will become a recession in the next quarter.

They employ 13.5 million people and contribute more than 50 percent to Britain’s turnover, but according to the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), are currently closing at a rate of 280 a week. At 63, John Hole should be looking forward to retirement and enjoying the fruits of decades running his own business. But the credit crunch and looming recession is threatening everything he worked for.

As his ceramic tile company struggles to cope with declining trade and rising costs due to credit and high oil prices, Hole suspects he may have to use his life’s savings to stay afloat.

Six people wounded in blast in southeastern Turkey

ANKARA, 2 Nov—Hakkari Governor Ayhan Nasuhbeoglu said on Saturday that six people were wounded in explosion in a building of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) in southeastern Turkey. The semi-official Anatolia news agency earlier reported that two people were wounded.

Nasuhbeoglu said in a statement that five of the six injured people were discharged from hospital soon after they were hospitalized. Anatolia said the explosion occurred in the building of AKP Hakkari provincial office at Namik Erdogan Street in Hakkari city at about 14:00 local time (1200 GMT), destroying the wall of the back building and breaking some windows of the nearby buildings.

Eston Maritime

An aerial view of Dubai Mall, one of the worlds largest shopping and entertainment destinations in the booming Gulf state. The Dubai Mall — covering an area of 12 million square feet (1.1 million square metres) — will feature 1,200 stores, an indoor aquarium and an Olympic-sized ice rink and will open its doors to public on 4 November.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, an Hamas movement,” said discussions with Islamic not participate in the dis- "He will not attend as the chief of Fatah and will not participate in the dis- cussions with Islamic Hamas movement,” said Yasser Abed Rabbo, an aide to Abbas. Earlier, Hamas announced that its delegation to the dialogue would be on the similar level as Fatah’s mission. It is yet unclear if Hamas exiled chief Khaled Meshal would participate in the negotiations. Egypt will host the reconciliation dialogue on Nov. 9 in a bid to overcome the aftermath of Hamas-Fatah fighting and the violent takeover of the Gaza Strip by Hamas in 2007. The rift turned the Palestinian territories into two politically-separated entities — the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip and the Fatah-ruled West Bank.

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Economic growth, social justice, big challenges facing Egypt

CAIRO, 2 Nov — Egypt is facing two biggest challenges to maintain economic growth rate and expand social justice in the populous Arab country, President Hosni Mubarak said on Saturday.

Delivering a keynote speech at the 5th session of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) annual conference, Mubarak described economic growth and social justice as the two priorities of the party and the government. The party and the government will continue reforms “without delay,” said Mubarak, noting the limited-income people will be protected and the middle class will be supported.

With the slogan “New Thought for Egypt’s Future,” the party conference opened on Saturday amid concerns over the negative impact of the current global financial crisis to the Egyptian economy.

Noting the world economy is facing recession, Mubarak said the Egyptian government has to take measures to preserve its high growth rates. —Xinhua

Two Austrian hostages kidnapped in Tunisia return home

VIENA, 2 Nov — The two Austrians kidnapped in Tunisia late February this year by al-Qaida returned to their homeland on Saturday, Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik told a press conference at the Vienna International Airport.

The two hostages were picked up and driven away immediately after their landing, Plassnik explained that they are weak and need to rest. Austrian Foreign Ministry also said that the two hostages want to temporarily “avoid public and media” after returning to Austria. They need “rest and thorough health check.”

According to a press release issued by Austrian Foreign Ministry on Saturday, Mali President Amadou Toumani Toure handed over the two hostages to the Austrian delegation led by Plassnik in Mali’s capital Bamako early in the day.

The accompanying medical team has carried out initial health check to the two Austrians and believed that their health conditions were “quite good”, and only “looked exhausted.”

Libya to boost energy ties with Russia

CAIRO, 2 Nov — Visiting Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi said here on Saturday his country will enhance cooperation in the oil and gas sector with Russia, the world’s leading energy exporter and arms exporter.

“We consider cooperation with Russia in the oil and gas sector as very timely at this moment ... Moreover, we have common approaches to the oil and gas policy,” Gaddafi was quoted by Itar-Tass as saying during talks with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

Russia’s energy giants, such as Gazprom, Tatneft, Tatneftegaz, Lukoil, and Stroitransgaz are operating in Libya’s oil and gas sector. Their projects range from geological surveys, offshore exploration and development to oil refining and pipeline construction.

Gaddafi arrived here on Friday for his first visit to Russia, which will focus on economic, energy and military cooperation.

A principal agreement on a large package of arms contracts worth over 2 billion US dollars is expected to be reached during the visit, according to Kremlin sources. —Xinhua

S Korea, Canada hold talks on beef imports

SEOUL, 2 Nov — South Korea and Canada will hold talks on resuming Canadian beef imports on Monday, the South Korean government said on Sunday.

“Working-level officials from the two countries will hold technical consultations on beef imports in Seoul from Monday to Tuesday,” said the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, adding that the meeting is held at the request of Canada.

Seoul suspended Canadian beef imports in May 2003 after a case of mad cow disease was reported in the country. The last round of talks on Canadian beef imports was held in Seoul in late November 2007.

Canada has demanded that South Korea lift all restrictions on beef imports after the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in May of last year gave Ottawa a “controlled risk” classification, which technically allows it to export all beef parts with the exception of certain specified risk materials (SRMs), South Korea’s Jumhap News Agency said. —Xinhua

China state broadcaster’s Spanish-language channel goes on air in Spain

MADRID, 2 Nov — The Spanish-language channel of state-run broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV-E) started broadcasting in Spain on Saturday and the channel’s launch is expected to help promote Spanish-speaking populations’ understanding of China.

The channel, which broadcasts 24 hours a day, focuses on current news and also runs segments and programs on culture, special reports and TV series. Its entry into the European country, through the Imagenio IPTV platform of Telefonica de Espana, is opening a new window for all Spanish-speaking audiences around the world to know more about China. —Xinhua

The 1200-DWT salvage pontoons are taking water by the Chaohu Lake in Chaohu city of east China’s Anhui Province, on 31 Oct, 2008. Built by the Chaohu Boatyard in Anhui, a couple of salvage pontoons took water successfully in the Chaohu Lake on Friday. With a dive depth of 60 metres and a lifting capacity of 1200 tons. —Xinhua

This photo shows a man looks as local people dance in ancient Lijiang city, southwest China’s Yunnan Province. —Xinhua

Some workers of Zaimiao Township unload the chicks and ducklings from the truck and hand out to the victims of typhoon Hagupit, in Shangsi county of southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 30 Oct, 2008. Over 50,000 pigeots, chickens, ducklings etc have been dispensed to typhoon victims and to help them resume normal life. Tens of thousands of people in most townships of Shangsi suffered from flood attack due to Typhoon Hagupit this September. —Xinhua

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Rebels tighten their grip in eastern Congo

Tutu-led rebels tightened their hold on newly seized swathes of eastern Congo on Saturday, forcing tens of thousands of frightened, rain-soaked civilians out of makeshift refugee camps and stopping some from fleeing to government-held territory.

Aid organizations said they were increasingly worried about a lack of food and shelter.

European officials offered sympathy but no concrete promise of military reinforcements for the Congolese troops and UN peacekeepers routed by rebel forces in the sudden and dramatic escalation of eastern Congo's civil war in the past week.

The rebels appeared to be maintaining a unilateral cease-fire they declared a day earlier, focusing on consolidating territories that stretch to the doorstep of the provincial capital, Goma, instead of taking the city.

The rebels, who said people were leaving the refugee camps of their own free will, asserted that they stopped short of Goma in hopes of stopping the chaos that had engulfed it as government troops fled along with tens of thousands of refugees. However, Goma was also the site of rebel leader Laurent Nkunda's greatest defeat when UN attack helicopters fired on his fighters advancing on the city in December, killing hundreds of them. It was not clear if that experience influenced his decision..

Top Mexico police officer resigns

MEXICO CITY, 2 Nov — One of Mexico's most senior police officers, the acting Federal police commissioner, Victor Gerardo Garay, has resigned.

He stood down after an aide of his was accused of working for a leading drug cartel.

Mr Garay said he was stepping down to cooperate with the authorities.

Mexico is suffering from widespread drug-related violence, with several thousand people shot dead this year as gangs battle for supremacy.

The news of the resignation of the highest ranking member of the Mexican federal police comes amid allegations that the drugs cartels may have infiltrated the highest echelons of the Mexican security and police forces.

"I am resigning because in the bloody fight against organized crime, it is our duty to strengthen institutions, which means it is essential to eliminate any shadows of doubt regarding me," the commissioner said.

Munchtime: A squirrel in Kyrgyzstan chews on a nut in Bishkek.

Ancient iceman probably has no modern relatives

"Otzi," Italy's prehistoric iceman, probably does not have any modern day descendants, according to a study published on Thursday.

A team of Italian and British scientists who sequenced his mitochondrial DNA — which is passed down through the mother's line — found that Otzi belonged to a genetic lineage that is either extremely rare or has died out.

Otzi's 5,300-year-old corpse was found frozen in the Tyrolean Alps in 1991.

Most adults get some exercise during the day

Many adults may be meeting experts' recommendations on exercise if all types of activity, from work and play, are counted, a study of Swedish adults hints.

Researchers found that among 1,470 adults ages 18 to 74, nearly two-thirds were meeting the goal of getting at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity on most days of the week.

That was with all types of physical activity measured, including physical labor at work, household chores and leisure-time exercise. Past studies, in contrast, have often looked at a more limited definition of physical activity, such as recreational exercise alone, when gauging adults' overall activity levels.

Bolivian president suspends US anti-drug efforts

LA PAZ (Bolivia), 2 Nov — Bolivian President Evo Morales suspended US anti-drug operations on Saturday as Washington's relations with his leftist government spiraled downward.

Morales accused the US Drug Enforcement Administration of espion- age and funding "crim- inal groups" trying to undermine his government.

He announced the indefinite suspension while declaring that his govern- ment has eradicated more than 12,300 acres of illeg- ally planted coca so far this year — the minimum required under a 1988 Bolivian law passed under US pressure.

Coca is the raw mate- rial for cocaine, but Bolivi- ans use the small green leaf in its less-potent natu- ral form as a traditional tea or for chewing.

Bolivia-US relations have deteriorated in recent months as Morales' govern- ment limited DEA ac- tivities and later expelled the US ambassador over charges of spying and in- volvement in anti-govern- ment protests in the eastern lowlands.

Mega-tsunami hit southeast Asia 700 years ago

A mega-tsunami struck southeast Asia 700 years ago rivaling the deadly one in 2004, two teams of geologists said after finding sedimentary evidence in coastal marshes.

Researchers in Thailand and Indo- nesia wrote in two articles in Nature magazine that the tsunami hit around 1400, long before historical records of earthquakes in the region began.

The 2004 tsunami left 230,000 people either dead or missing across Asia, from Sri Lanka and India to Thailand, the Maldives and Indonesia. More than 170,000 of these victims were in Aceh province in Indonesia.

Jankaev's team studied a grassy plain on Prhu Thong, an island north of Phuket in Thailand, where the 2004 tsunami reached maximum wave heights of 20 metres (65 ft) above sea level.

A separate team led by Katrin Monecke from the University of Pitts- burgh looked at the sedimentary records on coastal marshes in Aceh, where the waves reached 35 metres.

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NewsALBUM
Charity Art Show marks Hninzigon diamond jubilee

YANGON, 1 Nov—Jointly-organized by Hninzigon Home for the Aged and Myanmar Artists and Artisans Asiyon (Central), the Charity Art Show was opened at the Home on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township here this morning.

Chairman of CEC of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd) and Chairman of MAAA (Central) U Thant Sin (Artist Hla Tin Tun) explained the purpose of holding Charity Art Show to mark the diamond jubilee of Hninzigon Home for the Aged. Next, they formally opened the show that is staged from 1 to 16 November.

At the show, 367 works of 235 artists of MAAA (Central) are on display.—MNA

Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd) and Artist U Tun Shein open charity art show to mark Hninzigon Home for the Aged diamond jubilee.

ICT Exhibition continues for third day

YANGON, 2 Nov—The ICT Exhibition continued for the third day at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here today, to mark the 10th Anniversary of Myanmar Computer Federation and Computer Associations.

Technique and services for e-Government, ICT for entrepreneurs, teaching aid for school children, and programmes for family development were staged at the exhibition.

At the booth of Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd (MIT) statistic system (Myanmar/English), sales system for restaurants, super markets, system for hotels, hospital and clinic, finger print identification system for attendance, software for salary system and MBA courses form online were displayed.

The computer system and reliable connectivity products such as Aten, Allied Telesis, Aver Media, Sunix, Broadrack, CTS, Provideo, SJ Rack Enclosure were displayed at the booth of Access Spectrum Co Ltd, KVM, LCD KVM and IPKVM at ATEM, Gigabit Ethernet Switch and Fiber Media Converter at Allied Telesis, TV Tuner and DVR surveillance system at Aver Media, Server Rack Enclosure, Network Rack Enclosure, Wall Mount Rack Enclosure and accessories at SJ Rack.—MNA

Stake driven for Thingangyun No. 4 BEMS

YANGON, 2 Nov—A ceremony to drive stake for new building of No. 4 Basic Education Middle School (branch) was held at the school in Thingangyun Township today.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence drove the stake of the new school building. The reinforced 269 x 32 ft three-storey main building and 84 x 32 ft two-storey building were donated by Tzu Chi Foundation.

Cash donation ceremony for paying respects to doyen literati to mark Sarsodaw Day held

YANGON, 2 Nov—A cash donation ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati to mark Sarsodaw Day of 1370, organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, was held at the meeting hall of Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Theirinbyu street this afternoon.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the ceremony and accepted cash donations. Present on the occasion were heads of department and officials under the ministry, the Chairman of MWJA and the Vice-Chairmen, CEC members, members of social organizations, officials of journal and magazine publishing houses and guests. MWJA Chairman U Hla Myang (Ko Hsang) extended greetings on the occasion. Today’s donations towards the respect paying ceremony were K 3,930,000 donated by the State Peace and Development Council, K 300,000 by the Ministry of Information, K 100,000 by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win and family, K 300,000 by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, K 6,755,000 by printers, K 2,077,000 by publishers, K 100,000 by Myanmar Motion Picture Asiyon, K 1,310,000 by U Maung Maung Aye (Alinka Wutyi Sarpay and Arts), K 917,000 by Dr Daw Khin Khin Y’s (Shine Hope Company), K 500,000 by Dr Tin Tun Oo-Dr Khin Moe Moe and family, K 300,000 by Lt-Gen Chit Swe (Retd) Naung Sithi family, K 200,000 each by U Tin Soe (Thagadoe) and family and Col Saw Myint (Hni Thamein), K 150,000 each by U Maung Myo (Kyawung Hna Kaung Sarpay) and family and Major Thein Tun (Retd)-Daw Thi Thi Nwe and family, K 100,000 each by U Kyaw Nyunt Yi-Daw Wah Wah Kyaw (Kyaw Nyunt Yi Sarpay), Lt-Col Ohn Maung (Retd) (Myinnu Naung Moe)-Daw Khin Aye Mu, Lt-Col Professor Khin Zaw (Writer Naing Zaw)-Professor Dr Kyi Thi Tun, U Myint Kywe (Maung Myo-Kywe)-Daw Tin Tin.

Today’s donations amounted to K 18,604,000 and medicines worth K 1.1 million.—MNA

Wifi City Yangon 2009 seen at Information and Communication Technology Exhibition.—MNA
Yangon, 2 Nov— The victorious Myanmar archery team that secured one gold and two silver in the 3rd Asian Archery Grand Prix and one gold and four silver in the 3rd SEA Archery Championship held in Manila, the Philippines from 26 to 31 October arrived back here by air yesterday.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik and officials, Secretary of Central Working Committee of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw L Khun Yi, President of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Khin Shwe and executives and athletes.

Altogether 116 participants from 17 countries took part in the two contests.

Members of Myanmar Archery team were General Secretary U Kyaw Oo, Manager (Assistant Director of SPED) U Phyo Bo Bo Tint Hsan, coach U Than Kyaing, referee Dr Myat Thura Soe and athletes Zaw Win Htaik, Ye Min Swe, Nay Myo Aung, Yan Aung Soe and Ma Aung Hngein.

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Victorious Myanmar Archery Team seen at Yangon International Airport.— NLM
Information Minister addresses anniversary of News and Periodicals Enterprise

YANGON, 2 Nov — A ceremony to mark the anniversary of News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information took place at the meeting hall of Printing and Publishing Enterprise at 9 a.m today with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

It was attended by Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win, Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint, advisers, deputy director-general, general manager, director, chief editors, deputy directors, deputy chief editors, managers, staff of Myanma Alin, Kyemon and New Light of Myanmar dailies, special guests and prize winners.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said the anniversary was marked with two aims. The first was to review how successful the presses in their performance of duties and what weak points they had in the pervious year and to try to perform duties for more improvement in their work.

The second aim was that the staff members are to work hard reviewing themselves, to try to improve themselves physically and mentally and to try to enhance their work efficiency with a highly competitive spirit. He said there is competitiveness in every field. And competitiveness among the countries of the world has led to more advancing technologies. So the staff members are to do their work with a highly competitive spirit. Moreover, they are to be loyal to the State and the people as they are media persons.

It is heartening to note that in 2007-2008 News and Periodicals Enterprise was able to carry out not only its normal duties but also extra duties assigned to it. It was able to gather news from the cyclone Nargis hit regions despite difficulties. Although there was loss and damage due to the storm, Myanma Alin Daily was able to carry on its publishing without fail and the Kyemon daily halted for one day and the New Light of Myanmar for two days. And this was due to the goodwill of the staff of NPE under the leadership of the managing director.

The minister went on to say that the ministry recognized the efforts of the staff and they are to continue to make more efforts without being complacent about the present success. He said NPE has 10 tasks to carry out in 2008-2009, the tasks of NPE are:

1. to try its utmost for successful implementation of the seven-step roadmap of the State through the media sector,
2. to try for the dailies to be forever good in form and essence, 
3. to enable itself to become quality medium who serve the best national interest, 
4. to try to earn more income, 
5. to open more sub-printing houses and send newspapers to every village, 
6. to try to publish colour newspapers, 
7. to do more efforts for the New Light of Myanmar to improve English, 
8. to try to publish newspapers of international level, 
9. to take measures for durability of the presses, and 
10. to do staff welfare tasks by engaging in agricultural and livestock breeding.

Next, the minister presented awards to six staff members who were awarded for their good performance in public services through Deputy Chief Editor Daw Than Htay of Myanmar News Agency (International); accountant-3 Ma Nan Ohmar Sein of Sub-printing House (Kengtung), who won prize in shooting contest of basic clerical training course No. 24 conducted in CICCs (Upper Myanmar); and Myanmar Alin daily, Kyemon daily, New Light of Myanmar daily and Nay Pyi Taw daily and sub-printing houses for their performances through the chief editors and deputy chief editors.

A f t e r w a r d s, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win awarded outstanding staff members of the dailies and presented cash for uniforms for the staff of NPE through Deputy Director (Admin) U Tin Sein of NPE. Later, NPE General Manager U Zaw Min Oo, Chief Editor U Ye Myint Pe of the Myanmar Alin daily, Chief Editor U Khin Maung Kyaw Din of the Kyemon daily and Chief Editor U Than Myint Tun of the New Light of Myanmar daily also awarded other outstanding staff members. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents prize to Chief Editor U Than Myint Tun of the New Light of Myanmar daily.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents prizes to six staff members for their good performance in public services through Daw Than Htay, Deputy Chief Editor of Myanmar News Agency (International).—MNA

Rehabilitation and reintegration working group holds round table discussion

YANGON, 2 Nov — The working group of rehabilitation and reintegration of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation held a round table discussion at the women’s vocational training school in Bahan Township yesterday.

Present on the occasion were leader of the working group of rehabilitation and reintegration Daw Tin Tin Nwe, deputy leader Daw Khin Myo Myint, leaders of the working group Daw Hsu Hsu, Daw Khin May Soe and Daw Thwe Thwe Win, members of sub-working group, instructors and school girls of the women’s vocational training school, salvation army, Myanmar women’s development association (Wingaba) and Women Development Centre (WDC). Daw Tin Tin Nwe, head of the working group, and members participated in the reading and round table discussion. — MNA

Managing Director of NPE U Soe Win presents prize to Senior Reporter U Soe Tint of the New Light of Myanmar daily.—MNA
Shwegun Region in Hlaingbwe Township making a good headway in regional development work

Article : Maung Maung Htwe (MNA), Photos : Hla Moe (MNA)

The automobile carrying members of our media team was on its way along the fine tarred road from Hpa-an to Shwegun Region in Hlaingbwe Township. In the past, the region was only accessible by boat and it was risky for the people to travel in the region.

Now, thanks to the 42-mile Thitsar Road, people can make a one-day round trip safely in the region, and local people have begun to enjoy remarkable development in the education, health and social sectors.

On both sides of the road were thriving plantations of paddy, groundnut, soya bean, tea and rubber with mountain ranges in the background.

In particular, groundnut and sugarcane thrive in the region. Obtaining groundnut per acre of 120 baskets and farmer U Ohn Tin was awarded FAO prize in 2006.

In last two years, the Irrigation Department, under the supervision of the government, dug six canals in the upper part of Thanlwin River, dug seven canals and dredged six old canals in the lower part of Thanlwin River and Gyaing River, thus boosting per acre yield of crops such as beans and pulses, summer and monsoon paddy.

Yaybok Dam under construction near Htilon Village in Hlaingbwe Township will be able to benefit more than 3000 acres of monsoon and summer paddy, and Nabu and Pata dam projects to be implemented in Htoo Kawkoe Region in Kayarzeik Township will be able to benefit more than 10,000 acres of farmlands and generate 2 megawatts.

"In the past, Shwegun Region was flooded every year in the rainy season and water was scarce there after the rainy season. The region will soon be in a position to grow groundnut, soya bean and cow pea on a larger scale due to Inno Theikpan, Takusreik, Kannel and Shwegun canals.

"Last year, Shwegun canal silted up as thick as two and a half feet in an area of about 300 acres. So, groundnut could be grown near the lake and soya bean could be grown in the middle of the lake extensively. And Inno Theikpan canal silted up as thick as about three feet in an area of about 70 acres in the mouth of the canal, so soya bean and cow pea could be grown extensively."

With the progress in cultivating groundnut, the region uses sowing machines in addition to cattle and tractors, thus making a good progress in the agricultural farming.

U Tun Hmwe, who innovated sowing machines said, "We make more progress in sowing seeds if we use sowing machines. We can plough an acre of field a day if we use cattle, but we can plough three acres if we use this machine."

"I noticed that not only groundnut but also sugarcane thrived well in Shwegun Region. Now, peace has been restored almost the whole region. So, we are implementing water supply projects to irrigate farmlands.

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"I noticed that not only groundnut but also sugarcane thrived well in Shwegun Region."

For the highest pass rate of 74.82 per cent. I am sure my readers can guess well why Kayin State has established such good foundations for development.

Translation: MS

Myanmar Alin: 2-11-2008

With peace and stability restored throughout the region, Myainggyingu Region has now developed a lot, and it is planning to establish a corn ethanol factory.

We also noticed that Shwegun Region had made a lot of changes with paddy husk-fired generators, fine buildings, schools, hospital and health care centres.

Shwegun Basic Education High School possesses all the characteristics of a school. Previous academic year, the school was awarded first prize for the highest pass rate in Kayin State for its matriculation pass rate of 74.82 per cent. I am sure my readers can guess well why Kayin State has established such good foundations for development.

Shwegun Region grows sugarcane in 2615 acres. So far, Hlaingbwe Township has put 4500 acres under sugarcane against the target of 4450 acres. This year, more silt was collected from the Thanlwin River, and farmers chose high-yield strains in place of old species. Per acre yield of sugarcane is expected to meet about 25 tons.

Myainggyingu Region uses small sugar mills. Now, it is planning to build a sugarcane ethanol factory.

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Translation: MS

Myanmar Alin: 2-11-2008
Nine dead or missing, 70,000 evacuated in S China floods

NANNING, 2 Nov—Rescuers have found seven bodies and are searching for two missing people after floods triggered by torrential rains hit parts of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Flash floods submerged two vehicles running on roads in Pingguo County, leaving nine missing. The county saw a precipitation of up to 204 mm from 8 pm on Friday to 4 am on Saturday. Rescuers were still searching for two people in Pingguo County, a county official said. The downpour hit western and northern parts of the region, with the highest rainfall of 494 mm over 24 hours from 8 am on Friday to 8 am Saturday.

The floods had destroyed 698 houses and inundated at least 48,271 hectares of cropland. Direct economic losses were estimated at 42.76 million yuan (6.3 million US dollars), the region's civil affairs department said. More than 70,000 people had been evacuated.

Iraq, Iran to exchange remains of killed in war

BAGHDAD, 2 Nov — The Iraqi Government spokesman said on Saturday that Iraq and Iran have agreed to exchange the remains of soldiers killed during their eight-year war in the 1980s.

"The delivery is set for 15 November, 2008. We will receive the remains of 200 Iraqis from the Iranians in exchange for the remains of 41 Iranians," Ali al-Dabbagh said in a statement.

Dabbagh said that the exchange would take place at a border post without disclosing the exact location.

He said the Iraqi Government "will continue its efforts to solve pending issues with the Iranian side, particularly, those of humanitarian aspects".

About one million people were killed or went missing from both sides during the 1980-1988 war. — MNA/Xinhua

26,000 malaria cases occurred in Kolkata city

NEW DELHI, 2 Nov — Some 26,000 malignant malaria cases have been reported from India’s eastern city Kolkata this year, according to the Hindu newspaper on Sunday. Kolkata city’s authorities have asked the residents not to panic despite the spread of dengue and malignant malaria to new areas as “the situation is under control”, the newspaper said.

With an increasing number of dengue and malignant malaria cases being reported from all across the India’s third-largest city, the city authorities also announced undertaking of awareness campaigns in the coming days.

“The authorities will launch extensive awareness campaigns from 1 November through medical camps, leaflets, posters and hoardings. Campaigns through radio and television will also be undertaken,” Subodh Dey, a health official said.

According to the authorities records till Friday, 26,000 malignant malaria cases and 85 dengue cases have been found positive.

MNA/Xinhua

Policeman killed, seven injured in Baghdad bomb attacks

BAGHDAD, 2 Nov — An Iraqi policeman was killed and seven people were injured on Sunday in roadside bomb explosions across Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

A policeman was killed and three others were wounded when a roadside bomb detonated near their patrol in the al-Kamaliyah neighbourhood in southeastern Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

A police vehicle was badly damaged by the blast which also caused damages to several nearby shops and civilian cars, the source said.

Also in southeastern Baghdad, two more civilians wounded by another roadside bomb explosion in the Mashhal neighbourhood, the source added.

Separately, a policeman and a civilian were injured when another roadside bomb went off near a police patrol in Baghdad central neighbourhood of Karrada, he said.

A fourth roadside bomb exploded near a police patrol near an intersection in the neighborhood of Bab al-Mu'a'dham, damaging a police vehicle, he added.

Sporadic attacks continue in Iraq despite the US and Iraqi officials announced a relative lull in violence during the past months. —Internet

Strong winds batters Wellington

WELLINGTON, 2 Nov — Heavy winds with gusts of up to 150 kilometres per hour disrupted flights, caused roofs to lift and cut power in the New Zealand capital of Wellington on Saturday.

High winds battered the east of the country from Otago to Waararapa from early Saturday morning, with Wellington the worst affected.

The MetService said gusts of up to 150 kilometres per hour were recorded in the Wellington suburb of Kelburn. The fire service said it attended around 50 weather-related calls in the Wellington region.

At least two homes in Johnsonville lost their roofs, two cars were blown on to their sides while trying to cross the Wainuiomata Hill and Massey University’s student services building in Mount Cook lost a roof dome. Wellington airport had many cancelled and delayed flights. — MNA/Xinhua

German pilot killed at air show on Iranian island

TEHERAN, 2 Nov — A German pilot was killed at an air show on the Iranian island of Kish, the official IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

The unidentified 54-year-old pilot’s ultra-light aircraft crashed while he was engaged in an air manoeuvre in Kish air show, the report said. "The plane got out of the control of its pilot and crashed in the landing strip of Kish international airport,” the report said. —MNA/Xinhua

An injured Belgian tourist disembarks from a plane at Brussels Airport in Zaventem on 2 Nov, 2008. A medical plane carrying nine injured tourists arrived in Brussels early Sunday, two days after a bus accident killed seven Belgian tourists and injured 28 in southern Egypt. — Internet

Iraqi’s shop in a muddy street in the city of Fallujah, 50 kms west of the capital Baghdad, recently. — Internet

Thousands of civilians displaced by conflict languished on the roads of east Congo on Sunday as Western powers pressured Congolese and Rwandan leaders to prevent “another Rwanda” tragedy. —INTERNET

Congolese civilians gather in an displaced people’s camp in Kibati.
Ugandan rebels attack Congo town, 50,000 flee

**Kinshasa, 2 Nov** — Ugandan Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) rebels raided a town in northern Congo on Saturday in an attack that killed nine people and forced around 50,000 to flee, the United Nations and aid agencies said. Between 30 and 50 LRA fighters attacked the town of Dungu, near the Central African Republic’s border with Sudan, before dawn. Fighting between the Ugandan rebels and Congolese government soldiers continued on Sunday. An early afternoon, a spokesman for a Congolese UN peacekeeping mission, MONUC, told Reuters, “Around 50,000 people are trying to leave the town. The LRA have already pulled back. They left behind nine bodies,” spokesman Madondje Moumouba said.

The LRA attack on Dungu was separate from the conflict in eastern North Kivu province, where a Tutsi rebel offensive this week has displaced tens of thousands of civilians. Though it has been driven out of Uganda, the LRA remains active in southern Sudan, Central African Republic, and Congo, where the bulk of its force is believed to be based. LRA fighters killed at least 52 people, and abandoned another 159 children and 10 adults during attacks in northern Congo last week, UN peacekeepers said.

**Rome, 2 Nov** — Three Tunisian men accused of terrorism links by Italian prosecutors arrived in Milan on Saturday, were arrested in the London and Manchester areas last year as part of coordinated raids across Europe against an alleged Italian-based network recruiting fighters for Iraq and Afghanistan. European warrants for their arrest had been issued by an investigating magistrate attached to courts in Milan who accused them of plotting to organise the recruitment of volunteers ready to commit acts of terror from Milan. They are accused of proselytising and political-religious indoctrination with the aim of committing terrorist acts, conducting illegal immigration and making false documents.

Habib Ignaoua, Mohamed Khemiri and Ali Chehidi, who arrived in Milan on Saturday, were arrested in the London and Manchester areas last year as part of coordinated raids across Europe against an alleged Italian-based network recruiting fighters for Iraq and Afghanistan. European warrants for their arrest had been issued by an investigating magistrate attached to courts in Milan who accused them of plotting to organise the recruitment of volunteers ready to commit acts of terror from Milan. They are accused of proselytising and political-religious indoctrination with the aim of committing terrorist acts, conducting illegal immigration and making false documents.

Britain extradites three Tunisian terror suspects to Italy

**SUMTER, 2 Nov** — Police in South Carolina say a 12-year-old trick-or-treater was killed when a convicted felon fearing a robbery fired nearly 30 rounds with an assault rifle from inside a house.

**Santos, 2 Nov** — Authorities have rescued near Turks and Caicos Islands five Dominican migrants who were part of a large group reported missing at sea two weeks ago.

South Carolina boy shot, killed while trick-or-treating; suspect feared robbery

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**Santos, 2 Nov** — Fourteen children, aged between 3 and 11, were rescued near the Turks and Caicos Islands five Dominican migrants who were part of a large group reported missing at sea two weeks ago.

**Santos, 2 Nov** — Police say TJ’s family attended a Halloween celebration in downtown Sumter, 45 miles east of Columbia, then stopped at Patrick’s house because the porch light was on.

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New Yorker recounts survival on Guyana river

**Georgetown, 2 Nov** — A 48-year-old New Yorker who survived almost two days bobbing in the choppy waters of a vast South American river said she was kept alive by a plastic bucket and the desire to see her daughter again.

Sherry Haynes, a resident of Brooklyn who was born in Guyana, was riding across Guyana’s Corentyne River in a water taxi on 24 October when the speedboat apparently snagged on a fishing net and capsized. Haynes and a crewmember survived, while six died, including her sister and nephew.

"My husband told me he would have given up after the first night, but I am not like that," she told The Associated Press.

Britain extradites three Tunisian terror suspects to Italy

**London, 2 Nov** — A Canary Islands getaway got off to a rocky start for British vacationers on Friday as their plane slammed into the sea, killing 11 people and forced around 50,000 to flee, the United Nations and aid agencies said.

**Venezuela, 2 Nov** — Two of the migrants are in critical condition. He says officials are still looking for more survivors, but he could not say how many were in the group.

**Venezuela, 2 Nov** — The migrants’ relatives have said that 33 people left in a boat bound for Puerto Rico in mid-October.

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**Foods to prevent disease?**

**PARIS, 2 Nov —** Eating tomatoes to help prevent cancer, garlic to prevent AIDS or drinking fruit juice to ward off Alzheimer’s? Despite a bevy of research, the impact of food on killer diseases remains to be proved.

Scientists agree that a balanced quality diet is key to good health, and most governments in past years have urged citizens to adopt a daily diet of five portions of fruit and veg, and three each of dairy products and starch, while cutting back fats, sugar and alcohol.

Watching what you eat, experts say, does help prevent illnesses such as diabetes, hypercholesterolaemia — which leads to cardio-vascular disease — or osteoporosis. But researchers are in disagreement over illnesses not directly related to nutrition, such as cancer, AIDS or neurodegenerative diseases — though again all recommend a balanced diet.

Among the thousands of studies on hand, one European investigation concluded that eating fruit and vegetable fibre might limit the risk of colorectal cancer.

Fruit was tipped as a possible protection against cancer of the lung, and to ward off prostate cancer, the protection against cancer of the lung, and to ward off prostate cancer, the study recommended five cups a day of catechin-rich green tea — catechins are antioxidants.

**INTERNET**

Four new genes linked to Alzheimer’s disease

**LOS ANGELES, 2 Nov —** US researchers have identified four genes which may be linked to the most common form of the late-onset Alzheimer’s disease, a new study showed.

The four new genes were discovered after researchers conducted a gene scan of hundreds of families with a history of the devastating neurological disorder, said the study by the Massachusetts General Hospital-Mass General Institute for Neurological Disease (MGH-MIND). The researchers first tested about half a million DNA markers in samples collected from more than 400 families with at least three Alzheimer’s patients.

Five markers were revealed to exhibit genetic associations with Alzheimer’s including the Apolipoprotein E (APOE), the only gene proven to increase risk of the late-onset Alzheimer’s disease.

**INTERNET**

A new Apple iPhone 3G retails from $900 to $1200.

**INTERNET**

**Chilean glacier will vanish in 50 years**

**SANTIAGO, 2 Nov —** Chile’s official water authority warned Saturday that the Echaurren glacier near Santiago, which supplies the capital with 70 percent of its water needs, could disappear in the next half century.

In a new report on Chile’s glaciers the main water company — Dirección General de Aguas de Chile (DGA) — said the ice fields of Echaurren are receding up to 12 meters (39.37 feet) per year. “These glaciers are vanishing,” said Antonio Vergara of the DGA, who has worked on glacier research on the fields for 35 years.

At the current rate of decline, Echaurren and other smaller glaciers near Santiago could disappear over the next 50 years.

The river Maipo and its smaller tributaries, key water sources for Santiago, its environs and agriculture in region, all flow from Echaurren.

**INTERNET**

View of The Northern Patagonian Ice Field, located in the Laguna San Rafael National Park, 1300 km south of Santiago, Chile in 2007.

**INTERNET**

The water shortage would force Chileans to seek new sources of water and would cause “large-scale population displacement in central Chile,” said Vergara. Located 50 kilometres (21 miles) east of Santiago, on the western slopes of the Andes mountain range, the Echaurren glacier is one of the 10 most studied ice fields in the world, and is considered a “landmark in the global studies of climate change,” said DGA director Rodrigo Weisner.

**INTERNET**

**Kenya reduces tax on electricity**

**NAIROBI, 2 Nov —** The Kenyan Government on Friday reduced tax charged on energy and other industrial oils by 4 per cent in order to address the rising cost of electricity tariffs in the country.

Acting Finance Minister John Michuki reduced VAT rate on electricity energy, Industrial Fuel Oil (IDO), Heavy Fuel Oil (FO) and on all residual fuel oils used by industries from 16 per cent to 12 per cent.

The minister said that despite the recent fall in the international prices of oil by about 50 per cent, the retail selling prices of various petroleum products remain unacceptably high, averaging about 98 shillings (about 1.2 US dollars) per litre currently.

“I would like to emphasize that the government stands ready to sacrifice to help ease the burden of the high energy prices to Kenyans.”

**MNA/Xinhua**
Chelsea top as Spurs defeat Liverpool

LONDON, 2 Nov — Liverpool suffered their first defeat of the season on Saturday when Roman Pavlyuchenko scored in injury time to give Tottenham Hotspur a 2-1 comeback win to complete a dream first week for new manager Harry Redknapp.

Chelsea took over at the top of the Premier League after Nicolas Anelka's hat-trick inspired a 5-0 rout of Sunderland. In a thriller, Hull City came from 4-1 down to push Manchester United all the way before losing 4-3 at Old Trafford.

Arsenal went down 2-1 at Stoke City, a red card for Robin van Persie and a bad injury to Theo Walcott completing their miserable day.

Chelsea have 26 points, the same as Liverpool, but lead on goal difference. United are third on 21, with Arsenal, Aston Villa and Hull all on 20. Spurs climb off the bottom after a memorable week.

Liverpool will wonder how they lost, having totally dominated and hitting the woodwork three times.

Westwood’s chances improve in Valderrama rain

SOTOGRANDE (Spain), 2 Nov — Lee Westwood remained well on target to win a second European order of merit after torrential rain again hit the Volvo Masters on Saturday.

Having gone into the delayed third round in the afternoon two strokes off the pace, by the time the players were called in at 4:25 p.m. British time, Westwood had reduced the margin to one.

However, none of the leading players had reached the turn when play ended early because of a water-logged course.

Denmark’s first and second round leader Soren Kjeldsen was still at the top of the leaderboard, but he now shares that place with Spain’s Sergio Garcia.

.answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle

BIGGER MISSED
ROAAKI
OFANTASTIC
GULLTTIN
UAALTERIE
ENSUREROLLER
TING
UNEVENGUSHE
RRESABROI
ABELROWOOD
NISREGARD
UELOGEL
SHADOWFANKEE

Nalbandian and Tsonga set up Masters Cup showdown

PARIS, 2 Nov — Argentine David Nalbandian and France’s Jo-Wilfried Tsonga will battle it out for the last Masters Cup spot in the final of the Paris Masters after winning their semi-final matches on Saturday.

Nalbandian battled for a 6-1 5-7 6-4 victory over Russian world number six Nikolay Davydenko, while local favourite Tsonga advanced with a 6-4 7-6 win over James Blake. The result ended the American’s hopes of qualifying for the season-ending tournament.

Tsonga’s victory means that Argentine Juan Martin del Potro, who was eliminated earlier in the week, will qualify for the eight-man contest in Shanghai.

He joined Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray, Andy Roddick and Davydenko at the tournament, which will start on 9 November. — Internet

Ronaldo says I deserve to win Ballon d’Or

LONDON, 2 Nov — Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo said it would be logical if he won the Ballon d’Or award this year after helping Manchester United win the Champions League and Premier League double last season.

“Yes, you could say it would be logical and that is how I feel,” Ronaldo told French sports daily L’Equipe.

“There are several candidates but the winner must be the player who has been the best during the whole year. I have been very consistent, I won the Premier League, I won the Champions League, I have been the leading scorer in Europe and the Champions League’s leading scorer,” Ronaldo told French sports daily L’Equipe. The 2008 Ballon d’Or will be awarded on 2 December.

Hull City’s Geovanni (R) scores past Manchester United’s Edwin van der Sar during their English Premier League match in Manchester, on 1 Nov, 2008. — Internet

HJK win Finnish Cup for 10th time

HELSELSI, 2 Nov — Substitute Petri Oravainen scored six minutes before the end of extra time to give HJK Helsinki a 2-1 win over FC Honka in the Finnish Cup final on Saturday.

Midfielder Erfan Zeneli put HJK ahead in the 57th minute, striker Jami Puustinen’s 87th-minute equaliser sent the game into extra time and Oravainen’s shot into the top corner of the net gave HJK their 10th Finnish Cup.

Honka also finished runners-up in the league to Inter Turku last weekend.

Arsenal’s Nicklas Bendtner (L) outjumps Stoke City’s Abdoulaye Faye during their English Premier League match at the Britannia Stadium in Stoke-on-Trent, on 1 Nov, 2008. — Internet

Tottenham Hotspur’s David Bentley (R) challenges Liverpool’s Albert Riera during their English Premier League match at White Hart Lane in London on 1 Nov, 2008. — Internet

Nikolay Davydenko of Russia returns the ball to David Nalbandian of Argentina during their semi-final match in the Paris Masters Series tennis tournament on 1 Nov, 2008. — Internet

Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo said it would be logical if he won the Ballon d’Or award this year after helping Manchester United win the Champions League and Premier League double last season. — Internet

Internet
UN envoy to Israel: Halt house demolitions

Jerusalem, 2 Nov—The UN’s Mideast envoy said on Saturday he was “alarmed” by Israel’s decision to resume house demolitions in the West Bank. Earlier this week, Israel knocked down dozens of shacks in two West Bank villages, leaving dozens of Palestinians homeless. UN envoy Robert Serry said Israel agreed in April to halt the demolitions and he urged it to reinstate the moratorium.

Israel’s actions “send a discouraging signal” about Israel’s support for efforts to improve living conditions in the West Bank and to build Palestinian backing for peace-making, Serry added in a statement.

Israel Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said at least some of the houses were built illegally on public land. “The fact that the UN continues to ignore the specific circumstances of each case and prefers to express generalized criticism makes these statements very unhelpful,” Palmor said. —INTERNET

20 dead, 42 missing in SW China landslide, mud-rock flow

KUNMING, 2 Nov—Twenty people died and 42 were missing after landslides and mud-rock flows hit southwest China’s Yunnan Province over the weekend, said local authorities.

The disasters hit Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture and four counties and a district of the provincial capital Kunming, the provincial civil affairs department said.

More than 1,000 houses collapsed or were damaged in the disasters.

Tents, quits and clothes were being transported to the areas. The casualties and damages were also being assessed.

Magnitude 5.1 earthquake shakes Guam

HAGATNA, 2 Nov—A moderate earthquake has shaken the island of Guam, but there are no reports of any damage or injury.

The US Geological Survey says in a preliminary report that the magnitude 5.1 quake struck at 3:54 pm on Sunday at a depth of about 24 miles.

It was centered 16 miles northeast of Hagatna and 126 miles southwest of Saipan.

A dispatcher from the Guam Police Department says she felt a light tremor at her office in the city of Tyau, but there have been no reports of injuries or damages on the island.

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WEATHER

Sunday, 2 November, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Shan and Mon States, fairly widespread in Bago and Yangon Divisions, isolated in Kayah and Kayin States, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Mon State. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below November average temperatures in Mon State. Lower Sagain and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below November average temperatures in Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagain and Magway Divisions, (6°C) above November average temperatures in Kachin State and about November average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperature was Hakha (2°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukkhame (4.09) inches, Ye (2.96) inches, Bago (2.64) inches, Zauhtu (2.48) inches, Pinlaung (2.40) inches, Theinzayat (2.36) inches and Nyanglauk (2.26) inches.

Maximum temperature on 1-11-2008 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 2-11-2008 was 76°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 2-11-2008 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 1-11-2008 was (N-nil approx. Rainfall on 2-11-2008 was (0.48) inch at Minglead, (0.42) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.26) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (109.02) inches at Minglead, (120.71) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.79) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (22:10) hours MST on 1-11-2008.

Bay inference: Weather will be generally fair in North and West Central Bay and partly cloudy in the Adaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 3rd November 2008: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Shan State, Tanintharyi Division, scattered in Mon and Kayin States, Bago and Yangon Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Eastern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 3-11-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-11-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-11-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).
Construction
Ministry spares no effort to maintain roads

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Nov— Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun yesterday inspected repair of Gonnyindan-Pyapon Road in Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Division.

During the tour, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun looked into maintenance of Pyapon Bridge and reconstruction of Pyapon-Dedaye road section between Mile Post Nos 14/7 and 15/0.

Next, the minister inspected stockpiling of gravel between Mile Post Nos 13/3 and 12/2 on the road and gave instructions. The minister inspected progress in construction of the Chaungpya Bridge on Pyapon-Dedaye road section, maintenance of Dedaye Bridge and road works carried out by Twantay-Kawhmu-Kungyangon-Dedaye road section.

Loikaw University: Higher education facility for local youth in Kayah State

In line with one of the Social Objectives adopted by the State—Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation—the government has been striving for promotion of the education sector of the nation. In doing so, universities, degree colleges and colleges have been opened in all the regions of the country including remote areas with equal education facilities. Thanks to the strenuous efforts of the government, the local youth have the opportunity to pursue higher education in their respective regions.

A significant occasion took place for the local people of Kayah State in Loikaw on 5 August 2007. On that day, the main building was opened at Loikaw University of the Department of Higher Education (Upper Myanmar) under the Ministry of Education.

The main building of the university is a 400 feet long, 283 feet wide and 41 feet high three-storey structure. The top floor is formed with the room for term papers and thesis for doctorate course and M. Phil degree course, the computer training centre, the e-library, the Physics practical room and the language lab.

At present, a total of 12 arts and science majoring courses, undergraduate and post-graduate courses are being conducted at the university. As such, the students residing in Kayah State have easy access to higher education at the university.

Shwegun Region in Hlaingbwe Township making a good headway in regional development work

The main building of Loikaw University in Kayah State.