Senior General Than Shwe sees off Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San on their departure for Bangladesh

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe saw off Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San on their departure for Bangladesh by special flight at the invitation of Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Dr Fakruddin Ahmed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport this morning.

Member of SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Maj-Gen Maung Shein, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Maj-Gen Hta Htao Win of the Ministry of Defence and Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and their wives, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, senior military officers,

(See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Local people to participate in regional development tasks**

Prime Minister General Thein Sein in his tour of Mandalay Division inspected regional development tasks in Pyawbwe, Meiktila, Thazi, Mahlaing and Myingyan on 3 October.

In Myanmar, rural folks make up 70 per cent of the nation’s population, and their main business is agriculture. So, only when per capita income of farmers is on the increase, will the nation be able to enjoy economic growth.

With this concept, the government is fulfilling agricultural requirements for boosting the incomes of farmers.

Myanmar being rich in natural resources, farmers can enjoy better incomes if they work hard, taking full advantage of natural resources in abundance.

While in Pyawbwe, the Prime Minister gave instructions, saying that Myanmar was favoured with vacant and fallow lands in abundance, and called for advanced agricultural methods, using high-yield strains of crops along with chemical and locally-produced fertilizers in combination.

Tawma Village in Meiktila Township is growing late monsoon long staple cotton. If the cotton output exceeds the target, the farmers will be awarded the prize for highest cotton per acre yield.

Mahlaing gets low annual rainfall. In the past, the township did not get sufficient water for growing monsoon paddy. So, the government has constructed Kyintha Dam in the township for supply of adequate irrigation water. Now, local farmers can apply triple-cropping pattern including monsoon and summer paddy. Farmers on their part have to use machines to expedite agricultural tasks and to generate electric power on a manageable scale with the use of cattle dung.

The people are, therefore, to engage in regional development tasks in concert with the government, in recognition of the hard work the government is exerting to attend to the people’s economic and social requirements.

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**World Habitat Day-2008 observed**

**YANGON, 6 Oct.—Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected connection of 230 KV power lines between Hlinethaya and Bayinnaung and distribution of power from output feeders such as Ywama, Seinpanmyaing, Hsinmalak, 1 and 2 power lines in Bayinnaung main sub power station station in Mayangon Township yesterday.**

The minister inspected power distribution in panel of the control room, 230 KV power lines in Hlinethaya and Bayinnaung and transformers in switch yard and application of communication network carrier system. The minister then gave necessary instructions.—MNA

**Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects Hlinethaya main sub-power station.—EP-2**

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**Seminar focuses on development of wood-based industry**

**YANGON, 6 Oct.—A seminar on establishment of private teak plantation, issue permit on timber and development of wood-based industry was held at International Business Centre on 4 October, with an address by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.**

The seminar was jointly organized by the Ministry of Forestry and Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association. Chairman of MTEA U Sein Lwin gave a speech on the occasion.

Director-General (Retd) of Forestry Department U Shwe Kyaw submitted paper on compilation of timber permit, Joint Secretary-1 of MTEA Dr Myo Thein on opportunities and challenges for development of timber industry in Myanmar, executive U Zaw Win of MTEA on opportunities for establishment of private teak plantation, Deputy Director Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw of Forestry Research Department on ways and means to establish teak plantation, U Min Ko Ko Gyi on establishment of timber areas and staff officer U Aye Win of Kyangin Township on forestry industry organization in Myanmar, study of teak plantation and wood-based factories and establishment of teak plantation in Kyangin Township by Phyo Sithu Trading Co.

The resource persons replied to the queries of the participants. On 5 October, the minister inspected wood-based factories of Lin Win Co Ltd and MyanmaTeak Industry Co Ltd in industrial zone No. 2 in Dagon Seikkan Township.—MNA
US, NATO attacks killed 3,200 Afghan civilians since 2005

KABUL, 7 Oct—Up to 3,200 civilians have been killed in NATO and US action in Afghanistan since 2005 but compensation payouts have been far lower than in other global cases, according to research by a US professor.

The use of air power is growing, raising risks for civilians, University of New Hampshire professor Marc W Herold says in research released on the anniversary of the 7 October, 2001 launch of the invasion of Afghanistan. International troops arrived to topple the Taliban and have remained to fight an insurgency in which civilians are killed in military action and attacks, although the government and militaries involved do not release numbers.

Herold says other groups tracking the civilian cost of the war, such as Human Rights Watch, underestimate the tolls while international military and media attach low value to Afghan life in the accounting of events.

Herold, who runs the Afghan Victim Memorial Project, says his research shows between 2,699 and 3,273 civilians were killed in direct action by international forces in Afghanistan from 2005 to so far this year.—Internet

US military to deploy more surveillance planes to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 7 Oct—The military is expanding the number of airplanes for reconnaissance and surveillance in Iraq and Afghanistan in response to demands from the Pentagon chief to assume a “war footing” in getting more planes into the air.

The US Army is sending a new unit of remote-controlled aircraft, similar to one it fielded in Iraq two years ago, to Afghanistan to monitor insurgents and enemy targets. The Air Force, meanwhile, is deploying about three dozen small turboprop planes with reconnaissance and surveillance crews to add to the unmanned planes already being used there. Both services are also trying to put more laptop computers in the hands of soldiers on the ground so they can benefit from the data provided by the “eyes in the sky.” The moves are prompted by criticism from Defence Secretary Robert Gates, who has said it was like “pulling teeth” to get the services to cooperate in intelligence surveillance.

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In late August, the military requested from the Pentagon chief to assume a “war footing” in getting more planes into the air. The moves are prompted by criticism from Defence Secretary Robert Gates, who has said it was like “pulling teeth” to get the services to cooperate in intelligence surveillance.

Iran: no US request on diplomatic post

TEHERAN, 7 Oct—Iran says it has not received any request from the United States to establish a diplomatic post in Teheran.

Hasan Qashqavi, spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, told reporters on Monday that Washington has not made a “formal” request to assign diplomats in the Iranian capital.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Sunday that Washington was continuing to look at the idea of establishing a diplomatic outpost in Iran. Rice spoke while flying from India to Kazakhstan.

The US has not had formal diplomatic relations with Teheran for nearly 30 years.—Internet

Mortar rounds hit market in Somalia, 17 killed

MOGADISHU, 7 Oct—Mortar rounds slammed into a market in Somalia’s capital on Monday, killing at least 17 people, after a failed insurgent attack on the presidential palace. Also Monday, a remote-controlled landmine killed a Somali driver and wounded two aid workers — an Italian and a Somali — some 60 miles southwest of Mogadishu. The aid workers’ injuries were not critical, Dr Abdi Rahman said. Witnesses said those killed in the capital included a 13-year-old. The fighting began when insurgents fired mortars at the presidential palace but missed, according to military spokesman Dahir Harsi. Al-Shabab, a radical Islamic group at the heart of the Somali insurgency, claimed responsibility for the initial attack.—Internet

Toll rises to 17 in latest Pakistani suicide attack

ISLAMABAD, 7 Oct—The death toll from a suicide attack on a Pakistani opposition politician’s home rose to 17, police said on Tuesday, a day after the bomber struck in the town of Bhakkar, deep in the central province of Punjab. Investigators say they found the head of the bomber, and from its appearance he appeared to come from the nearby militant-infested tribal lands.—Internet

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 539

WASHINGTON, 7 Oct—As of Monday, 6 Oct, 2008, at least 539 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Monday at 10 am EDT. Of those, the military reports 389 were killed by hostile action. Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 66 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen.

There were also four CIA officer deaths and one civilian death.—Internet

Pakistan’s military said on Tuesday it had killed 57 insurgents in operations against the Taliban over most parts of North West Frontier Province and the tribal regions bordering Afghanistan.

Violence has soared in Pakistan in the last year, and militancy has spread over most parts of North West Frontier Province and the tribal regions bordering Afghanistan.

The security scare hit new heights after the 20 September suicide truck bomb attack that killed 55 people and destroyed the Marriott hotel in Islamabad. British and UN diplomats have been ordered to send their families out of Pakistan.—Internet

8-10-BMRL 3
Poll: 63% Palestinians support extending Abbas’ presidential term

RAMALLAH, 7 Oct— A local poll published here Monday showed the majority of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza support extending the presidential term of Mahmoud Abbas until January 2010.

The poll, which was conducted by a Ramalah-based group, the Near East Consulting, said that 63 percent of those involved in the telephone poll supported extending the presidential term of Abbas.

Thirty-seven percent of those who joined the poll opposed the extension of Abbas’ presidential term for another year.

The poll’s margin of error was 3.19 percent and the margin of trust was 95 percent.

It said that 945 Palestinians from both genders and from both the West Bank and Gaza participated in the poll and were asked questions related to the current political situation in the Palestinian territories. Earlier on Monday, Hamas lawmakers passed a resolution in a session held at the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) in Gaza that opposes the extension of Abbas’ presidential term even for one day.

Hamas says that according to the basic law, the presidential term of Abbas is four years and ends on 8 Jan, 2009. Hamas wants to nominate PLC speaker Aziz Dweik, who is currently in an Israeli jail, as the interim president for 60 days.

Crude prices dip below $88 amid global market sell-off

NEW YORK, 7 Oct—Crude prices dipped below 88 US dollars a barrel, the new low in the past eight months, amid global sell-off on fears that financial crisis could lead to a recession to curb oil demand.

Light, sweet crude for November plunged 6.07 dollars to settle at 87.81 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. London Brent crude fell 6.45 dollars to 83.80 dollars a barrel.

“The price of oil continued on its significant decline and even broke some key support levels when it traded below 90 dollars per barrel,” Wall Street Strategists’ senior research analyst Conley Turner told Xinhua.

“The fall is being attributed to the fact the current financial crisis is causing a lot of market participant to sell the commodity on the outlook that the world wide demand for the commodity will be cut sharply in the short term,” said Turner.

Crude prices have declined from a peak of 147.27 dollars a barrel set on 11 July as high prices and the spreading financial crisis curb oil consumption. Crude prices retreated as China, the world’s second biggest consumer, will not import gasoline for the second straight month and instead export the fuel due to heavy domestic stockpiles and a dip in demand.

Six found dead in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 7 Oct—Six people were found dead on Monday in the Porter Ranch area near downtown Los Angeles in what police said was a murder-suicide.

The bodies were discovered about 7 am local time in a residence in a gated community, said Los Angeles police officer Sara Faden.

Initial reports indicate all the victims are from one family.

The gunman apparently had financial problems and killed his mother, wife and three children before taking his own life, according to a police source who spoke on condition of anonymity. The case was still under investigation, the source said.

Japan’s foreign reserve down for second straight month on weaker euro

TOKYO, 7 Oct— Japan’s foreign exchange reserves fell 851 million dollars from late August to 995.89 billion dollars at the end of September, the Finance Ministry said on Tuesday. It is the second straight month decline since the foreign reserve fell below the 1 trillion mark in August.

The world’s second-largest after China’s, Japan’s foreign reserve dropped on sharp declines in the appraisal value of the nation’s euro-denominated assets, the ministry said. It explained the euro lost ground against the dollar in September and reduced the value of euro assets when calculated in dollar terms.

Heavy storm leaves 2,000 without power in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 7 Oct—About two thousand electricity consumers in New Zealand’s lower and central North Island were still without power on Tuesday after strong winds battered the region.

Supply was lost on Tuesday after winds gusting to more than 150km/h brought down trees and branches on powerlines, Radio New Zealand reported.

At one stage, more than 4,000 customers were without power in Wellington, Wairarapa, Manawatu and Taranaki.

The power is now back on in Wellington, but about 2,000 households in areas further north are still without supply.
Chinese telecom companies ordered to share, co-build infrastructure

BEIJING, 7 Oct—Chinese government on Monday ordered its three domestic telecom operators to share and co-build infrastructure to avoid repeat construction in the wake of industry restructuring.

The move would erode the competitive edge of China Mobile, the nation’s largest mobile operator, as its smaller rivals could access its wider network. A circular jointly issued by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MII) and the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) of the State Council required China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom to promote the sharing and co-construction of infrastructure and avoid repeat building in the industry overhaul and the new round of network construction starting this month, according to the circular.

The existing telecom towers and lines must open to rivals. If conditions were not ready for sharing, operators should expand and adjust their technologies, said the circular.

If an operator planned to build telecom towers and lines, other operators should inform it in 10 working days if they had such facilities to share or plans to join the construction. They will be banned from building at the same sites and routes within three years if they show no need for co-construction, the two agencies said.

Xinhua

Brazil to use foreign exchange reserves to help exporters

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 Oct—Brazil has decided to use part of its foreign exchange reserves to help its exporters amid the global financial crisis, Finance Minister Guido Mantega said on Monday.

The state-owned Brazilian Development Bank will also open a new credit loan of 2.5 billion US dollars to aid Brazil’s exporting businesses, Mantega said.

The details of the government’s bail-out policy would be made public on Tuesday, the minister added.

The decision was made in order to ease the panic in the Sao Paulo Stock Exchange (Bovespa), which suffered a 15 percent fall in the morning session on Monday.

Mantega said Brazil’s economy was “strong enough” to deal with the crisis. “Here we do not have rotten assets, although we are suffering liquidity problems,” he said, adding that the government is taking all necessary measures to ensure the liquidity in the country’s markets.

Brazilian foreign currency reserves now stand at about 207 billion US dollars, according to figures published on the central bank’s website.

Xinhua

Russian expert: China secures success in reform, opening-up by gradualism, innovation

MOSCOW, 7 Oct—“In the last three decades of economic reform and opening-up, the Chinese people have achieved remarkable success under the leadership of the Communist Party of China,” said a venerable Russian scholar in a recent interview with Xinhua. The Chinese government has been taking a steady, sure and gradual manner in popularizing and carrying out reform-related policies to ensure most of the Chinese people can understand and accept them, said Michael Litarenko, director of the Far East Institute of the Russian Academy of Science. The Chinese government has taken into full account of tolerance limit of the general public over change and reform and assured them that the difficulties brought on by reform policies were temporary and surmountable, said Titarenko, a leading expert on China.

Such a steady and sure manner has been a crucial factor in helping China succeed in its reform and opening-up over the past 30 years, he added.

Titarenko said reform and opening-up policy was taken as the old generation of Chinese leadership and the public strived to explore new road suitable to China’s future development after the so-called Cultural Revolution that halted the country’s economic growth in the 1970s.

Xinhua

Beijing-Shijiazhuang railway under construction

BEIJING, 7 Oct—Construction began on a high-speed passenger rail line between Beijing and Shijiazhuang, capital of north China’s Hebei Province Tuesday, the Ministry of Railway (MOR) said.

The new 281 kilometer line is part of another route which connects Beijing, Guangzhou and Hong Kong in south China. It totals more than 2,100 km long.

With an estimated cost of 43.87 billion yuan (6.4 billion US dollars), the Beijing-Shijiazhuang line is expected to be complete and in operation in four years.

It is jointly funded by the MOR, Beijing and Hebei governments.

Xinhua

Singapore Temasek to sell power firm PowerSeraya

SINGAPORE, 7 Oct—Singapore state investment firm Temasek Holdings launched on Tuesday the sale of its electricity generator PowerSeraya, which generates about 28 percent of the city-state’s electricity.

PowerSeraya will be the last of three power generators that Temasek is selling under its plan announced in July last year to divest all of its wholly-owned power generation companies in Singapore by the end of next year, in a bid to liberalize the city-state’s power-generating sector. PowerSeraya has a capacity of 3,100 megawatts (MW) now, and this will rise to 3,900 MW by 2010 when a new 800 MW capacity natural gas-fired plant completes.

For the year ended 31 March, 2008, PowerSeraya had revenues of 2.79 billion Singapore dollars (1.90 billion US dollars) and earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization of 355 million Singapore dollars.

In a statement, Temasek’s director of investment Gwendel Tung said, PowerSeraya “has attracted strong indications of interest from a number of potential bidders.”

Xinhua

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Xinhua
Chinese crested named World’s Ugliest Dog

Gus the dog has three legs, one eye and no hair, except for a white tuft on the top of his head. He’s a real winner.

The pedigree Chinese crested won the World’s Ugliest Dog contest on Saturday at the Sonoma-Marin Fair in Northern California.

His owner, Jeanenne Teed, brought Gus all the way from Florida, to compete for the dubious distinction.

After the excitement of the moment, Teed characterized her dog’s reaction: “Well, I think right now he’s ready for a nap.”

The Chinese crested breed is a popular choice in this annual contest. Last year’s champ, Elwood, was a Chinese crested and Chihuahua mix.

Gus’ owner won $500 and will be flown to New York to appear on “CBS This Morning.” The event will be aired on the Animal Planet network in October.

Man arrested for stuffing dead animals in lockers

Police have arrested a 20-year-old man on suspicion of stealing dead animals from a veterinary hospital morgue and stuffing them into empty lockers at a Bay Area high school.

Police say the man admitted that he took the bodies of two cats and a 25-pound dog from an unlocked freezer behind the VetCare Hospital in Dublin. He said he then put the dead animals in lockers at Dublin High School before classes started on 25 Aug.

The man told police he thought it was a practical joke.

Indonesians warned to stay away from erupting volcano

JAKARTA, 7 Oct — People living in the shadow of Mount Soputan volcano on Indonesia’s Sulawesi island were warned to stay away Tuesday after it started erupting with smoke and flame, officials said.

There’s no order to evacuate but people are asked to stay outside a radius of four kilometres (2.5 miles) from the volcano’s summit because it could spew lava and heat clouds down its slopes, volcanologist Sandi said.

The nearest village was eight kilometres away on the western side of the volcano, which towers 1,783 metres (5,855 feet) over North Sulawesi province.

The mountain started erupting Monday morning and continued to shoot massive clouds of smoke and flame throughout the night, prompting authorities to raise the eruption warning level to the third highest on a four-level system.

A new lava dome has been forming at the peak of Mount Soputan since a big eruption in 1991. Scientists have said that its collapse will send lava as well as deadly heatclouds speeding down its slopes.

40 injured in mid-air incident in West Australia

CANBERRA, 7 Oct — Up to 40 people were injured when a passenger jet carrying more than 300 people made an emergency landing near Exmouth in West Australia following a mid-air incident Tuesday afternoon.

Sergeant Greg Lambert from the Western Australian police said the Airbus A320 owned by Australia’s largest airline company Qantas landed safely at Learmonth Airport near Exmouth after a mayday call.

He said up to 40 people were injured during a mid-air incident but the nature of the mid-air incident is unknown, according to a report by Australian Associated Press.

Emergency services and medical staff were at the airport.

3 win Nobel for subatomic physic research

Two Japanese citizens, Makoto Kobayashi, left, and Toshhide Maskawa, center, and a Japanese-born American Yoichiro Nambu, were awarded the 2008 Nobel Prize for physics for discoveries in subatomic particles, the prize committee said on Tuesday.

The Nobel committee lauded Yoichiro Nambu, a Tokyo-born American citizen, and Makoto Kobayashi and Toshhide Maskawa of Japan for separate work that helped explain why the universe is made up mostly of matter and not anti-matter via processes known as broken symmetries. They helped figure out the existence and properties of quarks — up, down, strange, charm, bottom, and top. All were later discovered in high-energy particle physics experiments.

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Xinhua
Nweinn Village in Pale Township gets library

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife donate cash to U Soe Pyaing Self-reliance Library in Nweinn Village in Pale Township through a responsible person. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct — U Soe Pyaing Self-reliance Library and the new building for the library in Nweinn Village in Pale Township, Sagaing Division, was opened on 5 October.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, a donor of the new building, unveiled the signboard of the library, and the minister and wife handed over documents related to the library to Chairman of the committee for the library U Kyi Htay.

Afterwards, Head of MWAIF Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Win and responsible persons handed over books and periodicals donated by the Information Department of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and the Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command and wife. Donors of Mintaingpin Village, Nweinn Village and Pale Township donated furniture and books to the library at the opening ceremony.

Head of Sagaing Division Information and Public Relations Department U Tin Tha Win handed over K 1,018,100 donated by wellwishers including K 300,000 contributed by Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife to the library.

After the ceremony, the minister and party visited the library. Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife went to Dhamma Wisettarama Monastery in Nweinn Village and presented offerings. During the tour of the village, they also attended a ceremony to pay respects to the aged and donated cash to older persons aged 70 and above and donated food to them.

In the afternoon, the minister visited Hlaingthaung Dam near Nweinn Village and attended a ceremony to pay respects to the aged and encouraged the local farmers. — MNA

Four clean and hygiene promotion programme organized

YANGON, 7 Oct — Under the supervision of the Ministry of Forestry and Health Department of the Ministry of Health, Social Vision Services organized Four Clean Edutainment Demonstration Programme with the sponsorship of wellwishers at Parkroyal Hotel this morning.

First, CEC member of the SVS Daw Yi Yi Win made an opening address.

Deputy Director Dr Than Htut of Occupation Health under the Health Department and Mr Waldemar Pickardt of UNICEF delivered addresses on the occasion.

Next, SVS Chairman U Hsu Tin explained the programme and Health Education Officer Daw Aye Aye Khine read out the message of Director Dr Khin Maung Lwin of Four Clean and Hygiene Project of the ministry. — MNA

Daw Yi Yi Win delivers address at ceremony to demonstrate Four Clean Edutainment Demonstration Programme. — MNA

Afterwards, officials answered the queries raised by those present and film stars entertained those present with educative programme on four clean hygiene.

YANGON, 7 Oct — Chairman of Tripartite Core Group Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyi Thu and party observed a tour of inspection to Mawlamyineygyun Town-ship in Ayeyawady Division and Kungyangon Township in Yangon Division by air this morning. They looked into progress of rural-based rehabilitation tasks being carried out at Kyatshar village in Mawlamyineyyun Township and Myatlayon and Seikkyi villages in Kungyangon Township.

TCG Chairman Deputy Minister U Kyi Thu and party observed new village and houses for storm survivors built by the government with the contributions of social organizations and wellwishers from abroad and at home, water purifier generated by solar energy, floating hospital and presented clothes and foodstuff to school children of Kyatshar village Basic Education High School.

Next, they viewed construction of boats for fishermen at Myatlayon village in Kungyangon Township and repair of Basic Education Primary School in Seikkyi village and greeted teachers and school children.

They also looked into betel plantation, construction of boats for fishermens and building of water purifier and water-filter tank and arrived in Yangon in the evening. — MNA

Objectives of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

1. Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
2. Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
3. Keeping genuine patriotism based on national solidarity alive and dynamic
4. Turning out younger generation who will continue to safeguard the national culture and character

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu and party visit primary school in Seikkyi Village. — MNA

TCG chairman and party view progress of rural-based rehabilitation tasks in Mawlamyineygyun, Kungyangon Tsps

YANGON, 7 Oct — Chairman of Tripartite Core Group Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyi Thu and party observed a tour of inspection to Mawlamyineygyun Township in Ayeyawady Division and Kungyangon Township in Yangon Division by air this morning. They looked into progress of rural-based rehabilitation tasks being carried out at Kyatshar village in Mawlamyineygyun Township and Myatlayon and Seikkyi villages in Kungyangon Township.

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 8 October, 2008

Senior General Than Shwe sees off Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San on their departure for Bangladesh

(from page 1)
Director-General of Government Office Col Thant Shin and departmental heads, Charge d’Affaires ai of Bangladesh Embassy Mr Golam Mostafa and wife, Military Attaché Brig-Gen ANM Shawkat Jamal and officials also saw off Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife were accompanied by Secretary-1 of SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naung Thein, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Science and Technology U Myint Soe, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Director-General of SPDC Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win and departmental heads and officials.

MNA

Farm implements for progress of agricultural sector

YANGON, 7 Oct — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected harvesters, 25-HP power tillers, disc wheels for tractors and mobile paddy husk-powered gas machines manufactured by No. 1 Main Workshop of Agriculture Mechanization Department in Kyaikkaloh industrial region in Mingaladon Township on 29 September. The minister inspected production of rubber products from recycled tyres, finished products, various kinds of wheels, farm implements and battery-operated harvesters and engine-powered harvesters. Production of recycled rubber saves cost.—MNA

Aged and women get care and protection

YANGON, 6 Oct — A ceremony to open a workshop on older people development and protection of women jointly organized by Social Welfare Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and UNFPA at Sedona Hotel here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Vice-Presidents of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Khin Lay Myint and Daw Khin Thet Htay and member secretaries. Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Kyin Myaing and members, the Resident Representatives of UN agencies, responsible persons of social organizations and guests.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe gave an opening speech. Next, Resident Representative of UNFPA Mr Daniel B.Baker delivered an address and the ceremony came to close. The workshop continues at Sedona Hotel. —MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sees off Vice-Senior General Maung Aye at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects farm implements produced by No. 1 Main Workshop in Mingaladon Township. — MNA

Anniversary ICT Exhibition 31 Oct

YANGON, 5 Oct — Under the arrangements of the Myanmar Computer Federation, the 10th Anniversary ICT Exhibition organized by Myanmar Computer Professional Association and Myanmar Computer Industry Association will be held to mark the 10th anniversary of MCF and computer associations at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wizara Road, here, from 31 Oct to 2 Nov.

Those wishing to stage booths may contact MCIA in Myanmar Info-Tech (Hline Campus) (Tel: 652238, 09-5067170) for details information. — MNA
People take part in building village

(from page 16)

Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented a computer and Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win 100 dozens of exercise books and sports gear to Headmistress Daw Than Nwe.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye planted a coconut tree at Set-se beach in Thanyuzayat township. Departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people planted 5,291 coconut trees. He inspected restaurants and souvenir shops along the beach. He gave instructions on growing of trees to prevent bank erosion.

At Ngwemoe Hotel, Chairman of Thanyuzayat Township Peace and Development Council U Soe Thet of Public Works on construction of Kyakkhumi Setse strand road.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspected salt fields of Set-se salt industry and cultivation of water melon among the rubber plants in the rubber farm of Myanmar Rubber General Trading in the township. There are 10 acres of water melon, 1,270 acres of pineapple, 370 acres of paddy and two acres of maize in the rubber farms.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye visited Lamong People’s Hospital and he and the commander presented cash assistance to patients at the hospital.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party arrived in Ye in the evening. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township Association get-together

YANGON, 7 Oct — An annual meeting of the Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township Association (Yangon) will be held in conjunction with prize presentation ceremony at Dolphin Restaurant in the compound of Kandawgyi Aquarium here on 2 November.

Offspring of the members who passed the matriculation examination with flying colours may contact Chairman U Aye Lwin (Ph: 549691), Vice-Chairmen U Tun Aung Zan (Ph: 292086), U Saw Tun Khang (Ph: 535193) and U Tin Ko Ko (Ph: 549836), Secretary Pyinmana Myint Hlaing (Ph: 552004) and Treasurer Dr Khin New Aye (Ph: 527440) not later than 17 October. Non-members of the association may attend the ceremony. — MNA

Buildings, publications and cash for self-reliant libraries in rural regions

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct — A ceremony to present buildings, publications and cash for self-reliant libraries in rural regions was held at the Yadanaamon Hall of No. 1 Basic Education High School in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township this afternoon, attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, director-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information, departmental officials, social organizations and well-wishers.

First, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin made an opening speech.

Next, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan also made a speech.

This was followed by the cash and kind presentation ceremony.

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township PDC U Ny Aung, on behalf of Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, presented documents related to a building worth K 2.1 million for Magyabin Village, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township, and a building worth K 5 million for Hsinthe Village, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township PDC U Win Htay, on behalf of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, presented documents related to a library building worth K 6 million for Shwematha Ward, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana and Thawdawin Co documents related to a library building worth K 6 million for Zeegon Village, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township. Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the well-wishers.

Next, U Hla Win-Daw Thianda Khime presented documents related to a building building worth K 3 million for Shasepho Village, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township, those from Temyint Village documents related to a library building worth K 7 million for Temyint Village, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township, those from Taungnyo Village documents related to a library building worth K 1.8 million for Taungnyo Village, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township and U Soe Tint Daw Yin Nu documents related to library buildings worth K 4 million for Kayukchet and Thayetkon Village, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township. Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the well-wishers.

Next, those from Pyankapay Village presented K 1.1 million for Thayagon Village library, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District PDC U Khin Maung Zaw presented K 3 million for library of Kupontan Village, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township, for library of Pattar Village, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township, for Thayebaung Village, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township and those from Kanpinum Village presented K 1 million for library of Kinpontan Village, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township. Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the well-wishers.

After that, local people from Patta, Thabyechaung and Hsinthe Villages presented K 1 million each for village libraries in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe and Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Townships and U Ohn Shwe-Daw Nilar (Main Battery Service) presented K 500,000 for Kupontan Village library in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township. Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chat Naing accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the well-wishers.

U Thein Hla Win-Daw Mya San Hla (Nan Sein Confectionery) presented K 1 million for Thayagon Village library, local people K 1 million for Pyatwin Village library, U San Tin Aung (Shwebo) 990 books worth K 1,530,000 and K 500,000 for libraries in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District. Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District Peace and Development Council U Khin Maung Zaw accepted the donations.

Well-wishers donated K 47,630,000 and 990 books for 13 self-reliance libraries in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District. — MNA
**Over 130 officers of Energy Ministry receive skills**

**NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct**—Ministry of Energy conducted a work proficiency course for new officers at the ministry here yesterday. A total of 131 trainees are attending the two-week course.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi made an opening address at the ceremony. It was also attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry and course instructors. — MNA

**Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi delivers address at opening of work proficiency course for new officers. — MNA**

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**Villager injured in Shwegyin Tsp mine blast**

**NAY PYI TAW, 7 Oct**—A villager was wounded in his left foot in a mine blast in Shwegyin Township, Bago Division, on 4 October.

U Saw Al Sae of the village of Padaekaw in Shwegyin Township stepped on a mine planted by insurgents on his way to a stream near the village to pan for gold in the evening. He was taken to the 100-bed hospital in Shwegyin. He is not in a critical condition. — MNA

**Staff get D-G’s advice**

**YANGON, 7 Oct**—Director-General U Aye Lwin of No. 2 Basic Education Department on 30 September met with the Township Education Officer and heads of basic education schools and teachers at No. 1 Basic Education School in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division, and spoke of the need for them to implement the five points of education policy laid down by the State.

The director-general also spoke of the need to enhance teaching ability, to effectively use teaching and learning aids, to abide by rules and regulations laid down, to be equipped with a sense of patriotism and Union Spirit, to strive for boosting the pass rate of matriculation exam, to fully implement the guardian system, to teach in line with monthly contents, to hold monthly tests according to the set timeframe and to supervise students by giving them exercises. — MNA

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**Myawady Trade Zone under construction**

**YANGON, 7 Oct**—Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein met members of the combined team, officials of companies who are responsible for constructing Myawady Trade Zone in Myawady on 3 October.

Director of Border Trade Department U Yan Naing Tun reported on construction of Myawady Trade Zone. Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun gave a supplementary report. The minister fulfilled the requirements for construction of the zone. He also met entrepreneurs who are engaged in export and import enterprises. The Minister inspected functions of the departments at Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge. — MNA

**US, UK embassies visit NLD HQ 22 times in September**

YANGON, 7 Oct—The people are criticizing and keeping a watchful eye on the National League for Democracy (NLD) (Central) because it keeps in touch with embassies of the United States and the United Kingdom in Yangon and complies with their instructions.

Staff from the two foreign embassies frequented NLD (HQ) on West Shwegondaing Street in Yangon 22 times in September 2008. During their visits, embassy staff held meetings with NLD CEC members, and presented large and small envelopes. — MNA

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**With noble mind**

- In serving public interest
- Do not deviate from own way
- Because of slanders
- Just carry it on

(Venerable Shwe Hintha Sayadaw)

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Photo shows solar-powered water purifying machine in Kyatshar Village in Mawlamyinegyun Township.—MNA
Remarkable progress of Shwe Kokko and Myitta Lin Myaing villages in Myawady Township

Article by Maung Maung Htwe (MNA), photos by Hla Moe (MNA)

(from page 16)
Shwe Kokko Village is located near the bank of the Thaung Yin River. It is merely a village. However, I was surprised and pleased to witness that the village had been developed considerably at the level of a township with concrete roads, fine houses, large buildings, school, hospital, football ground and the market.

Green gram, corn and physic nut were grown as mixed crops in the rubber farms.

Six special criminal appeal cases heard in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Oct—The Special Appellate Bench involving Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Yangon) U Thein Soe, Supreme Court Judges (Mandalay) U San Tin Yi and U Kyaw Win sitting at Court room 1 of Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw), heard (6) special criminal appeal cases under the Section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2008 this morning. —MNA

Don’t Smoke

Kawthoung honours the aged

YANGON, 6 Oct—A ceremony to mark the International Day of Older Persons took place at 10th-mile village, Kawthoung township on 1 October. On the occasion, Chairpersons and members of Kawthoung District and Township Women’s Affairs Organizations, members of the township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and members of social organizations, paid respect to 28 older persons and gave cash and gifts to them. Next, the head and staff of the district Health Department provided medical care to the aged. —MNA

Flower arrangement for family income generation


A total of 44 trainees are attending the arrangement course No 1/2008 which last until 10 October. The course was conducted with the aim of increasing the income of members of the association. The course was opened with an address by Leader of Economic and Social Group of MMCWA Daw Hwe Hwe Nyunt. —MNA

Grapefruit plants in Myitta Lin Myaing Village.

Thriving green gram plantations grown as mixed crop in the rubber farm near Shwe Kokko Village.
More libraries, museums in China

BEIJING, 7 Oct — China has taken big steps towards developing public cultural services since adopting the reform and opening-up policy three decades ago, statistics from the Cultural Ministry revealed here Monday.

Take for example the number of public cultural facilities built in the past 30 years. In 1978, there were 349 museums across the country. Today, there are five times as many as China now has 1,722 museums.

Ministry figures also show that China has 2,799 public libraries (above the county level) and tens of thousands of cultural centres down to the community and village levels. Last year, the national fiscal expenditure on cultural development was up to 19.896 billion yuan (2.903 billion US dollars), more than 30 times what was spent in 1980.

The second best time is now.

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The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

Spacecraft Cassini plans two flybys of Saturn’s geyser moon in October

WASHINGTON, 7 Oct — Spacecraft Cassini will fly by Saturn’s geyser moon, Enceladus, twice in October, the US space agency NASA reported Monday.

The 9 Oct flyby is an inside pitche — the closest flyby yet of any moon of Saturn, at only 25 km from the surface. The 31 Oct flyby is farther out, at 196 km.

The Enceladus geysers were discovered by Cassini in 2005. It produces a few hundred kg per second of gas and dust, which are mainly water vapor and water ice.

Since then, scientists have been intrigued about what powers them, because the moon is so tiny, at only 500 km in diameter.

Scientists are intrigued by the possibility that liquid water, perhaps even an ocean, may exist beneath the surface of Enceladus. Trace amounts of organics have also been detected, raising tantalizing possibilities about the moon’s habitability.

B’desh to boost private-sector investment with ADB help

DHAKA, 7 Oct — Bangladesh will mobilize massive private-sector funds to invest in much-needed infrastructure projects with the help of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), local newspaper reported on Monday.

ADB will provide a 165-million-US-dollar loan to support a Public-Private Infrastructure Development Facility in the country, the leading English daily The Independent reported. The project will catalyze private-sector investments of up to 600 million US dollars to finance 15 to 20 projects, mostly in energy, a release was quoted as saying.

The energy-sector schemes will add at least 900 megawatts of power-generation capacity, providing electricity to about 100,000 more households through the renewable-energy programme.

ADB is providing 82 million US dollars to help finance large infrastructure projects, 50 million US dollars to assist small- and medium-sized energy projects, and 33 million US dollars to promote renewable energy. A 500,000 US dollar technical assistance grant will also be provided by ADB for training and support.

Poverty still plagues US cities

WASHINGTON, 7 Oct — Most US mayors and city officials say poverty is a growing problem, with many families unable to get by, according to a survey released on Monday.

Some 90 percent of city officials in the National League of Cities survey of mayors and leaders of towns of 30,000 people or more say that during the last decade poverty rates have either increased or stayed the same in their towns.

About a third of those participating consider poverty “a severe or serious problem” in their cities.

“More than four decades after the United States government declared ‘war’ on poverty, the ‘official’ 2008 poverty rate is 12.3 percent, not even 2 percent less than the 1967 figure of 14.2 per cent,” the report said, adding.

An aerial view shows part of the illuminated street circuit of the Singapore Formula One Grand Prix at dusk in this file photo.

INTERNET

Russian peacekeeping forces leave the Georgian breakaway Abkhazia region town of Sukhumi.

Forces in Georgia are seeking to trigger fresh military action around the country’s separatist regions, Russia said Monday, despite stressing it would complete a scheduled troop pull-back on time.

INTERNET

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

INTERNET

A rear view of the charter bus that overturned, Sunday, is seen in a wrecking yard near Williams, Calif, on 6 Oct, 2008.
India to launch lunar mission on 22 Oct

NEW DELHI, 7 Oct — India’s first lunar mission Chandrayaan-1 is likely to lift off in the early hours of 22 Oct from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, about 90km from Chennai, South India, Indo Asian News Agency reported on Monday.

“The tentative launch date is 22 Oct though the window will be kept open till 26 Oct. Depending on the weather, we plan to launch the spacecraft around 6.30 am IST,” Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) director S. Satish was cited as saying.

The 1,380 kg spacecraft, built at ISRO’s satellite centre in this IT hub, will be carried into lunar orbit by a specially designed 320-tonne Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C11), with six strap-on propellants weighing 12 tonnes each.

“The integration will be completed by this week-end. All systems and instruments will be checked and tested for operational purposes,” Satish noted.

“The spacecraft will orbit around the moon at an altitude of 100 km to map the topography and the mineralogical resources of the lunar soil,” Satish added. —Internet

Oral vitamin D may help prevent some skin infections

WASHINGTON, 7 Oct — A new study by US researchers suggests that use of oral Vitamin D supplements may help prevent skin infections that are a common result of atopic dermatitis, the most common form of eczema.

The study, led by researchers at the University of California, San Diego, found that use of oral vitamin D appeared to correct a defect in the skin systems in patients with this skin disease. The finding was published on 3 Oct in the latest edition of the Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology.

The researchers studied a small number of patients with moderate to severe atopic dermatitis, a chronic skin disease that affects 10 to 20 percent of children and 1-3 percent of adults.

It had previously been shown that defects in the immune system interfere with the skin’s ability to produce a peptide called cathelicidin, which is protective against microbial invasion. In many skin diseases, including eczema, a deficiency of cathelicidin correlates with increased infection.

Worse, the study found, was that defects in the immune system are associated with microbial invasion. In many skin diseases, including eczema, a deficiency of cathelicidin correlates with increased infection.

Hurricane Norbert forms off Mexico’s Pacific coast

MEXICO CITY, 7 Oct — The US National Hurricane Center says Hurricane Norbert has formed far off Mexico’s Pacific coast.

The center says Norbert is centered 315 miles (510 kilometers) south-southwest of the port city of Manzanillo, and is not expected to threaten land.

The storm had winds of 75 mph (120 kph) Monday night. Forecasters said Norbert was moving west-northwest at 8 mph (13 kph) and was expected to continue that path over the next two days. Norbert is seventh hurricane of the east Pacific.

Chinese scientists start studying samples from Shenzhou-7

LANZHOU, 7 Oct — Chinese scientists on Monday unsealed a box of solid lubricant samples that were aboard the Shenzhou-7 spacecraft. They will study the material for the next six months.

“Two types of solid lubricant samples, after being exposed to outer space during the Shenzhou-7 mission, had shown obvious changes,” said Liu Weimin, head of the Lanzhou Institute of Chemical Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in northwest Gansu Province.

“The appearance of the two types of samples has either turned dark or become rougher,” he said.

Solid lubricants are widely used in spacecraft to reduce friction because they withstand high temperatures. Scientists hoped to improve the stability and lifetime of the materials by studying the test samples taken to outer space. Liu said scientists would compare the samples with those exposed to a simulated space environment in the laboratory.

“We need to know how the lubricants react to being in a vacuum, atomic oxygen and low temperatures in outer space,” he said.

If scientists discover the difference between the two exposed lubricants, they might be able to tell how other materials change in outer space, Liu said.

The solid lubricant samples, loaded outside the Shenzhou-7 capsule and retrieved by astronaut Zhai Zhigang during his spacewalk, weighed about 2.2 kg. They were exposed to outer space for 44 hours. —Internet

US spacecraft to explore outer solar system

WASHINGTON, 7 Oct — The first US spacecraft to image and map the dynamic interactions taking place where the hot solar wind slams into the cold expanse of space is ready for launch on 19 Oct, NASA announced Monday.

The two-year mission will begin from the Kwajalein Atoll, a part of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean, according to NASA's report.

Called the Interstellar Boundary Explorer or IBEX, the spacecraft will conduct extremely high-altitude orbits above Earth to investigate and capture images of processes taking place at the farthest reaches of the solar system. Known as the interstellar boundary, this region marks where the solar system meets interstellar space.

The interstellar boundary regions are critical because they shield us from the vast majority of dangerous galactic cosmic rays, which otherwise would penetrate into Earth’s orbit and make human space-flight much more dangerous,” said David McComas, IBEX principal investigator.

IBEX is poised to thoroughly map this interstellar boundary region of the solar system. The images will allow scientists to understand the global interaction between our sun and the galaxy for the very first time. —Internet
**SPORTS**

Mikel Obi gets green light to skip Sierra Leone clash

LAGOS, 7 Oct — Chelsea midfielder John Mikel Obi has been given the green light by Nigeria to skip Saturday’s 2010 World Cup qualifier against Sierra Leone, officials said on Tuesday. The top team official Emmanuel Atta told reporters the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has agreed with Chelsea for Mikel to be excused from the final group match against Sierra Leone in Abuja this weekend.

“The NFF and Chelsea manager Luiz Felipe Scolari have agreed that Mikel skip this game so as to concentrate fully on his club career,” Atta said.

“We agreed to this because we want the player to fully establish himself at the club while also improving the working relationship between us and the overseas clubs of our players.”

Liverpool confirm Skrtel ligament damage

LIVERPOOL, 7 Oct — Liverpool defender Martin Skrtel suffered posterior cruciate ligament damage in his right knee during his side’s 3-2 win over Manchester City, the Premier League club confirmed on Monday. Skrtel, 23, was stretched off with his leg heavily strapped after falling awkwardly in a challenge with Ched Evans in the second half at Eastlands on Sunday.

Scans revealed that the Slovakian centre-back has damaged the knee ligament and he will have further tests to determine the length of his absence, likely to be several months.

“Martin underwent a scan this morning which showed damage to the posterior cruciate ligament in his right knee,” club spokesman Ian Cotton said.

“He will see a specialist on Tuesday to assess the extent of the injury and will then have an accurate idea of the timescales involved before he is back playing again.”

Blatter concern over foreign investors

BRUSSELS, 7 Oct — Sepp Blatter has expressed his concern over the influx of foreign investors snapping up English Premier League clubs.

“There’s danger,” FIFA’s president warned the media at the European Parliament here Monday.

“These people arrive, buy the clubs but they can leave at any moment. That creates a risk of instability for these teams and the competition as a whole. Ideally a way should be found for clubs to be financed by local investors. There should also be a control of these clubs’ finances. But I don’t have a miracle remedy. It’s an important topic for discussion that we should have with UEFA (European football’s governing body).”

But while voicing his concern, Blatter said the arrival of buyers from the Middle East (Manchester City, Russia (Chelsea) and the United States (Manchester United, Liverpool), was only to be expected.

Hamlin released from hospital after hard wreck

TALLADEGA, 7 Oct — Denny Hamlin was released from a hospital on Monday, a day after a tire failure led to a hard crash at Talladega Superspeedway.

Hamlin was kept overnight for observation at a Birmingham hospital after his car slammed into a wall. He was alert and awake when he was transported to the UAB Medical Center on Sunday, but was complaining of a headache and possibly had a concussion. He was also favoring his right foot after a slow exit from his crumpled car.

Jankovic regains world No.1 tennis spot

PARIS, 7 Oct — Jelena Jankovic of Serbia was confirmed as regaining the world No.1 ranking on Monday following her win in the WTA tournament at Stuttgart on Sunday.

She takes over from Serena Williams in the sixth changeover at the top since Justine Henin retired in May.

Jankovic held the top ranking for just one week in August before being overtaken by compatriot Ana Ivanovic.

Seve Ballesteros admitted to hospital

MADRID, 7 Oct — Seve Ballesteros was admitted to a hospital Monday after feeling dizzy and fainting. Ballesteros, the winner of three British Opens and two Masters, was taken to La Paz hospital after briefly losing consciousness, the hospital said in a statement. His condition was stable, and he was undergoing diagnostic tests, the hospital said.

No further information on his condition or treatment would be made available under instructions from Ballesteros’ family, the hospital said.
Asia education summit calls for strong partnership

DHAKA, 7 Oct— Asia regional higher education summit called here on Monday for stronger partnerships among public and private institutions across the globe to face the emerging challenges, local newspaper reported on Tuesday. The three-day summit, first of its kind in Asia, began in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka on Monday with participation of around 150 university presidents and vice chancellors, senior executives of businesses and foundations and government officials.

Speakers at the inaugural session termed terrorism, food shortages, energy deficiency and poverty the major challenges that the world is undergoing today, saying that it is higher education and innovative thinking that can help face these challenges.

Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman of Bangladesh caretaker government said at the inaugural session, "degradation of ecology, population, rapid urbanization and poverty are the major issues in the case of Bangladesh."

MNA/Xinhua

Obama widens leading margins over McCain in nat’l polls

WASHINGTON, 7 Oct— US Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama is moving further ahead in all national polls Monday in the wake of economic downturn and financial crisis.

The latest CNN survey found Obama now leads McCain 53 to 45 per cent, doubling the 4-point lead Obama held in the last CNN poll in mid-September. The Gallup daily tracking poll also show Obama leads by 5 per cent, with 50 per cent of the respondents supporting him and 42 per cent supporting McCain.

In all other national polls, Obama’s leading margins range from 6 to 8 per cent. Pollsters said the Obama’s gains could be attributed to the financial turmoil, record-low approval ratings for Republican President George W. Bush and a drop in the public’s perception of Republican presidential candidate John McCain’s running mate Sara Palin.

MNA/Xinhua

Large molybdenum mine found in south China

HAIKOU, 7 Oct— A large field containing rich deposits of rare molybdenum has been found in south China’s island province of Hainan, local authorities said here.

Molybdenum is a hard, silvery mineral mainly used in toughening alloy steels and softening tungsten alloys. It is used in aviation, construction and military material manufacturing industries.

The proven reserves of the mine in Baoting County are estimated at 254,000 tons worth of more than 100 billion yuan (14.6 billion US dollars), making it one of the ten largest molybdenum mines in the country, according to a statement from the Hainan Provincial Mining Association on Sunday.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather

Rainfall on 7-10-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (18:30) hours MST on 6-10-2008 was (3.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 7-10-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (18:30) hours MST on 6-10-2008 was (3.8) hours approx.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-10-2008:

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecasts for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-10-2008: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

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Remarkable progress of Shwe Kokko and Myitta Lin Myaing villages in Myawady Township

Article by Maung Maung Htwe (MNA), photos by Hla Moe (MNA)

During our recent trip to Kayin State, we mediamen dropped in Myawady and surrounding villages due to the arrangements made by Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Zaw Min. Myawady of Kayin State shares the border with the neighbouring country, and has enjoyed rapid development. In particular, its basic education schools are on a par with a degree college. The village's development rate has gathered momentum with livestock farms, rubber farms, physic nut plantations and gardens. Establishment of a border trade centre in the town is a giant step for development of border trade with neighbouring Thailand.

While in Myawady, we had an opportunity to visit Shwe Kokko and Myitta Lin Myaing villages on a package tour arranged by officials concerned. (See page 11)