

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Oct — Mr. Cinar Aldemir, the newly accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha,

here, at 10:30 a.m. today.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen

Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Mr. Cinar Aldemir, newly accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Union of Myanmar.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Republic of India

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Oct — Mr. Alope Sen, newly accredited Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Union of Myanmar, presented his

credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayint-

naung Yeiktha, here, at 11:00 a.m. today.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of newly accredited Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Alope Sen.

MNA



Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 18 October, 2008

Strive for development of Myanmar performing arts

Myanmar cultural heritage and national character as well as fine traditions have been flourishing for years countable by the thousand. Myanmar performing arts are gentle and subtle and are of high standard.

For the people to be polite and clever, learned monks and laity as well as artistes of successive periods deliberately imbued the people with historical, religious and cultural records, outlooks and norms so as to ensure the people to keep in touch with them in their daily life.

One can enjoy Myanmar theatrical presentations at the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions being held in Nay Pyi Taw. Moreover, Kwet Seik (narration of religious or historical stories) and drama depicting the virtues practised by the would-be Buddha as well as zeal, zest, perseverance, precepts, endurance, truthfulness and dedication are also included in the competitions.

Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are held yearly with the aim of equipping the people with nationalism and nationalistic fervour and developing Myanmar performing arts and theatrical plays.

Altogether 1,985 contestants and 2,605 category-wise contestants from the states and divisions are participating in the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, and they are now showing skills of performing arts.

Myanmar cultural heritage that has been flourishing in successive eras are still in good shape. All the artistes are to strive for uplift of national prestige and integrity while endeavouring for the development of Myanmar performing arts and theatrical plays.



Chairman U Maung Maung Soe Tint of Border Area Development Association (BDA) accepts a Tympanometer donated by Mr Gunter of Denmark for mobile health care services on 17 October, 2008. — MNA

People's Desire

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



generations. So, this year's theme spotlights requirements for ensuring food safety, which is now under the threat of climate change and production of bioenergy, he said.

In conclusion, he called on all to work together in accordance with the motto "World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy"

A&I Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo delivers an address at the World Food Day Commemorative ceremony. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung awards prize to an outstanding person. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presents prize to an outstanding person. — MNA

World Food Day...

(from page 16)

Food insecurity brings poverty and hunger along with health problems, short lifespan, decline in working capacity, and less access to education not only to present generations but also to future

in order to solve the problems on consequences of natural disasters resulting from climate change, and food insecurity, poverty and hunger due to growing demand for bioenergy being faced by the world people.



FAO Resident Representative Dr Shin Imai reads out the message of the FAO Director-General. — MNA

Resident Representative of FAO to Myanmar Dr Shin Imai read out the message of the FAO Director-General.

A World Food Day commemorative video show was presented.

Ministers, deputy ministers and the Resident Representative presented prizes to the winners of essay, painting and poster contests.

The ministers, deputy ministers, diplomats, the Resident Representative and journalists visited the pavilions staged by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Ministry of Forestry, FAO and entrepreneurs. — MNA

Bomb in Baghdad kills three Shiites

BAGHDAD, 17 Oct — A bomb planted near a Baghdad mosque killed three Shiite worshippers as they were leaving Friday prayers, Iraqi officials said, as Sunni and Shiite preachers condemned a draft security pact with the United States.

Police and health officials said seven people were wounded in the blast, which occurred in the primarily Shiite neighborhood of Shaab of north Baghdad.

Maj Mark Cheadle, a US military spokesman, said the bomb went off across the street from the mosque. He said three civilians were wounded but none died in the attack, which he blamed on Shiite extremists.

Iraqi police and hospital officials gave the higher death toll but spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not supposed to release the information. Such conflicting casualty tolls are common in Iraq.

Internet

Seventeen civilians killed in south Afghanistan

LASHKAR GAH (Afghanistan), 17 Oct — Women and children were among 17 civilians killed in southern Afghanistan, an official said Friday.

The issue of civilian casualties is an emotive one in Afghanistan and feeds the perception of many Afghans that foreign troops do not take enough care to avoid killing ordinary citizens and fuels resentment at the NATO presence in the country.

“Around 17 civilians were killed when a house collapsed on them,” said Dawood Ahmadi, a spokesman for the governor of Helmand province.

The chief of the tribal council of Naad Ali district, where the deaths occurred Thursday, said air strikes killed 18 members of five families sheltering in the house from fighting. The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said it was investigating an incident involving an air strike in Naad Ali district.

A witness in Lashkar Gah, the nearby provincial capital of Helmand, said he saw six wounded people, including two children and a woman, brought to the hospital. Their families said they brought the wounded from Naad Ali district.—*Internet*



The dead body of an Afghan man arrives at hospital in the back of a car, after he was killed by a rocket fired by militants which hit the city of Lashkar Gah the provincial capital of Helmand Province south of Kabul, Afghanistan on 16 Oct, 2008. —INTERNET

Policeman kills a US soldier in Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 Oct — An Afghan policeman opened fire and threw a hand grenade at a US military patrol in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday, killing an American soldier and raising fears that insurgents have infiltrated the police force.

The police officer standing on a tower attacked the American foot patrol returning to a base in the Bermel district of eastern Paktika Province on Thursday, the US military said. The troops returned fire, killing the policeman.

It was the second attack on US forces by an Afghan policeman in less than a month. In September, an officer opened fire on US troops at a police station in eastern Afghanistan, killing one American soldier and wounding three. US forces killed the policeman.

Militants in Afghanistan have used police and army uniforms in the past when conducting attacks on Afghan and foreign troops, but these two incidents involved real policemen.

Internet

Chains or drugs: treatment for Afghanistan's mentally ill

JALALABAD, 17 Oct — The mentally ill in Afghanistan, a country destroyed by three decades of conflict, have been counted at about two million, according to the World Health Organization.

But in 2005 there were only 160 beds in the nation's psychiatric facilities, it says, however there are more traditional methods offered for curing the afflicted.

With shaggy hair and beard, and mumbling incoherently, Sher Mohammed, 40, lies curled up under the shade of a tree to which he has been chained for a month. This is the standard “treatment” for mentally ill people who have been coming to the Mia Ali sanctuary in eastern Afghanistan for 300 years.

They are fed only bread and water and get no change of clothing.—*Internet*



A mentally ill Afghan man chained to a tree in Jalalabad. In a country destroyed by three decades of conflict, about two million people suffer mental illness, according to the World Health Organization. —INTERNET

Mass soldier killed by bomb in Afghanistan

BEVERLY, 17 Oct — A 25-year-old soldier from Beverly has died after his truck hit a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Army Spc Stephen Fortunato was killed Monday in Beverly's first wartime fatality since the Vietnam War. He was killed on his first day back on patrol after a 19-day leave in Massachusetts.

Fortunato was in the 26th Infantry Regiment and served as a gunner in back of a Humvee. He had served in Afghanistan since July.

Fortunato's mother, Elizabeth Crawford, said her son was a brave soldier and had been eager to return to help his unit.

His wife, Sherri, said her husband was a caring person who loved his

family and his pet python, Max.

Fortunato grew up in Beverly and graduated from the city's high school in 2002. He and his wife had been married since 2006.—*Internet*

A man wounded in a Taliban rocket attack is carried to a hospital in Lashkar Gah on 16 Oct, 2008. Insurgents fired rockets at a residential area in Lashkar Gah in Helmand Province, some 550km (340 miles) southwest of Kabul, killing one civilian and wounding five more, the provincial governor's spokesman, Dawood Ahmadi said. —INTERNET



Residents travel on a road during a sandstorm in Kerbala, about 80 km (50 miles) southwest of Baghdad, on 16 Oct, 2008. —INTERNET

China, ASEAN sign MOU on information, media cooperation

NANNING, 17 Oct — China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) Thursday.

The two sides agreed to share information through more media cooperation.

Minister of China's State Council Information Office, Wang Chen, signed the China-ASEAN MOU on Information and Media Cooperation with information ministers

from ASEAN nations attending a one-day conference in Nanning, capital of southern China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. "China and ASEAN are about to enter a new stage of exchange and cooperation," Wang said.

Indonesia's Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Mohammad Nuh, said the MOU would "further solidify the foundations for cooperation and

partnership in the information and media sectors between ASEAN and China".

Under the MOU, which goes in to effect immediately, China and ASEAN will facilitate personnel exchanges and partnerships between media industries and organizations. Collaborations in product marketing and distribution will also be encouraged as will annual meetings between journalists. — Xinhua



Ministers from China and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) attend a conference in Nanning, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 16 Oct, 2008. —XINHUA

British Olympic gymnasts Rebecca Wing, left, and Becky Downie demonstrate their skill on the float as gold medallist in Star sailing, Iain Percy, right, cheers them on, during the British Olympic team parade through central London to celebrate their success at the Beijing Olympics on 16 Oct, 2008.—INTERNET



Biggest change happens in Chinese people's thinking with reform, openness

WASHINGTON, 17 Oct—The biggest change brought about by China's 30 years of reform and opening up is one in the thinking of the Chinese people, said David Lampton, professor from Johns Hopkins University, in a recent interview.

"I asked Chinese friends, what's the biggest change that happened with this open and reform

policy, they don't say the buildings and the physical structures in China," Lampton told Xinhua.

"They say the thinking of the Chinese people is the biggest change," he said in the interview on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of China's reform and opening up which began in 1978.

"China has changed from the conception of the

security of self-reliance to interdependence. And I think that is probably the most important change, not only for China but for the world," he said.

Lampton, a well-known expert on China and Sino-US relations, is director of China Studies in the Paul H Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.—Xinhua

Man arrested with weapons in luggage at NY airport

BEIJING, 17 Oct —A man was arrested at the MacArthur Airport, New York, Thursday as he tried to get on a flight with a pipe bomb, knife, fireworks and suspicious electronics, the local authorities said as quoted by media reports. The arrested man, Steven Nobles, told investigators he "inadvertently" carried the items to the airport and "had not intended to use them on the Southwest Airlines flight to Las Vegas."

Following the arrest, about 500 passengers were evacuated by the authorities from the MacArthur Airport terminal for about two hours for security purpose.

After the arrest, investigators also found in his checked luggage fireworks, electrical circuit boards, a battery with electrical tape and .22-caliber rounds that are used in a nail gun.—Xinhua

A Chinese Taoist priest blesses the stone lion guarding the entrance to a newly completed commercial building in Beijing, China, on 17 Oct, 2008. The Chinese capital's construction industry is reviving after the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic games when most heavy constructions were prohibited. INTERNET



All items from Xinhua News Agency

China's Yangtze River Delta to attain modernization by 2020, says official

BEIJING, 17 Oct—The Yangtze River Delta, the country's major economic powerhouse, is to realize modernization goal by 2020, or not much longer, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said here on Thursday.

NDRC Vice minister Du Ying said the delta was to grow into a globally competitive metropolitan area in the next decade, when its industrial structure would be based mostly on service industries.

The area would drastically increase the role of technological innovation in economic development by that time, he said.

In a white paper issued September by the State Council, the country's cabinet, the region was called to fully grow into a well-off society by 2012, eight

years in advance of the other regions.

"The Yangtze River Delta would be the leading force in the country's development and reform, and its leading role will only grow bigger," said Du Ying.

Du added the delta region comprises only 2.1 percent of China's land area, but generates about 22.5 percent of the country's GDP, 31.5 percent of tax revenue, and holds 35 percent of the country's foreign investment. Local statistics showed the delta's GDP exceeded 4.66 trillion yuan (682.21 billion U.S. dollars) in 2007, up 15.2 percent year on year.

Wang Fanghua, a scholar from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, forecast the GDP in the delta would hit 15.95 trillion yuan by 2020, based on the annual growth rate of 11 percent.—Xinhua

EU sues Britain over maritime safety

BRUSSELS, 17 Oct— The European Commission decided Thursday to take Britain to court for failure to respect European Union (EU) legislation on ship-source pollution and on penalties for those responsible for polluting discharges.

Britain has failed to notify its national measures fully transposing a 2005 directive, which aims to ensure that all persons responsible for polluting discharges at sea are subject to adequate penalties. These penalties should be effective and dissuasive and may be of criminal or administrative nature. EU member states should have transposed the directive into their national law by 1 April, 2007.

The commission, the guardian of EU laws, also warned Britain for incorrectly transposing into national law legislation on the EU vessel traffic monitoring system.—Xinhua

Doctors warn of rash from mobile phone use

LONDON, 17 Oct — Doctors baffled by an unexplained rash on people's ears or cheeks should be on alert for a skin allergy caused by too much mobile phone use, the British Association of Dermatologists said on Thursday.

Citing published studies, the group said a red or itchy rash, known as "mobile phone dermatitis," affects people who develop an allergic reaction to the nickel surface

on mobile phones after spending long periods of time on the devices.

"It is worth doctors bearing this condition in mind if they see a patient with a rash on the cheek or ear that cannot otherwise be explained," it said.

The British group said many doctors were unaware mobile phones could cause the condition.

Safety concerns over mobile phones has grown as more people rely on

them for everyday communication, although the evidence to date has given the technology a clean bill of health when it comes to serious conditions like brain cancer.

"In mobile phone dermatitis, the rash would typically occur on the cheek or ear, depending on where the metal part of the phone comes into contact with the skin," the group said in a statement.

Internet

Abdel Maqsood, an Egyptian sailor, speaks to journalists as he arrives in Cairo airport, on 15 Oct, 2008. Somali pirates have released an Egyptian ship with 25 crew members on board, which was hijacked earlier this month off Somalia's Puntland region, the official MENA news agency reported on Saturday.

INTERNET



US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,185

WASHINGTON, 17 Oct—As of Thursday, 16 Oct, 2008, at least 4,185 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 numbers.

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.

Internet

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 542

WASHINGTON, 17 Oct—As of Thursday, 16 Oct, 2008, at least 542 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 Thursday at 10 am EDT.

Of those, the military reports 390 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 military civilian death.—Internet

Internet

Five rebels, four Turkish soldiers killed in fighting

ANKARA, 17 Oct — The Turkish military clashed with Kurdish rebels near the Iraqi border in battles it said killed four soldiers and five rebels, while rebels claimed Thursday to have shot down a Turkish helicopter. Another soldier was killed and 15 security personnel were slightly injured in the helicopter crash, the military said on Thursday in a Web site statement.

The four soldiers were killed late Wednesday when rebels from the Kurdistan Workers Party opened fire on the soldiers in the province of Hakkari following an explosion, the statement reported. Hakkari is where the borders of Turkey, Iraq and Iran meet. The military also said five PKK rebels were killed in two separate clashes in Hakkari and in the neighboring province of Sirnak, which also borders Iraq.

Internet

NEWSALBUM

Boy's best friend a giant slithery pillow

An 8-year-old boy has lived with a giant snake in Dongguan, Guangdong province, for more than seven years.

Bing Zhe's father, who runs a small zoo with many animals, said his son started to live and play with the giant boa when he was just nine months old.

Seven years older than Bing, the snake now measures 4.2 m and weighs 70 kg. Every night Bing holds the boa as he falls asleep and sometimes uses it as a pillow. But the snake never hurts Bing and once drove away a cobra seeking to attack him. Bing's father said the boy and snake have become inseparable.



Brad Sciallo is seen before attempting to eat a 15-pound cheese burger with five-pounds of toppings at Denny's Beer Barrel Pub in Clearfield, Pa.

You may be allergic to your cell phone

On The Early Show Friday, dermatologist Dennis Gross explained that cell phone manufacturers turn to nickel for many models, and ten percent of us is allergic to nickel.

"It's no different from being allergic to a perfume or anything that contacts the skin that causes a rash," Dr Gross told co-anchor Harry Smith on The Early Show Friday. "(If you're allergic), 'Contact of your phone against your skin can cause a itchy, scaly rash.'"

If you're getting a rash on your face by the ear you put your cell phone against, "Be suspicious," Dr Gross advises.

Suspected robber nabbed by stolen cell phone

A suspected robber was arrested after he used a stolen cell phone to call a relative, and the relative later called back and instead got the victim who had transferred the number to a new phone, police said.

According to police, a 68-year-old tourist was gambling at the Silver Legacy Resort downtown when he was struck in the head and knocked to the ground by a man who took his fanny pack that contained the victim's cell phone.

The suspect used the phone to call a family member.



Baby elephants follow a keeper enroute to their watering place at a wildlife trust in Kenyan capital Nairobi. Visitors are allowed only about an hour each day at the trust, an elephant orphanage founded in the 1970s to take in baby elephants orphaned by ivory poachers.

Cops nab motorist who owes \$1.9m in traffic fines

Brazilian police reportedly have caught up with a motorist who owes the equivalent of nearly \$2 million in unpaid traffic fines. Folha OnLine said police stopped a 36-year-old man on

Wednesday night and discovered he has been ticketed nearly 1,000 times since 2001, the year he bought his current car. Folha OnLine said the accumulated fines for speeding and running red lights total 3.4 million reais (\$1.9 million).

The man said he never received the tickets because he was always too busy to register the car in his name.

A Belgium's couple performs a bungee jump after getting married on a platform hanging some 40 meters above the ground at a former military base in Sint-Truiden.

Police arrest squatter who called them for help

Lincoln police reported the rare occurrence of arresting a man who called them for help. Officials said a 25-year-old man called police Wednesday night to say someone was trying to break into his apartment.

When police arrived, they discovered it was the apartment manager trying to get into the apartment, which was supposed to be vacant. Police said someone had illegally changed the locks on the apartment, and the man arrested was illegally occupying it.



Myanmar's efforts for achieving Millennium Development Goals

Professor Dr Paing Soe

(Continued from yesterday)

Ensure environmental sustainability

Millennium Development Goal (7) is to "Ensure Environmental Sustainability" and its health related indicator is the "Proportion of people with access to improve sanitation and clean and safe water".

Since 1998, the sanitation programme has been implemented nation-wide through self reliance approach and social mobilization strategy. To enhance the momentum of implementation and to increase access to sanitation facility amongst community, National Sanitation Week (NSW) has been launched every year from 1998 and onwards. Sanitation coverage by population was increased from 45% in 1997 to 78.2% in 2006.

About 78.8% of the population has easy access to safe and clean water source with urban and rural coverage being 90.1% and 74.4% respectively (2003 survey).

Develop a global partnership for development

Millennium Development Goal (8) is to "Develop a Global Partnership for Development" and its health related indicator is the "Proportion of population with access to affordable essential medicine on a sustainable basis".

Within a decade, the project has been implemented Revolving Drug Fund system in district and township hospitals of the whole country. All districts and townships have their own revolving drug funds which aim for availability of safe, quality, efficacious, low-cost and affordable essential medicines. It is a key success indicator of the health care system.

The project's primary objective is to ensure that every citizen has regular access to safe, good quality, efficacious, low-cost and affordable essential medicines in every health care facility. At present, essential medicines are available to the public not only free of charge but also with community cost sharing basis with affordable price.

District Medical Officers and Township Medical Officers have to establish pharmacy shop at each health care facility using revolving drugs funds mechanism and try to replenish essential medicines with the approval and agreement by the District/Township Health Supervisory Committee. Using the system of community cost sharing in the community consumers have to pay for the medicines only.

National Drugs Law was promulgated in 1992 to ensure essential medicines consumed by the community to be safe and of good quality.

By implementing revolving drugs funds in districts and townships, 80% of population has access to affordable essential medicines on a sustainable basis.

Millennium Development Goals cannot be implemented and achieved by health care providers alone. Inter sectoral collaboration and coordination along with community involvement are crucial to the success of accomplishing the MDGs. Priorities must also be given to cost effective interventions in implementing the MDG related activities.

In Myanmar 70 per cent of its population reside in the rural area. In order to give comprehensive health to the rural communities, Rural Health Centers (RHCs) are the fore front of the health care system. Therefore, in implementation of the primary health care activities at the township level, the RHCs serve as the main foundation. In Myanmar there are over 1400 RHCs. Community participation of the health care activities has been seen through formation of rural health

committees at village levels. Also in hard to reach rural areas where accessibility to the basic health services are difficult, Voluntary Health Workers and Auxiliary Midwives take the responsibility of giving basic health care to the community.

Since the Myanmar's health care system is well established with a concrete foundation, the implementation of the health related MDGs are of no doubt established and functioning to reach its goals. This was also proven by looking at the rapid response of health care activities during the severe cyclone storm in May, 2008. Under the leadership of the government and the will power of its people and active and enthusiastic participation of internal and international organizations, the rehabilitation activities have been accomplished at the greatest momentum.

Senior General Than Shwe, during his tour of storm-hit Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, gave guidance that:

"The government took prompt action to carry out the relief and rehabilitation work in storm-hit regions shortly after the storm, and has laid down and is implementing the three phases of Disaster Preparedness Programme. And it has spent over K 50 billion of funds on the project.

In the first phase, priority is being given to fulfilling the food, clothing and shelter needs of storm victims and prompt medical attention.

Second phase, reconstruction of ravaged villages, accommodation of local people, renovation of roads, bridges and communication links and rehabilitation tasks such as opening of temporary clinics and schools are being carried out in affected villages.

In the meantime, measures for regenerating agricultural, fishing and salt-making works and providing cattle, tractors, boats and fishing nets to storm-hit regions are being taken.

In the third phase, steps are to be taken for growing of windbreakers capable of preventing disaster and building of causeways linking villages, he disclosed, and stressed the need for officials to carry out relief and rehabilitation works and take disaster preparedness measures in an effective way."

As soon as the weather forecasts on Cyclone Nargis was announced by the Department of Meteorology, Ministry of Health gave directions to take necessary precautions in potential cyclone hit areas and emergency medications were also sent to these areas since (1-5-2008). After the cyclone hit on (3-5-2008), Health Sub-committee and responsible personnel from the Department of Health reached Yangon and started emergency health care measures immediately under the guidance of Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee.

To expand the emergency health care for storm victims in Ayeyawady division, emergency health teams, consisting of specialists such as physicians, surgeons, paediatricians, anaesthetists, orthopaedic surgeons, psychiatrists, assistant surgeons, medical officers and nurses were sent to cyclone hit townships. Health care delivery through "Floating Hospital" were also implemented in accordance with the instruction of the Head of State.

Along with the health care activities, public health and disease prevention activities were also speedily performed. Field activities such as health education, measures to get safe and clean drinking water, education for proper and sanitary waste disposal, building sanitary latrines, lime powder application, immunization and vitamin tablets application were carried out.

The fact that health staff of the departments and

universities under the Ministry of Health participated energetically and enthusiastically in carrying out health care activities, public health and disease prevention activities demonstrated the strong intrasectoral collaboration under the guidance of the Ministry of Health.

In addition, there was intersectoral collaboration among various sectors such as local authorities, social organizations, private enterprises and health sector related departments in implementing health care activities.

Rehabilitation and reconstruction work were carried out in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions after the cyclone Nargis, with the cooperative effort of the government together with national business entrepreneurs and good will donors. These rehabilitation works, consisting of clean and systematic village roads, wooden houses for each village family, schools, hospitals and health centers, motor boats and fishing nets for fishermen, tractors and agricultural materials for farmers helped rebuild the livelihood of storm victims in these areas. Networking roads for better transportation are being constructed in Ayeyawady division in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, and these will benefit not only the social, economic and educational status but also the health care delivery for the local people. These networking roads will also act as places for seeking refuge in storm situations. In Ayeyawady division, storm hit Pyapon District Hospital and Labutta District Hospital were upgraded from 100-bedded to 200-bedded hospitals, Mawlamyinegyun and Bogale township hospitals from 50-bedded to 100-bedded hospitals, Pantanaw, Danubyu and Einme township hospitals from 16-bedded to 25-bedded hospitals respectively. Moreover, a new station hospital was established in Kayinchaung village of Twante township.

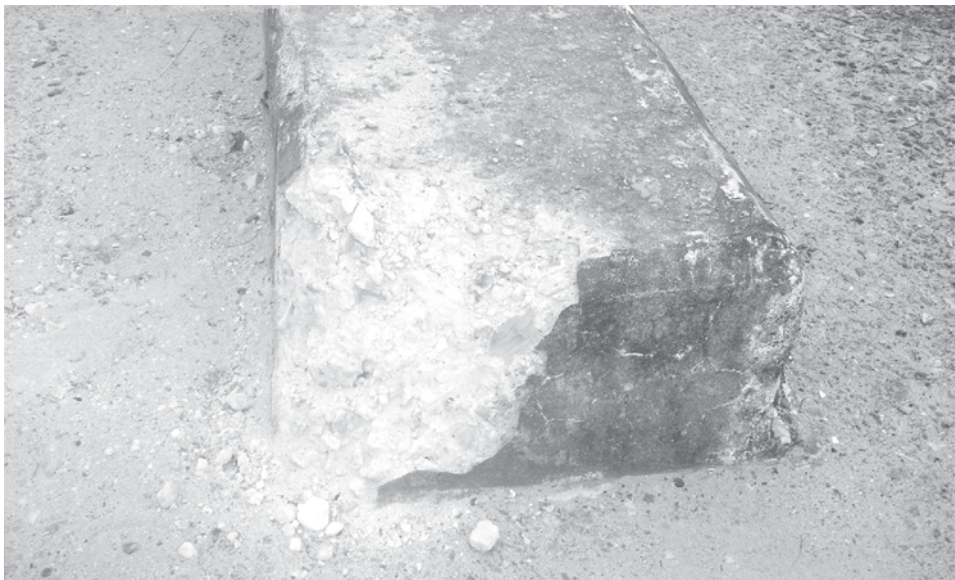
It was mentioned in the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment-PONJA report, jointly prepared by the Union of Myanmar Government, ASEAN and United Nations, that:

"Before the cyclone, it took about half to one hour for the local villagers to reach health care centers. In performing rehabilitation works for the damages caused by the cyclone, Myanmar and international community are speedily implementing the task in accordance with the motto **"Build Back Better"**. Division, district and township level authorities and INGOs are also cooperating in health care activities like safe drinking water projects, environmental sanitation, and nutritional promotion. These organizations coordinated and implemented the activities to fulfill the health care needs of local people. It is aimed that 12 months after the cyclone, the existing facilities, hospitals equipments, pharmaceuticals and health care service will be in operation in better conditions than before. And damaged hospitals equipments will also be replaced by new and better operating ones."

It was also mentioned before that community involvement was also essential in successful implementation of health care measures in a country. It is an evidence that there was no outbreaks of common infectious diseases in cyclone hit regions due to active community participation.

Therefore, the situations in cyclone hit areas undergoing rehabilitation clearly highlight that Myanmar is using all its resources effectively and efficiently in enlivening the health related Millennium Development Goals and country is on its right trade of success and development.

(Concluded)



The photo shows the damaged divider. — MNA



The passenger Hilux seen after it had overturned. — MNA



One of the two gas cylinders thrown off from the left side of the vehicle.
MNA

Blast occurred not because of gas cylinder’s fault but...

(from page 16)
the divider and overturned about 40 feet on the opposite traffic. Consequently, one man passenger and two women passengers were thrown off the right-hand side of the road and another man passenger was thrown off the left-hand side and all the three were dead.

As the car overturned so violently that the four gas cylinders aboard it hit each other; one blasted and two were thrown off from the right side and one from

the left side. The blast of one gas cylinder left the driver and two women passengers dead.

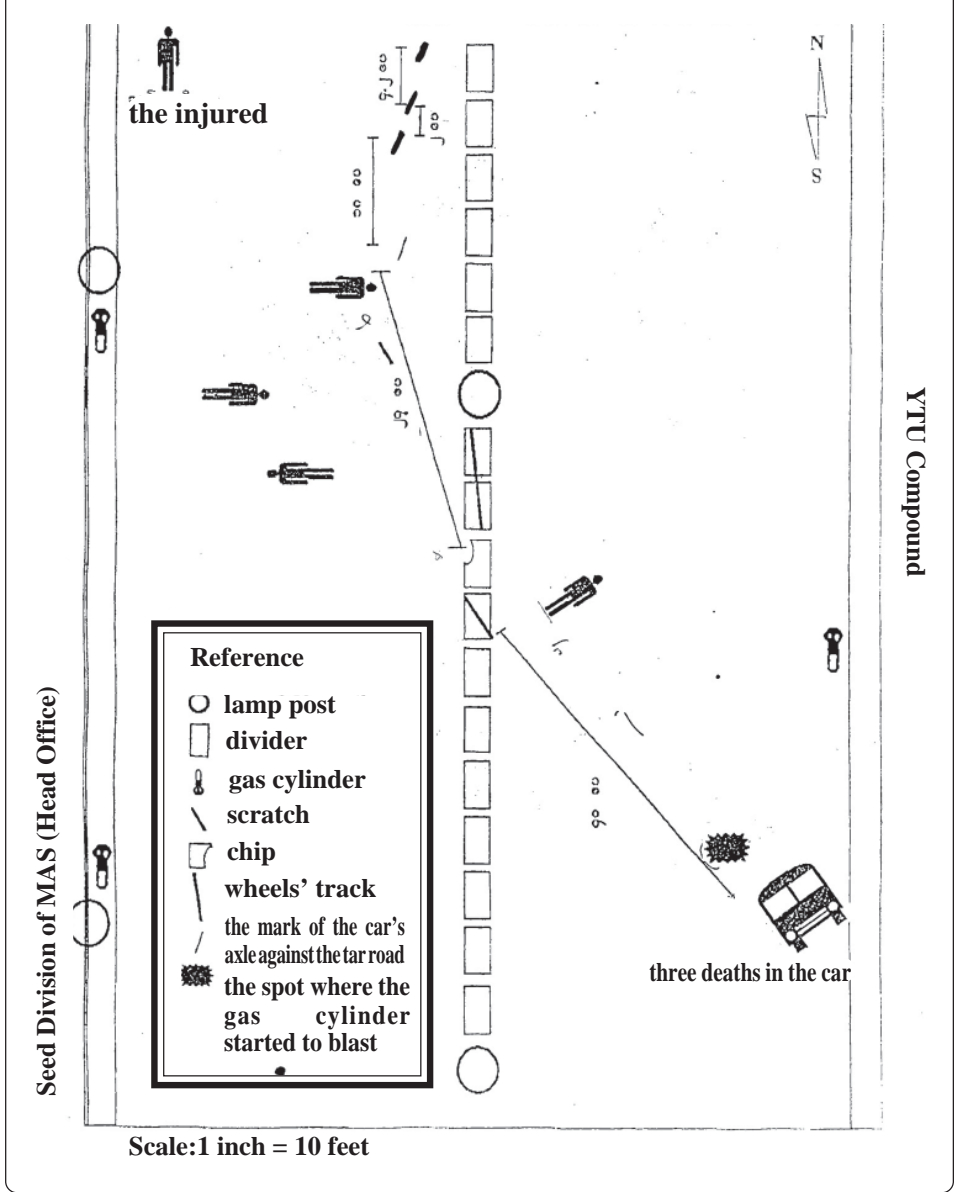
Investigation has shown that the blast occurred not because of the gas cylinder’s fault but because of the blast of one of the four cylinders hitting each other violently when the car overturned.

As the incident happened at a time when there were few passers-by on the road, only some passengers aboard the car died. If it had happened

during the rush hour, the car might have collided with others causing more deaths and damage.

The authorities concerned are taking measures for passenger vehicles for their systematic maintenance and for observing traffic rules and regulations. The Ministry of Energy is also supervising the quality of gas cylinders to be installed in motor vehicles and enforcing rules on ensuring safety in filling the gas cylinders in accord with the set standards. The public, therefore, are found to be taking CNG cars trustfully.—MNA

The map showing the incident in which a Hilux (Bus line No 132) with number plate Pa/1602 overturned running from north to south



One of the two gas cylinders thrown off from the right side of the vehicle.
MNA



One of the two gas cylinders thrown off from the right side of the vehicle.
MNA



Senior General Than Shwe receives newly accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Cinar Aldemir. — MNA (News on Page-1)



Senior General Than Shwe receives newly accredited Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Alope Sen.—MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)

State taking measures to improve education sector to...

(from page 16)

In this age of information technology, these IT centres will enable anyone who wants to learn technologies of international standard to learn with the use of modern IT gadgets. Besides, the centres will serve as bridge to link the universities of computer studies and industries where technologies are being employed practically. The Prime Minister added that in the time of the Tatmadaw government, national education promotion programme and human resource development

programme are being implemented.

Holding the concept that education is only the way to address today's challenges of the human society, the State is taking measures to improve the education sector to move with the times through ICT.

For ensuring equal opportunities for education and development of human resources in the State, 24 special development zones have been established and every zone has opened a university, a technological university and a university of computer studies. Education opportunities have been created for those wishing to pursue higher education and do post-graduate degree courses. Today, the 25 Universities of Computer Studies

of the State produces about 6,000 BCSc holders annually.

The centres opened today with the assistance of the Republic of India will train about 500 students twice a year. So, the State will be able to not only polish the skills of students of the universities of computer studies but also create the opportunity for the people to learn tele medicine and modern technologies in e-learning centres in all regions including rural areas by using the IMCEITS and 10 other Community Information Centres (CIC) sites. Changes in the science and electronic technology have effected the economy, health and social sectors of countries.

(See page 9)



India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (IMCEITS). — MNA

Officials urged to maintain Shwedagon Pagoda for its perpetual existence

YANGON, 17 Oct—At the meeting hall of Yangon Command Headquarters, here, yesterday morning, Prime Minister General Thein Sein delivered an address at the coordination meeting of Shwedagon Pagoda Perpetual All-round Renovation Work Committee.

Chairman of the Work Committee Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun reported on offering of gold foils to Shwedagon Pagoda, inspection of strengthening Shwehtidaw (umbrella), maintenance of the main structure of the pagoda and future plan for perpetual all-round renovation task.

Member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees Eng-

neer U Ba Shwe briefed the Prime Minister on efforts of the successive pagoda board of trustees for maintaining the pagoda and testing for strengthening the main structure of the pagoda applying modern technology.

Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society U Than Myint gave a supplementary report.

After attending to the needs, Prime Minister General Thein Sein instructed them to inspect strengthening of Shwedagon Pagoda for its perpetual existence applying modern technology, supervise timely maintenance of the pagoda's main structure, systematically test gold foils and invite wellwishers for participation in donation of gold foils, strengthening of Shwehtidaw

(umbrella) and the main structure of the pagoda through media. After the meeting, the Prime Minister viewed gold foils to be offered to the pagoda.

Also present at the meeting were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, the Director-General of the Government Office, departmental officials, members of the Work Committee and Sub-committees, members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, the Chairman of MES, engineers of the Ministry of Science and Technology and goldsmiths.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein addresses the meeting of Shwedagon Pagoda Perpetual All-round Renovation Work Committee.—MNA

State taking measures to improve education sector to...

(from page 8)

Therefore, IMCEITS which can provide advanced technology to trainees plays an important role in the development of the country.

Only intellectuals in various fields can help develop the country. IT-based factories are under construction near PyinOoLwin, and there would be job opportunities for youths who received information technology.

In conclusion, on

behalf of the Union of Myanmar, the Prime Minister thanked the Indian government and Minister Dr Ramesh, for providing assistance including satellite equipment, computers and accessories and other assistance worth 100 million rupees. He also urged youth intellectuals to grasp the opportunity to be able to participate in building a modern and developed nation.

Next, Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Power Dr

Jairam Ramesh made a speech.

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw explained matters related to enhancement of IT skills in Myanmar.

Next, Rector of the University of Computer Studies (Yangon) Dr Nilar Thein explained upgrading tasks being carried out by the Ministry of Science and Technology, courses that will be opened at the centre and academic matters.

Afterwards, Indian Minister of State for

Commerce and Power Dr Jairam Ramesh presented needed materials for the centre to Minister for Science and Technology

U Thaung.

The Prime Minister presented gifts to the Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Power and

the Indian Ambassador.

Next, the Indian Minister of State presented a gift to the Prime Minister.

MNA

ABOUT IMCEITS

YANGON, 17 Oct—With the excellent cooperation between the India and Myanmar and the efficient execution of the steps involved the India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (IMCEITS) was inaugurated on 16 October 2008.

The basic objective of IMCEITS is to provide IT training to people of Myanmar coming from different sectors viz. education, government, etc. The Centre would facilitate the development of specialized skills among students (Undergraduate and Postgraduate), professionals, Government employees, and citizens, etc. in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and the growth in the use of ICT in various sectors of economy and governance in the country. IMCEITS would play the role of a Finishing School in Myanmar to offer industry ready professionals by imparting industry oriented IT training programme to the graduates of various universities.

The inaugural courses at the IMCEITS would start with 8 batches of 40 students each for a course duration of 24 weeks (20 hours per week) and 4 batches of 40 students each for a 6 weeks (16 hours per week) duration course. In all 480 students would get admission into the inaugural courses at the Centre.

The second important aspect of this project is the establishment of ten Community Information Centres (CICs) at different locations in Myanmar and to provide connectivity through VSAT of these sites to the central site at the IMCEITS in Yangon. This would enhance the penetration of ICT usage in rural areas in Myanmar. The CICs would be designed for three primary applications: telemedicine solutions, distance education programmes and general awareness programmes. The package provided under the MoU includes sophisticated equipments for telemedicine solutions also, which will enable the medical professionals sitting at the central site of IMCEITS, Yangon to carry out consultations with the patients or the medical experts at the other 10 CIC sites.

IMCEITS would also have the capability to be utilized by the Government of Myanmar as the Centre for Disaster Management (CDM) and the Data Centre for making the data of interest to nation available for various department/functions like Census, Tax Department, Birth & Death Registration, Passport, National Identity cards etc.—MNA

First Meeting of Central Committee for Holding 88th National Day 2008 held

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Oct—The first meeting of the Central Committee for holding the 88th National Day 2008 was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Education here at 10 am today, with an address by Chairman of the Central Committee for Holding the 88th National Day 2008 Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein.

It was attended by members of the Central Committee deputy ministers, departmental heads, guests and responsible persons. Joint-Secretary -1 of the Central Committee director-general U Aye Lwin of No. 2 Basic Education Department submitted the reports related to the 87th National Day 2007 and Secretary of Central

Committee director-general U Bo Win of Education Planning and Training Department the plans for holding the 88th National Day 2008. Central Committee members discussed the matters.

Afterwards, the meeting was ended with the concluding remarks by Minister Dr Chan Nyein.—MNA

The drama troupe representing Ayeyawady Division taking part in the Drama Contest.

MNA



Taninthayi Div takes part in Drama contest

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Oct — Drama Contest of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the convocation hall of the Nay Pyi Taw Yezin University of Veterinary

Science yesterday evening. The troupe representing Taninthayi Division took part in the contest. Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of the Leading

Committee for Organizing the 16th MTCPAC Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the deputy ministers, departmental heads and the guests enjoyed it.

MNA

Drama Contest continues for second day

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Oct — The Drama Contest of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the convocation hall of University of Veterinary Science, here, this

evening. The drama troupe representing Ayeyawady Division took part in the contest. Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Sao Noon Khun Hsam, Minister for

Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and wife, Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi, deputy ministers, the secretary and members of the Work Committee, members of the panel of judges, members of the panel of judges of States and Divisions and people enjoyed the drama.

MNA



The drama troupe representing Taninthayi Division participate in the Drama Contest.

MNA

Marionette Contest commences

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Oct — The Marionette Contest continued at Ywadow No. 7 Transit Centre, here, this evening. Taw Win marionette troupe representing Yangon Division participated in the contest, supervised by Chairman of the Panel of Judges U Ye Dwe, Secretary U Shwe Kyi and members.

Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and people.

MNA

Taw Win marionette troupe representing Yangon Division competes in the marionette contest.

MNA

All with style and elegance, the Competitions go on for second day

Bus lines run for smooth transport of contestants

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Oct — For ensuring smooth transport for the contestants of States and Divisions of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee supervised plying of Ah Mann Thit bus line and Shwe Myo Taw bus line from No. 7 Transit Centre to Yezin University Campus.

MNA

It was attended by Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and wife, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Chairman of the Work Committee for Organizing the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Minister for



Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions go on

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Oct—The 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the designated venues here today.

Among the audience

Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint,

Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, work committee members, maestros, judges (central), judges from states and divisions and contestants.

Leader of judges for classical and modern song contests U Min Naung and members judged the performances under the supervision of Chairperson of the panel of judges Assistant Director (Retd) of Myanma Radio and Television Daw Tin Tin Mya and members.

Eleven contestants took part in amateur level (First Class) men's classical and modern song contest; and 16 contestants, in basic education level (aged 10-15) level girls' classical and modern song contest in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin



Ma April Su of Kayah State takes part in the higher education level women's modern song contest. — MNA



Maung Phyo Thiha Kyaw (a) Phyo Phyo of Mandalay Division takes part in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' dancing contest. —MNA



Maung Soe Nyi Nyi of Ayeyawady Division participates in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys' traditional orchestra (individual) contest. —MNA



M J Khaung Sai Mai of Kachin State competes in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' piano contest. — MNA

were Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 16th Myanmar Traditional

Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National

University Campus.

Thirteen contestants took part in the amateur level (Second Class)

men's modern song contest; and 15 contestants, in higher education level women's modern song contest judged by Cahirman of the panel of judges Maung Thit Min and party at Ywa-taw No.7 Transit Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

Nineteen contestants participated in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boy's dancing contest

under the supervision of chairman of the panel of judges U Sein Mar Din and party at the University of Veterinary Science in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin University Campus.

Six contestants participated in the basic education level (aged 15-20) men's piano contest; two contestants participated in the basic education (aged 15-20) women's piano contest; and six contestants, in basic education level (aged 10-15) girl's piano contest under the supervision of chairman of the panel of judges U Ni Ni at the Forestry Research in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin.

Six contestants participated in the basic education (aged 10-15) level girl's xylophone contest; and 10 contestants, in basic education level (aged 5-10) xylophone contest under the supervision of chairman of the panel of

judges U Mya Sten at the University of Agriculture in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin University Campus.

Nine teams participated in the amateur level (Second Class) men's Ozi contest; and five teams, in the higher education level men's Ozi contest under the supervision of chairman of the panel of judges U Sein Ba Maw at Nay Pyi Taw Yezin Agriculture Research Department.

Five contestants participated in the traditional orchestra (individual) contest; and nine contestants, in the traditional orchestra (aged 5-10) (individual) contest at the University of Agriculture in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin University Campus.

The musical instrument contests were judged by the panel of judges U Sein Sten and party.

MNA



Chit Phyo Shan team of Mon State taking part in the amateur level (second class) men's Ozi contest. — MNA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (406)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (406) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.10.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (251)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (251) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.10.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KY GLORY VOY NO (8155)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KY GLORY VOY NO (8155) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.10.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KOOK YANG SHIPPING
CO., LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914



An Israel woman and her son look at hot air balloons participating in an international festival during the Jewish holiday of Sukkot in Park Timna, southern Israel, on 16 Oct, 2008.

INTERNET

Fire damages 19th century Czech building in Prague

PRAGUE, (Czech Republic), 17 Oct — An official says a fire has destroyed part of a landmark 19th century exhibition hall in the Czech capital.

Ondrej Safranek, a spokesman for the Prague firefighters, says the fire broke out shortly after 7 pm.(1700GMT) Thursday. He says it has destroyed one wing of the Industrial Palace at the Exhibition Ground in Prague. Safranek says it took 90 minutes to get the fire under control. Two firefighters have been injured, he said. The cause of the fire is being investigated.

The palace was built in the Art Nouveau style in 1891. It has been used as an exhibition hall and concert venue.

Internet

Google Q3 earnings better than expected

LOS ANGELES, 17 Oct— Internet search giant Google Inc on Thursday reported “reasonably strong” growth in sales and profits in the third quarter, indicating that the company passed the economic stress test.

Google said its third quarter results were slightly better than analysts expected thanks to a large reduction in expenses.

The news prompted Google's stock to jump 8 percent in after hours trading after closing at 353.02 dollars.

“We had a good third quarter with strong traffic and revenue growth across all of our major geographies thanks to the underlying strength of our core search and ads business,” Chief Executive Eric Schmidt said in a statement.

“While we are realistic about the poor state of the global economy, we will continue to manage Google for the long term,” he said.—*Internet*



A firefighter walks past fire that burst inside of the Incheba Expo exhibition ground in Prague, Czech Republic, on 16 Oct, 2008.

INTERNET

N Ireland police find large arms cache in Belfast

BELFAST, 17 Oct—Northern Ireland police said Friday they had found a large cache of weapons linked to the pro-London Ulster Volunteer Force, which has refused to disarm as part of the province's peace process.

More than 70 weapons and thousands of rounds of ammunition were discovered when officers searched the home of a man who died over the weekend in north Belfast. The Press Association reported that the man is believed to have committed suicide. Police said that all the guns were to be examined by forensics experts.

Several small firearms were also found in other searches of various premises in Belfast.

Internet

China's top dairies battle to regain public trust

HOHHOT, 17 Oct — China's dairy giants opened their factories to a government-led media tour Thursday in a bid to stave off losses and regain the public's trust after their products were found tainted with a chemical that killed four infants and sickened tens of thousands.

Executives from Mengniu Dairy Group Co and Yili Industrial Group Co — both based in Inner Mongolia, where sprawling grasslands serve as grazing land to some 2.5 million cows — promised that stepped up testing and new procedures would ensure that similar

contamination won't happen again.

Together the companies control more than half of China's dairy market. “Provide 100 percent safety to consumers,” read a slogan on a red banner in the spotless processing and packaging hall at Yili's headquarters in Hohhot, the capital of the Inner Mongolia. The media tour is part of a joint effort by the government and the dairy industry to contain the fallout after baby formula contaminated with melamine was blamed for the deaths of four infants and the sickening of about 54,000 other children in China.—*Internet*

A Chinese customer chooses dairy products in a supermarket in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 12 Oct, 2008.
INTERNET



First gamma-ray-only pulsar observed by NASA's space telescope

WASHINGTON, 17 Oct—About three times a second, a 10,000-year-old stellar corpse sweeps a beam of gamma-rays toward Earth. This object, known as a pulsar, is the first one known to “blink” only in gamma rays, and was discovered by the Large Area Telescope (LAT) onboard NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope.

“This is the first example of a new class of pulsars that will give us fundamental insights into how stars work,” says Stanford University's Peter Michelson, principal investigator for the LAT.

The gamma-ray-only pulsar lies within a supernova remnant known as CTA 1, which is located about 4,600 light-years away in the constellation Cepheus. Its lighthouse-like beam sweeps Earth's way every 316.86

milliseconds and emits 1,000 times the energy of our sun. These results appear in the 16 Oct edition of Science Express.

A pulsar is a rapidly spinning neutron star, the crushed core left behind when a massive sun explodes. Astronomers have cataloged nearly 1,800 pulsars. Although most were found through their pulses at radio wavelengths, some of these objects also beam energy in other forms, including visible light and X-rays.

Unlike previously discovered pulsars, the source in CTA 1 appears to blink only in gamma-ray energies, offering researchers a new way to study the stars in our universe.

Scientists think CTA 1 is only the first of a large population of similar

objects.

“The LAT provides us with a unique probe of the galaxy's pulsar population, revealing objects we would not otherwise even know exist,” says Fermi telescope project scientist Steve Ritz.—*Internet*



Krystian Wierachowski polishes a sculpture in an exhibition hall of the Millionaire Fair in Munich, southern Germany, on 16 Oct, 2008. The fair for luxury goods will start on Thursday evening and run through on 19 Oct, 2008.
INTERNET

Report says Arctic temperatures at record highs

WASHINGTON, 17 Oct — Autumn temperatures in the Arctic are at record levels, the Arctic Ocean is getting warmer and less salty as sea ice melts, and reindeer herds appear to be declining, researchers reported on Thursday.

“Obviously, the planet is interconnected, so what happens in the Arctic does matter” to the rest of the world, Jackie Richter-Menge of the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, NH, said in releasing the third annual Arctic Report Card.

The report, compiled by 46 scientists from 10 countries, looks at a variety of conditions in the Arctic.

The region has long been expected to be among the first areas to show impacts from global warming, which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says is largely a result of human activities adding carbon dioxide and other gases to the atmosphere.

—*Internet*

Survey: Young Singaporeans know least about preventing AIDS

SINGAPORE, 17 Oct—A new survey found that young Singaporeans aged 18 to 29 know the least about how to prevent AIDS. Local daily The Straits Times reported on Friday, they ranked lowest among the age groups, with just three quarters knowing at least two ways that the AIDS virus could be prevented, compared with more than 80 percent for the other age groups.

Those in the 30 to 49 group were best informed, according to the first survey of its kind conducted by the Health Promotion Board (HPB), which oversees HIV prevention programs in Singapore.

It polled 1,800 people aged 18 to 69.

The survey also found that only one in two of the population knew that consistent condom use would prevent AIDS, though at least three quarters were aware that abstinence and faithfulness to one's partner were other measures, the newspaper reported.—*Internet*

Appeal of overseas studies grows

BEIJING, 17 Oct—Since the first group of 30 Chinese schoolboys traveled to the United States in 1872 to study science and technology, and learn about life in America, a steady stream of youngsters has headed overseas in search of a broader education.

According to figures from the Ministry of Education, between 1978, when the country launched its policy of reform and opening up, and the end of last year, more than 1.2 million Chinese students studied abroad, of whom 319,700 later returned home.

Last year alone, almost 145,000 youngsters furthered their education on

foreign soil, of whom 44,000 returned home, 5 percent more than in 2006, the ministry said.

Reflecting the growing demand for foreign study placements, the China Education Association for International Exchange will this weekend host its ninth annual China International Education Expo.

Held at the China World Trade Center in Beijing, the event is designed to promote student exchanges and encourage cooperation between seats of learning around the world, its organizers told China Daily yesterday.

—*Internet*



Tourists take snapshots of the famous waterfall Cataratas do Iguacu (Iguazu Falls), as seen from the Brazilian side of the border with Argentina in March 2008.—INTERNET

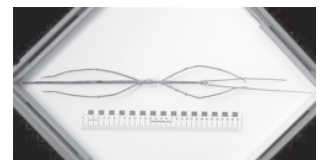
Scientists say stick bug is world's longest insect

LONDON, 17 Oct — A stick bug from the island of Borneo measuring well over a foot in length has been identified by researchers as the world's longest insect, British scientists said on Thursday.

The specimen was found by a local villager and handed to Malaysian amateur naturalist Datuk Chan Chew Lun in 1989, according to Philip Bragg, who formally identified the insect in this month's issue of peer-reviewed

journal Zootaxa. The insect was named *Phobaeticus chani*, or “Chan's megastick,” in Chan's honor.

Paul Brock, a scientific associate of the Natural History Museum in London unconnected to the insect's discovery said there was no doubt it was the longest still in existence. That assessment was also confirmed by Marco Gottardo, an entomologist at Italy's Natural History Museum of Ferrara and Aaron T.



*In this undated picture made available on 16 Oct, 2008 by Britain's Natural History Museum, a giant stick insect named *Phobaeticus chani*, meaning 'Chan's megastick,' is seen.*—INTERNET

Dossey, a researcher at the University of Florida in Gainesville who studies the insects.

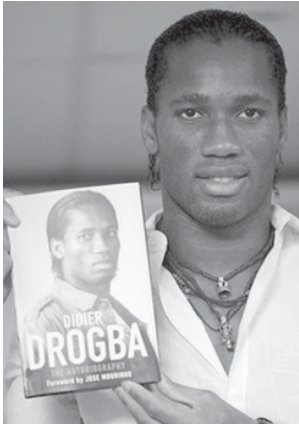
—*Internet*



A beekeeper inspects damaged bee hives after a forest fire in Dibiyyeh village, southeast Beirut, on 15 October, 2008.—INTERNET

SPORTS

I'm glad I stayed at Chelsea says Drogba



Chelsea footballer Didier Drogba, addressing the media at Stamford Bridge for the launch of his book "Didier Drogba: The Autobiography," says Chelsea is the club that suits him best, a comment that may raise eyebrows given the Ivory Coast striker's often stated desire to leave Stamford Bridge.—INTERNET

LONDON, 17 Oct—Didier Drogba says Chelsea is the club that suits him best, a comment that may raise eyebrows given the Ivory Coast striker's often stated desire to leave Stamford Bridge.

In his autobiography, the English version of which was launched at the north London club on Friday, Drogba is frank about his wish to move on. But now he insists he has found happiness under new boss Luiz Felipe Scolari and wants to remain a Blue.

"Yes I am glad I stayed," said Drogba.

"Last year I said I wanted to leave and every season I have said I have wanted to leave but I am still here. This is the club which suits me best.

INTERNET

In-demand Heskey eyes bright new future

LONDON, 17 Oct—Emile Heskey, revelling in a new-found and unfamiliar role as England's latest terrace hero, has set his sights not only on the World Cup finals but also on a return to Champions League football.

The Wigan Athletic striker has made such an impressive return to the international fold, helping his side to four qualifying victories in a row, that all of a sudden the Premiership's big clubs are said to be monitoring his situation.

It's a rumour that clearly excites the 30-year-old and although he has no intentions of asking for a transfer at unfashionable Wigan his performance in England's 3-1 victory over Belarus in Minsk on Wednesday could well open doors for the affable striker.

Heskey, in fact, is being credited as the architect behind Wayne Rooney's remarkable return to form for England after the Manchester United striker scored twice



England's Emile Heskey (L), seen here congratulating Wayne Rooney on 15 Oct, 2008, is revelling in a new-found and unfamiliar role as England's latest terrace hero and has set his sights not only on the World Cup finals but also on a return to Champions League football. INTERNET

on Wednesday to make it five in his last three international matches.

Not surprisingly Rooney won most of the plaudits for his efforts but as the dust settled on a fine victory, England players lined up to praise Heskey, too.—INTERNET

Liverpool lose Torres for up to 15 days



Liverpool on 16 Oct confirmed that Spanish international striker Fernando Torres, seen here on 15 Oct, 2008, will be out for "between 10 and 15 days" after injuring his right hamstring.—INTERNET

LONDON, 17 Oct — Liverpool on Thursday confirmed that Spanish international striker Fernando Torres will be out for "between 10 and 15 days" after injuring his right hamstring.

Torres was already expected to miss Satur-

day's Premier League match against Wigan, next week's trip to face Atletico Madrid in the Champions League and the following Sunday's crunch fixture at Chelsea.

The scan confirmed the Euro 2008 winner will be out for at least 10 days after doctors detected a tear in his right hamstring suffered in Spain's World Cup qualifying win in Belgium on Wednesday.

Torres, who went off after just 16 minutes of the match, has been joined on the Anfield sick list by Dutch attacker Ryan Babel who sprained his left ankle in his country's win over Norway.

Reds spokesman Ian Cotton said: "A scan on Fernando Torres has shown a tear in his right hamstring which will sideline the player for between 10 and 15 days.

INTERNET

Kuznetsova books Doha place

PARIS, 17 Oct —Former US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova on Thursday became the sixth player to book her place in the eight-woman field at the 4.45million dollar season-ending WTA Championships in Doha.

The Russian joins Jelena Jankovic, Serena Williams, Dinara Safina, Ana Ivanovic and Elena Dementieva who had already made sure of their spots at the November 4-9 tournament.—INTERNET



Former US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, seen here in Moscow on 10 Oct, 2008, on Thursday became the sixth player to book her place in the eight-woman field at the 4.45million dollar season-ending WTA Championships in Doha.—INTERNET

Nadal and Federer in class of their own

MADRID, 17 Oct — Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer rolled over outclassed opponents on Thursday as the top two seeds edged closer to a title showdown at the Madrid Masters.

Nadal, aiming to lift his second trophy here following his 2005 triumph, stopped Richard Gasquet for the sixth time in as many meetings, his 6-4, 6-2 victory powering the top seed into the quarter-finals.

Reaching the Sunday final will insure the Spaniard the world number 1 year-end ranking for 2008 after taking it from Federer in August.

Federer will play for the semi-finals against Argentine Juan Del Potro, who knocked out defending champion and Davis Cup teammate David Nalbandian 6-4, 6-2.—INTERNET

Pettersen takes lead at Kapalua



Suzann Pettersen, of Norway, watches her shot off the third tee of Kapalua Resort during the first round of the inaugural Kapalua LPGA Classic golf tournament on 16 Oct, 2008, in Lahaina, Hawaii. INTERNET

KAPALUA, (Hawaii), 17 Oct — The more it blew, the better Suzann Pettersen played.

Pettersen birdied the final two holes for a 4-under 68 to take the first-round lead Thursday in the inaugural and windswept Kapalua LPGA Classic.

Top-ranked Lorena Ochoa, seeking her eighth victory of the season, opened with a 74. She was paired with No 2 Annika Sorenstam, who struggled to a 77.

Only 19 of the 132 players in the field were able to break par, with only five players from the afternoon groups shooting below par.

"The wind is the only thing that can protect this course from the players, and if it stays like this, I would take four rounds at 4 under," said Pettersen, who took advantage of her early start time.

Despite the breezes, Pettersen made a move at the end, birdieing three of her final four holes. She hit a wedge to 3 feet on No. 8 and to 10 feet on the next hole.—INTERNET

Manley takes 1-shot lead at Portugal Masters

Jyoti Randhawa, from India, lines his putt on the 18th hole to finish 6-under-par during the first day of the Portugal Masters at the Oceanico Victoria Golf Course in Vilamoura, southern Portugal, on 16 Oct, 2008. INTERNET



VILAMOURA (Portugal), 17 Oct — Stuart Manley shot a 7-under 65 Thursday to take a one-stroke lead after the opening round of the Portugal Masters. Manley, who is 174th in the European Tour's Order of Merit, birdied his last two holes at the Oceanico Victoria Golf Course.

"I'm very delighted," the Welshman said. "I hit lots of fairways and made a few birdies. The greens were a bit bumpy and it was not the best of draws but for some reason the putts just went in. Hopefully, I can keep it going. I could use the money."—INTERNET

Weary Jankovic falls to Pennetta in Zurich Tennis

ZURICH, 17 Oct — Top seed and world number one Jelena Jankovic had her 12-match winning streak ended when she was defeated 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 by Italy's Flavia Pennetta in the second round of the Zurich Open on Thursday.

The Serb, who has recently added the Beijing, Stuttgart and Moscow titles to the one she claimed earlier this year in Rome, looked weary against an aggressive and persistent opponent.

Pennetta's deep groundstrokes and constant pressure paid dividends to produce her first win over Jankovic in six meetings.—INTERNET

Somali pirates free S Korean, Thai vessels

NAIROBI, 17 Oct — Somali pirates have freed a South Korean and a Thai vessels after more than a month of captivity, a regional maritime official confirmed on Friday.

Andrew Mwangura, coordinator of the East Africa Seafarers Assistance Program, said the South Korean bulker Bright Ruby which was seized in the Gulf of Aden on Sept. 10 as it was sailing from Europe to Asia with cargo was freed on Thursday. Mwangura said the pirates released Thor Star of Thailand and her

28 crew members, 64 days after the vessel was hijacked 160 km off the coast of Yemen in early August. The 1985-built vessel was released by its captors in Somalia early Tuesday. No details were given about whether any ransom had been paid to release the vessel and crew.

“The MV Bright Ruby of South Korea was freed on Thursday by pirates while the Thor Star was released a day earlier,” Mwangura told *Xinhua* by telephone.

Internet



The moon shines behind the colorfully illuminated Berlin TV Tower during the ‘Festival of Lights’ late Thursday, on 16 Oct, 2008. During the festival that lasts until on 26 Oct, 2008 about 50 buildings in the German capital are illuminated by light artists during the night.—INTERNET

US home construction falls to lowest level in 17 years

WASHINGTON, 17 Oct — US construction of new homes fell by 6.3 percent in September to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 817,000 units, the lowest point since January 1991, the Commerce Department said in a report Friday.

The 6.3 percent drop in housing starts was much

bigger than the expected percentage of 1.6.

The report showed that single-family housing starts plunged by 12.0 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 544,000 units. Multi-family housing starts, however, rose by 5.8 percent to an annual rate of 254,000 units.

Internet

Fighter jet crashes in Russia, pilot safe

Moscow, 17 Oct — A Russian MiG-29 fighter jet crashed in the eastern Siberian region on Friday, but the pilot ejected safely, the air force said.

The jet crashed some 60 km from Domna airfield near the city of Chita at 10:45 Moscow time (0645 GMT) during a regular training flight, air force spokesman Dmitry Feofanov was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

The pilot ejected and is in a satisfactory condition, Feofanov said,

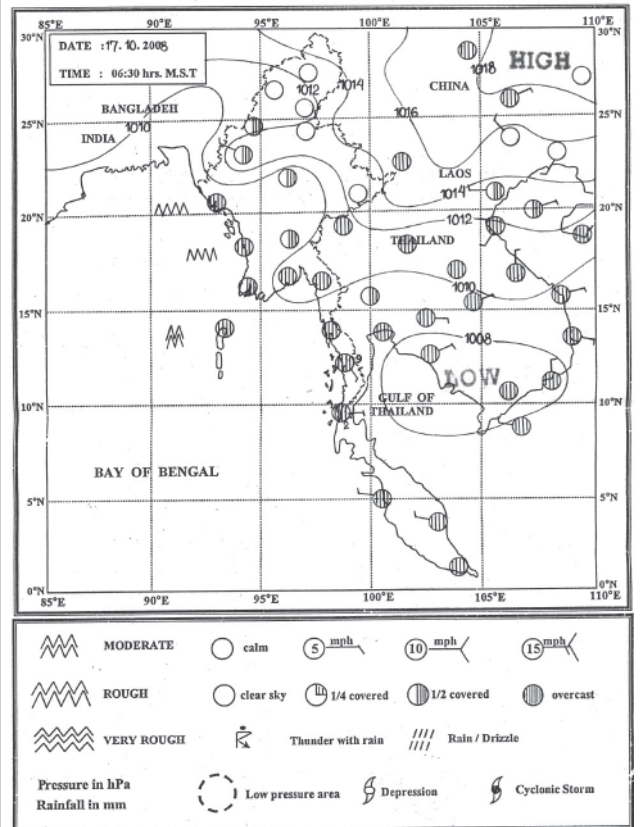
adding that there are no reports of casualties or damage on the ground.

A helicopter of the air force’s search and rescue service has arrived at the scene and a commission has been set up to investigate the cause of the accident, the spokesman said.

Preliminary information showed the crash was caused by technical problems, Interfax cited the Siberian Military District Aviation Headquarters as saying.

Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 17 October, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan, Mon, States and Taninthayi Division, isolated in Kayin State, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pyapon (0.67) inch, Myeik (0.43) inch, Mudon (0.20) inches and Hpa-An (0.15) inch.

Maximum temperature on 16-10-2008 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 17-10-2008 was 74°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-10-2008 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 16-10-2008 was (7.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 17-10-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (0.08) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (100.87) inches at Mingaladon, (112.44) inches at Kaba-Aye and (131.02) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from South at (17:30) hours MST on 16-10-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18th October 2008: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Mon State, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in Rakhine and Shan States, Bago and Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-10-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-10-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-10-2008: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for second weekend of October 2008: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Yangon Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.



Saturday, 18 October
View on today

7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

8:00 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

- မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

8:15 am

- တေးဂီတအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- “စက်မှုဇုန်မှာကျွန်မ စက်ရုံလာတည်တော့မယ်” (ဖြိုးငွေစိုး၊ မိုးဒီ၊ သဇင်၊ နှင်းဆီ၊ ခင်မိုးရီ၊ အေး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ တင်အောင်ရွှေ (သုတေသီ))

11:00 am

- Martial songs

11:10 am

- Musical programme

11:20 am

- Games for Children

11:45 am

- Round up of the Week’s TV local News

12:15 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မေမေမေတ္တာကုသေကုသေ” (အပိုင်း-၁၃)

1:00 pm

- ဆန်းကြယ်ထူးခြားပြိုင်ပွဲများ (Telematch)

1:45 pm

- “စိန်မြယ်မြာရောင်လင်း”

- (သုမောင်၊ ကိုရူပ၊ အောင်ပြည့်၊ မိုးသောကြာ၊ မေသဉ္ဇာဦး၊ ခင်ပြည့်စုံ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သုမောင်)

2:45 pm

- Dance of national races

2:50 pm

- International news

4:00 pm

- Martial songs

4:10 pm

- အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:20 pm

- Musical programme

4:35 pm

- အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ချပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (အရှေ့တိုင်းပညာ အထူးပြု)(အရှေ့တိုင်းပညာ)

4:50 pm

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:05 pm

- Song to uphold National Spirit

5:20 pm

- Musical programme

5:30 pm

- မြန်မာဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ

5:40 pm

- ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- အလှူရှာမယ်၊ လှူကြွေးမယ်

7:05 pm

- Musical programme

7:20 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “သယောဇော်နောင်ကြီး” (အပိုင်း-၅)

8:00 pm

- Local news

- International news

- Weather report

- ၂၀၀၈ခုနှစ် (၁၆) ကြိမ်မြောက် မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

- “လူယောင်ဆောင်သော ရွှေငါးနတ်သမီးလေး” (အပိုင်း-၃၁)

State taking measures to improve education sector to move with the times through ICT

Prime Minister attends opening of IMCEITS

YANGON, 17 Oct — The opening of India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (IMCEITS) was held at University of Computer Studies (Yangon) in Hline Township, here, yesterday morning with an address by Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

It was also attended by ministers, the chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, members of Civil Services Selection and Training Board, the director-general of the Government Office and departmental heads, Minister of State for Commerce and Power Dr

Jairam Ramesh of the Republic of India, Indian Ambassador Mr Alope Sen and Embassy staff, the rector of University of Computer Studies (Yangon), the pro-rector, professors, faculty members and students.

Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Indian Minister of State Dr Jairam Ramesh formally opened the IMCEITS.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected Data Centre & Server, Computer Lab 1, Class Room 1, Computer lab 2 and Library of the



Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party visit India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (IMCEITS).— MNA



Ministers U Thaung and Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Power Dr Jairam Ramesh open the IMCEITS.— MNA

centre.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein delivered an address at the opening ceremony held at Auditorium in the centre.

India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills opened today with the assistance of the Indian government has emerged as a fruit of relationship that has been long-lasting between the two nations. Moreover, today is an auspicious day as Myanmar herself will be in a position to grab an opportunity to produce a

large number of human resources throughout the nation simultaneously, said the Prime Minister.

Like in Yangon, 10 other universities including Mandalay and Yadanabon have opened their centres (branches) today allowing the whole nation to disseminate knowledge about IT to the public.

He said Myanmar and India signed MoU on IT cooperation in 2003, and an agreement on opening of India-Myanmar Centre for En-

hancement of IT Skills on 12 December 2007. As a result, the centre could be successfully opened today. The aims of establishing the centre with the help of the Indian government are to produce experts in the field of ICT and to apply modern technologies in the sectors of education, health and science and technology in various parts of the nation. The project covers Yangon and Mandalay as the core and 10 other towns as branches.

(See page 8)

Blast occurred not because of gas cylinder's fault but because of over speed, lack of maintenance, gas cylinders hitting each other violently

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Oct — News was reported that an explosion occurred on a passenger Hilux with number plate Pa/1602 of Taikkyi-Yangon line in front of the Seed Division of the Myanmar Agriculture Service in East Gyogone Ward, Insein Township at 2.35 am on 13 October, leaving seven people dead and another one injured. The authori-

ties together with experts concerned conducted an investigation into the incident.

According to the investigation, it is learnt that the car with U Myo Aung at the wheel was on its way along Insein Road from north to south at the speed of over 100 km per hour. When the car arrived where the incident took place its axle

came off and pressed against the surface of the tarred road. And the axle pressed against the surface for the second time from about 4.2 feet away and passenger U Kyaw Hla was thrown onto the road and injured. When the axle pressed against the surface for the third time from about 2 feet away, the car bumped into (See page 7)

World Food Day (2008) observed

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Oct — The World Food Day (2008) was celebrated at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here yesterday morning, with a speech by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo.

The minister in his address said that World Food Day provides an occasion to constantly highlight the plight of over 860 million people in the world, suffering undernourishment due to food insecurity and poverty.

Today, food security of all the world people has become the major

challenge. The World Food Summit in 1996 passed a resolution to reduce by half the number of chronically undernourished people on the Earth by the year 2015. Now, global warming, climate change and growing requirement of bioenergy have become great challenges of achieving the lofty goal, he said.

In order to raise the awareness about the challenges, the Food and Agriculture Organization designated "World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy" as this year's theme, he said.

(See page 2)