YANGON, 29 Sept—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin attended reception to mark the 59th Anniversary National Day of the People’s Republic of China at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this evening.

Also present on the occasion together with the Secretary-1 were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khan Thet Hsaw, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of SPDC office and departments, ambassadors of the embassies, Charges d’Affaires and guests.

On arrival at Sedona Hotel, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin were welcomed by Chinese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Guan Mu.

The Chinese Ambassador reported on the documentary photos of Beijing Olympics. Next, the national anthems of the two countries were played.

The Secretary-1 and the Chinese Ambassador cut the 59th Anniversary National Day commemorative cake.

Next, the Secretary-1 and the diplomats had documentary photos taken. Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu hosted dinner in honour of the Secretary-1 and wife and the guests.—MNA

Ancient Phoenician harbour discovered off Sardinian coast

WASHINGTON, 29 Sept—Archaeologists in Sardinia have claimed to have found the port of the Phoenician city of Tharros, held by some to be the ancient peoples most important colony in the Mediterranean after Carthage.

Researchers from the University of Cagliari and Sassari found the submerged port in the Mistras Lagoon, several kilometers from the city ruins.

Excavations have long been going on at the site of the city itself, on a peninsula overlooking the Bay of Oristano in western Sardinia, but this is the first time its waterfront has been located despite almost two centuries of hunting.

As well as an impressive sandstone wall 100 metres in length and four metres in width, the archaeologists discovered a basin carved in the rock, similar to Carthage’s man-made, protected inner harbour.

A rectilinear waterfront stretches for 225 metres with a 190-metre jetty and there is a 50-metre-long approach canal for ships, according to the researchers.

Myanmar wins two gold in World Wushu

YANGON, 29 Sept—Myanmar Wushu team took part in the Wushu event of the 4th World Sports held at Pusan, the Republic of Korea from 26 to 29 September.

Aung Si Thu won a gold medal and Si Si Sein also, a gold medal in the respective events and Myanmar Wushu team will arrive back by air on 1 October.

MNA

Gold medallist
Aung Si Thu

In fear that the nation will lose its future

PAGES 10-11 KYAW MIN LI (SIE WEI PWAY)
Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint delivers an address at 10th Asian Art Show held in Jingzhou, Yunnan Province, PRC.—MNA

Minister attends 10th Asian Art Show

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint attended the 10th Asian Art Show held in Jingzhou in Yunnan Province, the People’s Republic of China together with State Councillor of the PRC Madame LiuYangdong, Minister for Culture of the PRC Mr Cai Wei, the ministers from Asian countries, the deputy ministers, ambassadors and delegates from Asia. Delegates from 18 Asian countries and over 30 cultural troupes also attended the show. MNA

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Minister visits industries in ROK

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept — Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and delegation members arrived back here on 26 September after visiting the Republic of Korea to study Korean industries from 21 to 26 September at the invitation of the government of the Republic of Korea. Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein met with Chairman of Daewoo Co Ltd Mr Il Pyo Lee on 22 September. In the evening, Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and Korea Development Institute Prof Mr Sang Woo Nam discussed matters related to the technical training school. On 23 September, the minister together with Ambassador U Myo Lwin and Korea International Organization Agency President Mr Park Dae-Won discussed matters on Myanmar-Korean technical training school. Next, the minister and party visited Samsung Electronics Co where they were conducted round the workshops by Vice President Mr Kim Jin Ho. On 25 September morning, the minister and party visited the steel plant of POSCO, the workshop of Hyundai Motors Co and Hyundai Heavy Industries. MNA

Schedule for final exam of UDE announced

YANGON, 29 Sept — The first examination of the first batch of students of the academic year for 2008 of Yangon University of Distance Education and Mandalay University of Distance Education will be held from 6 to 13 October at branches of the universities. Similarly, the intensive course for the second batch of students of the academic year 2008 will be conducted from 15 to 24 October and the final examination from 28 October to 4 November at branches of the universities. Likewise, the intensive course for the third batch of students of the academic year 2008 will be conducted from 7 to 17 November and the final examination from 21 to 29 November at branches of the universities. The students are to sit for the exam at their respective universities and degree colleges they have registered. The detailed facts are being put on board at Yangon University of Distance Education, Mandalay University of Distance Education and their branches at universities and degree colleges.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint delivers an address at 10th Asian Art Show held in Jingzhou, Yunnan Province, PRC.—MNA

Minister visits industries in ROK

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept — Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and delegation members arrived back here on 26 September after visiting the Republic of Korea to study Korean industries from 21 to 26 September at the invitation of the government of the Republic of Korea. Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein met with Chairman of Daewoo Co Ltd Mr Il Pyo Lee on 22 September. In the evening, Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and Korea Development Institute Prof Mr Sang Woo Nam discussed matters related to the technical training school. On 23 September, the minister together with Ambassador U Myo Lwin and Korea International Organization Agency President Mr Park Dae-Won discussed matters on Myanmar-Korean technical training school. Next, the minister and party visited Samsung Electronics Co where they were conducted round the workshops by Vice President Mr Kim Jin Ho. On 25 September morning, the minister and party visited the steel plant of POSCO, the workshop of Hyundai Motors Co and Hyundai Heavy Industries. MNA

Schedule for final exam of UDE announced

YANGON, 29 Sept — The first examination of the first batch of students of the academic year for 2008 of Yangon University of Distance Education and Mandalay University of Distance Education will be held from 6 to 13 October at branches of the universities. Similarly, the intensive course for the second batch of students of the academic year 2008 will be conducted from 15 to 24 October and the final examination from 28 October to 4 November at branches of the universities. Likewise, the intensive course for the third batch of students of the academic year 2008 will be conducted from 7 to 17 November and the final examination from 21 to 29 November at branches of the universities. The students are to sit for the exam at their respective universities and degree colleges they have registered. The detailed facts are being put on board at Yangon University of Distance Education, Mandalay University of Distance Education and their branches at universities and degree colleges.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint delivers an address at 10th Asian Art Show held in Jingzhou, Yunnan Province, PRC.—MNA

Minister visits industries in ROK

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept — Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and delegation members arrived back here on 26 September after visiting the Republic of Korea to study Korean industries from 21 to 26 September at the invitation of the government of the Republic of Korea. Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein met with Chairman of Daewoo Co Ltd Mr Il Pyo Lee on 22 September. In the evening, Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and Korea Development Institute Prof Mr Sang Woo Nam discussed matters related to the technical training school. On 23 September, the minister together with Ambassador U Myo Lwin and Korea International Organization Agency President Mr Park Dae-Won discussed matters on Myanmar-Korean technical training school. Next, the minister and party visited Samsung Electronics Co where they were conducted round the workshops by Vice President Mr Kim Jin Ho. On 25 September morning, the minister and party visited the steel plant of POSCO, the workshop of Hyundai Motors Co and Hyundai Heavy Industries. MNA

Schedule for final exam of UDE announced

YANGON, 29 Sept — The first examination of the first batch of students of the academic year for 2008 of Yangon University of Distance Education and Mandalay University of Distance Education will be held from 6 to 13 October at branches of the universities. Similarly, the intensive course for the second batch of students of the academic year 2008 will be conducted from 15 to 24 October and the final examination from 28 October to 4 November at branches of the universities. Likewise, the intensive course for the third batch of students of the academic year 2008 will be conducted from 7 to 17 November and the final examination from 21 to 29 November at branches of the universities. The students are to sit for the exam at their respective universities and degree colleges they have registered. The detailed facts are being put on board at Yangon University of Distance Education, Mandalay University of Distance Education and their branches at universities and degree colleges.—MNA
Airbus A320 final assembly line in Tianjin goes into operation

TIANJIN, 29 Sept—An A320 final assembly line of the world aircraft giant Airbus, the first of its kind built outside Europe, was officially inaugurated on Sunday in the north China metropolis of Tianjin. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Airbus Chief Executive Officer Thomas Enders attended the inauguration ceremony.

The line, a joint venture between Airbus and Tianjin Zhongtian Aviation Industry Investment Co, was built in just 15 months. The first A320 plane it assembles is expected to come off line by summer 2009. The Tianjin assembly line, the third on top of two in Toulouse and Hamburg, is to deliver two types of aircraft of the A320 family—A319 and A320. The A320 family, which includes the A318, A319, A320 and A321, is recognized as the benchmark single-aisle aircraft family. Xinhua

Baghdad bombs kill at least 32

A man removes debris from his shop after a bomb attack in Baghdad's Shurta neighbourhood on 29 Sept, 2008. Four bombs killed at least 32 people and wounded scores in busy districts of Baghdad on Sunday, police said.INTERNET

Officials say 5 dead or hurt in Lebanon explosion

BEIRUT, 29 Sept—A car bomb exploded near a military bus carrying troops to work in northern Lebanon on Monday, killing at least five people and wounding at least 21, Lebanese security officials said. Most of the casualties were soldiers, the officials said.

The officials said the car was booby-trapped and parked on a roadside. The bomb was detonated by remote control as the military bus drove by at the southern entrance to the northern city of Tripoli. The explosion happened during morning rush hour, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.INTERNET

Sudan says six kidnappers killed in shootout

KHARTOUM, 29 Sept—Sudanese forces have killed six heavily-armed bandits who kidnapped 19 European tourists and their Egyptian guides in a remote desert nine days ago, the Army said.

The shootout erupted as Sudanese troops were scouring the desert for the 11 tourists and eight Egyptians who were snatched during a desert safari in southwestern Egypt and taken into Sudan, an Army statement said.

Troops searching the Jebel Uweinat mountain range on the Sudan-Libya-Egypt border “spotted a moving white vehicle (and) when the soldiers tried to make it stop those inside the car opened fire,” it said.INTERNET

Four killed in Somalia fighting

MOGADISHU, 29 Sept—Somali Islamist insurgents attacked African Union peacekeepers and government forces in the capital Mogadishu, and at least four people were killed in the clashes, witnesses said Monday.

Two civilians and a soldier died in an attack overnight near the presidential palace, Villa Baidoa, they said.

Another civilian died in crossfire in southern Mogadishu’s Holwadag district, bringing the death toll to four. At least seven others were wounded, residents said.INTERNET

Bomb blast in Sri Lankan capital injures two

COLOMBO, 29 Sept—A small bomb exploded in the centre of the Sri Lankan capital Monday, leaving two people with minor injuries, police said.

Six vehicles were badly damaged in the blast, which took place in Colombo’s heavily fortified commercial area, an AFP photographer at the scene said.

Security is extremely tight in Colombo as fighting rages between the military and Tamil Tiger rebels in the north of the island. “It was a small bomb, about 100 grammes (3.5 ounces), that went off under a brown coloured parked van,” police spokesman Ranjith Gunasekara said.INTERNET

Three dead in Algerian suicide attack

ALGIERS, 29 Sept—Three people were killed and six others were wounded in a suicide attack near the Algerian capital, APS news agency quoted security officials as saying on Monday.

The bomber blew up his car packed with explosives near the town of Dellys, about 40 kilometres (20 miles) east of Algiers, late Sunday at the end of the daily Ramadan fast.

APS did not indicate who might have been targeted in the attack. The lives of those injured were not in danger, the report said. No one has claimed responsibility for the bombing, the first in Algeria since the start of Ramadan on 1 September, state radio reported.INTERNET
Venezuelan President launches party’s campaign for local elections

CARACAS, 29 Sept—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday launched the campaign for his United Socialist Party ahead of the November local elections, immediately after wrapping up a tour of Asia and Europe.

Chavez presided over an event in the capital Caracas attended by his party’s candidates to 603 posts of governors, mayors and provincial council positions. During the past week, Chavez visited China, Russia, France and Portugal, signing various cooperation agreements with them. He also visited the Cuban capital of Havana to meet with former leader Fidel Castro and his brother Raul Castro, the current president of the Central American country.

Suicide attack kills six, injures 17 others in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 Sept—A suicide bomber exploded himself near the patrolling Afghan police vehicles Sunday evening in southern Afghan province of Kandahar leaving six people dead and 17 others wounded, a police official said.

Matiullah Khan, provincial police chief told Xinhua that it occurred at around 06:00 pm local time (GMT 1230) when a suicide bomber came by a motorbike then exploded himself up near police vehicles patrolling in the centre of Spin Boldak district killing three policemen and three civilians on the spot.

“Two police vehicles were completely damaged,” he said, adding “five more policemen and 12 civilians were injured in the blast.”

Meanwhile, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi, the purported Taliban spokesman took the responsibility for the bloody attack by saying that one Taliban fighter carried out the suicide bombing killing and wounding over 12 policemen.

Earlier the day, Taliban militants shot dead a female senior police officer Malalai Kakar in front of her house in Kandahar city, capital of Kandahar province.

Typhoon Jangmi expected to affect east China with downpours

FUZHOU, 29 Sept—Typhoon Jangmi shaved the coastal area of east China’s Fujian Province early on Monday and moved northeastward to Zhejiang Province and Shanghai, local meteorological bureau said.

Jangmi, the 15th and strongest typhoon of this year, ebbed and changed its path to northeast after landing in Yilan, at 3:40 pm Sunday.

The eye of the typhoon was about 200 km southeast of Fuding in Fujian at 7 am, packing
Indian police detain about 12 over Delhi blast

NEW DELHI, 29 Sept—Indian police have detain­ed about a dozen people in connection with a deadly bomb blast in a crowded New Delhi market, officials said on Sunday, the second attack in the capital this month.

Police said they had witnesses who could identify the two men who dropped a plastic bag in the capital’s busy Meh­ruddi market, before speed­ing away on a motorcycle on Saturday. A boy picked up the bag and ran after the motorcyclists to return it when there was a huge explosion, killing him on the spot. A 60-year-old man died in hospital later. Twenty-two people were wounded in the blast.

“We are interrogating a lot of people for clues and should come up with some answers soon,” Rajan Bhagat, the Delhi police spokesman said on Sunday.

In the neighboring state of Haryana, police detain­ed two people in con­nection with a threat about possible bomb blasts made to Delhi police last Friday.

Indian police to build nuclear technology with Russia

CARACAS (Venezuela), 29 Sept—President Hugo Chavez said Sunday that Russia will help Ven­ezuela develop nuclear energy — a move likely to raise US concerns over increasingly close cooperation between Caracas and Moscow.

Chavez said he accept­ed an offer from Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin for assistance in building a nuclear reactor.

“Russia is ready to support Venezuela in the development of nuclear energy with peaceful purposes and we already have a commission work­ing on it,” Chavez said. “We are interested in developing nuclear ener­gy.”

Putin offered Chavez assistance in developing nuclear energy during a meeting in the Russian city of Novo-Ogaryovo last week. The prime minister did not specify what kind of cooperation he could offer Venezuela, but Rus­sia is aggressively pro­moting itself as a builder of nuclear power plants in developing nations.

Oil falls in Asia on global slowdown fears

SINGAPORE, 29 Sept— Oil prices fell below $106 a barrel Monday in Asia on concern that economic growth will slow across the globe despite a tentative agreement in Washington on a $700 billion bailout package to stabilize the US financial system.

Light, sweet crude for November delivery was down $1.03 to $105.86 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mer­cantile Exchange by midday in Singapore.

The contract fell Friday $1.13 to settle at $106.89. Congressional leaders and the White House agreed Sunday to a rescue of the ailing financial industry after lawmakers insisted on sharing spend­ing controls with the Bush administration.

The biggest US bailout in history won the tentative support of both pres­idential candidates and goes to the House of Re­presentatives for a vote Monday.

“The bailout package reduces the chance of a complete meltdown,” said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

“But worries on the demand side will continue to weigh on oil prices.”

Venezuela to build nuclear technology with Russia

Russia has ramped up its cooperation with Venez­uela since last month’s war with Georgia, which badly damaged Moscow’s already strained ties with the West, particularly the United States.

During Chavez’s visit to Russia last week, a Russian naval squadron sailed for the Caribbean Sea in preparation for joint exercises with Venezuela later this year — a move that appeared retaliatory after the US sent warships to deliver aid to Georgia.

Death toll from Vietnam floods rises to 41

HANOI (Vietnam), 29 Sept—The death toll from floods triggered by Typhoon Hagupit rose to 41 as rescue workers began to reach isolated villages devastated by a storm that has caused at least $65 million in damage, officials said Monday.

At least five people were still missing, and feared dead in the storm, which washed away more than 1,000 houses and damaged 10,000 more, according to Vietnam’s committee on floods and storm control.

The storm has caused at least $65 million in damage, the committee said Monday.

In the worst-hit province of Son La, two more bodies were found Sunday, bringing the toll there to 16. Three people were still missing, said provincial disaster official Trinh Ngoc Bao. Some areas are inaccessible by cars or trucks, com­plicating rescue efforts, he said—INTERNET

During Chavez’s visit to Russia last week, a Russian naval squadron sailed for the Caribbean Sea in preparation for joint exercises with Venezuela later this year — a move that appeared retaliatory after the US sent warships to deliver aid to Georgia.

An Iraqi soldier stands guard at the site of a bombing in central Baghdad’s district of Karrada recently. At least 19 people died when a parked car bomb exploded and 72 people were wounded in the blast, police and hospital officials said—INTERNET

An Iraqi soldier stands guard at the site of a bombing in central Baghdad’s district of Karra...
India’s SMEs to contribute to 22% of GDP

NEW DELHI, 29 Sept.—With the improvement in technology, India’s small and medium enterprises’ contribution to the GDP of the country is likely to go up by at least 5 per cent and touch 22 per cent by 2012, a study by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Assocham) has said. Since over 55 per cent of the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are aggressively up-grading themselves technologically to reduce their input costs and increase production and exports, this sector is optimistic of achieving this goal, according to a paper brought out by the Assocham.

Currently, SMEs share in national GDP stands at around 17 per cent as in the last couple of years the small scale industries part of small and medium enterprises were facing not only recession but also credit crunch and variety of regulatory issues from centre, states and local governments.

The scenario has started changing after the enactment of micro, small and medium enterprises development act (MSME) 2006, the fruits of which would soon start flowing, as the sector has now been relaxed and liberalised to a large extent, adds the Assocham study ‘Tomorrow’s Blue Chips’.

The study revealed that SMEs that had been growing at 35 per cent over the last two years would register a 40 per cent growth rate, which would be technologically driven and contribute to manufacturing outputs to an extent of 46 per cent. The sector’s present manufacturing contribution is around 40-42 per cent.—Internet

Gasoline price falls, may drop more

NEW YORK, 29 Sept.—The price of a gallon of gasoline in the United States dropped in the last two weeks as Hurricane Ike led to lower demand for fuel, and the cost of filling the tank will likely keep falling, a prominent industry analyst said on Sunday.

The national average price for self-serve, regular unleaded gas fell 3.8 cents to $3.6582 a gallon on 26 September, from $3.6963 two weeks earlier, according to the nationwide Lundberg Survey. Diesel fuel fell 9.7 cents to $4.1627 a gallon from $4.2597.

“Ike reduced driving in areas that were damaged,” Trilby Lundberg, who compiles the survey, said in an interview. “Retailers also kept prices in check, perhaps to avoid being accused of price gouging.”

Ike slammed into the Texas coast on 13 September. A comeback in refining capacity, along with higher imports, is now adding supply and “will allow for further price cuts immediately,” Lundberg said.

The Lundberg survey evaluates prices at about 5,000 gas stations. That is down from 7,000 two weeks ago, reflecting a new sampling model that Lundberg said does not affect the survey’s accuracy. The price of a gallon of gasoline is down more than 45 cents from the record $4.1124 set on 11 July.—Internet

Police get call over non-floppy rabbit ears

Your rabbit’s ears aren’t floppy? Sorry, that’s not an emergency. So said police in Scotland when a woman rang the emergency 999 number to discuss her concerns about her new pet. She said the newspaper ad promised floppy ears, but flop they would not.

Central Scotland Police said Monday they were equally unimpressed by another caller who complained that a passing car had splashed water on him, and by someone else inquiring about the postal code for a town’s post office.

“Whilst officers and staff are dealing with these frivolous matters that a member of the public has deemed so serious as to call 999, they are not dealing with genuine emergency calls,” said Chief Inspector Alan Stewart.

Traffic on the train when he stopped near the tracks. Authorities said 25-year-old Brandon Robles escaped serious injury early Sunday when he was clipped by a passing Union Pacific train when he stopped near the tracks for a smoke.

Workers on the train told authorities they thought they’d hit a man, launching a search that included dogs. But nobody was found.

Police say a 20-year-old woman faces an aggravated assault charge after she bit her boyfriend, broke a picture frame across his face and swung at him with a sword during an argument about him not doing the dishes.

The woman was arrested Thursday afternoon at the couple’s apartment, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported on its Web site.

The 21-year-old man told police that he became involved in an argument because the woman was upset that the dishes were not clean. Police Lt. Paul Henderson said the woman told the man to leave the apartment, but he refused.

Fla police use Taser on nude man walking a dog

A 40-year-old man walking his dog in the nude was Tasered by police when he refused to follow an officer’s commands. David McCranie of the Tallahassee Police Department said an officer on patrol spotted the man shortly after 8 pm Friday.

The man was asked what he was doing and told the officer, “Allah told me to watch a Bruce Willis movie and walk the dog.” McCranie said. McCranie said using the Taser was the only way to subdue the man without having to hurt him. The man was then sent for mental-health evaluation and treatment.

An endangered Great Green Macaw is seen in a captive breeding centre in Rio Segundo de Alajuela, Costa Rica. Experts are meeting this week in Costa Rica to establish a strategy for saving the rare birds, numbering around 200 in Costa Rica and 3,000 worldwide, according to the Tropical Studies Organization.
Myanmar has favourable weather and fertile soil for extended cultivation of main crops such as paddy, beans, pulses and other crops. The country has rice sufficiency for the present population. However, the country has to import over 200,000 tons of palm oil to supply the demand of 0.565 million tons of edible oil annually.

As such, the Head of State had given guidance to extend 500,000 acres of oil palm and to make Taninthayi Division oil pot of the State.

Taninthayi Division that is located on 10 and 11 degrees from the Equator, has a lot of vacant and virgin lands, fertile soil and favourable weather with adequate rainfalls for cultivation of oil palm.

In 1998-1999 when the oil palm cultivation plan commenced, there were 23,282 acres of oil palm plantations in the division. Most of the plantations were being undertaken by the State. Ardent efforts were made in growing oil palm on 249,171 acres of land from 2000-2001 to September 2008. Of them, companies planted oil palm on 213,199 acres of land.

Among these companies, Yuzana, Annawa Tun, Po Kaung, Dagon Timber, Asia World, South Dagon, Kanbawza, Annawa Soe Moe and Aung Zin Mar companies have each grown over 5,000 acres or more of oil palm and they are enjoying the benefits from the undertaking.

If the agricultural companies want to import the quality oil palm seedlings, officials concerned will provide necessary assistance for them to receive the seedlings in time. Moreover, the entrepreneurs may purchase hybrid oil palm saplings from the Applied Research Division of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise at reasonable prices.

New comers for the oil palm cultivation may get experiences and assistance from the companies that have been participating in the start of the oil palm cultivation plan. Moreover, technicians from Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise will provide necessary assistance to the new entrepreneurs.

The oil palm farm owners need not build the oil palm oil mills and they may sell their palm oil fruit to the mills of the companies to save the investments.

Cultivation of oil palm contributes to operating of agro-based industries by producing edible oil, foodstuffs, cosmetics, soap, printing ink, candle, diesel-substitute fuel, lubricant, fuel oil, insecticides and other medicines.

By-products of the palm oil mills and parts of oil palm plants can be used in making organic fertilizers, potash fertilizer, paper and ceiling and furniture.

Furthermore, electricity can be generated by operating the turbines with the use of steam power from the boiler for the palm oil seeds. As a result, the palm oil mills can save the electricity as well as supply the surplus power to their surrounding areas.

By establishing oil palm plantations, the agro forests can contribute to the environmental conservation and the emergence of favourable weather in the region. Moreover, the cultivation of oil palm creates the job opportunities for local people, raising the individual income of the people and saving the foreign exchange. Those who invested in the oil palm cultivation special zones in Taninthayi Division can earn the income within four years and receive the investments within eight years and enjoy the profits for 30 years.

As such, national entrepreneurs should invest in undertaking the oil palm farms from the manageable scale to the commercial scale by realizing the goodwill of the government that has created the opportunity for cultivation of oil palm in the division.

If the agricultural companies want to import the quality oil palm seedlings, officials concerned will provide necessary assistance for them to receive the seedlings in time. Moreover, the entrepreneurs may purchase hybrid oil palm saplings from the Applied Research Division of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise at reasonable prices.

New comers for the oil palm cultivation may get experiences and assistance from the companies that have been participating in the start of the oil palm cultivation plan. Moreover, technicians from Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise will provide necessary assistance to the new entrepreneurs.

The oil palm farm owners need not build the oil palm oil mills and they may sell their palm oil fruit to the mills of the companies to save the investments.

Cultivation of oil palm contributes to operating of agro-based industries by producing edible oil, foodstuffs, cosmetics, soap, printing ink, candle, diesel-substitute fuel, lubricant, fuel oil, insecticides and other medicines.

By-products of the palm oil mills and parts of oil palm plants can be used in making organic fertilizers, potash fertilizer, paper and ceiling and furniture.

Furthermore, electricity can be generated by operating the turbines with the use of steam power from the boiler for the palm oil seeds. As a result, the palm oil mills can save the electricity as well as supply the surplus power to their surrounding areas.

By establishing oil palm plantations, the agro forests can contribute to the environmental conservation and the emergence of favourable weather in the region. Moreover, the cultivation of oil palm creates the job opportunities for local people, raising the individual income of the people and saving the foreign exchange. Those who invested in the oil palm cultivation special zones in Taninthayi Division can earn the income within four years and receive the investments within eight years and enjoy the profits for 30 years.

As such, national entrepreneurs should invest in undertaking the oil palm farms from the manageable scale to the commercial scale by realizing the goodwill of the government that has created the opportunity for cultivation of oil palm in the division.
Lashio gets new bridge

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—Patron of Shan State (North) Union Solidarity and Development Association Chair­man of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, CEC member of USDA In­charge of Northern Shan State Minister for Electric Power-2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint attended the opening ceremony of Sintin bridge across Nanma creek near Sintion village in Lashio township constructed by Asia World Company on 27 September.

U Chit, engineer in­charge of Asia World Company explained construction works of Sintin bridge and U Sai Tun, member of township USDA spoke words of thanks. Afterwards, secretary of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council U Maung Maung Aung, director of State Development Affairs Committee, U Nyo Win Myint and U Tun Myint Naing, executive director of Asia World Co Ltd officially opened the bridge.

Next, the commander, the minister and guests looked over the bridge and viewed 60-ton vehicle crossing over the bridge. The bridge is 140 feet long, 15 metre wide and can withstand 60 tons.

The temporary bridge is aimed at contributing to swift flow of commodity and smooth transportation during the construction of new Hsipaw bridge. Next, they proceeded to charcoal factory of multi-farming central station of North-East Command where they looked into production of quality charcoal and packaging process.—MNA

USDA SG inspects farming in Magway Div

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—Secretary-General U Htay Oo of Union Solidarity and Develop­ment Association inspected cotton planta­tion in Magway Township and paddy fields in Taungdwingyi Township on 22 September.

During his inspection tour, U Htay Oo inspected removing weeds from the cotton plantation in Latpantaw village in Magway Town­ship and broadcasting fertilizer on the 100-acre of rain­fed Sintwelat paddy field in Taungdwingyi Township.

A total of 40 trainees are attending the 12-day course, and over 20 subjects including knowledge on disasters and preparations will be lectured during the course.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe delivers address at opening of course on Disaster Risk Management 2/2008.

MNA

Special Appellate Bench hears cases

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept — The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Khin Maung Latt, Supreme Court Judges of Supreme Court (Mandalay) Dr Tin Aung Aye and U Sein Hlaing sitting at court room No 1 of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) heard eleven Special Criminal Appeal cases under Section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2000.—NLM
Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin attend 59th Anniversary National Day of PRC. (News on page 1) — MNA

Minister visits communication stations
NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw on 27 September visited auto exchange stations and mobile communication stations in Toungoo, Phyu, Kanyumkwin, Penwecon, Kyauktaga, Nyaunglaybin, Pyuntaza, DaikU, Pyinbongyi, Phayagy and Bago in Bago Division (East). He then fulfilled the requirements for betterment of mobile communications and trunk communications along Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon road. — MNA

Reproductive health education shared
YANGON, 29 Sept—A course on reproductive health education with the use of modern equipment was opened at Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), here this morning.
Director-General of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) Dr Daw Khin Pyone Kyi spoke.
The course organized by central health education department and MRD (Lower Myanmar) was conducted with the aim of disseminating knowledge about reproductive health.
The course which lasts till 3 October is being attended by 55 trainees. — MNA

Fisherman swims six hours to safety
STANSBURY, 29 Sept—Two fishermen are missing and another swam six hours to safety after their boat sank off South Australia’s coast.
A search is underway for the missing men in the Gulf St Vincent after their colleague was washed ashore about 2am (CST) today near Stansbury on the Yorke Peninsula.
The 33-year-old man, who told police their boat sank about 8.30pm (CST) yesterday, survived six hours in the water before being discovered by passers-by in underwear and a T-shirt.
He has been taken to hospital suffering hypothermia.
“The man stated the boat got into difficulty about 8.30 last night,” a SA Police spokesman said.
“The boat has reportedly sunk approximately six kilometres offshore from Stansbury.”
Emergency services, including water police, other fishing boats and aircraft, are concentrating their search on that area. — Internet

Pagoda maintenance work coordinated
YANGON, 29 Sept—A coordination meeting on offering gold robes and maintenance of the pagoda was held at ancient Buddha Image’s Tazaung.
Patron of Leading Committee for All-round Development of Shwedagon pagoda Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun reported on work done.
Officials of various sub-committees reported on arrangements for maintenance of the pagoda.
The minister then gave instructions and inspected scale model of Kyahmauk Kyalan of the pagoda. — MNA

USDA CEC member attends AGM of Shwebo District USDA
NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—An Annual General Meeting of Shwebo District Union Solidarity and Development Association for 2008 was held at Yangyiaung Gymnasium of Shwebo Township on 27 September.
CEC Member of the USDA Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung delivered a speech.
Next, Chairman of Work Committee for All-round Development of Shwedagon pagoda Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint delivered a speech.
Patron of Leading Committee for All-round Development of Shwedagon pagoda Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun reported on work done.
The CEC member accepted cash donation of wellwishers for AGM and presented the certificates of honour to them.
The CEC member presented prizes to recipients of excellent performance in social field, officials for the best pass rate of matriculation in the Division and the outstanding students, athletes and volunteers who rendered assistance in health care services in the storm-hit areas.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents prize to a six-distinction winner in Shwebo District USDA AGM (2008). — MNA
In fear that the nation will lose its future

To the best of my knowledge, democracy is a system based on the people’s desire. It is because in a country, the people represent the majority of the population. The force vested with the power of making a decision in a democratic way depicts the people. Therefore, it is required to respect the people’s decisions and desire.

I was satisfied with the discussions about the three sorts of people’s desire the leader of the Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council the Minister for Information held in meeting with Mr Gambari during the latter’s recent visit to Myanmar. I believed the talks represented the desire of the people.

If we ask each citizen what their strongest desire is, the answers will be various and different, such as to lead a life of luxury with a beautiful house and car; to be rich; and to be well-known. If various sorts of their desires are classified in general, the categories of their desires will support the three forms of people’s desires the Minister discussed. Actually, the three points thoroughly cover all forms of people’s desire.

Regarding the first point, we all favour peace and stability. None of us accept instability and terrorist acts that can destabilize the nation. The people have gone through the hell of internal armed strife, internal armed conflicts, protests, riots and have been in a state of panic many times. They are worried that they may face again armed conflicts, riots and anarchy as a result of the current state of peace and peace at the unprecedented level, and are pleased with that. In such a situation, any forms of attempts to disrupt already-achieved peace and stability and to destabilize the country are absolutely unacceptable to them. That is the real desire of the people.

In relation to the second point, every citizen favours a situation in which their country and the people are enjoying development. Every citizen by nature wants greater development of their motherland than any other foreign country. And every citizen wants to witness and take pride that the people are enjoying development. Every citizen by nature wants to lead a life of luxury with a beautiful house and car; and to be rich; and to be well-known. If various sorts of their desires are classified in general, the categories of their desires will support the three forms of people’s desires the Minister discussed. Actually, the three points thoroughly cover all forms of people’s desire.

Kyaw Min Lu (Shwe Pyi Tha)

The third point is the desire to be rich; and to be well-known. If various sorts of their desires are classified in general, the categories of their desires will support the three forms of people’s desires the Minister discussed. Actually, the three points thoroughly cover all forms of people’s desire.

We should not forget the fact that Myanmar is on its way to the goal of democracy as wished by the entire people while building development infrastructures without harming peace and stability. The way in which the future of the State is decided by the people in the 2010 election is the most appropriate. If we do what we want regardless of what the people say, we will go round in circles.

The country’s ultimate aim is to build a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The word ‘peaceful’ represents the people’s desire (1) while ‘modern and developed’ indicates the people’s desire (2). Likewise, the phrase ‘building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation’ reflects the people’s desire (3). It can be said that our final goal is to realize the three people’s desires. It is clear that what the government is doing is to shape a bright future of the State in accord with the seven-step Road Map the wishes of the people.

While the seven-step Road Map is reaching its fifth step, the wishes and decision of the people are becoming more and more important. Anti-government groups on their part need to follow the people’s decision regardless of whether they like it or not. Only then, will it be democratic. The public approval of the constitution in the fourth step means that all the people have supported the seven-step Road Map. In other words, the people have opened up the way to democracy for all. Here, ‘for all’ means the government, the people and Tatmadaw as well as the anti-government groups. Myanmar’s new constitution is the concern of all the people including those supporting and those opposing.

Now it is opportune time for national forces that have to march towards the goal of democracy to build national reconsolidation or to reach the true path of national politics. So it is important for the anti-government elements to grab the good opportunity created by the people if they value the people’s wishes.

Today, we no longer need to argue who is right and who is wrong. It is not the time either to try to make sure one’s own party comes into power. It is no longer necessary to stick to the outdated 1990 election results. (See page 11)
The wise one dispels intoxication through non-intoxication

When the wise one dispels intoxication through non-intoxication, he having ascended the tower of wisdom —being himself free from sorrow and being himself wise —looks at the sorrowing people and the unwise as one, standing on a mountain, views those on the plains.

Dhammapada-28

Students get gifts at USDA AGM

YANGON, 29 Sept — An extempore talk on English Language organized by Taninthayi Division Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Myeik on 27 September.

Patron of Taninthayi Division USDA Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Patrol Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and the CEC member of USDA Taninthayi Division in-charge Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein delivered speeches. They observed the extempore talk of students of universities, colleges and basic education schools.

The annual general meeting of Taninthayi Division USDA was held at its office yesterday. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein spoke on the occasion.

Next, the commander and officials presented prizes to outstanding students who passed the 2008 matriculation examination, schools which got the best pass rate and winners of the extempore talk and essay competitions.

The commander and the minister attended the work coordination meeting on boosting production of marine products.—MNA

CI sheets for storm victims

YANGON, 29 Sept — The Republic of India donated CI sheets to be used in reconstruction works in storm-hit regions at a ceremony held at Myanmar International Thilawa Terminal today.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Director-General of Fire Services Department U Myint Tun, Director-General of Relief and Resettlement Department U Than Oo, and departmental officials, Indian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra and staff of the embassy.

The Indian Ambassador handed over about 500,000 CI sheets to the minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The donation of India today is US$1.61 million worth 500,000 million CI sheets in 52 containers weighing 1020.830 tons. —MNA

Get-together of IAHVS (Insein) old students

YANGON, 29 Sept — A ceremony to pay respects to teachers by old students of the Institute of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science (Insein) who were at the institute from 1972 to 1978 will be held in conjunction with a get-together at M3 Food Centre in Bahan Township on 9 November 2008. All the old students are requested to attend the ceremony, and to contact Dr. Sein Myint (Tel 0950 08115, 642745), Dr. Sei Bo (Tel 0950 64972), Dr. Soe Than (Tel 503834, 0951 57952), Dr. Tin Swe (Tel0950 21239, 518392), Dr. Cho Cho Aye (Tel 541152, 388213), Dr. Khan Malar Soe (Tel 0951 07681, 393368), Dr. Ma Tin Yi (Tel 0951 77378, 224444), Dr. Khin Linn Thu (Tel 0950 38940, 215899), Dr. Khin Zaw (Tel 02 22190, 0920 06872) and Dr Win Myint (Tel 0950 38942) for contributions and address books not later than 2 November 2008.—NLM

India Ambassador Mr. Bhaskar Kumar Mitra hands over CI sheets to Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe. —MNA

Indian Ambassador Mr. Bhaskar Kumar Mitra hands over CI sheets to Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe. —MNA

TRANSLATION: MS + ST
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION ROAD TRANSPORT, YANGON DIVISION INVITATION TO TENDER
TENDER NO.003/TRT/2008-2009
1. Sealed tenders from eligible suppliers are invited for the supply of the following Tyres Sets with Tubes and Flaps. Prices to quoted in Myanmar Kyats-
   (a) 9.00 x 20 (1500) Sets
   (b) 7.50 x 16 (300) Sets
   (c) 10.00 x 20 (200) Sets
2. (a) Tender Documents are available at the office of Procurement & Stores Department, Yangon Division, Road Transport, No.375, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar. Commencing on the 1-10-2008.
   (b) Tender will be closed on 7-10-2008 at (16:00) hours (The Road Transport reserves the right to reject any or all tenders)
3. Detailed information will be available at the office of the Procurement & Stores Department, Road Transport (Yangon Division)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV OLYMPIAN RACER VOY NO (116)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV OLYMPIAN RACER VOY NO (116) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.9.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Drive with care

Policemen inspect a burnt vehicle at the site of a bomb attack in Baghdad’s Karrada district, on 29 Sept, 2008.—INTERNET

New watchdog to keep children safe online
LONDON,29 Sept.—A new government body was launched on Monday aimed at protecting children when they use the Internet.
The UK Council for Child Internet Safety will police the web for children, tackle issues such as online bullying and order that websites considered harmful be taken down.
It also plans to develop a voluntary code of conduct for websites.
The council, which will report directly to the prime minister, was set up in response to a report by psychologist Tanya Byron earlier this year into how young people and families can make the most of the Internet while protecting children’s safety online.—INTERNET

Death toll rises to 29 in north China landslide
T AIYUAN, 29 Sept – The death toll from a landslide in north China’s Shanxi Province has risen to 29 as rescuers found seven more bodies on Sunday.
The people could not have been identified at the site because they had been buried for nearly two months.
A landslide toppled a waste dump from a local iron mine on August 1, burying Sigou Village in Loudan County in the suburbs of the provincial capital Taiyuan.
At least 16 people remain missing.
About 6,500 rescuers with digging equipment had been searching for the missing for days, according to Jing Dekui, deputy head of the county.

Toyota says curbing production in China
TOKYO, 29 Sept—Japan’s Toyota Motor Corp. is curbing production in China as sales slow in the once-booming market, a company spokesman said Monday.
“As sales growth has become slower than we projected earlier, we are now adjusting production,” a Toyota spokesman Toshiaki Horin said, without disclosing the extent of the production cutbacks.
The Nikkei economic daily reported that Toyota plans a 10-percent cut in production at its joint venture in China with Guangzhou Automobile because demand is falling due to tighter credit and falling share prices.
The auto giant has already curbed production of its Yaris small passenger car, the daily said without naming its sources.
The Guangdong plant, which produces Camry and Yaris cars, has an annual output capacity of 200,000 vehicles a year.—INTERNET

Afghan warlord Hekmatyar claims French ambush
KABUL, 29 Sept—Afghan insurgent leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has claimed responsibility in a video message for an August ambush that killed 10 French soldiers, an Afghan news agency reported on Monday, saying it had seen the footage.
In the video statement, Hekmatyar also says he lost 40 men in the battle in Sarobi, the independent Pajhwok Afghan News agency says.
The insurgent Taliban movement, which has unclear links with Hekmatyar’s faction, has also claimed responsibility for the attack, which was the deadliest for the French military in 25 years.
Pajhwok told AFP that the video was delivered to its office in Peshawar in Pakistan.
He warns of “more guerrilla assaults on US forces besides the French soldiers,” the agency says in a report on its website.
And he also called on “anti-foreign forces” to stop using mobile and satellite phones during the fighting.
The mountain ambush in Sarobi, west of Kabul, was the deadliest ground attack on international troops since they were sent to Afghanistan in 2001 tooust the hardline Taliban regime.
The attack, in which 21 troops were wounded, shocked France and sparked debate about the country’s involvement in war-torn Afghanistan.

Afghan warlord Hekmatyar claims French ambush

NEW YORK, 29 Sept—Police say as many as seven men were stabbed during a quarrel at a nightclub in New York City.
Two are in critical condition.
The bloody fight erupted around 4 am Sunday inside the Tahona club in the Queen’s neighborhood of Astoria.
Police are trying to determine the exact number of victims—from five to seven.
Two of them are in critical condition at Elmhurst Hospital.
The Tahona is a flashy club with state-of-the-art sound, video and lighting, featuring live bands and a big dance floor.—INTERNET

Up to 7 stabbed in NYC nightclub fight, two critical

Afghan warlord Hekmatyar claims French ambush

Death toll rises to 29 in north China landslide

Toyota says curbing production in China

Afghan warlord Hekmatyar claims French ambush

Up to 7 stabbed in NYC nightclub fight, two critical

Afghan warlord Hekmatyar claims French ambush

Death toll rises to 29 in north China landslide

Toyota says curbing production in China
Malware poses threat to mobile phones

LOS ANGELES, 29 Sept — Security experts have so far identified about 500 viruses or other types of malware or security vulnerabilities that target mobile phones, a newspaper report said on Sunday. Phones are indeed vulnerable to the same types of security threats from malware that face PCs, the San Jose Mercury News reported.

“The more that phones can perform the same functions as PCs, the greater the chance they will have similar vulnerabilities,” the paper said. Perhaps the best known handset virus is Commando-A, a piece of malware identified in 2005 that spreads to phones using the then-current version of the Symbian operating system via text messages, according to the report.

The number of pieces of mobile malware detected since then has grown steadily, said the paper. Security experts worry hackers could soon use the GPS feature built into many phones to track the location of their owners. A new generation of spyware dubbed “snoopware” could eventually be used to turn on the microphone or camera on a phone, allowing a hacker to listen in on phone owners’ conversations or see their surroundings, the paper said. The overall threat of mobile malware is growing in part because smart-phones are becoming more widespread, said the paper. —Internet

SpaceX launches 1st commercial rocket into orbit

LOS ANGELES, 29 Sept— An Internet entrepreneur’s latest effort to make space launch more affordable paid off Sunday when his commercial rocket, carrying a dummy payload, was lofted into orbit from the South Pacific.

It was the fourth attempt by Space Exploration Technologies, or SpaceX, to launch its two-stage Falcon 1 rocket into orbit. “Fourth time’s a charm,” said Elon Musk, the multimillionaire who started up SpaceX after making his fortune as the co-founder of PayPal Inc., the electronic payment system.

The rocket carried a 364-pound dummy payload designed and built by SpaceX for the launch. “This really means a lot,” Musk told a crowd of whooping employees. “There’s only a handful of countries on Earth that have done this. It’s usually a country thing, not a company thing. We did it.”

Musk pledged to continue getting rockets into orbit, saying the company has resolved design issues that plagued previous attempts. Last month, SpaceX lost three government satellites and human ashes including the remains of astronaut Gordon Cooper and “Star Trek” actor James Doohan after its third rocket was lost en route to space.

The company blamed a timing error for the failure that caused the rocket’s first stage to bump into the second stage after separation.

New software turns PC into TiVo TV recorder

NEW YORK, 29 Sept— TiVo Inc and Nero AG of Germany were set to announce Monday that they will be launching a package that turns a Windows PC into a TV recorder, just like a TiVo set-top box.

The kit will cost $199 when it goes on sale 15 Oct, and includes a remote and a TV tuner that plugs into the PC. The interface on the computer screen looks just like the one on a TV equipped with a TiVo box.

It’s not the first software that allows TV recording on the PC. That’s been possible for years on computers equipped with TV tuners, and some versions of Microsoft Corp’s Windows Vista operating system include the necessary software.

But it will be the first time that both the TiVo interface and functions have been replicated on a PC. The Nero LiquidTV/TiVo PC will go on sale initially in the US, and functions have been replicated on a PC. The Nero LiquidTV/TiVo PC will go on sale initially in the US, Mexico and Canada, but it could open up some markets to viewers where TiVo does not yet sell its set-top boxes. —Internet

Drinking in early pregnancy tied to cleft lip

BEIJING, 29 Sept — Women who binge drink in the first three months of pregnancy have an increased risk of having infants with cleft lip and cleft palate, according to findings in the American Journal of Epidemiology.

“Some evidence exists that women who drink alcohol during pregnancy are more likely than nondrinkers to have infants with facial clefts,” Dr Lisa A DeRoo and colleagues write, “but summarizing previous findings is hampered by different categories of drinks and time points of reference across studies.”

DeRoo, with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Durham, North Carolina, and colleagues investigated this topic in a study involving infants with oral clefts born between 1996 and 2001 in Norway. A total of 377 infants with cleft lip and palate were recruited at birth, and 763 unaffected subjects were included in the study.

Mothers completed questionnaires within a few months after delivery regarding alcohol use during the first trimester. Mothers completed questionnaires within a few months after delivery regarding alcohol use during the first trimester.

Hornets kill two farmers, injure three in south China

GUILIN, 29 Sept — Two villagers were stung to death and three others injured by hornets after stirring up a nest in south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Five farmers from Matijiang village, Pingle County, tried to dismantle a hornet nest on a 4-meter-high tree on 21 Sep. They chopped down branches and planned to climb up the tree to remove the nest but one of them accidentally hit it provoking the hornets.

Two people collapsed after being attacked. Three others managed to run back to the village, said Wang, who was one of the farmers, still covered with red spots. He was being treated at Guilin Municipal Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital along with two others who are in serious condition.

One person died on the 22nd, the other on Saturday.

Xinhua

A file photo shows student uses English-learning software on a Nintendo DS during a media event at Tokyo Girls Junior High School in Tokyo.
Ronaldinho fires Milan to derby victory

ROME, 29 Sept — Ronaldinho scored his first goal in Italian football to give AC Milan a vital 1-0 victory over Inter Milan in a pulsating city derby at the San Siro on Sunday.

Inter Milan had two players sent off — although Marco Materazzi was dismissed after he'd been substituted — as Jose Mourinho tasted defeat as Inter coach for the first time.

It means that despite losing their first two matches, Milan are right back up in the thick of the title race having won their next three in a row.

Ronaldinho dedicated his goal to the Milan fans and club president — and Italy prime minister — Silvio Berlusconi, who celebrates his 72nd birthday on Monday.

“I’m very happy, I was hoping to score a goal. This is the one for the fans who’ve made me feel at home,” said the Brazilian.

“It’s a moment of great happiness, I know tomorrow is president Berlusconi’s birthday, this goal is for him.”

Previous leaders Inter drop down to fourth with the loss as the Serie A table takes on an unfamiliar look.

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga stuns Djokovic to win Thailand Open

BANGKOK, 29 Sept — Jo-Wilfried Tsonga stunted Novak Djokovic to win the Thailand Open on Sunday and help erase his loss to the Serb in the final of this year’s Australian Open.

Tsonga, ranked 20 in the world, fell to his knees after the 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 victory against the world number three in only his second tournament back at the top after missing three months from knee surgery.

The win, in only his second career final, was sweet revenge for the Frenchman after he lost the Grand Slam final eight months ago to the Serb.

But he admitted that he originally didn’t fancy his chances.

The defeat was the 14th of the season for Djokovic against 58 wins and left the 21-year-old 10-6 in career finals.

Djokovic, who finally cleared his jet-lag after last weekend’s Davis Cup in Europe, will take a few days off at the Thai resort island of Koh Samui, avoiding the standard tennis pattern of rushing to the airport after the final. — Internet

British football clubs out to impress after opening stalemates

PARIS, 29 Sept — Arsenal, embarrassed by newly-promoted Hull City in the Premier League at the weekend, are out to put that rare reverse to their im­pressiveness to the season behind them against FC Porto on Tuesday.

The Gunners, beaten finalists in 2004, needed a late William Gallas equaliser to eke out an unconvincing 1-1 draw against Dynamo Kiev in their Group G opener. Their Portuguese guests have an unhappy record against English clubs, losing in each of their last four Champions League campaigns.

But the 2004 winners turn up at the Emirates Stadium on a high after a 3-1 home success over Turkish side Fenerbahce a fortnight ago.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has warned his highly-skilled but largely-inexperienced side will struggle to win on foreign fields, making this home fixture a must-win affair.

With trips to Fenerbahce and Porto still to come, Wenger believes this is the hardest group he has faced in 12 years with Arsenal. — Internet

Tsonga's John Arne Riise shoot against Atalanta's hot Deportivo. — Internet

Valencia top Spanish football league, Sevilla take Atletico scalp

MADRID, 29 Sept — David Villa’s hot streak in front of goal continued with two goals as Valencia returned to the top of the Spanish first division after a 4-2 home win over Deportivo La Coruna on Sunday. Valencia, league champions in 2002 and 2004, knocked Villarreal off the summit on goal difference as they continued their unbeaten start to the season under new coach Unai Emery.

“We are getting over the problems of last season (when they finished 10th) and today we showed what we are capable of,” said Emery. — Internet

Vijay Singh wins FedEx Cup and $10 million prize

ATLANTA, 29 Sept — Vijay Singh has won the FedEx Cup, finishing four rounds at the Tour Championship to clinch the PGA Tour’s points race and earn a $10 million bonus.

Singh won two of the top two playoff events, building such a large lead that no one could catch him at East Lake unless the 45-year-old Fijian withdrew or was disqualified. He closed with an even-par 70 and finished at 9-under 289 for the tournament, far behind the leaders.

Vijay Singh walks past the FedEx Cup before teeing off to start the final round of The Tour Championship PGA golf tournament on 28 Sept, 2008, in Atlanta. Singh leads in the FedEx Cup standings. — Internet

Denmark’s Caroline Wozniacki (L) and Spain’s Anabel Medina Garrigues hold the champion trophy during the awarding ceremony for the women’s doubles final at the 2008 China Open tennis tournament in Beijing, capital of China, on 28 Sept, 2008. Wozniacki and Garrigues beat Chinese pair Han Xinyuan and Xu Yifan 2-0 and claimed the title. —XINHUA

Vijay Singh wins FedEx Cup and $10 million prize

ATLANTA, 29 Sept — Vijay Singh has won the FedEx Cup, finishing four rounds at the Tour Championship to clinch the PGA Tour’s points race and earn a $10 million bonus.

Singh won two of the top two playoff events, building such a large lead that no one could catch him at East Lake unless the 45-year-old Fijian withdrew or was disqualified. He closed with an even-par 70 and finished at 9-under 289 for the tournament, far behind the leaders.

Vijay Singh walks past the FedEx Cup before teeing off to start the final round of The Tour Championship PGA golf tournament on 28 Sept, 2008, in Atlanta. Singh leads in the FedEx Cup standings. — Internet

Roddick, Jankovic win China tennis Open titles

BEIJING, 29 Sept — Andy Roddick held off a fierce challenge from Israeli underdog Dudi Sela to win the China Open final Sunday as top seed Jelena Jankovic sealed the women’s title with a thumping win.

Big-serving Roddick, the second seed in the Beijing tournament, overcame 92-ranked Sela 6-4, 6-7 (6-8), 6-3 while Jankovic defeated Svetlana Kuznetsova in straight sets.

From 3-2 down in the first set, Jankovic won nine of the next ten games to establish an iron grip on the match and fourth seed Kuznetsova could not match the intensity of the Serb’s play.

Meanwhile in the men’s doubles final, Australia’s Stephen Huss and Britain’s Ross Hutchins beat Australian Ashley Fisher and Bobby Reynolds, from the United States, 7-5, 6-4. — Internet

AS Roma’s John Arne Riise shoots against Atalanta during a Serie A football match at the Olympics Stadium in Rome. AS Roma coasted to a 2-0 home success over Atalanta. — INTERNET

Denmark’s Caroline Wozniacki (L) and Spain’s Anabel Medina Garrigues hold the champion trophy during the awarding ceremony for the women’s doubles final at the 2008 China Open tennis tournament in Beijing, capital of China, on 28 Sept, 2008. Wozniacki and Garrigues beat Chinese pair Han Xinyuan and Xu Yifan 2-0 and claimed the title. —XINHUA

Vijay Singh wins FedEx Cup and $10 million prize

ATLANTA, 29 Sept — Vijay Singh has won the FedEx Cup, finishing four rounds at the Tour Championship to clinch the PGA Tour’s points race and earn a $10 million bonus.

Singh won two of the top two playoff events, building such a large lead that no one could catch him at East Lake unless the 45-year-old Fijian withdrew or was disqualified. He closed with an even-par 70 and finished at 9-under 289 for the tournament, far behind the leaders.

Vijay Singh walks past the FedEx Cup before teeing off to start the final round of The Tour Championship PGA golf tournament on 28 Sept, 2008, in Atlanta. Singh leads in the FedEx Cup standings. — Internet

Denmark’s Caroline Wozniacki (L) and Spain’s Anabel Medina Garrigues hold the champion trophy during the awarding ceremony for the women’s doubles final at the 2008 China Open tennis tournament in Beijing, capital of China, on 28 Sept, 2008. Wozniacki and Garrigues beat Chinese pair Han Xinyuan and Xu Yifan 2-0 and claimed the title. —XINHUA
Flood hits south China city, affecting 13,000 people

NANNING, 29 Sept—Torrential rains since Thursday caused swelling of local rivers and led to flood which flooded part of the urban zones of Chongzuo City in south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, with more than 13,000 people affected.

Seven of the eight streets in the old city zones were flooded with water level as high as five metres. Most of the first and second floors of residential buildings were also inundated, according to Chongzuo City Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters. The water level of the major Zuojiang River in Chongzuo was 107.52 metres. That’s more than 6.32 metres higher than the danger level. A Xinhua reporter on the scene said more than 200 soldiers and 300 militia rescued more than 1,200 residents using boats on Sunday, said Li Yatong, deputy chief of general staff of Guangxi Military Area Command of the People’s Liberation Army.

The Guangxi autonomous regional government have sent life jackets, rescue boats, tents, drinking water and food to Chongzuo. MNA/Xinhua

Taro Aso nominates Kaneko as Transport Minister

TOKYO, 29 Sept—Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso on Sunday appointed Kazuyoshi Kaneko, former state minister in charge of administrative reform, to succeed Nariaki Nakayama as Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister.

Earlier Sunday, newly-appointed Transport Minister Nariaki Nakayama handed in his resignation due to verbal blunders only four days after his appointment in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Taro Aso, who assumed the premiership and announced the lineup Wednesday. During media interviews following his appointment, Nakayama made a series of controversial remarks, calling Japan an “ethnically homogenous” nation, which drew bitter criticism from both ruling and opposition parties as well as the indigenous Ainu people.

MNA/Xinhua

INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, Southwest monsoon has withdrawn from Deltaic areas. Weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah and Kayin States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyekkhamhe (4.37) inches, Thandwe (3.15) inches, Mawlak (2.08) inches, Falam (1.89) inches, Maungtaung (1.81) inches and Hakha (1.77) inches.

Maximum temperature on 28-9-2008 was 92 F. Minimum temperature on 29-9-2008 was 71F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 29-9-2008 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 28-9-2008 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 29-9-2008 was (Nil) at Mandalay, (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (96.38) inches at Mandalay, (108.42) inches at Kaba-Aye and (125.98) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (17:30) hours MST on 28-9-2008.

Bay inference: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 30-9-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Kayin and Shan States, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of decrease of rain in the Deltaic areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 30-9-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers, Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-9-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-9-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (45%).
NAY PYI TAW, 29 Sept—Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Kyaw Phyo and officials, viewed thriving physic-nut plantations in Monghsat, condition of Monghsat-Mongkhut road-section and People’s Hospital on 28 September.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing met servicemen, departmental officials, members of social organization, townsenders at Mongkhut Station and presented sports equipment and supplies to them.

Next, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, the Commander and party inspected the road-section and paving of gravel road along Mongkhut-Kengtung Road.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing heard reports on construction of Kengtung-Mongkhun-Mongkhut Road by Shan State (East) superintending engineer U Thaung Htay and officials of Asia World Co Ltd.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing looked into extension of road between Mile Post No. 35 and 36 with the use of heavy machinery, 5-acre tea plantation in Amawde Village in Kengtung Township, paving at 19th mile post by using cement and stones mixture. He also inspected thriving 110-acre physic-nut plantations near Mengkong village of Kengtung.

Soy may benefit stroke patients

HONGKONG, 29 Sept—The University of Hong Kong team say the treatment effect of the chemical, isoflavone, is comparable to that of cholesterol-busting statin drugs. The European Heart Journal study showed isoflavone helped improve blood flow through the arteries. Previous research has suggested that eating soy may help prevent breast and prostate cancer and lower cholesterol. Soya isoflavones in particular have been shown to reduce cardiovascular disease risk as they inhibit the growth of cells that form artery-clogging plaque. All of the 102 patients in the latest trial had suffered a first or recurrent ischemic stroke — caused by a blood clot — in the previous six months and had established heart disease. The patients were split into two groups, with one receiving a 12-week course of isoflavone as an 80mg daily dietary supplement, and the other given a dummy pill or placebo. The scientists measured the way the brachial artery — the main artery of the arm — dilated in response to an increase in blood flow. This measurement, the flow-mediated dilatation (FMD), is an indicator of the functioning of the cells that line the inner surfaces of blood vessels — the endothelium — which are implicated in cardiovascular disease.

Real Madrid eye January move for Liverpool’s Agger

MADRID, 29 Sept—La Liga Champions Real Madrid are reportedly interested in signing Danish International Daniel Agger from Liverpool in the January transfer window, according to Spanish paper Sport.

23-year-old Agger joined the Reds in 2006 from Brondby and his present deal with Rafa Benitez’s side runs out in 2010, with it understood that the defender is growing frustrated at the lack of first-team opportunities at the Premier League club.

Benitez has chosen to play Jamie Carragher and Martin Skrtel ahead of the Dane this season in the Premier League, with reports of the defender’s unrest at Anfield alerting Los Merengues coach Bernd Schuster, who is seeking a new centre-half for the Bernabeu.

Arsenal’s Fabregas: Walcott will be world’s best

ARSENAL, 29 Sept—Spanish International Cesc Fabregas believes that Arsenal team-mate Theo Walcott can become one of the best players in the world if he fulfils his potential at the Emirates Stadium.

19-year-old Walcott joined the Gunners in 2006 from Southampton, but has only just started to shine in the Premier League and on the International stage, with the striker scoring a hat-trick in England’s 4-1 away win in Croatia in a vital World Cup qualifier earlier this month.