

Special Projects help develop Union, improve living conditions of entire national people and serve long-term interests of future generations

Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance at Coordination Meeting (1/2008) of Special Projects Implementation Committee



Senior General Than Shwe giving guidance at the Special Projects Implementation Committee coordination meeting (1/2008). —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov — The Special Projects Implementation Committee held its coordination meeting (1/2008) at the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) here at 2 p.m. yesterday, attended by Chairman of the Committee Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the Committee Vice-Chairman of the SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of De-

fence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Committee members and guests.

Ministers for Agriculture and Irrigation, Industry-1, Industry-2 and Construction dealt with work progress ministry-wise. Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min gave a brief account of six completed projects and 22 ongoing projects out of the hydropower projects given green light by the Committee. He also presented a detailed report on the 15 more projects that call for

the approval of the Committee.

The 15 hydropower projects to be undertaken by the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 are Yi Nan Hydropower Project (1200 megawatts), Khaunglanphu Hydropower Project (2,700 megawatts), Phizaw Hydropower Project (2,000 megawatts), Wuhsauk Hydropower Project (1,800 megawatts), Chiphwe Hydropower Project (2,800 megawatts), Chiphwenge Hydropower Project (99 megawatts), and Laikzar Hydropower

(See page 8)



Ponnyataung Tunnel on 7-mile long Kyaw-Yemyetni railroad section of Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay railroad built by Myanma Railways in Gangaw Township for ensuring smooth transportation. —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

Sunday, 16 November, 2008

Special projects to improve living conditions of the people

The government is dedicating itself to building infrastructures in various sectors for restoration of stability and peace, economic growth and improving the socio-economic life of the people with the aim of achieving the lofty goal of all-round development of the nation.

In that case, emphasis has been given to special projects designed to bring the goal to fruition sooner. As part of the drive, the government is taking measures for supply of adequate irrigation water for a boom in agriculture, the vital sector for economic development of the nation. Now, farmers are reaping the economic rewards of double and triple-cropping patterns of crops including paddy thanks to the construction of 216 dams and 322 river water pumping stations across the nation.

Besides, more and more state-owned and private-owned factories and industries are being established for industrial development. Effective encouragement to development of industrial regions and private industrial zones has led to boosting production of import-substitute goods domestically.

The drive also covers hydropower projects, and generation of hydropower has surged from over 200 to about 900 megawatts.

Now, a large number of new roads, railroads and river-crossing bridges have emerged to form a network of transport facilities stretching throughout the nation, and the people can travel from one region to another with convenience, as a result.

Special projects need huge investments, but reinforce building infrastructures necessary for national development. Now, the people have started to enjoy the benefits from them. Therefore, sustained efforts are to be made to facilitate the special projects to improve the living standard of the people.

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

English Proficiency Course opened



Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Saw Lwin speaking at opening of English Proficiency Course. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov— The Ministry of Immigration and Population opened the English Proficiency Course at the ministry here yesterday morning, attended by Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein, officials of the departments under the

ministry, demonstrators and trainees. The minister explained the purpose of opening of the course on the occasion. The 10-week course is being attended by 40 trainees from State and Division departments and the departments under the ministry. —MNA

Deputy Minister inspects maintenance of Yangon-Mandalay railroad

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than inspected maintenance of Yangon-Mandalay railroad section, bridges and station yard between

Yangon and Bago on 4 November. The deputy minister looked into erosion of No. 56 bridge at Mile Post No. 46 in Bago. During his tour, the deputy minister inspected maintenance

of railroad and bridges of Bago-Mawlamyine railroad section from Bago to Mottama station. Next, the deputy minister visited construction project of Mottama concrete

sleeper factory in Mottama and inspected carrying out of finishing work of the factory. Myanmar Railways will open Sleeper Factory (Mottama) soon and it produces 200,000 sleepers per year.—MNA



Cash and kind donated to doyen literati

YANGON, 15 Nov — Well-wishers donated cash and kind to Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association for the ceremony to pay respect to doyen literati in commemoration of Sarsodaw Day. Among the

donations made on 13 November were K 0.8 million by Committee for Organizing literary talks to mark Sarsodaw Day (Tachilek), K 0.5 million by Thaninthayi Division Peace and Development Council, K 0.2 million by

U Kyaw Khaing and Daw Khin Khin Aye (Shaesaung Offset and Myanmar Ahla Construction), K 50,000 each by U Chit Naing U (Chit Naing, Psychology) Naing Publishing House and hand bags and books worth K 0.2 million by Dr U San Tin Aung (Shwe Bo).

Those wishing to donate cash or kind may contact No. (529/531) Sarpay Beikman at the corner of Merchant Street and 37th Street, Ph-385273, 252417. —MNA

FOOTBALL MATCH: Team Captain Soe Myat Min of Myanmar National Team and a defender of Indonesian National Team vie for the ball in 3rd Grand Royal Challenge Cup 2008 at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) on 15 November evening. Myanmar beat Indonesia 2-1. —NLM



Men look at their destroyed vehicles at a parking lot after a bomb attack in Baghdad 12 November, 2008. A parked car bomb killed four people and wounded 14 others, including two policemen, in Sadoun street in central Baghdad, police said.—INTERNET

Car bomb kills 10 in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 Nov—A car bomb killed 10 people and wounded around 30 others when it exploded outside a car dealership in the northern Iraqi town of Tal Afar, Iraqi police said Saturday.

The US military confirmed the death toll, but said initial estimates of the wounded put their numbers at 20.

The US statement added that the car bomb was driven by a suicide bomber, but Iraqi



police said the car was parked.

Tal Afar is in Iraq's volatile Nineveh province, where Sunni Islamist al Qaeda militants still operate despite several security crackdowns aimed at stamping them out.

Internet

Key Shiite clerics warn Iraqi Gov't about US pact

BAGHDAD, 15 Nov — Iraq's two most powerful Shiite clerics on Friday challenged the government's planned security pact with the United States, undercutting efforts to reach a deal before the UN mandate for American troops in Iraq expires on 31 Dec.

Al-Sadr's threat to attack American troops if they don't leave came in a statement by the Iran-based cleric that was read to thousands of supporters at Friday prayers in Baghdad's Shiite Sadr City enclave and the city of Kufa, south of Baghdad.—*Internet*

Envoy says Syria heartened by Obama's Iraq plan

UNITED NATIONS, 15 Nov — Syria said on Friday it was heartened by US President-elect Barack Obama's plan to pull US combat troops from Iraq within 16 months of taking office since it reflects the desire of Iraq and its neighbours.

"We feel ... encouraged by what we hear as promises from the elected president, Mr. Obama, that he would like to withdraw the American forces from Iraq within a fixed timetable," Syrian Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari told reporters after a meeting of the UN Security Council on Iraq.

"We encourage him to do so because this is the will of the Iraqi people as well as the will of the neighbouring countries of

Iraq (and) the international community," he said.

The administration of US President George W. Bush has agreed to a 2011 withdrawal date in a draft security pact to replace a UN mandate that expires at the end of this year.

The agreement has not been finalized, and it is possible a deal will not be reached before Obama

takes office on 20 January 20.

The United States has accused Syria of not doing enough to prevent the flow of foreign fighters into Iraq to join the insurgency against US, coalition and Iraqi forces, a charge repeated by US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad on Friday.

Internet



Medics tend to wounded Iraqi men arriving at a hospital after a parked car bomb exploded in a bustling section of downtown Baghdad, Iraq, on 12 Nov, 2008. Police said the blast killed three people and wounded 14 others. The attack occurred around 9:30 am (630 GMT) off al-Nasir Square in central Baghdad — a busy neighborhood of shops, pharmacies and photography stores. Police said that two officers were among the wounded.—INTERNET

Taleban kill mullah critical of suicide attacks

KABUL, 15 Nov — Suspected Taleban militants killed a religious leader in western Afghanistan after he criticized the use of suicide attacks as a weapon of war in the country, an Afghan official said on Friday.

Militants kidnapped Shamsudin Agha in Farah Province's Anar Dara district on Tuesday, days after he led prayers condemning the practice of using suicide attacks, said provincial police Chief Abdul Ghafar Watandar.

Suicide attacks are one of the Taleban's preferred tactics in their assaults against Afghan and foreign troops. Most of the victims of such attacks have been civilians.

Authorities recovered Agha's body on Wednesday night, Watandar said.

Violence by the Taliban and other insurgent groups has spiked this year to record levels. Attacks are up 30 percent from 2007, military officials say.—*Internet*

Wounded Afghan men lie on hospital beds after a suicide blast in Nangarhar Province on 13 November, 2008. Twenty Afghan civilians and a US soldier were killed in a suicide attack on Thursday in eastern Afghanistan near the border with Pakistan, a spokesman for the US military said.

INTERNET



Counting the dead gets more complicated in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 Nov — This much is agreed — a double bombing in Baghdad struck a school bus and those responding to the first blast. But the difference in casualty figures was stark. Iraqi officials said 31 people died; the US military put the death toll at five.

The conflicting reports from Monday's attack are emblematic of a spate of recent bombings that have raised fears of a resurgence in violence.

There have always been disagreements because accurately counting the dead in the chaos of Iraq's war has never been easy. Yet discrepancies appear to be widening as the political stakes grow.

US officials privately say that some officials in the Shiite-dominated Interior and Health ministries could possibly have political or personal motives for inflating casualty numbers for bombings in mainly Shiite areas.

Internet

Russia says divisions remain over Iran



A general view of the building housing the reactor of Bushehr nuclear power plant at the Iranian port town of Bushehr, 1200 kms south of Tehran in 2007.—INTERNET

Moscow, 15 Nov — A Russian diplomat says major world powers remain divided over new sanctions against Iran after a meeting on the nation’s nuclear

programme. The *Interfax* news agency quoted Sergei Ryabkov, a deputy foreign minister who attended the talks, as saying Friday that envoys from the five permanent UN Security Council members and Germany reached no agreement on sanctions at Thursday’s meeting in Paris.

Ryabkov says Russia and China remain opposed to new punitive measures against Iran.

Iran already is under three sets of Security Council sanctions, but efforts to pass a fourth have been stymied. Russia argues that sanctions are counterproductive. The US claims Iran is seeking nuclear weapons under the guise of a civilian programme.—*Internet*



A fire damaged home is seen on a hillside as firefighters work to contain a wildfire which has destroyed over 100 homes in the Montecito area of Santa Barbara County, California 14 November, 2008.—INTERNET



Mortars are fired from the Gaza Strip near the border with Israel, on 14 Nov, 2008. —INTERNET

Rockets from Gaza strike deep into Israel

GAZA CITY, 15 Nov — Hamas militants bombarded a major southern Israeli city with rocket fire Friday, unleashing their most powerful weapons yet in a week of tit-for-tat fighting that threatens to destroy a five-month-old cease-fire.

Both Israel and Gaza’s Islamic militant Hamas rulers held out hope the calm would be restored, and Israeli leaders decided against any immediate major military action in retaliation. But the sides also vowed to strike hard at each other if violence persisted.

“If you want to leave the truce, we are ready. And if you want to continue it, then abide by it,” Hamas strongman Mahmoud Zahar said in a Friday sermon.

The truce took effect last June, largely halting a cycle of Palestinian rocket attacks on southern Israel and deadly Israel reprisals.

The cease-fire has mostly held, but began to deteriorate last week after an Israeli military raid on what the army said was a tunnel that militants planned to use for a cross-border raid. Eleven militants have been killed, and Palestinians have fired some 140 rockets and mortars from Gaza at Israel.

Israel also has shut Gaza’s vital border crossings, blocking the entrance of food, humanitarian goods and fuel into the impoverished area.

Friday’s rocket barrage was one of the heaviest yet. Nearly 20 rockets were fired into southern Israel, including four Grad-type Katyushas that landed in Ashkelon, some 17 miles north of Gaza. One woman in the southern Israeli town of Sderot was lightly injured by shrapnel, the army said.—*Internet*

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,197

WASHINGTON, 15 Nov —As of Friday, 14 Nov, 2008, at least 4,197 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 3,390 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*

Sri Lanka troops take key town from Tiger rebels

COLOMBO, 15 Nov — Sri Lankan security forces on Saturday captured the strategically important northern town of Pooneryn from Tamil Tiger rebels after months of heavy fighting, the defence ministry said.

“Troops of army Task Force One have entered LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) bastion of Pooneryn this morning (Saturday),” the ministry said in a statement. It gave no further details.

Internet

Castro says new President won’t bring change to US

HAVANA, 15 Nov — Fidel Castro said late Friday that the election of a new president will not bring change to the United States, but failed to mention Barack Obama by name.

In an essay posted on a government-controlled Web site, the ailing 82-year-old former President scoffed at any notion communist Cuba will “transition” toward capitalist reforms and promised to watch closely as leaders from around the world gather in Washington this weekend to discuss the global financial meltdown.

He also chided US President George W Bush for suggesting the G-20 summit will be able to accomplish a “new financial world order.” Before the

US election, Castro wrote that Obama was smarter and less of a war hawk than Republican John McCain, but also suggested that American racism would keep the Democrat from winning the White House. The election’s results were reported in state-controlled Cuban media, but Castro has yet to comment directly on Obama. His silence is thought to be a key reason why Cuba’s government has said little about the US president-elect.

Without mentioning Obama by name, Castro wrote Friday that “many say that with the simple change in head of the empire, it will be more tolerant and less bellicose.” Cuban officials routinely refer to the United States as “the empire.”—*Internet*

Malaysia suspends Thai chicken imports over bird flu scare

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Nov — Malaysia has suspended imports of whole chicken and chicken parts from Thailand with immediate effect following a bird flu scare in the neighbouring country, state media reported.

Agriculture Minister Mustapa Mohamed said the government stopped issuing permits for the import of Thai chicken as a precautionary measure after bird flu broke out in Thailand earlier this week, state Bernama news agency reported late Friday.

“Malaysia has imported 769 tonnes of chicken from the country for the period between September and November this year,” Mustapa said, but added that the freeze on imports will not effect chicken supply in the country.

He said checks at entry points along the Thai-Malaysia border in the north of the peninsula would be stepped up to prevent smuggling of the chicken into the country.

Internet



Malaysia has suspended imports of whole chicken and chicken parts from Thailand with immediate effect following a bird flu scare in the neighbouring country.—INTERNET

Space shuttle Endeavour blasts into night sky

CAPE CANAVERAL, 15 Nov — Space shuttle Endeavour and a crew of seven blasted into the night sky Friday, bound for the international space station and the most extreme home makeover project ever

Ten militants killed in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 Nov — US forces say coalition troops have attacked a bomb-making cell in eastern Afghanistan, killing 10 militants.

The military said Saturday in a statement it was targeting several key figures in a network run by Jalaluddin Haqqani, a militant leader believed to operate out of Pakistan.

The US said several groups of armed militants opened fire on the coalition troops during the operation. The coalition forces returned fire, killing their attackers and destroying a weapons cache.—Internet

attempted by astronauts.

The shuttle rose off its launch pad at 7:55 pm EST, right on time, in a brilliant flash of light visible for miles around. “It’s our turn to take home improvement to a new level after 10 years of international space station construction,” commander Christopher Ferguson radioed before liftoff.

Ferguson and his crew will double as kitchen and bathroom installers once they arrive at the space station Sunday, hooking up extra cooking and sleeping equipment so the station’s crew can expand next year.

They will deliver a new refrigerator as well, giving residents much-desired cold drinks for a change.

The nighttime launch was a special treat for onlookers. Only about a quarter of all shuttle flights begin in darkness, and this one made for a spectacular show. The moonrise that preceded the launch was an extra touch; the nearly full moon provided a breathtaking backdrop. The shuttle was visible for more than three minutes, resembling a bright star until it finally vanished.

Internet



The space shuttle Endeavour blasted off carrying seven American astronauts on a “home improvement” mission that will expand living quarters on the orbiting International Space Station.—INTERNET

World leaders may agree to economic stimulus measures

WASHINGTON, 15 Nov — World leaders at a financial crisis summit in Washington may agree to coordinated moves to boost spending to spur global growth, a senior Indian official said.

“I am reasonably hopeful that the communique the leaders will issue will send a signal which will be substantive in this exceptionally difficult situation,” Montek Singh Ahluwalia, deputy chairman of India’s Planning Commission,

told reporters.

He indicated that the leaders of the Group of 20 countries meeting in Washington could endorse a “coordinated signal for a fiscal stimulus.”

“I wouldn’t dismiss that signal — these are sovereign authorities and there has to be some presumption that if they agreed, they will do something,” Aluwalia said.

“I am not unhopeful that there will be that message — which is very important,” he said.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is among leaders attending the weekend summit that opened Friday with a working dinner at the White House hosted by US President George W Bush.

China and Germany have recently committed to stimulus packages to reignite growth following a US-triggered financial crisis that threatens to plunge the world economy into a recession.

Internet

India’s first lunar probe lands, sends back images

NEW DELHI, 15 Nov — The first lunar probe from India landed successfully on the moon Friday as part of a two-year mission aimed at laying the groundwork for further Indian space expeditions, the Indian Space Research Organization said.

ISRO chairman G Madhavan Nair said cameras on board have

been transmitting images of the moon back to Indian space control, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Chief among the lunar mission’s goals is mapping not only the surface of the moon, but what lies beneath. If successful, India will join what is shaping up to be a 21st century space race with

Chinese and Japanese crafts already in orbit around the moon.

The unmanned moon mission was launched from the Sriharikota space center in southern India on 22 Oct. The box-shaped lunar probe carried a video imaging system, a radar altimeter and a mass spectrometer.

Internet

California starring in massive earthquake drill

California will star Thursday in a mock earthquake disaster drill — considered the largest in US history — with some 5 million people pledging to

do everything from ducking for cover to rescuing faux victims.

The exercise centers on a hypothetical magnitude-7.8 earthquake that unzips the southern San Andreas Fault — an event that scientists call the feared “Big One.” Such a quake would cause 1,800 deaths and \$200 billion in damage, researchers estimate.

The state’s previous simulated quake catastrophes were smaller in scale with the leading actors mainly first responders and cities testing their emergency preparedness. Thursday’s drill is more of an ensemble cast with governments, schools, hospitals, churches, businesses and residents promising to do their part.



In this photo, ceiling tiles and other debris are piled outside, after pipes broke at a Macy’s department store in the Canoga Park area of Los Angeles following an earthquake that rolled through Southern California.

NEWS ALBUM



Most of the participants in the Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest display their entries in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary off Key Largo, Florida. The event, staged by the Amoray Dive Resort, was won by Fort Myers, Florida residents Dawn Lambeth and son Spencer with their creation at left. Entrants worked in teams of two and competed for dive-related retail merchandise prizes.

Can ancient Babylon be rescued?

It was one of the world’s first, greatest cities — a place where astronomers mapped the stars millennia ago and kings created an early code of law and planted what became known as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

Yet little remains of the ancient capital, as seen by The Associated Press during a trip to Babylon last month on one of the few permits issued by Iraq’s government since the 2003 US-led invasion. The site has the aura of a theme park touched by the ambition of dictator Saddam Hussein and the opportunism of looters: Modern

walkways run beside crumbling old walls, a reconstructed Greek theater and a palace built for Saddam atop an artificial hill.

Now, for the first time, global institutions led by the UN are thoroughly documenting the damage and how to fix it. A UNESCO report due out early next year will cite Saddam’s construction but focus, at the Iraqi government’s request, on damage done by US forces from April to September 2003, and the Polish troops deployed there for more than a year afterward.

Galapagos bachelor tortoise struggles to be a dad

After stunning conservationists by mating for the first time in decades, a giant tortoise from the Galapagos islands called Lonesome George, who is the last of his kind, still may not become a dad.

George, a 90-year-old conservation marvel and one of the world’s rarest creatures, mated this year with two females, but 80 percent of the eggs they laid appear infertile.

The females belong to a different subspecies of giant tortoise.

A Pinta Island tortoise, George had showed little interest in sex during 36 years in captivity. His new-found libido has raised hopes he could save his subspecies from extinction.



George the giant tortoise is seen in the national park of the Galapagos islands in this 29 April, 2007 file photo.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Heads of Government of BIMSTEC member countries call on Indian President



NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov —Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein and Heads of Government of BIMSTEC member countries, who were in the Republic of India to attend the Second BIMSTEC Summit, called on Indian President Mrs Pratibha Patil at Rashtrapati Bhawar in New Delhi at 5 pm on 13 November.

Heads of Government of BIMSTEC member countries comprised Chief Adviser of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of Nepal Mr Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Somchai Wongsawat and Prime Minister of the Republic of India Dr Manmohan Singh. —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Heads of Government of BIMSTEC countries call on Indian President Mrs Pratibha Patil at Rashtrapati Bhawar in New Delhi.

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Nepalese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov —Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein met Nepalese Prime Minister Mr Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda at Shangri-La Hotel in New Delhi at 4.15 p.m. IST on 13 November.

Present together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, Director-General Col Thant Shin of Government Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials. The Nepalese Prime Minister was accompanied by Mr Upendra Yadav, Foreign Affairs Minister of Nepal, and senior officials. They held comprehensive discussions on economic, culture and tourism sectors at the meeting.— MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein shakes hands with Indian President Mrs Pratibha Patil at Rashtrapati Bhawar in New Delhi. — MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Nepalese Prime Minister Mr Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda at Shangri-La Hotel in New Delhi. — MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein shakes hands with Bangladeshi Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed at Shangri-La Hotel in New Delhi. (News on page 16)

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein arrives back from Republic of India

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein, accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin and heads of department, yesterday morning left Shangri-La Hotel in New Delhi for Indira Gandhi International Airport to leave the Republic of India for Myanmar.

The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein was seen off at the airport by Deputy Minister of Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India Mr Pallam Rajv and officials, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of India U Kyi Thein and wife, Military Attaché Col Nay Win and wife, Consul-General U Soe Paing of Myanmar Consulate-General and staff of Myanmar embassy and military attaché office.

The special aircraft carrying the Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein left Indira Gandhi International Airport and arrived back here at 11 a.m.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein being seen off by Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Defence of India Mr Pallam Rajv at Indira Gandhi International Airport. — MNA

Myanmar Ambassador hosts dinner in honour of Prime Minister General Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov — Members of Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein of the Union of Myanmar arrived at the residence of Myanmar Ambassador in New Delhi at 7.30 p.m. on 13 November.

They were welcomed by Ambassador U Kyi Thein and wife, Military Attaché Col Nay Win and

wife, Consul-General U Soe Paing, embassy staff and Myanmar doctors working for WHO in New Delhi.

The Ambassador, the military attaché, the Consul-General and embassy staff and service personnel paid respects to the Prime Minister.

Next, the Prime Minister presented gifts to

embassy staff and families.

He explained achievements and friendship in the region through the closer relations with regional organizations such as BIMSTEC. There is peace and stability and developments despite fabricated reports by the internal and external media. The living standard of the people has improved due to the implementation of the economic plans, he added.

He said the nation can be built on self-reliance basis amidst economic sanctions imposed by some nations and there is a slight effect in the country on account of international financial crisis, he added.

Necessary assistance was provided to the storm victims after the cyclone Nargis as the food in the country is in surplus, he said.

He explained fruitful results achieved in the economic sector from the visit, the government's measures for preservation of national character on social and cultural aspects and necessary preparations for holding of election in 2010 in accord with the desire of the people.

He spoke of the need to keep track of development at home and abroad and urged them to keep dignity of Myanmar's sovereignty as she is maintaining good relations with major countries, to abide by the laws of the respective countries and to respect the customs of those countries, to promote bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries and to extend border trade and investment.

The ambassador and wife hosted dinner in honour of the Myanmar delegation members led by the Prime Minister.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets embassy staff and their families led by the Ambassador, the Military Attaché and the Consul-General at the residence of Myanmar Ambassador in New Delhi. — MNA

Special Projects help develop Union, improve living...

(from page 1)
Project (1900 megawatts) in Kachin State; Laymyo Hydropower Project (500 megawatts) in Rakhine State; Manipur

and Yenwe Hydropower Station (25 megawatts)—have been completed. Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint

to various parts of the nation to help boost production of goods and services and for public consumption. So far, national grids—the project linking 132 KV Dagundaing-PyinOoLwin grid and

KV grid across the Ayeyawady River; and project linking 230 KV Pyinmana-Taungdwingyi grid and Nay Pyi Taw main power station— and main power stations—132/33/11 KV, 18 MVA Yatanarpon Myothit main

KV Kindah-Inngon-Aungpinle grid and Bellin main power station, and project linking 230 KV Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana-Thazi grid and Shwemyo main power station; main power stations— installation of two transformers in Thazi main power station, installation of a capacitor bank in Myaungdagar main power station, a transformer in Hlawgar main power station, installation of a capacitor bank each in

system, and supply power to factories. Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on installation of CDMA-450 system that covers offshore and deep sea areas in the coastal regions, and Vehicle Mounted CDMA-450 system that covers regions along Yangon-Toungoo-Mandalay motor and rail roads. The Ministry of



Yeywa Hydropower Project being implemented by Ministry of Electric Power No. 1.—MNA

Hydropower Project (380 megawatts) in Sagaing Division; Upper Hsedawgyi Hydropower Project (60 megawatts) in Mandalay Division; Upper Buywa Hydropower Project (150 megawatts) in Magway Division; Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project (140 megawatts) in Shan State (North); and Pyuchaung Hydropower Project (40 megawatts), Khabaung Hydropower Project (30 megawatts) and Bilu Creek-3 Hydropower Project (48 megawatts) in Bago Division.

Of them, Khabaung Hydropower Project has been completed, and Pyuchaung Hydropower Project is ongoing.

In addition to Khabaung Hydropower Project, six more projects — Zawgyi (2) Hydro-power Station (12 megawatts); Zaungtu Hydropower Station (20 megawatts); Thaphanseik Hydropower Station (30 megawatts); Mone-chaung Hydro-power Station (75 megawatts); Paunglaung Hydropower Station (280 megawatts);

reported on progress in constructing national grids and main power stations, ongoing projects, and projects due to be implemented.

Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 gets hydropower, gas-fired power, steam-power and diesel-fired power from the network of national grids and main power stations and distributes it

Yatanarpon Myothit main power station; project linking 132 KV Dagundaing-PyinOoLwin grid and Shwesaryan main power station; project linking 132 KV Mone-Chauk grid and Tanyaung main power station; project linking 230 KV Pyinmana-Toungoo grid and Thebyu main power station; project to shift Kazindaw tower of the Hlinethaya-Athok 230

power station; 132/66/11 KV, 60 MVA Tanyaung main power station; and 230/33/11 KV, 100 MVA Nay Pyi Taw main power station have been completed.

Now, plans are under way to complete on schedule national grids—the project linking 132 KV Thazi-Dagundaing grid and Bellin main power station, project linking 132

Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min. —MNA

Hlawgar main power station, Thakayta main power station, Hlinethaya main power station.

Nine more grids and 19 main power stations will be established to supply the power generated by hydropower stations to the grid, to improve the power supply

Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint. MNA

Communications, Posts and Telegraphs launched the tasks for installation of 55,000 CDMA-450 mobile exchange lines and 46 CDMA-450 radio stations in Yangon and other regions to improve the communication pattern in offshore and deep sea areas. Up to April 2008, the ministry had set up 34 stations and 55,000 lines in the seaside regions and in Ayeyawady Division including three stations in Yangon. It managed to carry out rescue and rehabilitation tasks effectively in areas hit by the cyclone “Nargis” with the use of CDMA-450 communication system.

Arrangements are being made for construction of 15 Vehicle Mounted CDMA-450 radio stations along Yangon-Toungoo-Mandalay road and railroad.

Myanma Posts and Telecommunications is making efforts for construction of 89 radio stations and installation of 134,200 lines for CDMA communication system.

(See page 9)



Pylons linking Shweli-Mansan power circuit being undertaken by Ministry of Electric Power No. 2.—MNA

Special Projects help develop Union, improve living...

(from page 8)
Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported on signing of contracts on production sharing with foreign oil companies in the blocks of exploration, drilling and production of oil and natural gas in Rakhine offshore region, inland region and Mottama offshore region for approval.

Next, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min reported on Pyawbwe-Natmauk-

project and Dawei-Myeik Railroad construction project will be implemented.

The 95-mile Pyawbwe-Natmauk-Magway Railroad links Pyawbwe on the east bank of central Yoma and Magway on the west bank. On completion of the project, transport to towns on the east and west banks will become easier. Social, economic and transport sectors will improve in Shan State, Mandalay Division and

Taunggyi and one can travel from Taunggyi to Hsaikoung, Namsang and Moene. Namsang-Kengtung railroad project will also be implemented in order to easily travel to the regions of Shan State (South) and Shan State (East). Namsang-Kengtung railroad will be about 190 miles long and a Thanlwin river-crossing bridge and tunnels will be built along the route.

On completion of Dawei-Myeik railroad project, trains will run from Myitkyina, northern part of Myanmar, to Myeik, southern part of the country. Dawei-



**CPT Minister
Brig-Gen Thein Zaw.**
MNA



**Energy Minister
Brig-Gen Lun Thi.**
MNA



**Rail Transportation
Minister Maj-Gen
Aung Min.** — MNA

Palaw and Melaungchaung.

In response to the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on requirements of

development of the State, efforts are to be made to complete the projects speedily and effectively. Next, he stressed the need for supervision of minimizing expenditures of respective projects as much as they can.

The Senior General said all the projects must be

undertaken successfully and effectively by holding the concept that those projects can help develop the Union, improve living conditions of the entire national people and serve the long-term interests of future generations. Then the meeting ended at 5 p.m.

MNA



A rig seen in exploring natural gas at Mottama Offshore Region. — MNA

Magway Railroad construction project, Namhsan-Kengtung Railroad construction project and Dawei-Myeik Railroad construction project.

The Ministry of Rail Transportation built 4,552 rail-cum-bridges and 325 stations including 1,210.51 miles of railroads and 49 major rail-cum-bridges which are 180 feet long and above after 1988.

Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad construction project and Katha-Bhamo Railroad construction one are under construction. Pyawbwe-Natmauk-Magway Railroad construction project, Namhsan-Kengtung Railroad construction

Magway Division. People can easily go to the west bank of Ayeyawady River through Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway). The railroad leads to Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad and Nay Pyi Taw.

The 4.75-mile Pyawbwe-Yayngan railroad section was completed on 9 April 1999 and trains started running. Yayngan-Yanaung-Natmauk-Magway railroad section (90.25 miles) will be built. Altogether 382 major and small bridges will be built along the railroad.

As the already-built Pyawbwe-Phayangasu railroad will be opened, trains can run from Nay Pyi Taw to

Myeik railroad is 127.62 miles and covers Thayetchaung, Palauk,

respective projects saying that in undertaking necessary projects for the

All the projects must be undertaken successfully and effectively by holding the concept that those projects can help develop the Union, improve living conditions of the entire national people and serve the long-term interests of future generations.



Yatanarpon Teleport in Pyin Oo Lwin Township. — MNA

Minister U Nyan Win meets Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Sri Lankan counterparts

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov—Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win met Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at 10.30 a.m. on 12 November morning, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Upendra Yadav of the Nepal at 1.45 p.m. and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr R Bogollagama of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at 2.15 p.m. at Hyderabad House in New Delhi of the Republic of India.

MNA



Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyan Win meets Bangladesh Caretaker Government's Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury. — MNA

Foreign Affairs
Minister U Nyan
Win meets Nepalese
Foreign Affairs
Minister
Mr Upendra Yadav.

MNA



UMFCCI, FICCI hold talks on economic cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov—A meeting between the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at FCCI Office in New Delhi on 12 November.

It was attended by UMFCCI President U Win Myint and Myanmar businessmen, Director Mr Kantha Rao of the Ministry of Commerce of India, FICCI President Mr Daya K Goyal and Indian businessmen.

First, the FICCI President extended greetings and the director of the Ministry of Commerce of India gave accounts of agreements on bilateral trade.

Next, Director-General U Htay Aung of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism touched on economic cooperation of BIMSTEC countries and promotion of tourism sector and Director-General U Khin Maung Lay of Directorate of Trade explained bilateral trade.

Afterwards,

UMFCCI President U Win Myint explained matters on economic cooperation between the two federations and businessmen of the two countries discussed matters related to economic sector.

UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and party attended the BIMSTEC Business Summit held at Hotel Le Meridien in New Delhi on the same day.

On 13 November, Director-General U Khin Maung Lay of Directorate of Trade, UMFCCI President U Win Myint and businessmen held discussions with Secretary Mr Yashwant Bhawe of the Ministry of Commerce and officials, responsible persons of the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd

(STC) at the office of Commerce Department in New Delhi.

MNA



A meeting between Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in progress.

MNA

Policemen honoured for exposing thefts

YANGON, 15 Nov—These days, thefts of goods onboard highway trucks occur time and again, and accordingly, the Myanmar Police Force made investigation into the cases. The investigation led to arrest of five offenders including Teza Aung (a) Bu Koe together with the exhibits by members of Mingaladon Township and Shwepyitha Township Police Forces.

Highway Transportation Entrepreneurs Asso-

ciation (Bayintnaung) honoured the outstanding policemen on 11 November afternoon. It was attended by Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, local authorities, heads of township police forces, and officials of the association.

Chairman of the association U Hla Min awarded K 300,000 to Mingaladon Township Police Force and K 100,000 to Shwepyitha Township Police Force.

MNA

Broadcast of Mandalay FM Radio to be extended

YANGON, 15 Nov—Test-broadcast of Mandalay FM Radio has been conducted since 3 April 2008. During the test-broadcast, its programme runs daily from 5.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m, accounting for 15 hours per day.

There were no commercials exerted for priority being given to better programme during that period.

Today, its programme will run from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m daily (18 hours per day). Each hour of the 18 hour-programme covers sports news, international news, regional news, interviews, informative items and special sections for kids as well as different kinds of songs from traditional songs to modern ones.

For the convenience of its listeners, the radio station will broadcast a moderate ratio of commercials to other sections of the 18-hour programme.

MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

A & I Minister receives Swedish Minister-Counsellor



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives Swedish Minister Counsellor Mr Benet Ekman. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov— Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo met Minister-Counsellor Mr Benet Ekman of the Bangkok-based Swedish Embassy, at the hall of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw at 5.30 p.m. on 13 November.

They cordially discussed technical cooperation in the agriculture sector between the two nations.

MNA



Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyan Win meets Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka Mr R. Bogollagama. (News on Page 10)— MNA

Sports Minister opens 20th Myanmar Para Sports Competition, 14th ISD Aerobic Tournament

YANGON, 15 Nov — The opening of the 20th Myanmar Para Sports Competition held at Aung San Stadium here this afternoon.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint made a speech and opened the competition.

After the competi-

tion took place, the prize presentation ceremony followed. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented prizes to winners in men's 100-meter event.

The minister also attended the opening of the 14th Inter-State/Division Aerobic Tournament held at National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna).

Defending Champion Yangon Division Team handed over Championship Trophy to the minister.

Next, the minister delivered an address and opened the tournament.

Altogether 15 teams are taking part in the tournament which will last up to 17 November.

MNA

SWRR Minister receives Japanese Ambassador



SWRR Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe receives Japanese Ambassador Mr Yasuaki Nogawa. — SWD

YANGON, 15 Nov—Member of Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Social Welfare,

Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe received Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yasuaki Nogawa at the

hall of Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township on 13 November.

MNA

Vice-Mayor inspects tax-free markets

YANGON, 15 Nov — Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa inspected the sale of rice, edible oil, vegetables, fish and prawn, personal goods, fruits and

flowers at tax-free markets in Tamway, Dagon Myothit (North) and Dagon Myothit (South) Townships this morning.

In meeting with officials concerned at the markets, the vice-mayor

stressed the need for food hygiene, reasonable price of commodities and winning customers' satisfaction in accord with the five aims of tax free market.

MNA

Storm News

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov—The Meteorology and Hydrology Department issued an announcement that according to the observa-

tion at 3:30 p.m. today, Cyclone Khai Muk that has occurred in the Southwest Bay of Bengal crossed near Machilipatanam at the

coast of Andhra Pradesh in the Republic of India. It is forecast to move the Northwestwards as inland storm.

MNA

Midwifery course concludes

YANGON, 15 Nov — Jointly conducted by Yangon Division Health Committee and Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, the fourth midwifery course conclud-

ing ceremony was held Sabei hall of No. 2 Basic Education High School of Sangyoung Township in Yangon West District on 11 October afternoon.

A total of 144 Mid-

wives from 14-township of Yangon Division attended the six month course. Altogether 475 midwives have completed the course from first to fourth batch.— MNA

Seinle Shwepyi Journal Vol 5, No. 24 comes out

YANGON, 15 Nov— Seinle Shwepyi Journal Vol 5, No. 24 has been distributed on 13 November.

The journal features ways of cooking, using electricity, drilling oil wells, donating K 1117.7 million, economic news, science news and other articles.

The journal is available on the bookstall of Sarpay Beikman, Printing and Publishing Enterprise's Shop and Pan Shwe Pyi Bookstall. The

manuscripts may be sent to Seinle Shwepyi Journal, No. 228, building of PPE on Theinbyu Street in Botahtaung Township, dialing 382070. —MNA

Donate blood

TRADEMARK CAUTION
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Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or colourable imitation of the mark shall be dealt with according to law.

U Than Maung, Advocate
For Schwarzkopf & Henkel K.K.
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd
Unit 701-702, Traders Hotel,
Yangon, Union of Myanmar
kelvin.chia.ygn@mptmail.net.mm
Dated 16 November 2008

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HELMUTH RAMBOO VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HELMUTH RAMBOO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.11.08 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



One hundred balloons take of in unison over the Palote dam during the seventh edition of the 'Hot Air Balloons Festival' in Leon, Mexico, on 14 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET

Invitation for ASEAN Energy Awards 2009 Competitions

ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) is now accepting entries to the competitions for (1) ASEAN Renewable Energy Project, (2) ASEAN Energy Efficient Building and (3) ASEAN Best Practices for Energy Management in Buildings and Industries under the ASEAN Energy Awards 2009.

The entries are invited from Government sectors and Private sectors.

Application forms are available from Myanmar Engineering Society, Hlaing Universities' Campus, Hlaing Township, Yangon (Tel: 01-579038/579039, 09 50 28963), until 8th December 2008.

"Pregnant man" pregnant again

LOS ANGELES, 15 Nov — Thomas Beatie, who was born a woman but lives as a man in Oregon after surgery and hormone treatment, is expecting a second child, Beatie has told Barbara Walters in an interview set to air on television on Friday.

Beatie, 34, who is legally a man but kept female reproductive organs when he had a sex-change operation 10 years ago, is in his first trimester of pregnancy, he told celebrity interviewer Walters for the ABC news program "20/20" that will air on 14 November. Walters highlighted the interview on her daytime chat show, "The View," on Thursday.

With his thin beard, Beatie made headlines around the world and was dubbed the "pregnant man" before giving birth to a baby girl on 29 June. He told Walters that after giving birth he did not go back on the male hormone testosterone that he took after his sex change, because he wanted to have another baby.

"I feel good," Beatie told Walters. "I had my check-ups with my hormone level, as far as the hCG. And everything is right on track."

Internet

Report says pirates holding Chinese ship, crew of 24

WASHINGTON, 15 Nov — Somali pirates were holding the crew of a Chinese fishing vessel on Friday, hours after hijacking the ship in the fourth reported pirate attack in the region this week, according to a media report.

All 24 crew members were fine, according to China's state-run Xinhua news agency, which quoted a pirate leader who had spoken to a radio station in the Somali capital of Mogadishu.

The vessel was seized late Thursday in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Kenya and taken to the Somali port city of Kismayo, near the Kenyan border, Xinhua reported.

Internet

Laid-off Silicon Valley worker kills three

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Nov — A man laid off recently from his job in Silicon Valley shot and killed three people, believed to be former co-workers, at an office park on Friday, police in the ailing US technology hub said.

The 47-year-old suspect, identified by police as Jing Wu, was still at large after gunning down two men and a woman

shortly before 4 pm local time (12 am on Saturday), Santa Clara, California, police told local media.

Police did not identify the firm, which had employed the suspect, local radio and television reported.

An online business directory listed a man with the suspect's name working at Siport, a semiconductor company at the

address of the killings. Siport was not immediately available for comment.

As the US economy has weakened, technology companies have joined the rush to cut costs and lay off workers.

Sun Microsystems, one stalwart of the industry, said on Friday it would cut up to 6,000 jobs, 18 percent of its workforce.—Internet



Local villagers rescue passengers from the Kabul river after a boat capsized while crossing the river in Qila Shah Baig near Peshawar, Pakistan on 14 Nov, 2008. Dozens of people who fell in the river while riding in an overloaded boat were rescued by the villagers. —INTERNET

Clouds of pollution threaten glaciers, health

BEIJING, 15 Nov — A dirty brown haze sometimes more than a mile thick is darkening skies not only over vast areas of Asia, but also in the Middle East, southern Africa and the Amazon Basin, changing weather patterns around the world and threatening health and food supplies, the UN reported on Thursday.

The huge smog-like plumes, caused mainly by the burning of fossil fuels and firewood, are known as "atmospheric brown clouds."

When mixed with emissions of carbon di-oxide and other gases blamed for warming the earth's atmosphere like a greenhouse, they are the newest threat to the global environment, according to

a report commissioned by the UN Environment Programme.

"All of this points to an even greater and urgent need to look at emissions across the planet," said Achim Steiner, head of Kenya-based UNEP, which funded the report with backing from Italy, Sweden and the United States.

Brown clouds are caused by an unhealthy mix of particles, ozone and other chemicals that come from cars, coal-fired power plants, burning fields and wood-burning stoves. First identified by the report's lead researcher in 1990, the clouds were depicted Thursday as being more widespread and causing more environmental damage than previously known.—Internet



A shepherd herds sheep amid snow at a mountainous region in Altay prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 13 Nov, 2008. About 1,000 vehicles are stranded on a section of a major highway in northwest China after rain and snow left an impassable layer of ice on Thursday, Xinhua News Agency reported traffic authorities saying.—INTERNET



Construction workers prepare steel bars before cement is poured at a building project in Manila on 14 Nov, 2008. The Philippine economy is expected to slow further to post growth of 3.7 to 4.7 percent next year from 4.1 to 4.8 percent this year as the global financial crisis dampens domestic and external demand.—INTERNET

Russia's Lower House approves constitutional change

Moscow, 15 Nov — Russia's Lower House of Parliament Friday approved constitutional changes to extend presidential and parliamentary terms from four years to six and five years respectively.

The State Duma voted 388-58 to pass the constitutional amendments in the first of three readings. After two more readings, the

changes still need to be voted on by the Federation Council, the Upper House of Parliament, and by regional legislatures.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, who put forth the initiative in his first state-of-the-nation address to the Federal Assembly last week, submitted the draft law to the Lower House Tuesday. State Duma Speaker Boris Gryzlov said de-

bates and votes on the second and third readings would take place next week.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin expressed support for Medvedev's proposal, saying the initiative had "no personal dimension". The constitutional amendments will enter into force once they have been approved by both houses of Parliament and at least two-thirds of regional legislatures and published in a government newspaper. *Xinhua*

All items from Xinhua News Agency

State of emergency declared in Calif fire-hit area

LOS ANGELES, 15 Nov — California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Friday proclaimed a state of emergency in Santa Barbara County as a result of a ravaging fire that has already injured at least 13 people and destroyed more than 100 homes.

The fire has burned approximately 2,500 acres (about 1013 hectares) of land with no containment and caused loss of power in the area, the governor said.

The fire, which started Thursday night in Santa Barbara about 80 miles (about 128 kilometres) west of Los Angeles, has required mandatory evacuations and road closures, and residents have been forced to seek emergency shelter, according to Schwarzenegger. *Xinhua*



A pair of abandoned commercial vessels sit in the banks along Fisherman's Cut near Bethel Island, Calif, recently. —INTERNET

At least nine dead at highway accident in Brazil

BRASILIA, 15 Nov — At least nine people died on Friday and other 20 were injured during a highway accident in the state of Para, north of Brazil.

According to preliminary reports from the Highway State Police, the driver of a passenger bus was driving on speeding when the bus hit the road-side and felt off a bridge at the highway PA-150.

According to the communicate of the owner company of the bus, the accident occurred at about 4:00 am local time.

Meanwhile, the firemen told the Press that they are continuing searching for survivors. *Xinhua*

16 Nigerian engineers to undergo space rocket training

LAGOS, 15 Nov — At least 16 Nigerian engineers will embark on space rocket training in the United States and Russia, beginning from December, an official with the Centre for Space Transport and Propulsion said on Friday.

Oluremi Fashade, coordinator for the centre, said the training is part of the centre's human resource development plan to launch Nigeria's space rocket (satellite) by 2030.

According to him, the major mandate given to the center is to develop the country's engineering and scientific capacity to produce space transport vehicles.

Fashade said that plans have been concluded to train 10 engineers from the center in science of

Rocketry in Russia, noting that additional six engineers will also depart the country for technical exposure and training in rocket design and development at the University of Alabama, the United States.—*Xinhua*

25 sports approved for 25th SEA Games in Laos

HANOI, 15 Nov — The Southeast Asian Games Federation (SEAGF) has approved 390 events in 25 sports to be staged at the 25th SEA Games 2009 in Laos, the Lao newspaper *Vientiane Times* reported on Friday. The approval was made by the SEAGF council in Vientiane on Thursday after two days of

discussion among leaders of federations from member nations.

The 25 sports to be contested at the games are athletics, aquatic sports (swimming, diving and water polo), archery, badminton, billiards and snooker, boxing, cycling, football, golf, judo, karate-do, sepak takraw, shooting,

table tennis, taekwondo, tennis and soft tennis, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling, wushu, muay, fin swimming, petanque, shuttlecock and pencak silat, according to the SEAGF Council.

The games will run from 9-18 December, with the opening ceremony on 13 December.—*Xinhua*

Improvised bomb kills two Philippine soldiers

MANILA, 15 Nov — At least two soldiers were killed by an improvised bomb in southern Philippines, local media reports said Saturday.

Bombo Radyo quoted Colonel Boggie de Leon, commanding officer of the Army's 102nd Brigade, said an improvised explosive device was placed in a culvert and detonated when a military truck passed by in Sarangani Province before dawn Saturday.

According to on-line news network *GMA News*, Radyo told local radio reporters that the truck was returning to camp from community work when the incident occurred.

Police are yet ready to name the suspects and no group has claimed responsibility so far.—*Xinhua*



A resident crosses her flooded housing complex in central Jakarta on 14 Nov, 2008. —INTERNET

SPORTS

Mourinho drops Adriano and Quaresma

ROME, 15 Nov — Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho has dropped both Adriano and Ricardo Quaresma from his match-day squad to face Palermo on Sunday.



Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho, has dropped both Adriano and Ricardo Quaresma from his match-day squad to face Palermo on Sunday.—INTERNET

Adriano has been omitted from every squad since a spat with Mourinho two weeks ago, following which he was dropped for unprofessional behaviour.

But rather than forcing his way back into the side, he seems to be getting further and further away from a recall.

But Mourinho moved on Friday to suggest that there is a path back to first team football for the Brazilian, who missed training on Tuesday due to a cold.—Internet

Real's Schuster eyes replacement for van Nistelrooy



Real Madrid coach Bernd Schuster —INTERNET

MADRID, 15 Nov — Real Madrid could bring in a player to replace injured striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, who is out for the season after having knee surgery, coach Bernd Schuster said

on Friday. "If there is any possibility we will certainly make the most of it," Schuster told reporters when asked whether Van Nistelrooy would be replaced in the squad.

"Ruud's loss will make us more attentive to the market," he added. "Someone important could come in who helps us."

Van Nistelrooy flew to the United States this week and was treated by the surgeon who operated on the same right knee in 2000 when the Dutchman was at PSV Eindhoven.

The 32-year-old has vowed to return next season but Schuster said the Spanish champions will miss him badly until then.—Internet

Mickelson targets Singapore leaders Els and Dyson

SINGAPORE, 15 Nov — Phil Mickelson suffered a bogey on his last hole after a spectator took a photo during his swing but the American still closed the gap on leaders Ernie Els and Simon Dyson at the \$5 million (3.36 million pound) Singapore Open on

Saturday.

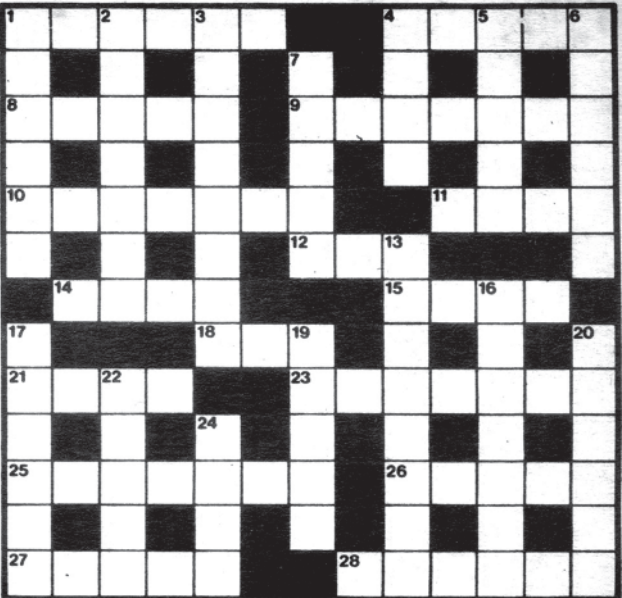
Mickelson, completing his storm-interrupted second round in overcast morning conditions at the par-71 Serapong Course, saw his second shot at the par-five 18th plunge into the water after the ill-timed snapshot distracted him.

The world number three carded a three-under 68 and starts the third round five strokes behind South African Els and Englishman Dyson, who sit atop the leaderboard on six under. Local hope Lam Chih Bing, Thailand's Chapchai Nirat and 19-year-old Rory McIlroy from Northern Ireland are two strokes off the lead at four under, while three-times major winner Pdraig Harrington is on level par.—Internet



Simon Dyson hits a shot on the 12th hole during the second round of the Singapore Open golf tournament on 14 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 English river
- 4 Grab
- 8 Christopher —
- 9 Plunder
- 10 Not deep
- 11 Scholastic season
- 12 Snooze
- 14 Encounter
- 15 Scarce
- 18 Health centre
- 21 Profit
- 23 Camp without tent
- 25 Green jewel
- 26 Sheeplike
- 27 Shiny fabric
- 28 On the way up

DOWN

- 1 Tension
- 2 Quiver
- 3 Small curls
- 4 Despatch
- 5 Annoyed
- 6 Arctic aborigine
- 7 Five-shilling piece
- 13 Prior
- 16 Custom
- 17 Way out
- 19 Reside
- 20 A manner of speaking
- 22 Unskilful
- 24 Principal

Ferguson says Man United not offering Ronaldo new deal

MANCHESTER, 15 Nov — Sir Alex Ferguson has dismissed suggestions that Manchester United are close to offering Cristiano Ronaldo a new contract by insisting that the European champions are 'happy' with the remaining length of the player's current deal.

With Real Madrid expected to renew efforts to sign Ronaldo next year, it is likely that United will open talks over a new deal with the Portuguese forward at the end of the season.

At that stage, he will have three years left to run on his 120,000-pound-a-week deal, but Ferguson admitted recently that the summer of 2009 will be a 'key' stage of Ronaldo's contract. Yet despite Ronaldo's agent, Jorge Mendes, being spotted at Old Trafford last week, Ferguson insists that the player's current deal does not require urgent renewal.—Internet

Sir Alex Ferguson has dismissed suggestions that Manchester United are close to offering Cristiano Ronaldo, a new contract by insisting that the European champions are 'happy' with the remaining length of the player's current deal.—INTERNET



BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal	0 - 2	Aston Villa
Blackburn	1 - 2	Sunderland
Bolton	0 - 2	Liverpool
Fulham	1 - 0	Tottenham
Man Utd	5 - 0	Stoke City
Newcastle	2 - 2	Wigan Athletic
WBA	0 - 3	Chelsea
West Ham Utd	0 - 0	Portsmouth



Liverpool's Steven Gerrard (C) heads to score against Bolton Wanderers during their English Premier League soccer match in Bolton on 15 Nov, 2008.

INTERNET



Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo (C) scores from a free kick during their English Premier League soccer match against Stoke City in Manchester, northern England on 15 Nov, 2008.

INTERNET

Stanford leads Lorena Ochoa Invitational

GUADALAJARA, 15 Nov — Angela Stanford shot a 6-under 66 on Friday in the second round of the Lorena Ochoa Invitational to take a two-stroke lead over LPGA Championship winner Yani Tseng.

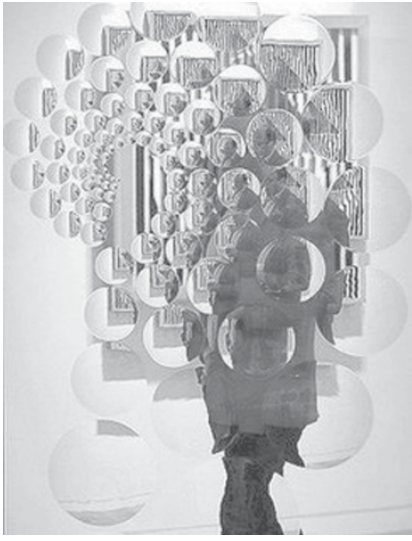
Stanford had a 10-under 134 total on the Guadalajara Country Club course. Tseng, No. 2 in the world behind Ochoa, shot her second straight 68. Ochoa followed her opening 73 with a 71 on her home course, leaving her 10 strokes back.

Meena Lee (69) was 6 under, and Karen Stupples (71) was 5 under. Annika Sorenstam (72), leaving the tour at the end of the season, was 4 under in group that included Juli Inkster (69) and Seon Hwa Lee (72).

Internet



US golf player Angela Stanford putts on the 18th hole during the second round of the LPGA Lorena Ochoa Invitational golf tournament in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 14 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET



Polesello's view : A visitor is reflected through a creation by Argentine artist Rogelio Polesello on display during Sotheby's Latin American Art preview, in New York.
INTERNET

750 kilos of cocaine seized in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 15 Nov—Argentine police have seized 750 kilos of high purity cocaine, which Colombian and Mexican traffickers intended to send to Spain, local daily *Critica de la Argentina* reported Friday.

The cocaine, found in 700 packs, was one of the most important seizures so far this year, the report quoted police as saying.

Two Mexicans and three Bolivians were detained in Thursday's operation, code-named "Rainbow", in the town of San Miguel, northwest of Buenos Aires Province. Three Colombians managed to escape, the report said.

It is suspected that the drug belonged to the

Sinaloa cartel, one of the biggest criminal gangs in Mexico.

MNA/Xinhua

China donates 63 vehicles to Peru for 16th APEC Summit

LIMA, 15 Nov—China donated 63 cars to Peru Friday for the upcoming Economic Leaders' Informal Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum on 22-23 November in Lima, the capital of Peru.

Chinese Ambassador to Peru Gao Zhengyue delivered the vehicles on behalf of the Chinese Government.

During the delivering ceremony, Peruvian Vice President Luis Giam-

pietri, who is also president of the APEC High Level Extraordinary Commission (APEC-HLEC) expressed thanks to China on behalf of the Peruvian Government.

Giampietri said "the Chinese Government and people generously contributed to a better condition of the Leaders' Week.

I must say that this donation helps us solve the transportation problem of the leaders".

MNA/Xinhua

S Korea launches second "Aegis" destroyer

SEOUL, 15 Nov—South Korea launched its second *Aegis* destroyer on Friday, the South Korean Navy said.

The destroyer, named as *Yulgok Yi I*, is expected to be commissioned in 2011 after test operations, the Navy said.

The 7,600-ton class destroyer can carry up to two helicopters as well as various ship-to-ship and ship-to-air guided missiles that can be fired simultaneously at up to 20 targets, South Korea's *Yonhap* news agency

reported.

Yulko Yi (1536-1584) was one of Korea's most prominent Confucian scholars. The Navy vessel was launched in a ceremony at a dockyard of Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Co, in Geogae, some 500 kilo-metres south of Seoul, the Navy said.

South Korean Defence Minister Lee Sang-hee, Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Jung Ok-geun and other officials attended the ceremony.

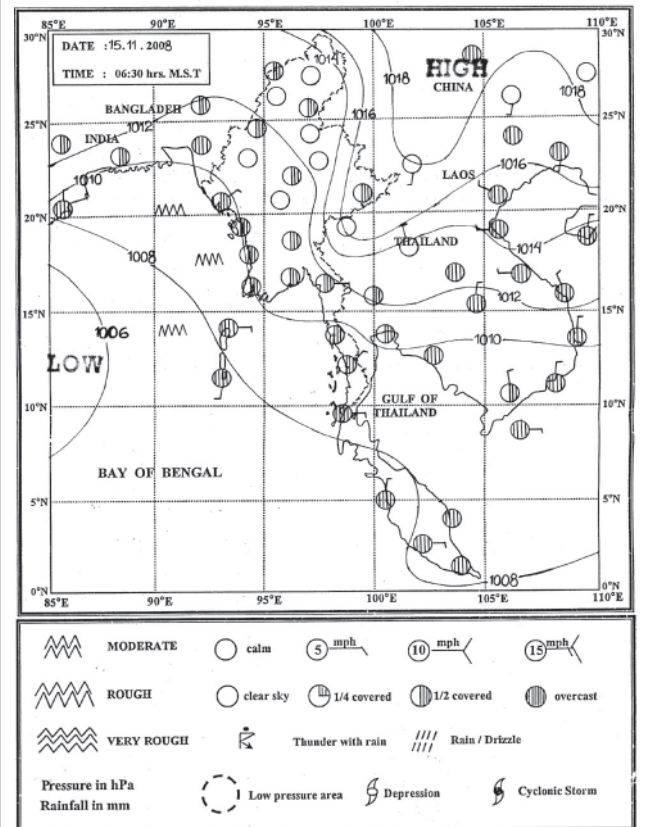
"Aegis destroyer

Yulgok Yi I has the world's top class anti-ship, anti-aircraft and anti-submarine capabilities, which will significantly boost the country's naval defence capabilities," the Navy said in a statement.

South Korea launched its first-ever *Aegis* destroyer, King Sejong, last year. The Navy has signed a contract this year with Hyundai Heavy Industries to build the third KDX-III by 2012, South Korea's Navy said.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 15 November, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below November average temperatures in Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below November average temperatures in Kachin State, lower Sagaing, Magway, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about November average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (2°C), Hakha (4°C) and Namsam (6°C).

Maximum temperature on 14-11-2008 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 15-11-2008 was 62°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 15-11-2008 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 14-11-2008 was (6.8) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 15-11-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.31) inches at Mingaladon, (120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southeast at (12:30) hours MST on 14-11-2008.

Bay inference: The cyclonic storm (Khai-Muk) over Southwest Bay move Northwest slowly. According to the observations at (09.30) hrs MST today, it is crossing Andhrapradesh Coast near Machilipatnam (India). It is forecast to cross the Coast during the next 12 hours. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Special feature: According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, the tropical depression over South China Sea has become unimportant.

Forecast valid until evening of 16th November 2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of light rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-11-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-11-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-11-2008: Generally fair weather.



Sunday, 16 November
View on today

7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- "အဆုံးအဖြတ်" (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ အေးမြတ်သူ၊ မျိုးမျိုးခိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)

8:05 am

- Musical programme

8:20 am

- အတီးဖြင့်ပွဲ

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Song of national races

11:00 am

- Martial song

11:10 am

- Round up of the week's international news

11:25 am

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မေမေမေတ္တာကုသေကုသ"

(အပိုင်း-၂၂)

12:20 pm

- Golf magazine (TV)

12:40 am

- မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင် "ပန်းတွေနဲ့ဝေ" (ညွန့်ဝင်း၊ အောင်လွင်၊ ခင်ယုမေ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်ဝဏ္ဏ)

2:15 am

- International news

3:20 pm

- တတိယအကြိမ်၊ Grand Royal Challenge Cup 2008 ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ (ကိုရီးယား(ဟွန်ဒိုင်းကလပ်)နှင့် ဗီယက်နမ်)

5:20 pm

- Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် "Pocket dragon adventure"

6:55 pm

- တစ်မျက်နှာတစ်ကွက်စာ "မဖြစ်နိုင်ပါဘူး" (ထက်ထက်၊ ဝါဝါမေမောင်၊ ခေါလေး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်သာ(ပွဲကြိုခင်))

7:15 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သံယောဇဉ်နောင်ကြီး" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)

8:00 pm

- News
- International news
- Weather report
- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်စစ်ရှာဖွေခြင်း" (အပိုင်း-၈)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends informal meeting of BIMSTEC Heads of Government



Prime Minister General Thein Sein and heads of government of BIMSTEC countries attend the press conference on 2nd BIMSTEC Summit. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein on 13 November attended the informal meeting of Heads of Government of BIMSTEC member countries held at Shahjehan Hall of the Hotel Taj Palace in New Delhi, the Republic of India.

Also present on the occasion were Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley, Prime Minister of the Republic of India Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, President of Democratic Socialist Repub-

lic of Sri Lanka Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Somchai Wongsawat, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, ministers of foreign affairs and deputy ministers of foreign affairs of BIMSTEC member countries.

At the meeting, the Heads of Government exchanged views on global financial crisis and discussed matters on food security, energy security and climate changes in a cordial and frank manner.

After the meeting, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and the Heads of Government of BIMSTEC member countries attended a luncheon hosted in their honour by the Indian Prime Minister at Mumtaj Mahal

of the Hotel Taj Palace.

At 1.30 p.m, a press conference on the Second BIMSTEC Summit took place at Durbar Hall of the Hotel Taj Palace. It was attended by Prime Minister General Thein Sein and the Heads of Government. The Indian Prime Minister clarified the background history of BIMSTEC, work programmes and functions and the successful holding of the Second BIMSTEC Summit.

Next, the Heads of Government replied to queries raised by those from broadcasting stations of BIMSTEC member countries and the press conference ended at 2 p.m.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government of Bangladesh



NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein met Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed at Shangri-La Hotel in New Delhi at 3.45 p.m on 13 November.

It was also attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and departmental officials, Adviser of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Caretaker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and senior officials.

They discussed matters related to mutual interests at the meeting. — MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed at Shangri-La Hotel in New Delhi.— MNA