Secretary-1 greets members of panel of judges (central), contestants and managers of States and Divisions

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Oct—Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greeted members of the panel of judges (central), contestants and managers to the Performing Arts Competitions at the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall at 4 pm today. Also present on the occasion were members of the Penal of Patrons of the Leading Committee, Chairman of the Leading Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and members, Chairman of the Work Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khan Aung Myint.

INSIDE

Myanmar’s efforts for achieving Millennium Development Goals

PROFESSOR DR PAING SOE
ENDUNE for improvement of education quality

The government has laid down long and short-term plans for promotion of national education and is implementing them systematically. School management course for township education officers was opened in Nay Pyi Taw the other day for fully realization of educational tasks and objectives.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo urged the TEOs and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council to learn lectures at the course to improve systematically. School management course for township education officers was opened to improve realization of educational tasks and short-term plans for promotion of national education and is implementing them systematically.

He also said that implementation of educational tasks, constant supervision, reviews and remedies, fulfillment of the requirements and coordination and cooperation are imperative.

Teachers must be fully equipped with patriotism and Union Spirit and they are to make efforts for the students to have such spirit based on schools. It is necessary to successfully implement the objectives of the basic education sector and higher education sector to reach the education system of international standard so that the 30-year national education promotion programme will be successful.

Applications for State Pariyatti Sasana Universities

YANGON, 15 Oct—Monks and novices, under 30 years old and 10 vasa, who have passed the Government Pahamagyi or Cetiyangana or Sakaksha course, may apply for Sasana Taxila Dhammaçaṇiya (first-year) course for 1370-71 academic year at State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon and Mandalay).

They have to sit for the entrance examination with subjects—Vinaya, Abhidhamma, religious affairs and general knowledge paper, the Pali paper and the English paper—one day each.

The application forms are available at the university beginning 17 October and the applications must be submitted to the Registrar Offices of the respective universities, not later than 2 November. For further information, dial 01-665362 and 01-662997 of the Registrar Office 01-664395 of the Administrative Body Office of the SPUS (Yangon), and 02-66982 of the Registrar Office 01-662997 of the Administrative Body Office of the SPUS (Mandalay).

Ogawa Massage Chair & Healthcare Products introduced

YANGON, 15 Oct—Ogawa World Berhad introduced Ogawa massage chair and health products at Sedona Hotel, here, on 11 October.

Malaysia-made products are on sale at 176 shops in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, Shanghai, Beijing, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Myanmar. Ogawa is of five kinds—relaxation, therapeutic, fitness, diagnostic and hygiene. The chairs promise thorough massage and can remove muscle stiffness. Health products include such equipment as foot massagers, portable massagers, and sphygmomanometer.

Dr Su Hla Han, Executive Director of Medi Myanmar Group Ltd, sole agent, extended greeting at the ceremony. Afterwards, Mr Louis Chong, Executive Director of Ogawa World Berhad, explained facts on the Ogawa pro-ducts. U Win Myint, President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), discussed facts on the products. Singer-cum-actor Sai Sai Kham Hlaing was made Ogawa Ambassador.

A two-year grantee is given for the products. Ogawa showrooms are at No.46, Pyay Road, 61/2th Mile, Hline Township, Yangon and at Hotel Mandalay, No. 652, 78th street between 37th and 38th streets, Mandalay.
Nearly 190,000 flee Pakistan battles

ISLAMABAD, 15 Oct—Nearly 190,000 people are reported to have fled fighting between Pakistani troops and militants near the border with Afghanistan, the United Nations said Tuesday as fresh clashes in the area killed 17 militants.

Meanwhile, police in the frontier region released a man of dual American-Pakistani citizenship they had arrested Monday in the volatile border region.

Authorities originally described the 20-year-old as a US citizen travelling without the permission foreigners need to enter the region, which has seen of months of fighting between militants and security forces and is considered a possible hiding place for al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

“After interrogation we found out he holds dual nationali­ty,” saidCharsadda district police chief Waqif Khan. “He was roaming in that area just due to his lack of knowledge about the sensitivity there.”

Fighting is spreading across Pakistan’s rugged northwest as the government tries to crack down on insurgents blamed for soaring attacks on US and NATO forces in Afghanistan and a bloody campaign of suicide bombings against military and western targets within Pakistan. Most of the clashes are taking place in Bajur, where the Pakistani military launched a major offensive in early August. The UN’s refugee agency said at least 20,000 Pakistanis and Afghans have fled from Bajur into eastern Afghanistan’s Kunar province since the fighting began.—Internet

No peace in sight in DR Congo’s mineral-rich Kivu

NAIROBI, 15 Oct—The Democratic Republic of Congo’s powderkeg east is being bled dry as Kinshasa and Rwanda refuse to bury the hatchet and marauding militias plunder its bountiful mineral wealth, analysts say.

The traditional suspicion and hostility between the two neighbours—who accuse each other of propping up anti-government rebel outfits—is fuelling a long-dragging conflict despite truce ac­cords and talks between the two sides. “The two capitals are not serious about the negotiations,” said Dr. Tshibwabwa, a researcher with the International Crisis Group (ICG).

Sri Lankan military says 22 killed in fighting

COLOMBO, 15 Oct—Scattered fighting in southern Sri Lanka killed 20 rebels and two soldiers as the government pressed ahead with its offensive against the Tamil Tigers, the military said Tuesday. Meanwhile, the rebel-affiliated TamilNet Web site reported that three more soldiers were killed in two ambushes Tuesday in the government-controlled east. But a military spokesman said only two soldiers were wounded and admitted to a hospital.

In a series of confrontations Monday in the Kilinochchi region, 11 rebel fighters and two soldiers were killed, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said. Fighting in Jaffna, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu killed nine other rebels, he said.—Internet

US soldier killed by gunfire in western Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 15 Oct—An American soldier was killed Tuesday by gunfire in western Baghdad, the US military said, the first US combat death in the capital in two weeks.

Five Sunni insurgent organizations, meanwhile, have issued statements disavowing attacks on Iraqi Christians in Mosul, a monitoring service reported Tuesday. The attacks, widely blamed on al-Qaida in Iraq, have prompted thousands of Christians to flee the northern city.

A US statement said the soldier, whose name was not released, was wounded when gunfire opened fire on a US patrol late Tuesday afternoon. The soldier was rushed to a hospital by helicopter but died of the wounds, the statement said.

It was the first combat death suffered by American forces in the capital since 30 Sept, when the military said a soldier was killed by small arms fire in northern Baghdad.

Seven US troops have died in Iraq this month, all but two of them in combat.—Internet

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,183

WASHINGTON, 15 Oct—As of Tuesday, 14 Oct, 2008, at least 4,183 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,385 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s weekly tally.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 30,702 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s weekly tally.—Internet

Afghan elder carry the body of an alleged Taliban militant, who was killed by the NATO-airstrikes in Lashkar Gah after the militants had attacked Afghan forces on the outskirts of the city, out of a hospital in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital of Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on 12 Oct, 2008.—INTERNET

A woman cries as she holds a baby while waiting to claim the remains of her husband’s body found in a mass grave, outside a hospital morgue in Kerbala, 80 km (50 miles) southwest of Baghdad on 15 Oct, 2008. Police have discovered the decomposing bodies of 22 men dumped in a mass grave in west of the holy Shiite city of Kerbala, police and hospital sources said on Wednesday. INTERNET

A young boy walks in front of a building with a ‘for sale’ banner, top centre, in the Sadr City district of Baghdad, on 5 Oct, 2008. Real estate prices have doubled in some areas of the Iraqi capital. A poster on the right is of anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. INTERNET

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China, Pakistan sign 10-plus deals as Zardari makes first Beijing trip

China and Pakistan on Wednesday signed more than 10 deals ranging from trade and minerals to agriculture and satellites.

The package of agreements came out of a two-hour summit at Beijing’s Great Hall of the People as China rolled out the red carpet for Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, who is on his first state visit to the country since taking office in September.

China’s 30 years of development in eyes of an Austrian professor

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Chemical, biological weapons bigger threat than N-war

A large military conflict in Europe is not supposed, but we must not slacken our effort in educating specialists in protection against mass destruction weapons and in technological development,” said Proks, who attended a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) conference on protection against mass destruction weapons.

Two municipal working staff work on the waterlogged street in Haikou, capital of south China’s Hainan Province, on 14 Oct, 2008. —Xinhua

China opens digital library for blind

A digital library for the blind, where the visually impaired can listen to electronic books, music or on-line lectures for free, has opened in the Chinese capital.

Situated in the National Library, the facility was jointly set up by the Information Centre of the China Disabled Persons’ Federation, the National Library and China Braille Publishing House.

It was opened on the eve of the International Day of the Blind, which falls on Wednesday.

About 200 electronic books, 500 audio programmes and 500 video programmes are available at the library, covering ancient Chinese culture, medicine, modern literature and daily life. Some of the materials were provided according to requests from the blind.—Xinhua

CPC delegation leaves for India visit

A delegation of the Communist Party of China (CPC) left here on Wednesday for a good-will visit to India at the invitation of Sonia Gandhi, president of the Indian National Congress.

The delegation is led by Yu Zhengsheng, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Members of the Press look at an aluminium uni-body that is used in MacBook Pro laptops during a special announcement event with Apple CEO Steve Jobs at Apple Headquarters in Cupertino, California. Apple on Tuesday unveiled a revamped line of Macintosh laptop computers made leaner, slicker, faster and a bit more affordable.—INTERNET
Budget deficit in 2008 surges to all-time high

WASHINGTON, 15 Oct—The federal budget deficit soared to $454.8 billion in 2008 as a housing collapse and efforts to combat the economic slowdown pushed the tide of government red ink to the highest level in history.

The Bush administration said Tuesday the deficit for the budget year that ended 30 Sept was more than double the $161.5 billion recorded in 2007. It surpassed the previous record of $413 billion set in 2004.

Economists predicted a far worse number next year as the costs of the government’s rescue of the financial system and the economic hard times hit the nation’s balance sheet.

Some analysts believe that next year’s deficit could easily top $700 billion, giving the next president a formidable challenge.

The administration blamed this year’s record deficit on a litany of economic woes. The prolonged housing slump sharply reduced economic growth and has sent the unemployment rate rising, developments that reduce tax revenues.

“This year’s budget results reflect the ongoing housing correction and the manifestation of that in strained capital markets and slower growth,” Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said in a statement accompanying the deficit report.

Computer likely caused Qantas plunge

CANBERRA (Australia), 15 Oct—A faulty computer unit likely caused a Qantas jetliner to experience two terrifying midair plunges within minutes last week, an Australian investigator said Tuesday.

More than 40 people were injured when the Airbus A330-300 briefly nose-dived twice during a flight from Singapore to the western Australian city of Perth last Thursday.

Julian Walsh, chief air investigator at the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, said an initial investigation indicated the cause was a computer unit that detects through sensors the angle of the plane against the airstream.

He said one of the plane’s three such units malfunctioned and sent the wrong data to the main flight computers.

The flight data recorder indicated the plane, carrying 303 passengers and 10 crew, climbed about 200 feet from its cruising level of 37,000 feet and then went into a nose-dive, dropping about 650 feet in 20 seconds, before returning to cruising level, the safety bureau said last week. The sharp drop was quickly followed by a second of about 400 feet in 16 seconds.

New York City could lose 165,000 jobs, says report

NEW YORK, 15 Oct—A report scheduled to be released Wednesday estimates that New York City could lose 165,000 jobs within the next two years as a result of the recent turbulence on Wall Street. The job loss projection by New York City comptroller’s chief economist is nearly double the 85,000 forecast in July.

“This was what we had feared, but hoped we could avoid,” said Frank Braconi, the chief economist who authored the report. “It represents that there’s a much wider range of problems in the economy now than six months ago.”

The forecast of 165,000 lost jobs includes the prediction that as many as 35,000 could be lost in the financial services industry, up from a previous forecast of 25,000 financial jobs out of a total of 85,000. That means a greater percentage of job losses are forecasted for other industries.

Indonesia suspends four airliners for lack of safety

JAKARTA, 15 Oct—The Indonesian transport ministry has suspended four charter airliners due to lack of safety standard, spokesman of the ministry Bambang Ervan said here Wednesday.

The move is one of the efforts to boost flight safety in the archipelago country, which is now struggling to exit from the European Union (EU) travel ban which has been imposed since 6 July last year.

Intel expects profits to hold up in 4Q

SAN JOSE (Calif), 15 Oct—Intel Corp has provided some insight into the state of global PC demand, telling Wall Street that while technology spending may be slumping, the chip maker fully expects its profits to hold steady.

The Santa Clara-based company, the world’s largest maker of PC microprocessors, said Tuesday that its third-quarter profit rose 12 percent, beating analysts’ estimates by a penny per share.

The increase was driven in large part by technological advances that lower Intel’s cost of making each chip, which helps the company wring out more profits even in tough economic times.

S Korea’s economy to expand 3.6% in 2009

SEOUL, 15 Oct—Samsung Economic Research Institute (SERI), one of South Korea’s major think tanks, said Wednesday that the nation’s economy is expected to grow 3.6 percent next year.

The forecast is lower than the 2008 GDP growth estimate of 4.4 percent by the institution. “Amid a global economic slowdown, South Korea’s exports will likely grow at a single digit pace next year,” SERI said in the report.

The report cited that the country is depending solely on exports to prop up its economy amid sluggish domestic consumption.
Spanish leader agrees to visit Cuba next year

Cuba’s advances in human rights. Zapatero later told reporters that “there is a proposal” and “we’ll see when the time comes if it is carried out and how it is carried out.” A government spokesman insisted Zapatero was not throwing doubt on the possibility of the visit but simply saying it was not known when exactly it would happen.

Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque, left, poses with Spain’s King Juan Carlos before their meeting in the Zarzuela Palace in Madrid on 14 Oct, 2008.—INTERNET

Two buildings damaged by blasts in SW Japan, no one injured

There was nothing unusual when a staff member of the cultural hall left the facility late Sunday night, and nearby residents said they heard a loud noise early Monday morning, police said.

The second blast at the entrance of the international exchange centre occurred at around 9:00 am Tuesday (2400 GMT Monday), local media reported.

“We are very surprised because it is the first time that something like this happened,” a local official was quoted as saying. —INTERNET

Diana’s dying pictures outrage UK

London: After almost a decade, the death of Britain’s princess Diana remains a source of great sadness and speculation. No one is surprised that plans to broadcast a documentary that includes unseen images of her dying moments has become a cause of outrage in UK.

Just minutes after leaving the Ritz hotel in Paris on 31 August, 1997, princess Diana lie unconscious, dying within the wreckage of the car. For almost ten years the British media has adhered to an unwritten code not to publish or broadcast photographs of the princess taken after the accident. But now one British TV network is breaking ranks and it’s caused quite a stir. “It’s a particularly sick gimmick. They’re only interested in extraordinary amounts of publicity. And that they have already got,” said Royal Commentator Richard Fitzwilliams.

Two killed in Shanghai crane collapse

SHANGHAI, 15 Oct—Two operators were killed when a tower crane collapsed on Tuesday at a power plant in Shanghai, local work safety officials said.

The accident took place at 3:50 pm in the Shidongkou power plant, one of three key electricity bases for the financial hub, when the crane was being checked upon delivery. On Monday, a bridge crane collapsed at a Shanghai dock and crashed down on two firefighters, seriously injuring the crane operator and causing damage to the vessels.—INTERNET

New flying dinosaur drone to resemble pterodactyl

Pterodactyls may have gone extinct millions of years ago, but a newly designed flying plane could bring the flying reptiles to life, albeit replacing their carbon fibre and batteries. “The next generation of airborne drones won’t be as big and silent,” the design team announced recently. “They’ll alter the design team’s approach to morphing shapes to squeeze through confined spaces, drive between buildings, zoom under overpasses, land on apartment balconies, or sail along the coast-line.”

Called Pterodrone, the spy plane is about the size of a crow but with a much larger wingspan that reaches nearly 32 inches (80 cm).

Its design will be inspired by one of the savviest movers of the Cretaceous, a pterosaur called Tapejaras wellhoferi. This ancient reptile was a morphing machine. On land, Tapejaras walked on four legs before rearing up on its two back limbs and running at speeds over 30 km/h.

American astronauts recently flew aboard a Russian spacecraft could serve as an example of such cooperation.

Around 25 scientists attended the seminar organized in Prague by the Czech Space Office and the Russian Centre of Science and Culture in cooperation with the Czech Technical University (CVUT) Faculty of Nuclear Science and Physical Engineering.—INTERNET

Widow throws herself on funeral pyre

An elderly woman in the eastern Indian state of Chhattisgarh jumped into her husband’s funeral pyre, killing herself in an outlawed custom, police said.

Lalmati Verma, 71, immolated herself on Saturday after mourners had set the pyre on fire and her husband’s funeral pyre, killing herself in a state of Chhattisgarh jumped into her husband’s funeral pyre, killing herself in a state of Chhattisgarh. The snake spent eight years there.

Texas Paleontologist Sankar Chatterjee poses with a model of the Tapejara pterodactyl at the Texas Tech Museum in Lubbock, Texas. Chatterjee and a University of Florida aeronautical engineer have designed a military drone inspired by one of the savviest movers of the Cretaceous, a pterosaur called Tapejara wellhoferi. This ancient reptile was a morphing machine. On land, Tapejara walked on four legs before rearing up on its two back limbs and running at speeds over 30 km/h. Once airborne, the beast could cruise at some 19 mph (30 km/h), according to the researchers.

Russian-Czech space co-op to improve in future

PRAGUE, 14 Oct—Vladimir Nazarov from the Russian Academy of Sciences Space Research Institute expected future years to be marked by better Czech-Russian and international cooperation in space research, the Czech news agency CTK said on Tuesday. At a seminar on Russian-Czech cooperation in space research during the two-day European Inter-Parliamentary Space Conference (EISC) meeting, Nazarov voiced regret over the weakening of such cooperation in the past two decades.

However, this cooperation experiences reassurance at present and today’s seminar witnessed it, he said. According to Nazarov, Russia was cooperating with the ESA and the United States in space research and that the International Space Station (ISS) to which Russian cosmonauts and American astronauts recently flew aboard a Russian spacecraft could serve as an example of such cooperation.

Around 25 scientists attended the seminar organized in Prague by the Czech Space Office and the Russian Centre of Science and Culture in cooperation with the Czech Technical University (CVUT) Faculty of Nuclear Science and Physical Engineering.—INTERNET
Myanmar’s efforts for achieving Millennium Development Goals

Professor Dr Paing Soe

The government of the Union of Myanmar is in the process of building a new peaceful modern and developed discipline flourished democratic nation. In building the nation, the government has laid down the political, economic and social objectives. In order to fulfill one of the social objectives “Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation” the government has formed the National Health Committee (NHC), the highest level policy making body for health matters comprising Ministers from health-related ministries. Under the leadership of this NHC, health related activities to achieve the health related Millennium Development Goals set by the World Health Organization have been implemented.

Health Related Millennium Development Goals

Millennium Development Goal (1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Millennium Development Goal (4) Reduce child mortality
- Millennium Development Goal (5) Improve Maternal Health
- Millennium Development Goal (6) Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
- Millennium Development Goal (7) Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- Millennium Development Goal (8) Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Prevalence of under weight among under-five children in 1997 was 38.6%, 36.3% in 2000 and 31.8% in 2003 and will be reduced to 19.3% in 2015. The prevalence of under nutrition among the boy was 31.1% and it was 32.6% in girls. The prevalence of under weight was higher in rural (33.6%) than urban (26.6%). According to the age, the prevalence of under weight was higher among 2 years to 5 years.

Under the poverty reduction strategy, the construction of new bridges and roads by the government has been conceded by the WHO (SEA region) as follows:

“Since 1988 as many as 164 new bridges were constructed in the country. These bridges can expedite timely referral of ill cases as well as easy access to formal education from primary level up to university level. Transportation of goods across bridges will improve economic conditions of the community, especially the low-income groups. Education and income are directly or indirectly related to health and health system development. Therefore, the 164 new bridges can surely enhance health development in Myanmar.”

Concerning the Myanmar’s activities in food demand and supply activities, the commentary was as follows:

“The population of Myanmar is currently estimated at 55.4 millions and is expected to reach 60 millions by 2010. As a result there will be an increasing need to meet the increased demand for food. Additional food requirements will have to be met through crop extensions and land development. This will eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. During 1990-2004, 150 dams have been built to irrigate 2,093,219 acres of agricultural land, using 265 river water pumping stations, 282,108 acres of new-own areas of cropland have also been developed between 1995 and 2002. These dams and river water pumping systems can increase production of food, which will lead to poverty eradication change in behaviour and lifestyle as also changes in climatic conditions.”

WHO indicated in one of its reports that food production in Myanmar has already far exceeded its national requirements. Average calorie consumption per person is 2900 and this meets the actual requirement.

Ministry of Health and other related Ministries, UNICEF, WHO and NGOs are collaborating closely for promotion of maternal and child nutritional status in Myanmar.

Nutrition promotion services are being implemented with the aim (being set) of promoting the practice of taking balanced diet in a proper way among Myanmar people. For alleviation of vitamin A deficiencies among children, vitamin A tablets are distributed to children 6 months-5 years age group every 6 months. Vitamin A tablets are provided to mothers 1 month after deliveries. Iron tablets are distributed to pregnant mothers and middle and high school level school girls. Pregnant and lactating mothers are given vitamin B1 tablets starting from 1 months before delivery and till 3 months after delivery to prevent Beri Beri.

All children of the age group 2-5 years and all primary school children are dewormed twice every year. Mothers who are pregnant 3 months and above are dewormed once before delivery.

In order to promote nutritional status of the people, various approaches like provision of multivitamins, distribution of fortified food and providing nutritional health education are being implemented.

Iodization of salt programme is in progress to make iodized salt available to all citizens.

Availability of village food banks at village levels contribute towards nutritional promotion of rural people.

In urban areas, through participation of well-wishers, nutrition promotion centers are established and contributing towards nutrition promotion.

Thus malnutrition among children will soon be eliminated because of proper eating and feeding practices among the community members.

“Along with economic development, per capita income increased from 1,794 Kyats in 1999/2000 to 68,902 Kyats in 2001, and it is expected that GDP will rise significantly in the near future following development of communication systems and construction of new bridges, roads and rail lines. Since the enactment of Foreign Investment Law in November 1988, permitted total amount of foreign investment reached US$ 7.750 billion at the end of March 2005 (Myanmar MDG Report 2005).”

Reduce child mortality

Millennium Development Goal (5) is to “Reduce child mortality” and health related indicators are the followings:

- Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)
- Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)
- Proportion of 1 year old children immunized against measles.

Aiming towards the under five mortality rate to be reduced by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015.

In Myanmar, under-five mortality rate is on the descending trend and it declines from 82.4/1,000 live births in 1995 to 66.1/1,000 live births in 2003. However, infant mortality rate is not markedly changed and it fluctuates between 49 to 55/1000 live births.

Important finding of U5MR survey (2003) are 87% of total under-five deaths occur in rural area, infant deaths contribute 73% of under-five deaths and 70% of infants deaths occur during first three months of age.

Based on evidences and lesson learnt from previous strategies and interventions, Department of Health formulated a Five-Year Strategic Plan for Child Health (2005-2009) with technical inputs from main stakeholders. It has been implementing with phase manner and closely cooperation with Five-Year Strategic Plan for Reproductive Health and Five-Year Strategic Plan for Adolescent Health.

The following areas have been intensifies and strengthened to meet Millennium Development Goal.

1. Resource mobilization for hard to reach areas and outreach areas
2. Essential newborn care
3. Referral services for emergency care
4. Promotion of key family practices and community participation
5. Cooperation among related stakeholders, departments and organizations to avoid overlapping and to obtain the most cost effective benefits.

Moreover, Department of Health formulated a comprehensive and innovative project, Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) project, to reduce the maternal and child mortality and it has been implemented in National Health Plan (2007-2011) with life cycle approach and continuum care of Mother, Newborn, Child Health and adolescent.

High impact and low cost interventions have been prioritized for effective implementation. Community based pneumonia treatment, utilization of new formula ORS and zinc sulphate tablets for the management of diarrhoea, strengthening of selected key family and community practices and formulation of child survival forum to strengthen child health and development activities have been implemented to reduce infant and child mortality. Interventions for rural health development, community component and essential newborn care services will be prioritized.

In near future, Hepatitis B vaccine may be introduced as a routine procedure in EPI programme.

Beri Beri surveillance system has been carried out for B1 deficiency. Interventions for prevention and control, appropriate and timely management of common infectious diseases will be intensified.

The measles immunization coverage of under one children in Myanmar has been achieved up to 86.6% in 2003 and aim to increase up to 90% in 2015.

Health care activities of School aged children have also been promoted by joint collaboration and coordination between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. To enhance their nutrition development, deworming of school children was promoted in 2004 throughout the country in which 1.5 million school children in 7,500 schools were treated with albendazole. During December 2007, 4.9 million school children and 2.0 million pre-school age children were also dewormed.

(To be continued)
The postcard depicting 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.—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

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects repairing of Pyidawtha lake near Ohntheekwe village in Yamethin Township.

Regional development tasks inspected

In his meeting with local peasants, the minister explained matters related to per acre yield of 1,600 viss cotton from Ngwechi-6 staple cotton and looked into progress in building the embankment. Pyidawtha lake can supply water to 650 acres of farmlands as well as drinking water. In Theingon village, the minister and party met with cotton growers, attended to the needs and oversaw thriving Ngwechi-6 staple cotton plantation of cotton grower Daw Maw.

Walking race to mark International White Cane Day

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Education Minister visits universities in Yangon

YANGON, 15 Oct—Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein visited University of Foreign Languages (Yangon), University of Distance Education (Yangon), Yangon University, Institute of Economics (Yangon) and Institute of Education (Yangon) this afternoon. The minister met with rectors, pro-rectors, heads of department and faculty members and gave instructions on academic and management matters.—MNA

Work Committee Secretary meets members of panel of judges, managers

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Oct—Secretary of the Work Committee for Organizing the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2008 Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of Fine Arts Department met with members of the Work Committee, members of the Panel of Judges (Central), members of the panel of judges of States and Divisions and managers of State and Division teams at the training hall of No. 7 Transit Centre here this evening. The director-general gave instructions on matters related to the competitions.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials take part in walking race to mark International White Cane Day.—xvdc

Walking race to mark International White Cane Day

YANGON, 15 Oct—The 17th Yangon Mayor’s Cup Walking Race to mark International White Cane Day was held in front of People’s Square and People’s Park on Pyay Road in Dagon Township, here, this morning. As soon as a gun was fired into the air to start the race, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin took part in the race together with the vice-mayor, officials and 870 blind contestants from respective schools for the blind starting from People’s Square and People’s Park to Pyay Road and then to Phonegyi street and Maha Bandoola Road. On their way to the finishing line, staff of Dagon, Lannmadaw, Latba, Pabedan and Kyauktada townships Development Affairs Committees, members of social organizations and the people welcomed and provided refreshments. Next, a ceremony to present prizes to schools for the blind was held at the City Hall and the Mayor made a speech on the occasion and he presented the cup and gifts to officials concerned. Afterwards, Secretary U Aung Than Win of YCDC and Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, wife of the mayor, put spectacles on the blind children and then presented prizes to winners in the 7th Chess Tournament organized by Myanmar Association for the Blind. On behalf of the blind contestants, Ma The Mon Pyae spoke words of thanks. Next, families of Yangon Kandawgyi Natural Gardens donated K 1,930,000 to schools for the blind. Students from schools for blind presented songs and music and wellwishers donated cash.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects repairing of Pyidawtha lake near Ohntheekwe village in Yamethin Township. MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects repairing of Pyidawtha lake near Ohntheekwe village in Yamethin Township.

Regional development tasks inspected

In his meeting with local peasants, the minister explained matters related to per acre yield of 1,600 viss cotton from Ngwechi-6 staple cotton and looked into progress in building the embankment. Pyidawtha lake can supply water to 650 acres of farmlands as well as drinking water. In Theingon village, the minister and party met with cotton growers, attended to the needs and oversaw thriving Ngwechi-6 staple cotton plantation of cotton grower Daw Maw.

Walking race to mark International White Cane Day

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**Stake driven for building historic Danok Pagoda**

YANGON, 15 Oct — A stake-driving ceremony of historic Danok Pagoda was held on the platform of Danok Pagoda in Dalla Township yesterday. Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay attended the ceremony. On the occasion, wellwishers donated K 93,075,000 to the funds of the pagoda.

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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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**No. 1 Motor Transport Battalion wins Volleyball championship**

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Oct — No. 1 Motor Transport Battalion beat No. 2 Motor Transport Battalion in the final of Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander’s Shield Volleyball Championship at Paunglaung sports ground.

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife Daw Swe Swe Oo watched the match and the commander presented the championship shields to leaders of the winning men’s and women’s teams of No. 1 Motor Transport Battalion. Officials also presented prizes to players of the teams and individual prizes to each players.

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**Commander visits model paddy field in Myinmu**

YANGON, 15 Oct — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe inspected thriving 100-acre of model Shwepyisoe paddy field of farmer U Pyomon at Pyaw Village in Myinmu Township on 10 October. Next, the commander viewed broadcasting of fertilizer on the farm and fulfilled the needs.

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**I&P Minister meets service personnel in NyaungU, Myingyan**

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Oct — Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Saw Lwin met service personnel at the NyaungU District Immigration and National Registration Department in NyaungU, Mandalay Division on 12 October. The minister urged them to strive for timely completion of plans and inspected systematic keeping of files in the office. On 13 October, the minister also met with personnel at the Myingyan District Immigration and National Registration Department in Myingyan and looked into systematic keeping of files in the office.

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**Health Deputy Minister attends ASEAN Health Ministers meeting**

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Oct — The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe attended the 9th ASEAN Health Ministers meeting, the 3rd ASEAN-China Health Ministers meeting held at Manila, the Philippines from 7 to 10 October. The deputy minister delivered an address at the 9th ASEAN Health Ministers meeting on 9 October. At the meeting, those present approved the MoU presented by WHO and ASEAN member nations. The 3rd ASEAN plus Three Health Ministers meeting held on 10 October. Those present agreed to make stronger collaboration in addressing health concerns. The deputy minister made a speech at the 2nd ASEAN+China Health Ministers meeting held on 10 October. At the meeting, the health ministers and high-ranking officials held discussions on sharing of health information, conducting courses and exchange of experiences and laid down future tasks.

The deputy minister and delegation members arrived back here on 13 October.
Storm-hit Dedaye making a quick recuperation

(Article by Maung Maung Htwe (MNA); Photos by Hla Moe (MNA))

Recently, storm victims were discouraged and kept quiet with a heavy heart. Now, local people have restored their businesses, so their wounds caused by the storm “Nargis” have healed and their painful memories have subsided. They have started a new life, keeping their hopes of a prosperous future alive.

When asked about reconstruction tasks in Dedaye Township, Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Myo Aung said, “Our town has more than 150,000 storm victims. Now, almost all the ravaged houses have been reconstructed. Several companies and officials have built many housing estates for the victims in the storm-hit villages such as Kyondah, Toe, Thandike, western Mayan, Dedaye, Kyondah Ywama, Thaukkyar, Layywa, Lay-ein-dan, Kanhweik and Kadah. The Ministry of Rail Transportation has constructed 50 durable houses each in Dedaye and Kyondah Ywama villages, and it has repaired 383 lakes. Regarding the education sector, one hundred and one basic education schools in the township have been repaired, and we have begun the academic year since 12 June, and it is earlier than any other storm-hit township. In the 2007-2008 academic year, 35,942 students enrolled, and the number of students increased to 37,368 in 2008-2009 academic year. Regarding the health sector, only one rural health centre remains to be repaired. The ministry has provided funds for constructing a new building for Yonegyi Basic Education Primary School and repairing the township people’s hospital.

Aung Min and well-wishers made contributions for renovation of all the religious buildings. Now, local people have led their normal life and restored their businesses.” Lt-Col Myo Htut Hlaing of the local regiment of No. 66 LID said, “We started to form officers and other ranks into groups at 11 am on 3 May to launch rescue work. We arrived at Pyapon at 5 pm on 4 May. And we arrived at Dedaye at 12 midnight. Dedaye is only 17 or 18 miles from Pyapon, but it took us about 6 hours to reach our destination because we had to clear the roads blocked with debris. Normally, it takes only 45 minutes. On 5 and 6 May, servicemen, police members, departments and social organizations started to clear the roads, and launched rescue tasks in the town. We also distributed food supplies and medicines and gave treatment to injured victims. We have stayed here and carried out rehabilitation tasks for five months. Now, everything has returned normal, and we are all pleased with it.” Dedaye’s remarkable recovery from the catastrophe is a profound evidence that harmonious efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw can surmount any forms of difficulties.

Regarding the agricultural sector, we have provided 333 cattle, 870 power-tillers, 247,062 gallons of fuel, and 59,410 baskets of paddy seeds. So, we have grown monsoon paddy in 181,575 acres or 99.69 percent out of 182,143 targeted acres. Now, the remaining 568 acres are being put under paddy. “So far, we have provided fishing equipment including 755 fishing boats, 955 motorized fishing boats and fishing nets. Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and well-wishers made contributions for renovation of all the religious buildings. Now, local people have led their normal life and restored their businesses.”

YANGON, 15 Oct — Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and officials accepted clothes, kitchen utensils and foodstuffs worth K 25 million donated by Shwe Innlay Co and Ishikawa Myanmar Friendship Association for storm survivors at the hall of Fire Services Department in Mayangon Township this morning. —MNA

U-21 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament continues

YANGON, 15 Oct — The second round matches of the 24th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Cup U-21 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament kicked off at Eastern Command Zone (Taunggyi) this evening. At the sports ground in Taunggyi, Defence Services (Air) team beat South-West Command team 2-0 and Northern Command team hummed Coastal Region Command team 5-0. —MNA
Human remains found in crocodile in Australia

Canberra, 16 Oct — Police in Australia’s far north have conducted DNA tests to identify human remains found in the stomach of a 4.3-metre (14-feet) crocodile, Australian media reported on Tuesday.

Wildlife officers said the crocodile, captured near the tropical town of Cooktown in northern Queensland state, would not be put down despite the gruesome find.

“As it is an iconic animal, the crocodile will not be harmed or killed. It will not be released back into the wild,” a spokesman for Queensland’s Environment Protection Agency told Australian Associated Press.

Wildlife officers used x-rays and an endoscope to examine the contents of the crocodile’s stomach to find and take samples of the remains.

The crocodile was one of three captured during a search for a 62-year-old man who disappeared two weeks ago when he went to check crab traps on the Endeavour River.

The area is the natural habitat for salt water crocodiles, which are opportunistic, territorial hunters.—MNA/Reuters

Cuba gets new vice-president of Council of Ministers

Havana, 15 Oct — Cuba’s Council of State Monday appointed Minister of Government Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz as vice-president of the Council of Ministers, said local media.

Cabrisas, 71, will oversee the work of foreign trade and foreign investment ministries as well as other entities within the government.

The Council of State made the decision during a meeting on Monday. —MNA/Xinhua

IMF’s Strauss-Kahn says worst of crisis may be over

Paris, 15 Oct — The head of the IMF said on Monday the worst of the financial crisis was possibly over, and the Fund would draw lessons from the crisis to make proposals to reform the international financial system.

IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn said individual states should intervene when necessary according to their own specific needs, but it was important that any intervention should be “massive”. “I think that thanks to the decisions that have just been taken, the peak of the crisis is perhaps behind us. That’s what we’ll see in coming days”, Strauss-Kahn told French radio Europe 1. He said the full extent of the losses caused by the crisis would not be known for some time.

“The decisions that have been made over the past three days have the right elements to reassure,” Strauss-Kahn said. “The principles have to be the same everywhere and the implementation has to be on a country by country basis, according to local specificities in law, the history of the country and the structure of the banking industry,” he said. “Any intervention must be massive”.

Strauss-Kahn said the IMF would quickly present a report drawing lessons from the crisis, adding that the Bretton Woods institution should be given a bigger role in monitoring the financial system. “Surveillance (by the IMF) already exists today but it doesn’t stretch widely enough to all financial questions”, he said.—MNA/Reuters

All crew on sunken freighter rescued in S China Sea

Hainan, 15 Oct — All 10 crew members aboard a Vietnamese freighter that sank in the South China Sea off Hainan Province on Tuesday were rescued by a passing vessel early on Wednesday in a coordinated rescue effort by Chinese and Vietnamese maritime authorities.

The Hainan Maritime Safety Bureau confirmed that the crew members were rescued by a Vietnamese registered trader NAHCO, which was passing near the accident area.

The bureau said it received an emergency signal from the Vietnamese maritime rescue authority at 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, which indicated that the freighter HU009 was in danger of sinking about 40 nautical miles off Dongfang City, Hainan Island. —MNA/Xinhua

HK suspends German poultry import applications

Hong Kong, 15 Oct— Hong Kong’s Centre for Food Safety has announced the processing of applications for importing poultry and poultry products from Germany would be suspended with immediate effect.

“The decision was taken following confirmation of a case involving the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 on a poultry farm in the country,” a spokesman for the centre said Monday.

He said that the centre was seeking further information about the case from the relevant authorities.

Hong Kong has imported about 1,400 tons of frozen poultry meat or offal from Germany since April this year. —MNA/Xinhua

S Korea launches “Visit Korea Campaign 2010-2012”

Seoul, 14 Oct— South Korean Government on Tuesday declared year 2010 to 2012 as the “Visit Korea” years, to upgrade South Korea’s status as a destination for international tourists and its national brand.

The “Visit Korea Campaign 2010-2012” aims at attracting 10 million foreign tourists and earning 10 billion US dollars worth of tourism revenue in the first year of the nationwide campaign. A total of 6.45 million foreign tourists visited the nation last year. South Korea’s first lady Kim Yoon-ok made a speech at the opening ceremony of the campaign after being nominated as honorary chairperson of the organizing committee for the Visit Korea Campaign 2010-2012.

“The Lee Myung-bak government will extend its full assistance for the success of the Visit Korea Campaign, as well as for the development of the nation’s tourism industry,” Kim said in her speech. —MNA/Xinhua

Herd mentality can lead to strange places. Here, thousands of sheep board a Panamanian cargo ship bound for Jordan.—INTERNET

Tibor, a one-year-old southern white rhinoceros, learns fighting skills from his father, Atari, at the Zoological Centre Tel Aviv-Ramat Gan. He was the first rhino born at the park in 15 years.—INTERNET
Apple announces updated line of notebook computers

LOS ANGELES, 15 Oct—Apple Inc on Tuesday announced an updated line of notebook computers which cost less than the company’s current offerings. Apple CEO Steve Jobs said the new and greener notebook computers — including one for 999 US dollars — was a revamped version of the company’s MacBook Pro computer.

New innovations on the machine include new unibody construction, a glass, multi-touch trackpad and a thin, LED-backlit display, according to Jobs. Apple has also updated the Macbook Air and the Macbook. The new models are shipping today and will be available in stores tomorrow, Jobs said.

Jobs said the revamped laptops are free of several hazardous chemicals, such as arsenic and PVC and come in considerably smaller packaging than previous models.

“The spotlight turns to notebooks,” the company said in the announcement, which included the outline of what looked to be an Apple laptop computer. Apple analysts and rumour sites have been predicting for weeks that the company soon would announce an updated line of notebook computers.

The announcement came amid good and bad news for the company. On the plus side, Apple’s computers, particularly its notebook line, have been gradually gaining market share in recent years, outpacing sales of the broader PC industry. Further, the company’s iPhone handsets have been a hit with consumers, particularly since the launch of this summer of a second generation model with a faster network connection.

Hurricane Omar batters Aruba, heads for US islands

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, 15 Oct—Omar strengthened into a hurricane late Tuesday and drenched islands in the southeastern Caribbean, downsizing trees and blowing off a school’s roof as it menaced US islands.

Authorities issued a hurricane warning for the US Virgin islands as well as Puerto Rico’s Vieques and Culebra islands.

Hurricane warnings were also in place for St. Martin, the British Virgin Islands, St Kitts and Nevis and other islands.

Officials in Puerto Rico, already soaked from several days of rain, warned residents to prepare for a lot more and medical authorities appealed for blood donations for possible casualties.

Omar was a Category 1 hurricane with 75 mph (120 kph) winds, and the US National Hurricane Center in Miami projected it to continue to gain strength.

Prosecutors check Mafia threat against journalist

ROME, 15 Oct—Anti-Mafia prosecutors said Tuesday they are investigating a reported Mafia death threat against the Italian author of “Gomorra,” the best-selling expose on the criminal underworld in Naples.

Naples-based prosecutor Franco Roberti said that his unit is looking into an informant’s claim that the Camorra crime syndicate is planning to kill journalist Roberto Saviano by December.

“We are investigating to verify how true the claim is,” Roberti said by telephone.

The prosecutor said the reported threat involved an attack along a highway, which also would target Saviano’s police escort.

Saviano has been under police protection since 2006 when his book “Gomorra,” denouncing the Camorra’s hold on everything from garment industry to drug running to waste disposal, became a best-seller in Italy.

More than 200 kindergarten students suffer lymph node enlargement in E China

CIXI, 14 Oct—More than 200 kids from a kindergarten in Cixi in east China’s Zhejiang Province have been diagnosed with an enlargement of the mesentery lymph node, the local government said here on Tuesday.

Among the kids, 146 have node enlargement exceeding 10 mm, which means they should be hospitalized, according to a parent who cited a doctor’s suggestions.

The parents suspected it was cooking oil used by the Tiyi Kindergarten, which enrolled more than 400 children, that caused the lymph node enlargement.

However, an investigation by quality supervision authorities and medical professionals showed the cooking oil at the school was fine, said a Cixi city government spokesman.

An expert panel of seven local doctors said enlargement of the lymph node was common seen among pre-school children, so parents needn’t take measures to deal with the enlargement.

48 killed in road accidents in India

NEW DELHI, 15 Oct—A series of road accidents killed at least 48 people and injured another 64 in north and northeastern India on Tuesday, government officials and police said.

At least 20 people were killed in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand when the bus they were travelling in fell into a 500-foot-deep (152-metre-deep) gorge, Amit Chandola, a government spokesman told Associated Press.

The bus was carrying about 40 passengers and plunged as the driver tried to negotiate a turn on the curving mountain road, he said, adding that 20 people have been rescued so far.

Of those rescued, 15 people were injured, at least six of them seriously, he said, adding that the number of casualties may increase.

In another accident in Uttarakhand, five people were killed when the jeep they were traveling in rolled down a hill, Chandola said.

Pamuk, Turkish President open Frankfurt Book Fair

FRANKFURT, 15 Oct—Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk lamented difficulties facing writers in Turkey as the annual Frankfurt Book Fair opened Tuesday with his homeland as the featured nation, but the novelist was still upbeat about the state of Turkish literature.

“The Turkish state’s penchant for banning books and punishing writers unfortunately continues,” Pamuk, the 2006 Nobel literature prize winner, said at the annual Frankfurt Book Fair's official opening — citing legislation that was used to prosecute him and criticizing a ban on access to his book and the works of Nobel-winning poet Cemil Ozkan.

Pamuk, whose comments were translated into German. “The publishers let themselves be discouraged,” said Pamuk, still upbeat about the state of Turkish literature.

A woman puts books into a board at the Book Fair in Frankfurt, central Germany, on 14 Oct. 2008.
Abu Sara, on 5 Oct after Iraq. rally al-Qaida followers in ghanistan and managed to who had trained in Af- ern city of Mosul, the US military said today. The military state- ment described the man, known as Abu Qaswarah, as a charismatic leader who had trained in Af-ghanistan and managed to motivate foreign fighters —in a raid in the north- ern city of Mosul, the US military said today. coming under fire during a raid on a building that served as an al-Qaida in Iraq “key command and control location for” in Mosul, the military said. Abu Qaswarah—one of five insurgents killed— was later been positively identified, the military said, without elaborating. The insurgent leader became the senior al- Qaida in Iraq emir of northern Iraq in June 2007 and had “historic ties to AQI founder Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and senior al- Qaida leaders in Afghan- stan and Pakistan,” the military said.

It called him “al- Qaida in Iraq’s second-in-command” as the senior operational leader for al- Zarqawi’s successor, Abu Ayyub al-Masri, also known as Abu Hamza al- Muhajir. The announcement would indicate that al- Qaida in Iraq’s leadership has maintained a presence despite recent reports that many had fled to Afghan- stan and Pakistan where fighting has been on the rise.

Researchers expect hackers to prey on cell phones

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Oct— Some of the most vicious Internet predators are hackers who infect thousands of PCs with special viruses and lash the machines together into “botnets” to pump out spam or attack other computers. Now security researchers say cell phones, and not just PCs, are the next likely conscripts into the automated armies. The mobile phone as zombie computer is one possibility envisioned by security researchers from Georgia Tech in a new report coming out Wednesday. The report identifies the growing power of cell phones to open a new avenue of attack for hackers. Of particular concern is that as cell phones get more computing power and better Internet connections, hackers can capitalize on vulnerabilities in mobile phone operating systems or Web applications. Botnets, or networks of infected or robot PCs, are the weapons of choice when it comes to spam and so-called “denial of service attacks,” in which computer servers are overwhelmed with Internet traffic to shut them down. —Internet

Sweetened pill could help children beat malaria

LONDON, 15 Oct— A new, cherry-flavoured anti-malaria pill works as well as current treatments, is easy for children to swallow and could save lives, re- searchers reported on Wednesday. The tablet is not as bitter as current drugs and does not need to be crushed before eating, making it easier for children where the disease is endemic to stick to treatment, they said. “The dispersible for- mulation is easy to administer, gives compliance and effective treatment; and hence facilitates adoption in malaria control programmes,” Salim Ab- dulla of the Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania and colleagues wrote in the Lancet medical journal. The World Health Organization estimates malaria killed 881,000 people and infected 247 million people worldwide in 2006, the latest year for which figures were available. Some malaria experts say those num- bers underestimate the problem. The disease has become resistant to some drugs and work on a vaccine has been slow. One effective treatment is Novartis AG’s Coartem. The problem with current drugs is that many young children cannot swallow whole tablets and crushing them can weaken the medicine.

US says No. 2 leader of al Qaeda in Iraq killed

MOSUL, 15 Oct— American troops acting on a tip killed the No. 2 leader of al-Qaida in Iraq —a Moroccan known for his ability to recruit and motivate foreign fighters —in a raid in the northern city of Mosul, the US military said today. The military state-ment described the man, known as Abu Qaswarah, as a charismatic leader who had trained in Af-ghanistan and managed to rally al-Qaida followers in Iraq. US troops killed Abu Qaswarah, also known as Abu Sara, on 5 Oct after

Technicians make final checks to Hubble servicing equipment in September 2008 in the Payload Hazardous Servicing facility at Kennedy Space Centre, Florida. NASA said Tuesday it will make an attempt to revive the space telescope Hubble, idled since 27 September by an equipment failure, officials said on Tuesday. —Internet

NASA to start long distance repairs on Hubble

WASHINGTON, 15 Oct— NASA engineers say they know how to fix the broken Hubble Space Telescope: They have to wake up computer parts that have been sleeping in space for more than 18 years. On Wednesday, NASA will start a complicated remote-control fix of a major glitch that stopped the telescope from capturing and beaming down pictures. Hubble should be able to send stunning astronomy photos back to Earth by Friday, officials said. The abrupt failure more than two weeks ago caused NASA to postpone its Hubble upgrade mission from October to sometime next February or so. The delay is costing NASA about $10 million a month, officials said in a Tuesday telecon- ference. Key to the repair is activating a backup data-handling system that hasn’t been turned on since the telescope launched in 1990. Science data will be rerouted to that system, the equivalent of driving a new route that hasn’t been used before.

Scientists develop new cancer-killing compound from plant

WASHINGTON, 15 Oct— Researchers at University of Washington have updated a traditional Chinese medicine to create a compound that is more than 1,200 times more specific in killing certain kinds of cancer cells than currently available drugs, heralding the possibility of a more effective chemotherapy drug with minimal side effects. The new compound puts a novel twist on the common anti-malarial drug artemisinin, which is derived from the sweet wormwood plant. Sweet wormwood has been used in herbal Chinese medicine for at least 2,000 years, and is eaten in salads in some Asian countries. The scientists attached a chemical homing device to artemisinin that targets the drug selectively to cancer cells, sparing healthy cells. The compound kills 12,000 cancer cells for every healthy cell, meaning it could be turned into a drug with minimal side effects.
England call up late replacements

Missus, 15 Oct — England have called up Middlesbrough defender David Wheater and Manchester City goalkeeper Joe Hart as late additions to their squad for Wednesday’s World Cup qualifier with Belarus here. The pair flew straight to Minsk late on Tuesday after helping the England Under-21 side reach next summer’s European Championship finals in Sweden at the expense of Wales. They were set to join up with Fabio Capello’s squad for a training session on the morning of the match. Wheater comes in as cover at centre-back — where England are without injured captain John Terry — while Hart’s inclusion follows the withdrawal of West Ham goalkeeper Robert Green. — Internet

Engage have called up Middlesbrough defender David Wheater and Manchester City goalkeeper Joe Hart, seen here in action in August 2008, as late additions to their squad for Wednesday’s World Cup qualifier with Belarus here. — Internet

Ferdinand admits ‘WAG’ culture turned England into circus

Missus, 15 Oct — Rio Ferdinand has described the ‘WAG’ culture that surrounded England in the days before Fabio Capello took charge as a “circus” and admitted that it was central to the squad’s recent failures. In a remarkably frank interview ahead of a World Cup qualifier with Belarus here on Wednesday, the Manchester United defender savaged the celebrity bubble which peaked during the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany, where the wives and girlfriends (WAGS) of the England squad generated as many headlines as the players themselves. — Internet

From L: English players Rio Ferdinand, David Beckham, Wayne Rooney and Frank Lampard participate in a training session, in Minsk. Ferdinand has described the ‘WAG’ culture that surrounded England in the days before Fabio Capello took charge as a “circus” and admitted that it was central to the squad’s recent failures. — Internet

Nadal roars off to victory in Madrid title quest

Madrid, 15 Oct — Rafael Nadal thrilled a sold-out home crowd with a comeback performance to win his 78th match of the season as he began the chase for a second title at the Madrid Masters on Tuesday. The top-seeded world number one who claimed his only trophy in the capital in 2005, rallied past upcoming Latvian Ernests Gulbis 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 riding a late break in the final set to victory. Nadal, holder of eight titles this season including Paris, Wimbledon and the Olympics, has stalled in the quarter-final at the last two Madrid editions. He was playing for the first time since leading Spain into the Davis Cup final against Argentina three weeks ago. — Internet

Seeds Schnyder and Chakvetadze crash out in Zurich

ZURICH, 15 Oct — Seeds Patty Schnyder and Anna Chakvetadze both slumped out of the Zurich Open on Tuesday, losing to qualifiers in their first round matches. Swiss sixth seed and former champion Schnyder surrendered 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 to Czech Petra Kvitova, and seventh-seeded Russian Chakvetadze was beaten 3-6, 6-2 by Romanian Monica Niculescu. Schnyder has enjoyed a successful year, which included quarter-finals at Roland Garros and the US Open, a title in Bali and final at Bangalore. — Internet

Moyes signs new deal at Goodison

LONDON, 15 Oct — Manager David Moyes ended months of speculation about his Everton future on Tuesday after he signed a new five-year contract, according to the club’s website. Moyes, 45, had been in protracted talks over a new contract at Goodison Park and was in the final year of an existing deal. “There have been many different things for different reasons but we are here now,” the Scot told www.evertontfc.com. “The big thing for me is that I am at Everton, as far as I am concerned, for another five years and the job is to make us better than we have been.” The deal for Moyes, who succeeded fellow Scot Walter Smith, is reported to be in the region of 3 million pounds (3.8 million euros). — Internet

French forward Thierry Henry reacts after scoring a goal during the friendly football match against Tunisia at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, outside Paris. Henry gave coach Raymond Domenech a much-needed boost at a packed Stade de France on Tuesday, as France survived an early scare to run out 3-1 winners over Tunisia. — Internet

UEFA ban for Atletico after racism at Marseille

Marseille, 15 Oct — UEFA have slapped Spanish side Atletico Madrid with a stadium ban following a complaint of racism by French club Marseille. Marseille lodged an official complaint with European football’s ruling body after several of their players were targeted by Atletico fans during their match in Madrid on 1 October. Monkey chants were aimed at the French club’s Mallorca player, while the Marseille team bus was attacked after the match. — Internet

Marseille supporters clash with riot police prior to the start of a Champions League match against Atletico de Madrid at the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid on 1 October, 2008. UEFA have slapped Spanish side Atletico Madrid with a stadium ban following a complaint of racism by French club Marseille. — Internet

Bermuda to host Grand Slam for next 2 years

TUCKER’S TOWN, 15 Oct — The Grand Slam of Golf will be based in Bermuda for the next two years. PGA of America president Brian Whitcomb said a $13.7 million renovation at the Port Royal Golf Club is under way to prepare for the 2009 and 2010 tournaments. The course will be lengthened by 281 yards to 6,842 yards. The tees and greens also will be rebuilt. — Internet

Henry gives Domenech boost ahead of federation vote

PARIS, 15 Oct — Two goals from Thierry Henry gave coach Raymond Domenech a much-needed boost at a packed Stade de France on Tuesday, as France survived an early scare to run out 3-1 winners over Tunisia. With the French footballing federation (FFF) meeting on Wednesday to decide on Domenech’s future, this friendly was anything but a meaningless game. The 36-year-old’s tenure is under scrutiny following France’s dismal Euro 2008 and their poor start to World Cup qualifying, including a nervy 2-2 draw against Romania on Saturday. When questioned about the meeting after the match, Domenech told TF1 television station: “It’s not my problem. My aim is to prepare the team to the best of my ability, and to construct a team which will go to the 2010 World Cup finals. — Internet

Former Spain international Tristan signs for Hammers

LONDON, 15 Oct — Former Spain international striker Diego Tristam, seen here in 2006, signed for West Ham on Tuesday evening, the English top flight club said. — Internet

The 32-year-old former Deportivo La Coruna and Real Mallorca player, who has won 15 caps for his country, had been out-of-contract after leaving Italian side Livorno where he scored just one goal in 20 appearances. Tristam put pen to paper with Scott Duxbury after the Hammers’ chief executive had flown to Rome to finalise negotiations with his representatives.

West Ham boss Gianfranco Zola moved for the player following a two-week trial, with England international striker Dean Ashton sidelined following ankle surgery.

Tristam told his new club’s official website, www.whufc.com: “I am really happy to be at West Ham. They are a big club and London is a great city. It’s not my problem. My aim is to prepare the team to the best of my ability, and to construct a team which will go to the 2010 World Cup finals. — Internet

Former Spain international Diego Tristam, seen here in 2006, signed for West Ham on Tuesday evening, the English top flight club said. — Internet

Former Spain international Diego Tristam, seen here in 2006, signed for West Ham on Tuesday evening, the English top flight club said. — Internet

INTERNET

London, 15 Oct

Former Spain international Diego Tristam signed for West Ham on Tuesday evening, the English top flight club said. — Internet

The 32-year-old former Deportivo La Coruna and Real Mallorca player, who has won 15 caps for his country, had been out-of-contract after leaving Italian side Livorno where he scored just one goal in 20 appearances. Tristam put pen to paper with Scott Duxbury after the Hammers’ chief executive had flown to Rome to finalise negotiations with his representatives.

West Ham boss Gianfranco Zola moved for the player following a two-week trial, with England international striker Dean Ashton sidelined following ankle surgery.

Tristam told his new club’s official website, www.whufc.com: “I am really happy to be at West Ham. They are a big club and London is a great city. — Internet

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INTERNET

London, 15 Oct

Former Spain international striker Diego Tristam, seen here in 2006, signed for West Ham on Tuesday evening, the English top flight club said. — Internet

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Angola announces new discovery of oil in deepwater

LUANDA, 15 Oct—A new oil deposit dubbed “Ngoma 1” was discovered in the deepwater Block 15/06, about 350 kilometres from the Angolan capital Luanda, Angola’s state-owned oil company SONANGOL announced here on Tuesday.

In a press release issued jointly by the SONANGOL and its partner the ENI oil firm, the miocene sandstone reservoir containing a 127-metre oil column with high permeability was drilled in a 1,421-metre deepwater layer until a total vertical depth of 3,348 metres.— MNA/Xinhua

Swiss Air Force may have to train in foreign airspace

GENEVA, 15 Oct—Switzerland’s Air Force may have to train over neighbouring countries to reduce noise in popular tourist regions, the Swissinfo news website reported recently.

The Swiss Air Force needs to do 22,000 take-offs and landings every year, and residents near the airfields have long complained about the noise the jets make, according to the report.

Defence Minister Samuel Schmid on Monday discussed ways with canton officials from Lucerne, Bern, Vaud and Valais — areas with military airstrips — on how to arrange the training each year.

The Defence Ministry also said that it would wait until 7 November to collect comments from areas in question before deciding how to deploy fighter jets for training exercises next year.

Flying over foreign airspace may be an option, defence officials were quoted by Swissinfo as saying.

Next summer Swiss pilots plan to participate in training manoeuvres over northern Germany, according to the report. — MNA/Xinhua

Somali forces free Panama ship from pirates

BOSASSO (Somalia), 15 Oct — Somali security forces freed a Panamanian ship from pirates on Tuesday, officials said, two days after they killed one of the hijackers in a gun battle.

The Wail was seized by heavily armed Somali gunmen on Thursday as it carried cement to Bosasso from Oman. There are thought to be nine Syrian and two Somali crew members onboard.

“We have succeeded in saving the Panama-flagged ship and its crew,” Ali Abdi Aware, state minister for the semi-autonomous northern Puntland region, told Reuters. “The pirates have surrendered and the ship is in our hands now.”

Puntland’s Fisheries Minister, Ahmed Said Ow Nur, said 10 hijackers were arrested and two soldiers wounded in the raid. “The ship is now sailing toward Bosasso,” he told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Wednesday, 15 October, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Chin State, scattered in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, isolated in Rakhine and Mon States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions.

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were 1.80 inches at Bhamo (1.50) inches, Meikhtila (0.99) inch, Mindat (0.95) inch and Hkamti (0.79) inch.

Maximum temperature on 14-10-2008 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 15-10-2008 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 15-10-2008 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 14-10-2008 was (2.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 15-10-2008 was (Nil) at Mgalingdon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.51) inch Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (100.87) inches at Mgalingdon, (112.40) inches at Kaba-Aye and (130.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from South at (13:45) hours MST on 1-10-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-10-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-10-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-10-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Storm-hit Dedaye making a quick recuperation

Article by Maung Maung Htwe (MNA); Photos by Hla Moe (MNA)

Since the occurrence of the storm, we had visited Dedaye in Ayeyawady Division a good number of times. We had also passed through the town several times in our trips to two other storm-stricken towns Pyapon and Bogale. Then, I did not happen to visit the town for a long time as I was busy with my work. Recently, I made a trip back to Dedaye, and was amazed to witness that things and scenes had changed a lot in a short time. It had risen from the attacks of the natural disaster thanks to the strenuous efforts the government, the people and the Tatmadaw had made in concert.

In the aftermath of the storm, Dedaye was like a deserted area full of debris. On the contrary, now the town has recovered from the storm with the characteristics of a town.

Harmonious efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw can surmount any forms of difficulties.

Man United hand trials to talented ‘Little Kaka’ – Arsenal, Ajax, Inter & Spartak Moscow linked

The Serbia Under-21 international has been impressive in his midfield role, and thus considered as one of the best youngster to break onto the scene. Ljajic has shown his talent with fine performances in the Champions League qualifiers for Partizan Belgrade. And according to the Daily Mail, Sir Alex Ferguson’s side have swiftly moved to bring on the 17-year-old starlet on trial ahead of a host of other clubs also watching the winger.—Internet

Premier League stars dominate African Player of The Year shortlist

CAIRO, 15 Oct—Chelsea pair Michael Essien and Didier Drogba along with Arsenal’s Emmanuel Adebayor and Egyptian duo Amr Zaki at Wigan Athletic and Mohamed Aboutrika at Al Ahly have been nominated for the 2008 African Player of the Year award.

The shortlist sees four players who ply their trade in the Premier League, with Blues midfielder Essien making the shortlist for the third time, despite being sidelined with a serious knee injury, but the Ghanaian has yet to win the top African accolade fora player.

On loan Latics striker Zaki has also made the list, with the striker making an immediate impact for Wigan in the Premiership scoring 5 times in 7 games since his ar-