Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife to pay official visit to Bangladesh

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Oct — At the invitation of His Excellency Dr Fakruddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Mya Mya San will pay an official visit to the People’s Republic of Bangladesh in the near future.—MNA

Two Vietnamese companies to explore offshore oil in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct — Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy, Petrovietnam Exploration Production Corporation Ltd and Joint Venture Vietsovpetro of Vietnam and Eden Group Co Ltd of Myanmar signed a production sharing contract on exploration of oil and gas at M-2 block, Mottama Offshore at Yadana hall of the ministry, here, yesterday.

It was attended by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung, those from Petrovietnam Exploration Production Corporation Ltd, Joint Venture Vietsovpetro and Eden Group Co Ltd and guests.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi made an opening speech on the occasion. Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung, Managing Director U Myint Htay of MOGE and Vice-President Dr Do Van Hau of Petrovietnam extended greetings.

(See page 8)

Zwegabin Region with promising future

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

We newsmen recently had an opportunity to visit Hpa-an, Kawkareik and Myawady districts in Kayin State including border areas, and we were very pleased to witness regional development, especially in the agricultural sector, which depicted peace and stability restored in the regions.

During the trip, we noticed lush and green paddy fields which were touching the horizon, along with thriving gardens, rubber farms, and patches of such kitchen crops as beans and pulses, watermelon and yam grown as mixed crops in the rubber plantations, and so the whole Kayin State looked as if it were like a large green patch.

(See page 10)
The government has spent a great deal of funds on such sectors as education, health, transport, etc since 1989 for development of border areas and national races.

In the meantime, it is engaged in extended opening of basic education schools in border areas in order to broaden the horizons of national races. As part of a special project for development of human resources in border regions, the government opened the nationalities youths resources development training schools.

Likewise, it constructed small scale dams and embankments as well as canals for development of the agricultural sector while transforming the slash and burn farming into the highland cultivation.

Better transport plays an important role in ensuring the development of a region. Therefore, the government is giving priority to construction of new roads and bridges and renovation of the old ones. In that regard, tarred roads, concrete roads, gravel roads, laterite roads and earth roads are being built. With better transport, the national races have a frequent contact and a close and friendly relationship with one another, thereby contributing to smooth and swift commodity flow.

Moreover, specialist hospitals (200-bed) were opened to provide health care services to rural people of border areas in addition to opening of more hospitals, dispensaries and rural health care centres.

The government has spent over K 231,113 million on development of border areas and national races since 1989. Therefore, it is incumbent upon all the local people to strive together with the government for successful realization of the drive for development of border areas and national races.

The minister looked into availability of electricity from Shweli to Shwesayan sub-power station through 230 KV power line, supply of electricity to Tagantaing and PyinOoLwin sub-power stations from Shwesayan sub-power station through 132 KV power line at the control of room of Shwesayan sub-power station and switch yard.

Next, the minister also inspected Belin sub-power station, 132 KV Imgon-Belin and Thazi-Belin Aung power lines, installation of power lines and Imgon and Thabyaywa (Meiktila) sub-power stations.

The minister also presented opening of basic education schools in order to broaden the horizons of national races.
NATO can’t be in Afghanistan forever

OTTAWA, 3 Oct—Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who has committed to pulling out Canadian troops from Afghanistan in 2011, said on Thursday some other Western leaders wrongly believed NATO forces could stay there forever. Canada has around 2,500 troops based in the southern city of Kandahar, in a region where the Taliban is strong.

It has lost 97 soldiers and a diplomat since late 2002. Harper initially said Canada would not leave Afghanistan until the country was able to cope for itself. Earlier this year, amid increasing public and political pressure, he agreed to bring the troops back by the end of 2011. “I think that’s wise. One of the things I disagree with some other Western leaders is that our plan can be somehow to stay in Afghanistan militarily indefinitely,” he said during a televised election campaign debate.—Internet

Taliban leader rejects talks with Afghan government; violence escalates

ISLAMABAD, 3 Oct—Pakistan’s war against extremists will go on until the country is “terrorism-free,” a senior official said Friday after mounting violence prompted the United Nations to raise its security stance.

Pakistan is under intense pressure from the United States to combat militants responsible for rising attacks at home and in neighboring Afghanistan.

Its faltering efforts so far have been met with a burst of suicide bombings that have killed nearly 1,200 people since July 2007, according to army statistics released this week.

In remarks broadcast Friday, Interior Ministry chief Rehman Malik said the government was undaunted.

Previous Pakistani military campaigns against militants in the wild tribal belt along the Afghan frontier were halted too soon, he said — an apparent reference to the policies of former President Pervez Musharraf.—Internet

One civilian killed, 4 others wounded in clash in Afghanistan

KABUL, 3 Oct—One civilian was killed and four others were wounded in eastern Afghan province of Nuristan Friday morning during a clash between militants and the patrol of Afghan National Army (ANA), according to a statement issued by the Coalition forces.

Militants engaged the joint forces with small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades while ANA soldiers returned fire, the statement said, adding “militants not only attack the patrol, but also the local village and surrounding corn fields as well.” However, ANA troops at no time fire weapons into the corn fields or the village, it noted. “The body of the civilian was recovered and returned to his village and ANA provided immediate medical care to the wounded and transported them to a medical facility for treatment,” it said.—Internet

Questions raised about use of Tasers

NEW YORK, 3 Oct—The man was naked, teetering on a building ledge and jabbing at police with an 8-foot-long fluorescent light bulb as a crowd gathered below.

Lt. Michael Pigott responded by ordering an officer to fire a stun gun at the man, who froze and plunged headfirst to his death in a scene captured on amateur video and replayed frequently on the Internet.

The officer was remorseful and distraught. He apologized and sought the family’s forgiveness. Then he went to his unit’s headquarters Thursday morning and fatally shot himself, just hours before the family laid the victim to rest.

“The lieutenant was deeply distraught and extremely remorseful over the death of Iman Morales in Brooklyn last week.” Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. “Sadly, his death just compounds the tragedy of the loss of Mr. Morales.”

The suicide marks another tragic turn in a case that has raised questions about the use of Tasers by the nation’s largest police force.—Internet
Tourists walk through an arch bridge at Hongcun Village in Huangshan City, east China's Anhui Province, on 1 Oct, 2008. The world heritages of Hongcun villages received lots of visitors from home and abroad during the National Day Holidays. —Xinhua

Venezuela, France sign cooperation agreements

CARACAS, 3 Oct — Venezuela and France signed 10 agreements on cooperation at a meeting here Thursday, according to news reaching here. The agreements were signed in Paris during the second high-level meeting of the two countries and 10th meeting of a commission led by Venezuela's Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro and his French counterpart Bernard Kouchner.

The agreements include bilateral cooperation on energy, military, telecommunications, tourism and fight against drug trafficking. During the meeting, Maduro said that it is important to reach an agreement on the fight against drug trafficking and drug abuse. Kouchner said he hoped the two country's cooperation on technology transfer would be reinforced. —Xinhua

Methane fuel increasingly used in Tibet

LHASA, 3 Oct — Around 8 am, Puqung, a farmer in Zongxia Village in China's Tibet Autonomous Region, turns on a methane stove in the kitchen to begin preparing her family's breakfast.

"We used cow manure for cooking and heating before, but the smell it gave off was so suffocating that I couldn't open my eyes."

The family now has access to methane. A pipe connects the stove to a methane pit in the backyard.

Since the innovation, the Puqung's kitchen has been clean. A cleaner environment and economic profits have made methan pits increasingly popular in rural areas of Tibet.

An eight-cubic-meter methane pit can provide 80 percent of the annual cooking and heating energy used by a five-member family. That can save a family about 1,000 yuan (146 US dollars) a year. —Xinhua

Shopping centre boss Lowy becomes Australia's richest man

CANBERRA, 3 Oct — The turmoil in world financial markets has stripped Perh billionaire Andrew Forrest of the title of Australia's richest man, with shopping centre boss Frank Lowy taking the mantle for the first time, according to the Australian newspaper report on Friday.

The report said the Fortescue Metals Group chief executive's fortune has more than halved in recent months, as collapsing share markets impact on Australia's multi-billionaires.

Lowy's Westfield property group has benefited as investors flock to so-called safe haven stocks amid the financial chaos, with his fortune declining by just 500 million dollars (400 US dollars) since May to 5.8 billion dollars. —Xinhua

WHO to host public hearing to explore ways of reducing alcohol use

GENEVA, 3 Oct — The World Health Organization (WHO) will organize a web-based public hearing to explore ways of reducing harmful use of alcohol, the UN agency said on Thursday.

All parties with an interest are now invited to share their views in the public hearing, which will run between 3 Oct and 31 Oct, the agency said in a statement.

"The harmful use of alcohol is a leading risk factor for premature death and disability in the world," said Ala Alwan, WHO assistant director-general for noncommunicable diseases and mental health.

"Every year at least 2.3 million people die from alcohol-related causes," Alwan added.

He said the web-based public hearing would be broad and inclusive, and would provide an opportunity for everyone to present their views on effective strategies to reduce the burden resulting from the harmful use of alcohol. —Xinhua

US Matthew Ritchie, US Aranda/Lash and British Arup Agu's art work titled "The morning line" is seen during the inauguration of International Biennial of Contemporary Art of Seville (Biac3) in Seville 2 October, 2008. —Xinhua

Scientists call for policy to guide biofuels industry toward sustainability

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct — As the United States and other nations commit to the path of biofuels production, a group of scientists are calling for sustainable practices in an industry that will “reshape the Earth’s landscape in a significant way.”

In a paper published in the 3 Oct issue of Science magazine, 23 scientists call for science-based policy in the emerging global biofuels industry, which by 2050 could command as much land as is currently farmed in the emerging global biofuels industry, which by 2050 could command as much land as is currently farmed.

"The harmful use of alcohol is a leading risk factor for premature death and disability in the world," said Ala Alwan, WHO assistant director-general for noncommunicable diseases and mental health.

"Every year at least 2.3 million people die from alcohol-related causes," Alwan added.

He said the web-based public hearing would be broad and inclusive, and would provide an opportunity for everyone to present their views on effective strategies to reduce the burden resulting from the harmful use of alcohol. —Xinhua

Scientists call for policy to guide biofuels industry toward sustainability

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct — As the United States and other nations commit to the path of biofuels production, a group of scientists are calling for sustainable practices in an industry that will “reshape the Earth’s landscape in a significant way.”

In a paper published in the 3 Oct issue of Science magazine, 23 scientists call for science-based policy in the emerging global biofuels industry, which by 2050 could command as much land as is currently farmed in the emerging global biofuels industry, which by 2050 could command as much land as is currently farmed.

"The harmful use of alcohol is a leading risk factor for premature death and disability in the world," said Ala Alwan, WHO assistant director-general for noncommunicable diseases and mental health.

"Every year at least 2.3 million people die from alcohol-related causes," Alwan added.

He said the web-based public hearing would be broad and inclusive, and would provide an opportunity for everyone to present their views on effective strategies to reduce the burden resulting from the harmful use of alcohol. —Xinhua

Czech President to visit Poland

PRAGUE, 3 Oct — Czech President Vaclav Klaus will pay a working visit to Poland on 12-13 Oct to meet his Polish counterpart Lech Kaczynski and participate in the commemoration of the 90th anniversary of Polish independence, the Czech news agency CTK said on Thursday.

Klaus will present the Polish translation of his book in which he challenges the danger of climate change, CTK said.

Klaus and Kaczynski will celebrate the 90th anniversary of the foundation of Poland and the former Czechoslovakia at the Czech-Polish border in Tesin, north Moravia area of the Czech Republic. —Xinhua
National holiday season fuels catering trade boom in Beijing

BEIJING, 3 Oct—The current week-long National Holiday in China, which began on Monday, has led to a boom in the catering sector in Beijing.

Statistics given by the municipal bureau of commerce on Thursday showed sales of catering trade in the national capital soared by 60 percent to hit 45.62 million yuan (about 6.52 million US dollars) in the first three days of the National Holiday Season.

The catering sector achieved 17.47 million yuan in volume of business on Wednesday, the day for the 59th anniversary of founding of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), 2.1 million yuan more than the previous day or an increase of 64.1 percent than a year ago.

The municipal bureau of commerce said it had monitored 237 restaurants owned by 37 key catering enterprises in Beijing, and some specialized markets such as those for wholesale of farm produce since Monday. Sales of these restaurants and markets stood at 480 million yuan, up 12.2 percent from a year ago.

Statistics given by the municipal bureau of commerce showed sales of catering trade in the holiday season fuels catering trade boom in Beijing.

Indonesia’s economy to remain robust in 3rd quarter

JAKARTA, 3 Oct—The Indonesian economy is estimated to grow by more than 6 percent in this year’s third quarter on the back of robust private consumption, investment and export, the Jakarta Post daily Friday quoted head of fiscal policy of the Finance Ministry Anggito Ahimanyu as reporting.

“Growth in consumer goods was relatively high. Exports were also on track although imports were relatively high,” Anggito Ahimanyu said. The exact figure will be issued next Monday, he added. The South East Asia’s biggest economy has seen car and motorcycle sales growth at the fastest pace since the 1997 Asian financial crisis, as commodity boom makes people living in plantation and mining areas wealthier.

Iran ties enrichment halt to fuel import guarantee

BRUSSELS, 3 Oct— Iran would consider stopping sensitive uranium enrichment if guaranteed a supply of nuclear fuel from abroad, an Iranian official suggested on Thursday. For that to happen, UN inspectors would have to verify Iran’s disputed nuclear program is wholly peaceful and a range of international sanctions against Thraran be lifted. There is little prospect of either on the horizon.

Iran has previously brushed off big power offers of an assured foreign fuel supply, possibly via a production center under the imperial control of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), if it renounced enrichment. Ali Akbar Soltanieh, Iran’s ambassador to the UN nuclear watchdog, said the reason why the Islamic Republic was enriching uranium was the lack of an legally binding international accord on security of fuel supply.

S Korea, Japan to strengthen ties amid global economic downturn

SEOUL, 3 Oct—S Korea and Japan agreed to strengthen cooperation amid global economic downturn during their 7th round of high-level talks for boosting economic ties, the Korea Herald reported Friday.

According to South Korea’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the two sides exchanged information about their current market conditions along with their economy and trade policies. The ministry said the two countries agreed to strengthen economic ties in the areas such as parts and raw materials as well as energy efficiency.

After the high-level economic talks, the two sides held working-level talks on the challenges of bilateral trade and investment and issues of intellectual property rights.

Chile urges Latin America to raise trade with Asia

SANTIAGO, 3 Oct—Chilean Representative of the Foreign Ministry Carlos Furche on Thursday urged Latin America to promote regional integration and raise economic exchanges with countries from the Asia-Pacific region.

At the two-day 4th ministerial meeting of the Latin American Pacific Arch (ARCO) in Santiago, Furche cited the example of European Union (EU), where 60 percent of the economic exchanges are done inside the bloc.

“We need to improve the integration of Latin America as a wide economic space,” said Furche, who is also Chilean representative in ARCO.

ARCO was founded by Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

Furche said that in the case of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur), formed by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay in 1991, only 18.6 percent of trade were done in the region.

Peru inaugurates APEC workshop on anti-corruption

LIMA, 3 Oct—Peruvian Justice Minister Rosario Fernandez inaugurated on Thursday an anti-corruption workshop to be attended by delegates from 21 economies from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC).

Fernandez said Peru is striving to maintain the political stability after a long period “when the corruption was present at all the power spheres.” The “Anti-corruption workshop to ease the international cooperation on the recovering of assets” is part of the prior meetings to the APEC Senior Summit to be held in November in Peru.
Cichlid fish vision change helped species diverge

A male Pandanamilia from a turbid water site is seen in this undated handout photo.—INTERNET

Scientists also generally believe that originating a new species requires geographical isolation — such as two continents drifting apart. The fact that the two different cichlid fish species live side by side is puzzling, he said.—INTERNET

Study traces AIDS virus origin to 100 years ago

The new result is “not a monumental shift, but it means the virus was circulating under our radar even longer than we knew,” says Michael Worobey of the University of Arizona, an author of the new work. The results appear in Thursday’s issue of the journal Nature. Researchers note that the newly calculated dates fall during the rise of cities in Africa, and they suggest urban development may have promoted HIV’s initial establishment and early spread.

Algeria floods toll rises to 31

ALGIERS, 3 Oct—The death toll in flash floods in a historic Algerian town climbed to 31 Friday, as aid workers battled to help hundreds of homeless and the army was deployed to prevent looting, state radio said. Fifty people were injured and about 1,000 were homeless around Ghardaia, a UN World Heritage site at the entrance to the Algerian desert, some 600 kilometres (375 miles) south of Algiers in the M’Zab Valley, state radio said. Hundreds of civilian volunteers, Red Crescent officials and Muslim scouts worked round-the-clock to help those living rough. The water was eight metres (26 feet high) in some parts of the town of Ghardaia, the report said. Basic aid and food was arriving from nearby towns in trucks, the radio said. Interior Minister Noureddine Yazid Zerhouni said the floods are the worst for a century.—INTERNET

A combination picture shows the Nokia 5800 Xpressmusic handset in this undated handout. Nokia unveiled on 2 Oct, 2008 its first touch-screen phone, priced well below Apple’s iPhone model, as the world’s top cellphone maker hopes to tap consumers for whom the iPhone has been too expensive.—INTERNET

The Renault ZE Concept zero emission vehicle is presented during a press conference at the Paris Motor Show. Carmarkers rolled out a slew of electric models at the Paris motor show Friday, with a view to filling dealer showrooms by 2012 when new European legislation on curbing emissions kicks in.

Deputies find sleeping burglar at Ariz gun store

Sheriff’s deputies in Yavapai County said a man picked the wrong place to take a nap, but he’ll now have plenty of time to catch up on sleep. Sheriff’s spokesman Dwight D’Evelyn said in a statement that deputies responding to a burglar alarm at a gun and police accessories store in Prescott early Monday found an open window.

The man told deputies he had been driving and was just looking for a place to sleep. Deputies found gloves and a flashlight belonging to the man, plus a bag containing expensive electronics he apparently planned to take. The man was jailed on burglary, theft and identity theft charges, plus several warrants.

No bull: police lasso bull on NYC’s streets

It looked like an urban rodeo on the streets of New York City.

Police say a young bull made a dash for freedom through the streets of Queens on Wednesday night but suddenly died before he could be taken to an animal sanctuary.

Police cars tried to steer the bull off the crowded roadways but the several-hundred-pound animal hit and damaged a squad car. An NYPD officer with urban cowboy skills lassoed the bull and it was tranquilized.

Woman finds ‘goldlocks’ snoring in her son’s bed

A man was charged with burglary after he allegedly broke into a home, ate cheese from the refrigerator, made a mess in a bathroom and fell asleep on a child’s bed. Tracy Mullins, 47, of Billings, was arraigned in District Court on Thursday by video from the county jail.

Mullins pleaded not guilty to burglary. Judge Susan Watters set bail at $5,000 after rejecting a request that he be released without bail. Public defender Richard Phillips, who made the request, said Mullins had been receiving mental-health counseling.
Deputy Health Minister attends meeting of MHRC 2008

Yangon, 3 Oct—Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe gave a speech at the meeting of the leading committee for holding Myanmar Health Research Conference 2008 held at the meeting hall of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) here this morning. In his speech, he said MHRC 2008 will be held on a grand scale. He urged work committee and subcommittees to make concerted efforts for success of conference.

Joint-secretary of the leading committee for holding MHRC 2008 Dr Kyaw Min reported on arrangements for holding the conference. Afterwards, those present discussed research papers to be submitted and academic papers to be given lecture in the conference. The deputy minister fulfilled the requirement.—MNA

Deputy Director-General Dr Kyaw Min reported on arrangements for holding the conference.

NASA finds snow falling on Mars

NASA, 3 Oct—In an unprecedented discovery, NASA’s Phoenix Mars Lander has found snow falling from clouds on Mars, scientists say. A laser instrument collecting data on how the atmosphere and surface interact on Mars detected snow from clouds about four kilometres above the spacecraft’s landing site.

The date found the snow vapourised before reaching the ground.

“Nothing like this view has ever been seen on Mars,” said Jim Whiteway, of Toronto’s York University, lead scientist for the Canadian-supplied meteorological station on Phoenix.

“We’ll be looking for signs that the snow may even reach the ground.”

Spacecraft soil experiments also have provided dramatic evidence of past interaction between minerals and liquid water, processes that occur on Earth. Phoenix touched down in the Martian arctic on May 25.

Phoenix data also suggested the presence of calcium carbonate, the main composition of chalk, and particles that could be clay. Most carbonates and clays on Earth form only with water on hand.

Swiss bank UBS to cut 2,000 jobs

Swiss bank, 3 Oct—UK Swiss bank UBS has said it will cut 2,000 investment banking jobs and will reorganise the unit after being hard hit by sub-prime losses.

UBS said this will help it focus on its strengths and cut costs at a time when its revenue outlook is uncertain.

A day earlier the bank said it expected a profit for the third quarter despite recent market volatility. The firm has been one of the European finance houses to be hardest hit by the problems in the US housing market. The Swiss banking giant has seen write-downs of more than $42.5bn (£23.9bn) following the sub-prime crisis.

The 2,000 job cuts in investment banking will bring staff to around 17,000 by the end of the year, representing a cut of some 6,000 “since the peak in third quarter 2007”, a UBS statement said.

The move would enable the bank to cut costs to a “more sustainable level” as well as “position our core businesses for growth once fundamentals improve,” said Jerker Johansson, chief executive of the firm’s investment bank. —Internet

World Knowledge-3 for bookworms

Yangon, 3 Oct—The Myanmar-English World Knowledge-3 written by Saya Mya has been published.

The book includes eleven short articles that help to broaden youngsters’ horizons such as Trafficking in Human Being, Danger of Methamphetamine, UEFA European Football Championship. The Deadly Cyclone, Why your blood is red? so on.

The book is available at Mya Tun Oo Sarpay, room-5, Building-170/2, Pahtama Thiri Yenktka, Lower Kyimyindine road, Ahlon Township.

Somali pirates say $20m ransom will ‘never’ be reduced

Mogadishu, 3 Oct—A Somali pirate spokesman says his group will not release a hijacked Ukrainian cargo ship loaded with arms for less than $20 million.

Sugule Ali told the Associated Press on Thursday the pirates would “never” reduce the ransom of the Ukrainian freighter loaded with 33 Soviet-designed tanks and other weapons. The MV Faina was seized last Thursday and is now anchored off the coast of central Somalia.

The pirates have been negotiating with the ship’s owners. There are 20 crew aboard the ship. Ali warned that any attempt at deception or commando raids on the ship would be met with repercussions.

Pirates off Somalia’s lawless coast have raked in up to $30 million in ransoms this year alone, a London-based think tank reported.

A flotilla of U.S. navy warships have surrounded the MV Faina, which is anchored off the central Somali coast, to ensure that the pirates don’t unload any of the weapons. The cargo ship and its 21-man crew were hijacked Sept. 25, and the ship’s ammunition and heavy weapons have sparked fears among Western governments that the arms could end up in the hands of terrorists. —Internet

The Pairs

All states have mind as their fore-runner; to them mind is supreme and of mind are they made. Therefore, if one, with defiled mind, speaks or acts, on account of the suffering follow one as the wheel follows the fact of that does wagon-bearer.
Two Vietnamese companies to explore offshore...

(from page 1)

Next, Managing Director U Myint Htay, President and CEO Dr Nguyen Quoc Thap of Petrovietnam Exploration Production Corporation Ltd, General Director Dr Tran Le Dong of Joint Venture Vietsovpetro and Managing Director U Chit Khaing of Eden Group Company Limited signed production sharing contract and exchanged the notes.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presented permits to President and CEO Dr Nguyen Quoc Thap.

Under the contract, the signatories will engage in oil and gas exploration on a mutually beneficial basis at M-2 block, Mottama offshore. — MNA

Road safety exhibition on 10-16 Nov

YANGON, 3 Oct — The Forth Exhibition on road safety will be held at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here from 10 to 16 November.

A total of 112 booths — 36 booths of government departments and 76 private booths — will be staged at the exhibition which will be organized by Yangon Division Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee.

Those wishing to participate in the exhibition may contact U Soe Myat Aung, SMA Advertising & Publishing Group, Ph 01 556083 and 09 5192468.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief (Air) Championship Shield

Track & Field

YANGON, 3 Oct — The 48th Commander-in-Chief (Air) Championship Shield’s Track & Field was opened at a ceremony at Aung San Stadium this morning. Col Min Zaw of Mingaladon Station, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), attended the ceremony and made an opening speech.

Among the spectators were Commander of Mingaladon Airbase Col Thein Naing, senior military officers of Mingaladon Station, squadron leaders, commandants, guests and officers and other ranks and their families and sports fans.

After the match, officials presented prizes to winners while Col Min Zaw of Mingaladon Station, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), presented the championship shield to the Mingaladon Airbase team.

MNA

All villages in 78 townships of three dry-zone Divisions get clean water

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Oct — Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs organized the 13th ceremony to donate cash for drinking water supply in rural areas at City Hall here today.

At the ceremony, Director-General of the Development Affairs Department U Myo Myint reported on measures for supplying drinking water in rural areas.

Wellwishers donated cash through Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt, Attorney-General U Aye Maung and officials concerned.

Afterwards, on behalf of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thida Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister Col Thein Nyunt delivered a speech.

After the ceremony, the ministers, deputy ministers and guests browsed the documentary photos. Altogether 142 donors contributed K 177.82 million to the drinking water supply projects in rural areas at the ceremony.

In April 1999, the Head of State gave guidance to implement a 10-year plan to supply drinking water to villages in three dry divisions. In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, those villages facing scarcity of water across the country have been counted. They are 23,225 villages across the country — 8,042 in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay divisions and 15,183 villages in other states and divisions. The development affairs committees under the Ministry of PBANRDA had spent K 6,491.58 million from the 2000-2001 fiscal year to the 2007-08 fiscal year. K 2,150 million is earmarked to spend on water supply projects in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Water supply tasks have accelerated as a huge sum of money has been spent on them — K 1862.94 million of State funds, K 6491.58 million of funds of development affairs committees, K 1657.23 million, US$ 76752, EURO 770 and FEC 10012 donated by wellwishers at home and abroad from the first to 14th cash donation ceremonies and US$ 6.85 million and Yen 1015.47 million through international cooperation.

Moreover, the project was undertaken in cooperation with international organizations. 236 tube wells were sunk in Shan State (North) and 35 deep wells sunk for arid zones under the cooperation of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); 97 tube wells and deep wells were sunk in Bagan NyaungU and Kyaukpadaung Township under the cooperation of Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ). In addition, a total of 532 water supply projects were implemented in three divisions in the arid zone under the cooperation of UNICEF.

All the villages of 78 townships in Sagaing Division, 21 in Magway Division and 23 in Mandalay Division have enjoyed clean drinking water. Likewise, water supply tasks have been carried out in all 16 districts.

With public cash donations, 1840 tube wells have been sunk in three divisions in the arid zone and 525 tube wells in other states and divisions totaling 2365.

The development affairs committees under the Ministry of PBANRDA had spent K 6,491.58 million from the 2000-2001 fiscal year to the 2007-08 fiscal year. K 2,150 million is earmarked to spend on water supply projects in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

The development affairs committees under the Ministry of PBANRDA had spent K 6,491.58 million from the 2000-2001 fiscal year to the 2007-08 fiscal year. K 2,150 million is earmarked to spend on water supply projects in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

The development affairs committees under the Ministry of PBANRDA had spent K 6,491.58 million from the 2000-2001 fiscal year to the 2007-08 fiscal year. K 2,150 million is earmarked to spend on water supply projects in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

The development affairs committees under the Ministry of PBANRDA had spent K 6,491.58 million from the 2000-2001 fiscal year to the 2007-08 fiscal year. K 2,150 million is earmarked to spend on water supply projects in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.
The 145th provision of -

YWZAYANTA road near the maintenance of Thein Lin looked into Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Development Committee Chairman of Yangon City this morning. Afterwards, the mayor inspected maintenance of Mindama road near Myanmar Convention Center in Mayangon Township and paving of gravel ring road in the compound of MCC — MNA.

Health Deputy Minister meets professors, lecturers

YANGON, 3 Oct — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe met with the rectors of Universities of Medicine and other related medical universities and professors, heads of departments and lecturers of Universities of Medicine 1 and 2 at the meeting hall of the University of Medicine 1, here, yesterday. The deputy minister gave instructions on academic matters at the meeting. — MNA

Kyakhatwaing Sarthintaik to hold provision offering ceremony

YANGON, 3 Oct — The 145th provision offering ceremony of Kyakhatwaing Partyatti Sarthintaik in Bago will be held on a grand scale along with ceremonies to mark the 100th birth-day and 80 vasas of Maha Nayaka Phaungdawthi Sayadaw and the 60th anniversary of missionary works of Kyakhatwaing Sayadaw and the 145th five-town-ship Shwekyin Nikaya Sangha Maha Pavarana of Bago Tawya Sayadaw U Sila at the Kyaungtaik on 14 October (Fullmoon of Thadingyut) 1370 ME, it is learnt. — MNA

Mechanical engineers’ get-together

YANGON, 3 Oct — A ceremony to pay respects to Sayagyi U Ba Than (Retd) (Professor/Head of Department) of Mechanical Engineering Department of Yangon Institute of Technology by old students was held at M3 Food Centre here yesterday with an opening address by Saya U Nay Linn.

U Myint Aung read the brief biography of the Sayagyi while Professor (Retd) U Khin Aung Kyi extolled the attributes of the Sayagyi.

This was followed by the respect-paying ceremony.

Next, the Sayagyi gave admonition and accepted gifts and his portrait presented by students including those who have been abroad and other engineers. Afterwards, a dinner was served to those present on the occasion. — NLM

Health education disseminated

YANGON, 3 Oct — Central Health Education Department of the Ministry of Health organized educative talks on health at National Health Museum in Sangyoung Township, here, this after-noon.

Director Dr Khin Maung Lwin of the Central Health Education Department gave talks on milk powder and health, Director Dr Thaw Zin of Medical Research Depart-ment (Lower Myanmar), on melanoma and consump-tion of diary products, Paediatrician Professor Dr Daw Aye Aye Thein of Central Women Hospital, on nothing bet-ter than mother’s milk, and answered the questions raised by those present. — MNA

Indian girl spontaneously bleeds through pores

BEIJING, 3 Oct— A 13-year-old Indian girl who bleeds spontaneously from her pores has baffled Indian doctors, according to British media reports Thursday.

Twinkle Dwivedi, losing blood through her skin without being cut or scratched, had to undergo transfusions after pints of blood seeped through her eyes, nose, neck and the soles of her feet.

“It was scary and messy. My school blouse went all red. No-one would come near me or play with me,” Dwivedi said.

“I used to cry nearly every time it happened. But now I just keep quiet.” She added.

The 13-year-old was a normal girl, according to reports, until one day in July 2007 when she began to bleed spontaneously through her mouth. A doctor diagnosed it as an ulcer. But a few weeks later she started bleeding between five and 20 times a day from pores near her hairline, nose, eyes and feet.

Xinhua

Objectives of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

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

Old students of Mechanical Engineering Department of YIT pay respects to Sayagyi U Ba Than. — NLM

Mr Tashi gives accounts of AOTS at opening of course on Introducing the Importance of Total Quality Management to Myanmar Industries. (News on page16) UMFCCI
Zwegabin Region with promising future

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

Manager U Thiha of Kayin State Myanma Industrial Crops Development Service (Perennial Crops)

(from page 1)
And the eye-catching scene was paddy fields blending with Mt. Zwegabin, the symbol of Kayin State, seen in the background.

We visited many villages in Hpa-an, Kawkaik and Myawady districts through Dawna mountain range. One local said, "I never dreamt of travelling here and there in the past".

He was right. In the past, local people were often in a state of panic, letting alone carrying out regional development tasks steadily.

Now, peace and stability has been restored in Kayin State, and as a result, it has put 493,359 acres of 523,000 acres under monsoon paddy this monsoon.

Paddy is being cultivated of the target of 523,000 acres, and rice sufficiency has been restored, rubber can be extracted freely, and the price of rubber is soaring.

The strain of the watermelon I grow is native to Chinese Taipei. I choose only one fruit from each watermelon plant to export, and I make a 50 per cent profit.

U Khun Than Myint of Kyonsaunt Village in Hpa-an Township said, "I have run my farm since 1994. It has an area of 50 acres. The rubber strain I use PRIM 623, PB260, GTI, and BPM24. I have harvested the farm for four years. I grow groundnut, corn and yam as mixed crops. I grow yam in 10 of the 50 acres. It helps me recover the costs.

"In the past, armed insurgency reigned in the region, so I was not able to lead a peaceful life, let alone growing rubber. There were only two buses running between Gyaing and Hpa-an.

"Now, the armed insurgency that had taken place among national brethren at the instigation of neo-colonialists has dwindled away. Rubber farming of local farmers has moved to top position in Kayin State. With progress in farming rubber, local people of Kayin State will be able to enjoy a better socio-economic life."

Watermelon is grown as a mixed crop in a thriving rubber farm.

Last year, paddy sown acreage stood at 646,471 out of the target of 645,500 acres, and rice sufficiency was 118.30 per cent.

This year, local farmers are putting 12,249 acres under mixed crops because they can make profits easily by growing mixed crops, and weeding wild plants contribute towards the rubber trees.

U Khun Shiwe Maung of Kaw-kadah Village in Hpa-an Township said, "I run a 45-acre farm of PRIM 937 strain rubber. It is suitable for our region and I harvest 1500 to 2000 lbs of rubber an acre. I grow watermelon as a mixed crop. Watermelon is a short-term crop, but the profit is huge. I plan to export the crop."

The acreage of rubber farms of the state has surged from 48,437 to 129,148 in three years. In 2007-2008, it harvested latex when it is seven to eight years old. So, rubber farmers grow suitable crops as mixed crops in the rubber plantations before it can be harvested.

Now, my farm is like a small village with the families of my workers." U Khun Win Naung lives in Khaye Village, Hpa-an Township. He has a 50-acre rubber farm, and 10 of the 50 acres can be harvested.

He said, "I grow mixed crops such as pumpkin, chilli, groundnut and corn in 20 acres. I have grown yam for three years. Yan can be grown after rubber plants have fully grown, and there is no need to nurture yam plants with great care. While rubber plants are small, I grow corn, sesame, monsoon chilli and green gram.

"In the past, our region was not peaceful, and I stayed in a state of panic, going to and coming back from the farm. Now, peace has been restored, and I can pay all my attention to the farm."

Those farmers are Pa-O nationals. Thriving rubber farms and gardens of local people of various national races are numerous.

Manager U Thiha of Kayin State Myanma Industrial Crops Development Service (Perennial Crops) who came along with us said, "We work together with related departments to provide land allotments, agricultural methods and high-yield rubber strains to help grow rubber extensively in the state.

We also run courses of agricultural methods, we encourage local farmers to grow rubber, we visit rubber farms to provide agricultural methods, and hold demonstrations of growing rubber.

Our state still has a lot of vacant and virgin lands where rubber can grow well. So, Kayin State Peace and Development Council will allocate lands and our department will provide agricultural methods."

Many fine houses and large compounds in every village, yellowish paddy fields, thriving gardens, and small-scale crop plantations are the fruits of peace and stability.

Now, the armed insurgency that had taken place among national brethren at the instigation of neo-colonialists has dwindled away. Rubber farming of local farmers has moved to top position in Kayin State. With progress in farming rubber, local people of Kayin State will be able to enjoy a better socio-economic life.

Translation: MS Myanma Alin:3-10-08

A thriving rubber farm with green gram as a mixed crop.
Iran denies nuclear-bomb ambitions

TEHERAN, 3 Oct—Iran has accused the US of perpetuating a “huge lie” about its nuclear ambitions.

The International Atomic Energy Agency reported last month that Iran was not co-operating, and could be hiding some nuclear activity.

But speaking at a symposium sponsored by the Asia Society in New York on Thursday, Manouchehr Mottaki, the Iranian foreign minister, said Iran has no intention of building an atomic bomb and intends to press ahead with its civilian nuclear programme.

He restated Tehran’s view that the Iranian nuclear programme is peaceful and not geared towards the production of nuclear weapons, pointing out that possession of weapons of mass destruction violates Islamic teachings.—Internet

US employers slash 159,000 jobs in September

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct — Employers in the United States cut their payrolls by 159,000 in September, the most since March 2003, the Labor Department reported Friday.

The nation’s unemployment rate held steady at 6.1 percent last month as hundreds of thousands of people streamed out of the work force for any number of reasons. Analysts had been expecting the unemployment rate to be unchanged. But the reduction in payrolls was much larger than their expectations of 100,000 cuts.

It was the ninth consecutive month that the US economy has lost jobs, reflecting a severe housing slump and a persistent credit crisis.

Job loss in August has been revised to 73,000, slightly less than the 84,000 initially estimated. However, the cuts in July turned out to be 67,000, more than the 60,000 previously reported.

In September, job losses were widespread.—Internet

Sri Lanka troops kill 42 in offensive against rebels

COLOMBO, 3 Oct — Sri Lankan troops have killed 42 Tamil Tigers and injured 53 in a ground and sea offensive aimed at dismantling the rebels’ mini-state in the north of the island, the defence ministry said Friday.

Two soldiers were killed in Thursday’s clashes, and another 20 injured, said military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara.

The military says the rebels have lost 7,158 fighters since January, when Colombo pulled out of a Norwegian-brokered ceasefire. The defence ministry has acknowledged the loss of 697 soldiers over the same period.

Japanese climbers die on Tibet Mountain

BEIJING, 3 Oct—Three Japanese climbers were killed while on an expedition to reach the summit of a sacred mountain in Tibet, a mountaineering official said on Friday. The climbers died on Wednesday in an avalanche while scaling Mount Kulagangri, an official of the Tibet Mountaineering Association, Dou Changshen, said The Associated Press.

The bodies of the climbers were found by team members about 980 feet away from a camp that was at an altitude of 19,300 feet. The three people who died were among a team of seven Japanese climbers who left Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, on 20 Sept.—Internet

The Opel Insignia car is displayed on media day at the Paris Mondial de l’Automobile on 3 Oct, 2008. The Paris Auto show opens its doors to the public from 4 Oct to 19 Oct.

Tropical storm Higos lands in S China

HAIKOU, 3 Oct—Higos, the 17th tropical storm of the year, landed in China’s southernmost Hainan Province Friday evening, local observatory said.

Higos landed at 10:15 p.m. in Longlou Town, Wenchang City, 19.6 degrees north latitude and 111.0 degrees east longitude. The wind speed at the eye of the storm was 18 meters per second, according to the Hainan Provincial Meteorological Observatory.

It was forecast to weaken and move northwest towards the coastal areas of western Guangdong Province. In total, 24,115 fishing boats in the province had returned to port and coastal fisheries staff had gone home. All recreational sporting activities on the air or sea were also suspended on Friday, said Lin Mingzhong, Hainan Provincial Office for Flood, Wind and Drought Control deputy director.—Internet

SIX YEARS OLD HIPPOPOTTAMUS KAVANGO OPENS HIS MOUTH TO CATCH A PUMPKIN FED TO HIM BY HIS KEEPER, IN COLOGNE ZOO, WESTERN GERMANY, ON 2 OCT, 2008.—INTERNET

TURBINES FROM CHINA’S LARGEST WIND FARM DOT A WINDSCWPT PLAIN IN THE REMOTE NORTHWEST XINJIANG REGION.—INTERNET

Report: Parents in EU face inadequate child care services

BRUSSELS, 3 Oct — Child care services in most European Union (EU) countries are failing to respond to the needs of parents, according to a report released by the European Commission on Friday.

The report finds that most EU countries have missed the targets for child care provision that EU leaders set in 2002 as part of their ambitious Barcelona strategy of growth and jobs. The Barcelona strategy wanted child care for 90 percent of children between three years and school age and a third of children under three to be provided by parents, especially mothers, can go to work.

“We are far from reaching our targets on child care facilities and need to step up our efforts. Adequate and accessible child care is crucial to allow parents to work, to strengthen gender equality and to reinforce social inclusion,” said Vladimir Spidla, EU commissioner for employment, social affairs and equal opportunities.

He stressed that child care is also a vital ingredient in facing up to the aging of the population. Without proper support services, parents are less likely to have children, he said.

INTERNET

The new light of myanmar Saturday, 4 October, 2008

11
**Jordan, Areva ink nuclear deal**

AMMAN, 3 Oct — Jordan has signed in French capital Paris an agreement with French energy giant Areva on uranium exploration and mining, official news agency Petra reported Thursday.

Under the agreement, which was signed on Wednesday, a joint venture will be set up to explore uranium in the kingdom. The to-be-built company is expected to have the exclusive right of exploring and mining uranium in the central of the kingdom.

The deal was signed between Minister of Finance Hamad Kassabeh and Chairman of Jordan Atomic Energy Commission Khalid Touqan on behalf of Jordan, and Areva General Manager Ann La farjoun who represented the French side.

Kassabeh thanked France for its continuous assistance to the kingdom, adding that the agreement signals the start of an ambitious project, which will provide an alternative source of energy for Jordan.

**Crude oil continues sliding on demand concerns**

NEW YORK, 3 Oct — Crude oil continued to fall on Thursday as the ongoing financial turmoil and economic slowdown exacerbated concerns that energy demand would drop.

Light, sweet crude for November delivery fell 4.56 US dollars to settle at 93.97 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The US Senate approved the financial rescue plan Wednesday night, but record high unemployment numbers and falling factory orders delivered a strike to the market on Thursday.

Investors became more concerned about the likely economic recession, which would force consumers and businesses to cut energy demand. The dollar gained strongly against the euro on Thursday, which also helped to push down the oil price.

In London, Brent crude for November delivery dropped 4.80 dollars to 90.53 dollars a barrel on the ICE Futures Exchange. — Internet

**US factory orders drop by biggest amount in nearly two years**

WASHINGTON, 3 Oct — New orders for manufactured goods to America’s factories plunged by 4 percent in August, the biggest amount since October 2006, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

The big drop came after factory order had increased for five consecutive months and followed a 0.7 percent gain in July. Analysts were expecting a decline of 2.5 percent for August.

In August, demand for durable goods, big-ticket items expected to last at least three years such as computers, cars and machinery, declined by 4.8 percent in August, compared to an increase of 0.7 percent in July. Orders for transportation equipment, which account for more than a quarter of total durable goods demand, plunged 9.1 percent, in contrast to an increase of 2.7 percent in the previous month.

Excluding volatile transportation products, overall factory orders would have fallen by 3.3 percent, following a 0.5 percent gain in July.

Orders for nondurable goods, including food, paper products, petroleum and coal products, were down 3.3 percent in August after a 0.8 percent advance in July.

The report also showed that factory shipments, considered a good indication of current demand, dropped by 3.5 percent in August after having gained 1.4 percent in the previous month. — Internet

**Boy’s death in school bathroom attributed to game**

AUSTIN (Texas), 3 Oct — A 7-year-old Texas boy found dead hanging from a hook in a school bathroom in February may have been playing a game called “run and jump”, according to a police report.

Students at the Not Your Ordinary School charter campus told police after the death of Tevin Park-Flowers that boys sometimes ran along benches lining the walls of the bathroom. Students called the game “run and jump” because they liked to jump from bench to bench and try to touch the ceiling, according to the report released Thursday.

Tevin had been excused from a school assembly Jan. 30 to go to the bathroom. When he didn't return, a male teacher went looking for him. He found Tevin caught on a hook by his shirt. The boy died at the hospital two days later.

Police said the shirt collar had cut off his oxygen. They also considered suicide or homicide but found no evidence to support either possibility.

**Bolivia bans US DEA plane from flying over territory**

LIMA, 3 Oct — The Bolivian Government will not allow the aircraft of the US Drug Enforcement Administration to fly over the country, President Evo Morales announced Thursday.

Addressing a project-launching ceremony in Bolivia’s southern Tarjia Province, Morales said that the US DEA asked for permission to fly over Bolivian territory in a letter he received two days ago.

“I want to publicly tell ... that they cannot authorize the DEA to fly over Bolivian territory,” Morales was quoted by state news agency ABI as saying Thursday.

Tension between Bolivia and the United States has been rising since Morales expelled the US Ambassador last month. Washington retaliated the following day by ousting the Bolivian envoy.

Bolivia is the world’s third-largest cocaine producer after Colombia and Peru.

Bolivia has some 28,000 hectares of coca plantation, and most of the coca leaves are used to produce cocaine.

**Radiation shut down EU test satellite for two weeks: ESA**

PARIS, 3 Oct — A second test satellite for Galileo, Europe’s rival to the US Global Positioning System (GPS), closed itself down for more than two weeks last month because of space radiation, confirming sources said on Thursday.

The Giove-B satellite, launched in April, stopped operating from 9 September to 24 September, said Franco Bonacina, spokesman at the Paris-based European Space Agency (ESA), which is overseeing the Galileo project.

It entered automatic shutdown mode in order to protect delicate circuitry from damaging cosmic rays, he told.

Giove B is a 500-kilogram (1,100-pound) cube constructed by Astrium and Thales Alenia Space. It was sent aloft after a first test satellite, Giove-A, was launched in December 2005 to lay claim to frequencies that will be used by the Galileo system.

The two experimental satellites are to be followed by some 30 satellites placed in permanent orbit at an altitude of 20,000 kilometres (12,400 miles).

The scheme, scheduled to be operational by 2013, is budgeted at 3.4 billion euros (4.76 billion dollars), Giove-A was built by a British firm, SSTL.

**Pirates kill one, seize 17 fishermen in S Philippines**

MANILA, 3 Oct — One fisherman was killed while at least 17 others were seized by pirates at sea near the southern-most Philippine province of Tawi-Tawi, local media reported Thursday.

The pirates, armed with M-16 rifles, attacked the boat on Thursday afternoon, then boarded the fishing vessel, according to the report released Thursday.

The terse report quoted Defence Secretary Gilbert Teodoro as briefing the seizure but did not reveal any details about the pirate's identities.

One fisherman was shot dead when he fired warning shots, local TV news network GMA News said.

The terse report quoted Defence Secretary Gilbert Teodoro as briefing the seizure but did not reveal any details about the pirate’s identities.

At least 17 others were seized by pirates at sea near the southern-most Philippine province of Tawi-Tawi, local media reported Thursday. — MNA/Xinhua

**A rocket carrying a Galileo (GIOVE-B) satellite of the European Space Agency is installed on a launch pad at Kazakhstan’s Baikonur cosmodrome in April 2008. A second test satellite for Galileo, Europe’s rival to the US Global Positioning System (GPS), closed itself down for more than two weeks last month because of space radiation, confirming sources said on Thursday. — Internet**

**Bolivia bans US DEA plane from flying over territory**

LIMA, 3 Oct — The Bolivian Government will not allow the aircraft of the US Drug Enforcement Administration to fly over the country, President Evo Morales announced Thursday.

Addressing a project-launching ceremony in Bolivia’s southern Tarjia Province, Morales said that the US DEA asked for permission to fly over Bolivian territory in a letter he received two days ago.

“I want to publicly tell ... that they cannot authorize the DEA to fly over Bolivian territory,” Morales was quoted by state news agency ABI as saying Thursday.

Tension between Bolivia and the United States has been rising since Morales expelled the US Ambassador last month. Washington retaliated the following day by ousting the Bolivian envoy.

Bolivia is the world’s third-largest cocaine producer after Colombia and Peru.

Bolivia has some 28,000 hectares of coca plantation, and most of the coca leaves are used to produce cocaine. — MNA/Xinhua
Putin slams Ukraine on Georgia arms sales, agrees gas deal

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin (R) speaks with his Ukrainian counterpart Yulia Timoshenko during their meeting in the residence of Novo-Ogaryovo, outside Moscow. —INTERNET

Moscow, 3 Oct— Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin lashed out at Ukraine for delivering weapons to Georgia, overshadowing talks with his Ukrainian counterpart that ended in a draft agreement on gas pricing. Putin sharply criticised the ex-Soviet republic Thursday over what he said were weapons used by Georgia to fight Russia during a brief conflict in August. “A more serious crime than arms deliveries in a conflict zone cannot be imagined,” Putin said.

“Several years ago, we could not have imagined Russians and Ukrainians making war against each other, but that has happened and it’s a crime,” The comments came amidst tense relations between Moscow and Kiev over the conflict in Georgia, but the two prime ministers were able to reach a draft agreement that seeks to resolve the delicate issue of gas prices. —INTERNET

Kids who wheeze with rhinovirus at higher asthma risk

THURSDAY, 3 OCT— Young children who wheeze when they have rhinovirus infection — the most common cause of colds — are at much greater risk of developing asthma later during childhood, a new study says.

Previous research had shown that infants who experience viral respiratory illnesses with wheezing are more likely to develop asthma. But, until now, it has not been clear whether all types of respiratory viruses that produce wheezing are associated with this increased risk.

A new study published in the first issue for October of the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine found that rhinovirus-produced wheezing that parents should be most worried about.

“We have found that rhinovirus, the most common cause of colds, contributes a disproportionate amount toward future asthma development in comparison to other viruses that also cause childhood wheezing,” said the principle investigator Dr Robert F Lemanske Jr, head of the Division of Pediatric Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, said in an American Thoracic Society news release.

The researchers followed a group of nearly 300 newborns with one or both parents who have allergies or asthma, making the newborns at increased risk for asthma. —INTERNET

Searchers find Fossett’s plane and human remains

MAMMOTH LAKES, 3 OCT— More than a year after the mysterious disappearance of millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett, searchers found the wreckage of his plane in the rugged Sierra Nevada, along with enough remains for DNA testing.

A small piece of bone was found amid a field of debris 400 feet long and 150 feet wide in a steep section of the mountain range, the National Transportation Safety Board said at a news conference Thursday. Some personal effects also were found at the site.

Officials conflicted on whether they had confirmed the remains were human. We don’t know if it’s human. It certainly could be.” Madera County Sheriff John Anderson said late Thursday, hours after the leader of the NTSB had said the remains were those of a person. “I refuse to speculate.” —INTERNET

Apple’s online iTunes store dodges music royalty hike

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 OCT— Apple dodged a potentially deadly financial bullet on when US judges held steady on digital music royalties paid by iTunes online shop.

The Copyright Royalty Board Thursday rejected a push by music publishers to get a bigger bite of the money Apple charges for digitized songs at iTunes. The board also didn’t endorse a lowering of royalty rates backed by Apple.

Publishers will continue to get nine of the 99 cents iTunes charges per song. They had petitioned the board to raise their cut to 15 cents.

iTunes vice president Eddy Cue said in testimony to the board that raising prices to cover increased royalty fees would cause song sales to plummet and if Apple absorbed a fee hike it would probably operate at a loss. —INTERNET

Searchers found the wreckage of Fossett’s plane in California’s rugged Sierra Nevada just over a year after the millionaire adventurer vanished on a solo flight, and the craft appears to have hit the mountainside head-on, authorities said Thursday. —INTERNET

Australian boy wreaks zoo havoc while feeding croc

CANTERBURY, 3 OCT— The parents of a 7-year-old boy who broke into an Australian outback zoo and fed a string of small animals to its resident crocodile are likely to be sued after police said the boy was too young to be held responsible.

A turtle, four western blue tongue lizards, two bearded dragons, two thorny devil lizards and a 1.8 meter (5.9ft) adult female Spencer’s goanna were fed or led into the jaws of a 3 meter, 200kg (440lb) saltwater crocodile named “Terry.” Security camera footage at the Alice Springs Reptile Center showed the smiling youngster also bludgeoning to death a small blue tongue lizard and two more thorny devils during a half-hour of breakfast-time havoc last Wednesday.

“The fact a 7-year-old can wreak so much havoc in such a short time, it’s unbelievable.” —INTERNET

Buffaloes fight during a bullfighting festival at Mengguan village of Huaxi, Guizhou province on 2 October, 2008. China is celebrating a week-long National Day holiday, which started on Monday, a time when millions of Chinese travel to major cities to enjoy cultural attractions or return home to visit relatives and friends. —INTERNET

A farmer works in a wheat field. Researchers on Thursday reported inroads in an ambitious project to map the genetic sequence of wheat, which ultimately could lead to the creation of more fertile and disease-resistant wheat strains. —INTERNET
Chelsea boosted by Drogba injury bulletin

LONDON, 3 Oct — Chelsea striker Didier Drogba is expected to face only a short spell on the sidelines following the injury he sustained against Romanian side Cluj in the Champions League, the club announced on Thursday.

The Ivory Coast international left the stadium in the 68th minute, proved crucial. That was the case. We stayed focused and defended well and I liked the way we managed the last 15 minutes. It was important to qualify and to continue to learn during matches of a high level on the international scene. It’s important for the development of the club and the players. We’re making progress.”

Manchester United’s Wayne Rooney (C) scores against Aalborg during their UEFA Champion’s League football match on 30 September at the Aalborg Stadium, in Aalborg, Rooney should be fit to play in England’s upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Kazakhstan and Belarus his club has said.

Internet

Rooney given green light for England

MANCHESTER, 3 Oct — Wayne Rooney should be fit to play in England’s upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Kazakhstan and Belarus, his club, Manchester United, said on Thursday.

Rooney, 22, twisted an ankle in United’s 3-0 Champions League victory over Aalborg in Denmark on Tuesday and there had been fears he could be ruled out of the England matches on 11 and 15 October.

Those were allayed by a Manchester United spokesman, who said: “Wayne has an ankle injury and is considered doubtful for Saturday’s game against Blackburn, but he should recover in time for England’s forthcoming matches.”

Internet

Chelsea’s Ivorian Didier Drogba is stretched out after being injured during their UEFA Champions League football match against CFR Cluj on 1 Oct, in Cluj-Napoca city, some 490km northwest of Romanian capital Bucharest. Drogba is expected to face only a short spell on the sidelines following the injury he sustained against Romanian side Cluj in the Champions League, the club announced.—INTERNET

Vieira and Ribery back for France in World Cup

PARIS, 3 Oct — Coach Raymond Domenech has recalled both Patrick Vieira and Franck Ribery to the French squad for the World Cup qualifier against Romania in Bucharest on 11 October.

Under-pressure French coach Raymond Domenech, seen here on 12 August, has recalled both Patrick Vieira and Franck Ribery to the French squad for the World Cup qualifier against Romania in Bucharest on 11 October.

internet

Chelsea’s Ivorian Didier Drogba celebrates against Rennes during their UEFA Cup football match in Enschede, The Netherlands. Twente won 1-0.

Internet

McClaren celebrates ‘perfect’ UEFA Cup night

ENSCHDE (Netherlands), 3 Oct — Former England boss Steve McClaren guided Dutch club Twente Enschede into the UEFA Cup group stages on Thursday after a 1-0 win over French side Rennes.

Twente had lost the first round, first leg clash in France 2-1 a fortnight ago, but that away goal, allied to Swiss international Blaise Kufo’s strike on target with his 61st European goal. Germany enjoyed a four-pronged success with Wolfsburg, Stuttgart, Schalke and Hamburg all moving into the group stages. But Borussia Dortmund were sent packing when they lost a penalty shoot-out with Udinese of Italy.

Former England boss Steve McClaren guided Dutch club Twente Enschede into the group stages after a 1-0 win over French side Rennes.

Twente had lost the first round, first leg clash in France 2-1 a fortnight ago, but that away goal, allied to Swiss international Blaise Kufo’s strike on Thursday, proved crucial.

Elsewhere, seven-time European champions AC Milan beat FC Zurich 1-0 for a 4-1 aggregate win with Andriy Shevchenko on target with his 61st European goal.

Sevilla, the champions in 2006 and 2007, made the next stage with a 2-0 win at Salzburg in Austria with ex-Spurs striker Frederic Kanoute scoring both goals for the Spanish side in a 4-0 aggregate victory.

internet

Spurs survive, Everton crash out

PARIS, 3 Oct — Tottenham edged nervously into theUEFA Cup group stages on Thursday to ease the pressure on under-fire coach Juande Ramos but fellow English strugglers Everton crashed out.

Tottenham, rooted to the bottom of the Premier League, drew 1-1 at home by Lutex Lovech of Bulgaria but still went through 4-2 on aggregate. Aston Villa were held 1-1 at home by Litex Lovech of Bulgaria but still went through 4-2 on aggregate.

Germany enjoyed a four-pronged success with Wolfsburg, Stuttgart, Schalke and Hamburg all moving into the group stages. But Borussia Dortmund were sent packing when they lost a penalty shoot-out with Udinese of Italy.

Former England boss Steve McClaren guided Dutch club Twente Enschede into the group stages after a 1-0 win over French side Rennes.

Twente had lost the first round, first leg clash in France 2-1 a fortnight ago, but that away goal, allied to Swiss international Blaise Kufo’s strike on Thursday, proved crucial.

Elsewhere, seven-time European champions AC Milan beat FC Zurich 1-0 for a 4-1 aggregate win with Andriy Shevchenko on target with his 61st European goal.

Sevilla, the champions in 2006 and 2007, made the next stage with a 2-0 win at Salzburg in Austria with ex-Spurs striker Frederic Kanoute scoring both goals for the Spanish side in a 4-0 aggregate victory.

internet
Czech bus crashes in Slovakia, killing five

PRAGUE (Czech Republic), 3 Oct — A Czech travel agency says one of its buses carrying passengers from Slovakia to Prague has crashed, killing at least five people and injuring 18.

The Student Agency says the accident occurred early Friday near the western Slovak town of Trencin. The company says three people were killed immediately and two others died later in a hospital. The victims have not been identified.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, but Czech public radio has reported that the bus skidded off the road and overturned.

The bus was carrying passengers from the Slovak town of Bardejov to Prague on a regular route. No further details were immediately available.—Internet

Navy confirms lost WWII sub has been found

PEARL HARBOR, (Hawaii) , 3 Oct — The Navy has confirmed the wreckage of a sunken vessel found last year off the Aleutians Islands is that of the USS Grunion, which disappeared during World War II.

Underwater video footage and pictures captured by an expedition hired by sons of the commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. Mannert L. Abele, allowed the Navy to confirm the discovery, Rear Adm. Douglas McAneny said Thursday in a news release.

McAneny said the Navy was very grateful to the Abele family.

“We hope this announcement will help to give closure to the families of the 70 crewmen of Grunion,” he said.

The Grunion was last heard from 30 July, 1942. The submarine reported heavy anti-submarine activity at the entrance to Kiska, and that it had 10 torpedoes remaining forward. On the same day, the Grunion was directed to return to Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base. The submarine was reported lost Aug. 16, 1942.

Japanese anti-submarine attack data recorded no attack in the Aleutian area at the time of the Grunion’s disappearance, so the submarine’s fate remained an unsolved mystery for more than 65 years, the Navy said.

We hope this announcement will help to give closure to the families of the 70 crewmen of Grunion,” he said.

WEATHER

Friday, 3 October, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

- During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in upper Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Kachin State and Yangon Division, scattered in Rakhine State and Bago Division, isolated in Shan, Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kalaywa (2.21) inches, Hkamti (1.85) inches, Patagyi (1.31) inches and Machau (1.42) inches.

- Maximum temperature on 2-10-2008 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 3-10-2008 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 3-10-2008 was 96%.

- Total sunshine hours on 2-10-2008 was 6.6 house approx. Rainfall on 3-10-2008 was (0.16) inch at Mingaladon, (0.12) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.12) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (97.28) inches at Mingaladon, (109.17) inches at Kaba-Aye and (126.85) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (15:00) hours MST on 2-10-2008.

- Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 4-10-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin, Kayah and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, isolated to scattered in Chin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, Bago, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

- Outlook for subsequent two days: General decrease of rain in the whole country.

- Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 4-10-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

- Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-10-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

- Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-10-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

- Weather outlook for first weekend of October 2008: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Yangon Division, likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.
Roads under repair in Ayeyawady Division

Yangon, 3 Oct — Member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing on 27 September inspected maintenance work along Pyapon-Bogale Road.

He looked into the resurfacing and maintenance of the road at mile post No. 8/2. He visited the duck farm of U Nyein Soe in Pale Village, the Ein Taman Village-tract.

The minister on 28 September inspected repairing of road sections between mile post Nos. 4/6 and 4/7 near Gonyindian Bridge and between mile post Nos. 1/6 and 1/7 along Pyapon-Kyaklatt road section.

The minister also inspected the 1,000-acre model paddy farm in Kyaklatt and attended to the needs of local farmers. He also saw over the construction of Hlesek Village Basic Education Primary School donated by Daw Than Than Lay and fulfilled the requirements of the personnel concerned.

44 gain quality management skills for industries

Yangon, 3 Oct — Course on Introducing the Importance of Total Quality Management to Myanmar Industries was opened at the Traders Hotel, Sule Pagoda Road on 29 September.

Trainees from universities and entrepreneurs — totaling 44 are attending the 10-day course jointly organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and AOTS. After the course, 20 trainees will receive on-job training for 3 months.

At the opening ceremony, President U Win Myint of UMFFCCI delivered an address and Mr Tashiki of AOTS delivered an address and Mr Tashiki of AOTS based in Bangkok, Thailand, explained tasks of AOTS. Next, General Secretary of UMFFCCI Chairman of Education Committee U Sein Win Hlaing explained courses organized by UMFFCCI.

Underwater Museum Planned for Egypt’s Alexandria

Alexandria, 3 Oct. — Cleopatra’s palace sank long ago into the Mediterranean, but visitors to Alexandria, Egypt, may eventually view the complex’s remnants via the world’s first underwater museum.

A site for the museum has been proposed near the New Library of Alexandria, where the famed queen of Egypt is believed to have sheltered herself with her lover Marc Antony before taking her own life.

In early September the United Nations cultural agency, UNESCO, announced it is funding a team to determine if such a museum would damage the submerged artifacts.

‘Space elevator’ would take humans into orbit

London, 3 Oct — A new space race is officially underway, and this one should have the sci-fi geeks salivating.

The project is a “space elevator,” and some experts now believe the concept is well within the bounds of possibility — maybe even within our lifetimes.

A conference discussing developments in space elevator concepts is being held in Japan in November, and hundreds of engineers and scientists from Asia, Europe and the Americas are working to design the only lift that will take you directly to the one hundred-thousandth floor.

2300-yr-old paddy pot found

Colombo, 3 Oct — A pot containing paddy grains believed to be from the 3rd century BC has been discovered from the archaeological site of Akuruwegodawathiha in Tissamaharama area of southern Sri Lanka.

The paddy pot was found at the soil layer that was 4.5 meters below the surface. Foundations, walls, broad brick floors, pillar holes, hearths, pieces of earthen pots, and large earthenware were also found at this historical site.

Ruins of a residential complex of noblemen were unearthed recently near this layer, according to a report.

The ruins were excavated from a soil layer five meters below the surface close to Tissamaharama area.

An ancient hospital’s ruins were also discovered close to this site, website ‘LankaPage’ reported. Tissamaharama is believed to have been the capital of the Magama Kingdom in Ruhuna, and Akuruwoda, where the excavations are being conducted, is believed to be the inner city of this kingdom.