Byline: Maung Maung Htwe; Photos: Tha Nyan (MNA)

As time passes by, Pyawbwe becomes rapidly developed with characteristics of a township such as newly-inaugurated Myawady Bank, Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and Amayhtein Hall. In addition, Centenary Sasana Beikman Building and a home for the aged are being built to enhance the image of the township.

Now, the five rural development programmes have gained momentum. On the tour, we dropped into Kyudawwa Village, where a 40 feet long and 20 feet wide and 20 feet high bridge is under construction, side by side with the old wooden bridge.

With a smile, farmer U Win Maung on his return from the farm said, “Previously, we could not pass through the old bridge by bullock cart, by car, and by motorbike. It was available for people only. We had to get across the canal if we were with ploughs and oxen. Now, such unnecessary difficulties are no more.”

U Maung Pu from Hse Village in Kyudawwa Village-tract said, “I am here to buy sunflower seeds. In olden days, our region was not easily accessible.

Chairman U Khin Maung Than of Myaing Township Peace and Development Council in Pakokku District told us about the agricultural development of Baswa village thanks to the contribution of artesian wells. The strange name of the village caught my attention. When I inquired about the name “Baswa”, it was learnt that the name of the village is written as Panswa and pronounced as Baswa.

The way to Panswa is 20 miles long earth road east of Pakokku-Yesagyo-Myaing motorway. It shares border with Yesagyo and Myaing. We, Myanma Alin news crew, toured Panswa as we had heard that the village is booming in agricultural sector because of the artesian wells. Village PDC Chairman U Than Win invited us to visit recently opened self-reliant two-storey building of Panswa village Middle School (Branch) which cost K 65 million.

We found the new concrete building with 140-ft length, 30-ft width and 24-ft height which was opened on 14 September. Panswa village has 439 houses of 475 families. Its population is over 2,300. The school is being attended by 440 students learning their lessons with their eight teachers. The main livelihood of its villagers is agriculture. It was challenging to grow monsoon paddy in the past due to lack of rainfall.

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World Summit on Food Security contributes to food security of the nation

The Myanmar delegation attended the 2nd Non-Aligned Movement First Ladies Summit, the World Summit on Food Security and the 36th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference held in Rome, Italy from 15 to 20 November.

At the World Summit on Food Security, the declaration of FAO Summit was approved, and the participants delivered addresses. The Myanmar delegation dealt with endeavours for food security in Myanmar, undertakings in the agricultural sector for world food security and cooperation with the United Nations and international organizations.

At the 36th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference, the Myanmar delegation explained widely on laying down policies for boosting food and agriculture production, assistance for supply of water for agriculture purpose and inputs for farmers while Myanmar is striving for overcoming difficulties of food security during financial crisis, raising irrigated sown acreage to increase food production and endeavours for prevention against loss and wastage in food production in climate change.

The Myanmar delegation also touched upon matters related to cooperation in the agricultural sector, construction of Cyclone shelters in the Nargis ravaged regions and acquisition of water in dry regions and others. We firmly believe that such discussions made by the Myanmar delegation would contribute much to further strengthening co-operation among the member countries.

Health Minister receives foreign guests

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Nov—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint received Managing Director of Programme Delivery at Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI), Alliance Secretariat Dr Mercy Ahun and Senior Programme Manager Dr Ranjana Kumar of South East Asia Programme Delivery Team who were accompanied by Dr Rajendra Bohara of the WHO Resident Representative Office and Public Health Administrator Ms Margareta Skold at the Ministry of Health here yesterday morning.

The meeting mainly focused on measures to be taken for capability improvement of primary health staff, provision of funds for five years in upgrading of rural health care centres, rural health care hospitals and for extended introduction of vaccination. Minister Dr Kyaw Myint explained efforts being carried out by the government in its drive for reducing child and maternal mortality rate and thanked the donors for their assistance.—MNA

UMFCCI officials receive Vietnamese delegation

Yangon, 24 Nov—President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, Vice-Presidents U Mya Han and U Tun Aung, General Secretary Dr Maung Maung Lay, Joint General Secretaries Dr Myo Thein and Dr Pwint Hsan, CEC members U Tun Aung and U Myo Thant received a delegation led by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Mr. Nguyen Thanh Bien of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at UMFCCI office here on 20 November.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed matters relating to economic and trade opportunities and cooperation between Vietnam and Myanmar, discussion about economic matters’ exchanging delegations, study of agricultural technologies and more cooperation in investments and trade sectors.—MNA

AGM of four marine associations on 29 Nov

Yangon, 24 Nov—The Myanmar Fishery Entrepreneurs Association, the Myanmar Deep Sea Fishery Association, the Myanmar Fish and Prawn Feedstuff Producers Association, the Myanmar Freshwater Fishery Entrepreneurs Association under the Myanmar Fishery Federation will hold Annual General Meeting at Thiri Annawa Hall of MFF at 9 am on 29 November.

Members of the associations are to attend the meeting, whether they have received invitation cards or not.—MNA
Peacekeepers should prepare to leave Darfur

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Nov—Khartoum’s UN envoy, rejecting a bleak UN assessment of the situation in Sudan’s conflict-torn western Darfur region, said on Monday it was time for international peacekeepers to prepare to leave.

Saying it omitted key information, Sudan’s UN ambassador, Abdalmahmoud Abdalhaleem, criticized the latest report about Darfur by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, which says Khartoum has broken a deal on deploying the peacekeepers.

“One big fact should be the focus of the report — that the war is over,” he told Reuters. “With peace in sight, the UN should, in coordination with the African Union and Sudanese government, plan for an exit strategy.”

The UN-AU mission in Darfur, known as UNAMID, has been fraught with difficulties. For nearly two years, the mission’s commanders have faced bureaucratic delays and other obstacles in deploying the 26,000 peacekeepers approved by the UN Security Council.

Chemical plant explosions injure four in France

PARIS, 24 Nov—Four men were injured during a series of explosions which happened on Monday evening in a chemical factory belonging to French major chemical producer SNF in central France.

The first explosion happened at 5:45 pm local time in the chemical plant which is located in Andrezieux-Bouthéon, a central town of Loire department, while the second occurred ten minutes later at the same workshop.

The injured suffering from burning and scratches were all sent to hospitals. There was no big fire triggered by the explosions, the firefighters said.

The government of Loire said that they had not detected any leak of dangerous chemical element caused by the explosion, confirming the environmental safety for nearby residents.

Military plane crash in Italy kills all five aboard

PISA, 24 Nov—Five people were killed in a plane crash near Pisa airport in northwestern Italy, the country’s air force said on Monday.

A military C-130 transport plane with five people on board crashed soon after takeoff from Pisa airport at 2:10 pm local time (0310 GMT), according to ANSA news agency.

All the five people aboard the plane were killed in the crash, air force sources said. Military sources said the plane, which was from the 46th air force brigade, was engaged in a training exercise.

Some Witnesses said the plane spun out of control before crashing and burst into flames. Pisa Mayor Marco Filippeschi said the plane came down just outside the airport area and crashed on to tracks of the local Pisa-Collessvetti-Cecina rail line.

Radiation leak at Three Mile Island not significant

WASHINGTON, 24 Nov—US authorities investigating a radiation leak at the nuclear plant in Three Mile Island, Pa, said on Monday that the leak has been contained and the impact is not significant.

John White, an investigator at the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), told reporters that the leak was contained quickly and it didn’t exceed or even approached regulatory limits. After a small amount of radiation leak was detected at the plant on Saturday afternoon, some 150 plant employees was sent home on an airborne radiological contamination alarm.

The employees were being evaluated but a handful of them who had contamination have been decontaminated, according to the NRC. No public health risk was announced.

Leaked UK documents detail Iraq war chaos

LONDON, 24 Nov—Leaked British government documents call into question ex-Prime Minister Tony Blair’s public statements on the buildup to the Iraq war and show plans for the US-led 2003 invasion were being made more than a year earlier, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Britain’s Sunday Telegraph published details of private statements made by senior British military figures claiming plans were in place months before the March 2003 invasion, but were so badly drafted they left troops poorly equipped and ill-prepared for the conflict.

The documents — transcripts of interviews from an internal defence ministry review of the conflict — disclose that some planning for the Iraq war had begun in February 2002.

Critics of the war have long insisted that Blair offered then-President George W. Bush an assurance as early as mid-2002 — before British lawmakers voted in 2003 to approve UK involvement — that Britain would join the war.

In July 2002, Blair told lawmakers at a House of Commons committee session that there were no preparations to invade Iraq.

According to the newspaper.

The government of Loire said that they had not detected any leak of dangerous chemical element caused by the explosion, confirming the environmental safety for nearby residents.
S Korea's fiscal deficit widens in Sept

SEOUL, 24 Nov—South Korea's fiscal deficit soared on-month in September as government spending has been outgrowing revenue, the finance ministry said on Tuesday.

According to the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, the country's cumulative fiscal deficit, as of late September, posted 25.69 trillion won (22.21 billion US dollars), up around 9 trillion won from 16.34 trillion won a month ago. The increase is the sharpest since May when the country saw a 10 trillion won rise in the fiscal deficit, the ministry said in a report.

It noted the government’s earnings during the nine months of this year, including taxes and ordinary earnings, topped 196.18 trillion won, while government spending marked 221.87 trillion won. However, the ministry reiterated that it will be possible to meet its annual fiscal deficit target of 22 trillion won (18.38 billion dollars).—Xinhua

Indonesia sees crisis in Foreign Investment

JAKARTA, 24 Nov—Indonesia's combined foreign and domestic investment during the first 10 months of this year fell 13.8 percent from it was in the same period last year due to the global economic crisis, a local media reported on Tuesday.

Speaking in a hearing with the lawmakers from Commission VI in the parliament that oversees trade and investment affairs on Monday, Indonesia’s Head of the Investment Coordinating Board Gita Wirjawan said that the domestic economy had escaped from the crisis with relatively unharmed.

Philippines may import 3-million-ton rice in 2010 to plug shortage

MANILA, 24 Nov—The Philippines may need to import as much as 3 million tons of rice next year if abnormal climatic conditions would slash country's rice production, an official said on Monday.

National Food Authority (NFA) Rex Estoperez said on Monday that erratic weather patterns have made it harder for the government to estimate its current rice supply. Importing three million tons is the “worst case scenario”, according to Estoperez.—Xinhua

Vietnam's electronics exports hit $1.92b in first nine months

HANOI, 24 Nov—Vietnam earned 1.92 billion US dollars from exporting electronic products and computer components in the first nine months of this year, about the same as the same period of 2008, reported the General Statistics Office of Vietnam on Monday.

In September alone, the country gained 270 million US dollars, up 4.2 percent from August, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Vietnam’s electronic products and computer components have been exported to more than 32 markets in the world, said the ministry.

Vietnam’s largest export market of electronics now is the United States, with the revenue for the first nine months approximately at 320 million US dollars, an increase of 59 percent year-on-year. The United States is followed by Japan, Thailand and China with the export value of about 266 million US dollars, 209 million US dollars and 182 million US dollars, respectively.

Last year, Vietnam raked in 2.63 billion US dollars from exporting electronic products and computer components, said the office.—Xinhua

EU labour market deeply hit by crisis

BRUSSELS, 24 Nov—The European Union (EU) labour market was hard hit by the current financial and economic crisis, with long-term unemployment remaining a serious threat, according to a report released on Monday.

“The current crisis is taking its toll on EU labour markets, reversing most of the employment growth achieved since 2000,” the European Commission said in its annual report on employment in Europe. The report showed employment in the EU has shrunk by over four million jobs since the start of the crisis, and all EU member states except Luxembourg have seen employment contract, most notably the Baltic States, Ireland and Spain.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate in the EU has remained on an upward trend since spring of last year, and by September 2009 had increased to 9.2 percent, a rise of 2.5 percentage points compared to spring 2008. In particular, the long-term unemployment remained to be a concern for policy makers since the longer someone stays unemployed, the less chance they have of moving back into employment, the report said. In recent years, close to 45 percent of all unemployment spells lasted longer than a year in the EU, compared with only about 10 percent in the United States.

“Tackling this issue has become even more urgent since the start of the crisis,” the commission said. However, the report found the level of employment in the EU has nevertheless remained relatively resistant considering the strength of the recession.—Xinhua

Mexico warned of rising deficit, declining income

MEXICO CITY, 24 Nov—The Mexican government on Monday received a warning from Fitch Ratings about its fast rising budget deficit and dropping oil income.

In a statement released by Fitch Ratings, which provides ratings on big borrowers, Mexico’s national rating was lowered by one notch to BBB, down from BBB+.

The current rating remains above the “sub-investment grade,” a rating that would shut out many major investors, but the news will probably make it more expensive for both the government and major Mexican firms to raise funds overseas.

Oil is the nation’s top foreign currency earner and about 40 percent of the national budget comes from oil production, which has been on a downward trend for about five years. Meanwhile, the government’s attempts to increase taxes were mostly squashed by the opposition-controlled parliament.—Xinhua

A visitor looks at laptops at a computer fair. World-wide sales of personal computers, which had been forecast to decline this year, will instead post modest gains, Gartner research group said on Monday.—INTERNET

![Visitors stand beside the new protection gear for mine workers on display at a coal industry exhibition in Beijing. China is trying to modernize its coal industry by capturing the dangerous methane gas in order to recycle it and use it as an energy source.—INTERNET](image-url)

![Venezuelan and Iranian business meeting inaugurated CARACAS, 24 Nov—Representatives of the Venezuelan and Iranian governments opened on Monday the Venezuela-Iran Entrepreneurs Meeting in Caracas before a visit of the country by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Tuesday. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro and Iranian Ambassador to Venezuela Ahmad Sobhani attended the opening ceremony, which was broadcast by the state-run TV channel Venezolana de Television (VTV).

“Our challenge is to give a plan of new and intense projects. Nothing can impede the capacities we have continued combining to give concrete results,” Maduro said at the ceremony.](image-url)
**UN chief urges intensified efforts to curb poverty in Africa**

**United Nations, 24 Nov**—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday called on African leaders and donors to make intensified efforts to fight against poverty in Africa. The Secretary-General made the appeal as he spoke at the launch of a new UN report which outlines steps to be taken by Africa and its development partners to help lift millions of people across the continent out of poverty. The report by the Commission on Effective Development Cooperation with Africa calls for steps including creating an African Guarantee Fund in partnership with the African Development Bank.

"The report’s recommendations are far-reaching. They include creating an African Guarantee Fund in partnership with the African Development Bank; ensuring access to energy; and unleashing the power of African entrepreneurship," Bansk said.

"If they are implemented conscientiously, such steps will help mitigate the effects of the economic crisis," he said.

They could help to lift millions of people out of poverty. He also welcomed the report’s emphasis on youth employment and opportunities for young people.—*Xinhua*

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**Some 2,400 journalists to cover 5th East Asian Games**

**Hong Kong, 24 Nov**—A total of 2,416 accredited journalists would cover the 5th East Asian Games in China’s Hong Kong, said the Planning Committee here on Monday at the launching ceremony for the Media Center.

The Media Center of EAG, located on the ground floor of the Hong Kong Central Library, comprised a Main Press Center, an International Broadcasting Center and a 290-seat Press Conference Room. It opens from 23 Nov-14 Dec, providing services on competitions schedules, athletes information, results updating, medal tally, news releases, etc.

"We are now ready, and we are looking forward to showcasing Hong Kong’s ability in organizing a large-scale international sports event," President of the Planning Committee of EAG Timothy Fok Tsin-ting said here at the launching ceremony.

According to Eman Kwong, Media Services and Public Relations Coordinator of the 2009 EAG Limited, the number of accredited media amounted to 2,416, among which 257 were overseas, and a total of 16 TV Rights has been confirmed with seven Hong Kong broadcasters and five from the Chinese mainland.—*Xinhua*

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**700 families in Panamanian province face starvation after flooding**

**Panama City, 24 Nov**—About 700 Panamanian families in Darien Province on the border with Colombia are now threatened by hunger due to floods in the last three years, authorities said on Monday.

Residents in the affected districts were at risk of suffering hunger as agricultural and livestock production in more than 20 communities almost came to a halt as a result of the flooding, said Alfonso Moreno, representative of the Agriculture-Livestock Development Ministry in Darien.—*Xinhua*

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**Freight train derails in Houston, Texas**

**Houston, 24 Nov**—A freight train derailed in south-west Houston, Texas, on Monday, and no injuries were reported, authorities said.

The derailment was reported around 11:30 am, the Houston Fire Department said. More than a dozen cars of the train left the tracks, spilling asphalt and other substances, and shutting down a highway in both directions.

Residents in the area were advised to take shelter indoors as emergency crew worked the scene, officials said.—*Xinhua*

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**India deploys another warship off Seychelles to fight pirates**

**New Delhi, 24 Nov**—The Indian Navy is deploying another warship with marine commandos on board to combat pirates off the island nations of Seychelles and Mauritius in the Indian Ocean, reported the *Indo-Asian News Service* on Monday.

INS Savitri, an offshore patrol vessel, with a Chetak helicopter and marine commandos on board, “will conduct surveillance of the exclusive economic zones of Seychelles and Mauritius from November-end till early January 2010,” the report quoted Indian Navy spokesperson Commander PVS Satish as saying.—*Xinhua*

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**Special programme opens to groom “2nd generation” in Shanghai**

**Beijing, 24 Nov**—A leading university in the country’s financial hub has launched a special business programme catering to students from wealthy families who are expected to take over the reins of their family’s enterprises, according to Tuesday’s *China Daily*.

The programme by the overseas education college of Shanghai Jiaotong University will include cooperation with the United States Military Academy at West Point, Cambridge University, as well as business schools around Europe. “I think this project will soon be popular as it’s very timely,” said Wang Hongxin, the executive dean of Overseas Education College at Shanghai Jiaotong University.

Over the past 30 years, China has seen rapid development of private enterprises, and as the first generation of entrepreneurs nears retirement age, the time for their successors to step forward is coming.—*Xinhua*
**Indonesian ferry captain blames storm for sinking**

TANJUNG BALAI, 24 Nov—The captain of an Indonesian ferry which sank killing 29 people rejected claims of overcrowding on Monday and blamed a freak storm for the disaster, as officials launched an investigation.

Despite more choppy conditions, the search for survivors from the Dumai Express resumed off Karimun island, near Singapore, with dozens feared lost at sea trapped in the wreck at the bottom of the Malacca Strait.

With the official toll standing at 29 dead and 245 rescued, officials arrived at Karimun to try to piece together what caused the latest in a litany of ferry disasters in Indonesia, an archipelago of 17,000 islands.

The 147-tonne vessel’s capacity was 273 passengers and crew, but local police said more than 400 people could have been on board. Two survivors told AFP its decks were packed with undocumented passengers.—Internet

![Ferry Dumai Express 12 waits for passengers at Sikipan Port in Batam, Indonesia, on 23 Nov, 2009. The Dumai Express 10, similar type to this Dumai Express 12, was hit by towering waves on Sunday and sank about 90 minutes into an inter-island trip from Batam to Dumai in Riau, a province off Sumatra island in western Indonesia. — Internet]

**Eight women set out to ski to South Pole**

WELLINGTON, 24 Nov—Eight women set out Monday from their base camp on Antarctica to ski to the South Pole in a trek to mark the 60th anniversary of the Commonwealth grouping of 53 former British colonies.

Skiing six to 10 hours a day, they expect to travel 500 miles (800 kilometres) across the frozen southern continent to the pole in about 40 days. Each is towing a sledge with food and gear weighing some 175 pounds (80 kilograms).

The Commonwealth Women’s Antarctic Expedition will face blinding blizzards, winds in excess of 80 miles (130 kilometres) an hour, hidden crevasses and temperatures that plummet to minus 42 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 40 degrees Celsius), their Web site said.

“As the team skis past the polar ice cap’s mountain passes and fields, they will experience 24-hour day-light, endless vistas, and intense solitude.—Internet

**Fire in building kills 2 in east Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD, 24 Nov — At least one man and one woman were killed while another person was injured on Tuesday as a fire erupted in a building in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore.

The official news agency AFP said the fire accident took place at a three-storey building at Empress Road in the Punjabi capital on Tuesday morning.

According to the police and rescue team, the fire broke out at the Kashmir Palace hotel, the cause of which is yet to be determined.

The rescue operation was going on as the fire-fighters tried to bring the fire under control.—Xinhua

**Thousands of strange sea creatures discovered**

The deep sea is teeming with thousands of species that have never known sunlight, explorers now say.

Revealed via cameras towed deep in the sea, sonar and other technologies, a stunning 17,650 species are now known to thrive in an eternal watery darkness.

This menagerie of weird creatures, ranging from crabs to shrimp to worms, somehow manage a living in a frigid black world down to roughly 3 miles (5 km) below the ocean waves.

Most of these creatures have adapted to diets based on meager droppings from the sunlit layer above, while others live on sulfur and methane, or bacteria that break down oil, or the sunken bones of dead whales and other implausible foods.

**Man creates 26-foot-tall gingerbread man**

A Wisconsin man created the world’s tallest gingerbread man, standing 26 feet tall, as part of a cookie decorating event at a mall.

Mary Beth Collins, the executive director of Dane County Court Appointed Special Advocates, said Dave Bowden of Market Street Diner created the gingerbread man as part of the “Gingerbread Cookie Factory” fundraiser at the Hilldale Mall in Madison, WISC-TV, Madison, reported.

“This was a goal he had,” Collins said. “To create the world’s tallest gingerbread man.

So Dane County CASA approached him to see if he would do it, and he agreed, and here we are today.”

The cookie factory, which will be open the first three Saturdays in December, will allow children to decorate their own gingerbread cookies to raise funds for CASA, which advocates for children in abusive situations.

**Japanese engineer released by Yemeni tribesmen**

SAN’A, 24 Nov — A Japanese engineer seized by Yemeni tribesmen seeking to swap him for a prisoner with al-Qaeda links was released on Monday after a week in captivity.

Takeo Mashimo returned to the capital, San’a, after a day of negotiations between the tribesmen and Yemeni authorities, said Natahiro Yamaguchi, the Japanese Embassy’s deputy chief of mission. Mashimo was in good health and was received by the Japanese ambassador and the governor of San’a, Yamaguchi said.

In brief remarks Mashimo thanked the government’s negotiating team and the tribesmen for letting him go. Mashimo was working on the construction of a school about 12 miles (20 kilometres) northeast of the capital when he was kidnapped on 15 Nov.

He was taken by armed men from the Ahrab tribe. One of its leaders, Sheikh Nazih al-Hanaq, told The Associated Press on Sunday that the tribe kidnapped the man in an attempt to force the government to release one of its members from prison — a common tactic by powerful tribes in large parts of Yemen where the central government has little or no control.

**Vertebral fossils from the Cretaceous period are displayed in front of a map of South America at Interpol headquarters in Buenos Aires. Police announced that they seized 300,000 euros ($448,860) worth of fossils from an Argentinean man who tried to sell them to museums and collectors in Europe.**

**A brown bear carries a dog during a show in a circus in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk.**

**Japanese engineer and hostage Takeo Mashimo speaks to his family by telephone after his arrival at the San’a Governor’s office in the capital San’a, Yemen on 23 Nov, 2009. Internet**

**A specimen of the ‘Archeopteryx simensi’ is displayed at the 46th international trade fair for minerals, fossils, precious stones and jewellery in Munich, Germany, on 29 Oct, 2009. Six of the world’s ten existing originals of the Archaeopteryx will be on display in Munich — the value of each one of the rare fossils is in the millions of euro. The trade fair lasts from 30 Oct to 1 Nov, 2009.**

**NEWS ALBUM**

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Pyawbwe poised to catch up with other townships in terms of development

Byline: Maung Maung Htwe; Photos: Tha Nyan (MNA)

But, now our region has enjoyed a lot of economic growth. U Tin Myint from Yindaw Village said, “I am here on business. In the past, the bridge was not available for cars. I had to leave my car on the one side of the bridge when I was to cross the canal.”

With the contribution of officials and well-wishers, a large number of bridges have been built, thus improving the transport sector of the region. The township also has got self-sufficient health centres and basic education schools. So, the region is developing rapidly.

Rural areas’ major businesses are agriculture and livestock farming. Pyawbwe is an arid region, so cotton and edible oil crops thrive there.

Local farmers of Pyawbwe Township grow paddy, cotton, sugarcane, sesame, sunflower, green gram, pigeon pea, black gram, and corn not only with rainwater but also with irrigation water. Now, the government is sinking 50 tube-wells under the programme of boosting agricultural production and greening Phaya Ngazu in Pyawbwe Township, thereby generating a better future of the region.

Regarding regional development tasks, Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U San Htay said, “Now, we grow Ngwechi (6) strain long staple cotton extensively. And we are trying to launch triple-cropping pattern including paddy, peas and cotton.

We have a plan to build seven roads in Kyaunkhat, Shwe-nyaungpha, Puthaung, Kontha, Myaukmeegon, Beinnaka and Yongon villages that lead to inter-district roads. We are gearing up to build a five-mile road section that will link the inter-district road and Pauk-ai Yoe, Ywathit, Nwe-nwelt, Okshiptin, Kyauk-oh and Hugetmee villages.

We constantly maintain the lakes for drinking water. Now, we are working for supply of adequate freshwater to 15 villages. So far, the programme has benefited five villages. We use a lot of heavy machinery to complete all the work including building roads on schedule.”

According to my first-hand experiences, Pyawbwe, which was established in 1186 Myanmar Era, has begun to enjoy remarkable development with junctions of roads and railroads, and large buildings.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 23-10-2009

Panswa village developing thanks to artesian wells

Article and Photos;
Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

Now, the State has reclaimed virgin lands with the use of machinery and sank the artesian wells to launch mixed- and multiple-cropping patterns.

The new school building, which cost K 65 million has been built thanks to the development in agriculture. It was built with the education funds of Panswa villagers. With the water splashed out from the artesian wells, Panswa village is going to see a better future with the growth in agriculture.

Translation: HKA
(Myamna Alin; 23-11-09)
Dear old Bran Shao,

I am writing this to share the experiences I have gained at the graduation parade in Bhamo Officer Training School. As you know, our NDAK force has been transformed to a border guard force recently. Really, we have become soldiers. We wear army uniforms and military insignias, and take oaths. So, we feel as if we have started a new life, and we are participating in the transforming processes.

On the opening day of our border guard force, we started to wear army uniforms, armbands, and peak caps. A major general who was learned to be a command commander decorated me with military officer insignias on my shoulders. That was the first time I had ever met a senior military officer closely. At that time, I happened to look at my shoulders so many times because I worried that the gold stars would fall off from my shoulders. Then, the commander touched my shoulder in a cordial manner and said, “Captain, now, the State has recognized you as a reliable army officer.” Just as I heard his words, I had goose-flesh and my whole body was a bit shaking out of great relief. I swear, as the commander said to me, I felt as if I had become a reliable army officer who would soon take charge of national defence duties.

Whoever we were and whatever wrong we did in the past, now we have taken oaths of allegiance to the State, and we will soon assume charge of national defence duties in our home regions to serve the interest of our regions, and our national brethren. The government provided cash awards, and salaries and rations, and many forms of military equipment, many of which we have never used. It also provided 16 types of supplies for the clinic and delivery room of our force, and 14 other types of supplies. Our force was provided with cars, motorcycles, typewriters and funds. The Tatmadaw supplied a lot of rations to our front line camps, and all forms of assistance to our families.

If we need something, officers and warrant officers from the Tatmadaw fulfill our wishes. So, we are not in need of any particular help. In fact, our border guard force also comprises 30 members from other military units, so it is very convenient for us to form organizational set-up of our platoons and to carry out office work. As you know, our force is weak in office work. And it is impossible for us to be familiar with the Tatmadaw’s procedures overnight. I am sure this is the most appropriate way to smoothly transform a force that has stood for ages. They are service personnel who have moved here on duty, and we are also service personnel who are responsible for national defence duties. So, all are the same, Tatmadaw members.

As you know, transforming to a border guard force is not a matter to be taken lightly. Our Kachin State, for instance, suffered evil consequences of the divide-and-rule policy throughout the colonial period because ours is a highland. The conditions of our state have improved very little, and we still have to bear the suffering of the people. Only in the time of the Tatmadaw, could peace be restored and national development tasks be launched. I do not know whether you believe it or not, we could make a one-day round trip between our Sadone Village and Myitkyina, which was a three-day trip in the past. Our region has enjoyed material development in various sectors. Local people of us even shudder at the thought of suffering again evil consequences of battles that took place till 1989. So, I am proud to be a Tatmadaw member and I am following in the path the government has paved for everlasting peace.

We have enjoyed the benefits from the transforming far more than expected. I am gaining so many unexpected experiences. I would like to share some of my experiences with you. Border guard forces have been formed systematically, and we are now attending the courses conducted according to ranks in the training schools.

On our way to the training school in Myitkyina, we received a rousing welcome from local people. Frankly, I did not expect such a warm welcome. My girlfriend from Dukhahtang took me for someone because I was at that time in army officer uniform. I had to settle the jealousy she had when she saw some nurses garlanding me. I am just sharing my pleasures with you, not boasting to make you envy my success. The pleasure of the people who garlanded us has strengthened our determination. Mostly, we stayed in border areas, so up to that time, we had never received the support, encouragement and praise from local people in an urban area. The support of the local people, for whom loss of peace is completely unacceptable, will be always special to me. I realized and felt that the local people of Myitkyina, who offered a rousing welcome to us, represented the entire people. And I am sure other members felt the same as I did.

When we arrived at the training school, all went well as everything had been prearranged, including accommodation, lessons to be learnt and administrative affairs. Only when we started taking the course did we know more about our duties and responsibilities. It was found that lessons taught at the course focussed on the spirit a Tatmadaw member should possess and subjects on organizing and serving people rather than on military art. Officers have to attend the officers training school in Bhamo and warrant officers, sergeants and privates are to attend their respective training courses. It is an absolute necessity to attend courses. We are not unfamiliar with military art as we took up arms in the past but there are lots of other military subjects we should learn rather than military tactics.

We held arms illegally for a long time. Now we have been assigned special duty as legal arms holders with trust and understanding. Therefore, we realize that we have to learn necessary subjects and rules and regulations. As we all are trying to learn actively and enthusiastically, our trainers and conductors encourage us to do it well. We are really proud of their recognition.

As we are attending the course together with some national brethren from Kayah State, we make new friends and we have come to understand the meaning of ‘blood brother’. We have come to realize that strong national unity is necessary for non-disintegration of the Union no matter where we live in it. I don’t want you to run away with the idea that I’m talking big as I’m attending a Tatmadaw training course. I think the path being taken by the nation for transition to democracy is an unexpected opportunity for us educated youths to be able to work for eternal peace and development of our respective regions. I believe that, in a way, it is an opportunity that the State, the people, and the Tatmadaw give to us. It is priceless and it will be an extraordinary milestone in the history of the nation and national people. As I’m at the fore in setting the extraordinary milestone in history, I’m proud of it and I really value this unexpected experience.

One of the unexpected experiences I have had occurred on the day when our border guard force was formed. On that day, with tears flowing down her cheeks, my mother (Anu) said, “I no longer have to worry about my son; our state will be peaceful for ever.” At the same time, she kissed both my cheeks with her heart’s content. The tears she shed on that day were different from the tears she had shed when sometimes
Banking Services Course for Assistant Managers (1/2009) commences

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses the opening of Banking Services Course for Assistant Managers of Myanma Economic Bank (1/2009) at the meeting hall of Myanma Economic Bank Headquarters on Myat Pan Thazin Road in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his address, the minister said that the ministry is conducting the courses to nurture human resources in its drive to boost banking sector and urged the trainees to learn hard for the practical application of banking laws and administration knowledge to study seriously the wider knowledge in banking and monetary businesses. He also called on the trainees for launching MEB online e-banking system.

Later, the minister cordially greeted lecturers, trainee assistant managers. The course was attended by assistant managers from township banks (branch) and they

Photo, article and short story contests

Nav Pyi Taw, 24 Nov—To mark December mass sports activities for 2009, Ministry of Sports will hold photo, article and short story contests. Participants must write short stories from 5 to 8 inches x 12 inches in size. Photos are not limited and must be 12 inches x 12 inches in size.

Photo, articles on sports standard. Articles on sports activities will be from 4 to 6 pages in foolscap sizes. Photos are not limited and must be 12 inches x 12 inches in size.

Short stories, articles and photos are to be sent to Kyakkaikan sports ground, Mass Sports and Education Division, Organizing Committee.

At the ceremony, medical superintendent attended the ceremony to present wheel chairs and restroom appliances held in Pathein on 16 November. The commander made a speech and presented wheel chairs and restroom appliances.

On 17 November, he inspected the site chosen for construction of main power supply station in Maubin and ploughing for monsoon paddy on Ngapikwekawae quality paddy plantation.

The commander also looked into the digging of the drains for proper flow of water at the junction of Yaele.

The commander then gave necessary instructions.

MTU holds 3rd collective blood donation ceremony

Nav Pyi Taw, 24 Nov—The Mandalay Technological University of Technological and Vocational Education Department under the Ministry of Science and Technology conducted the 3rd collective blood donation ceremony at its three-storey building yesterday.

At the ceremony, medical superintendent Dr Maung Win of Mandalay General Hospital, Pathologist Dr Khin Sein Win of National Blood Bank, doctors, nurses and medical staff of blood bank made blood tests to students. Acting Principal Dr Khin Htay Htay Lwin of Mandalay Technological University viewed the activities for blood donation and fulfilled the requirements.

The third collective blood donation ceremony of Mandalay Technological University of Mechanical and Vocational Education Department in progress. —MNA

MWJA to organize respect-paying ceremony

Yangon, 24 Nov—Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association will organize ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati to mark Sarsodaw Day at City Hall here on 6 December.

The township chairmen and secretaries can get the invitation cards for senior writers and well-wishers to attend the ceremony at No. 529 of Sarhay Beikma (second floor) on Merchant Street starting from 30 November during office hours.

Concordia Int’l Co Ltd’s sales promotion on 25-27 Nov

Yangon, 23 Nov—Concordia Int’l Co Ltd will launch a programme for sales promotion of Fujixerox Brand copiers and printers and Garmin Brand GPS products simultaneously at

Concordia showrooms in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon from 25 to 27 November. Fujixerox Brand copiers and printers will be on sale at five to 10 per cent discount in the sales promotion period. During the period, Garmin GPS products are sold at a seven per cent discount, and with a testimony of the department concerned, those from ministries, servicemen and nongovernmental organizations get an extra piece at a purchase of 10 pieces.

For more information, contact Sirwegen Plaza on 09-5005912, Fax 544199, 558170, 540026 (second floor) on Merchant Street starting from 30 November during office hours.

The third collective blood donation ceremony of Mandalay Technological University of Mechanical and Vocational Education Department in progress. —MNA

Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township (Ph: 01-544824, 558170, 540026-09-5005912, Fax 544199, SY Building on 30th Street between 77th and 78th Streets in Chane Kyaik Kyaik, Mandalay (02-36478, 69303, 09-5067172); and Thiri Yadana Supermarket at No 144 in Nay Pyi Taw (067-420819, and 421362). —MNA
291,266 acres of croplands: that the sown acreage had increased along with the emergence of irrigation facilities in the time of Tatmadaw Government; that 128,361 acres of farmlands were put under monsoon paddy in 2001-2002 and sown acreage was increased to 147,248 acres last year; that summer paddy could not be grown in the region in the past, but last year a total of 24,128 acres were put under summer paddy; that the target production was achieved as the total output had reached 83.73 baskets of rice per acre; that it could be seen that current year’s sown acreage had increased evidently in comparison with 108,012 acres of farmlands, and the per capita income had increased.

It is learnt that a total of 429,519 acres have been put under various kinds of crops including 49,367 acres of monsoon paddy, 154,239 acres of peas and beans, 85,614 acres of edible oil crops, 292 acres of long staple cotton, 22,588 acres of sugarcane, 61,425 acres of maize, which is far more than production target. There is 274 per cent food sufficiency and 849 per cent edible oil sufficiency. Each household in the township was encouraged to breed one pig and ten chickens on manageable scale and as a result, now a total of 407,114 pigs and 740,100 chickens have been bred in the township separately, with a view to ensuring bio-safety of the animals and prevention of bird flu (H5N1). Locals are now reaping the benefits from sale of chickens from Zigon, Htangon, Kanbalu chicken breeding zones that are transported to regions as far as Myitkyina by train. Furthermore, in a drive to build up the township as lush and green one, a total of 75,210 trees of various kinds have been grown and the growing of 4,266 toddy-palms on either side of Myayhtu Street is in progress.

A total of 168 farmers grow over 500 acres of paddy in Watoe (North).

Kanbalu Township can communicate not only with other towns in Myanmar but also with countries across the globe.

The township has seen economic growth as agriculture is successful.

Kanbalu Township covers an area of 1599.35 square miles or 1023587 acres. The township is surrounded by Ayeyawady river and Thabeikkyin Township in the north-east, Mu river and Daze Township in the west, Kawlin and Kyunhla Townships in the south, Kawlin and Kyunhla Townships in the north. The township is composed of five wards, 273 villages from 86 village-tracts, with 38,773 households and a population of over 290,000.

Entrance to Kanbalu Township flanked by green and lush trees.

Kanbalu Township won first prize in construction of rural roads and stood second in urban development for 2008-2009 in the whole country.

Translation: TKK

Myanmar Alin
(24.11.2009)
Bullet tears open Somali boy’s face

NAIROBI, 24 Nov—The bullet hit mother and son as they walked through Somalia’s capital. She felt a sharp pain in her palm. Then she saw her 8-year-old: The bullet tore through his cheekbones, nose and mouth. Blood gushed down to his waist.

Two months later, Ahmed Mohamed Mohamud’s nose is a small hole. His mouth is always open because he has no upper lip and his right eye is gone. He can barely speak. He is a lost face of Somalia’s war.

Like so many other victims of a savage war, Ahmed was caught in the crossfire between insurgents and government forces, struck as he walked home from a Mogadishu market with his mother, who says a barrage of bullets poured out from the presidential palace.

Unlike Afghanistan and Iraq, there are few images of the bloodshed in Somalia, where thousands of children have been casualties without the world knowing. Most foreign journalists stay away because of the danger.—Internet

Pirates free hijacked ship bound for Somali port

MOGADISHU, 24 Nov—A Somali businessman says a ship hijacked by pirates off East Africa two weeks ago has been released.

Ali Dheere, the chairman of a group of traders in Mogadishu, says the al-Mizaan has arrived in Somalia’s capital.

The Panama-flagged, United Arab Emirates-owned cargo ship was carrying electronics, food and other goods. The 18-member crew were all in good condition.—Internet

Greenhouse gases reach highest levels, meteorologists warn

GENEVA, 24 Nov—Greenhouse gases have reached their highest levels since pre-industrial times, meteorologists warned on Monday. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced that 2008 saw the largest increase in greenhouse gases since 1998 during a press conference in Geneva. “We want decisions to be based not on rumors but on facts, so here are the facts,” said Michel Jarraud, the WMO Secretary General, referring to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December. The WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin shows that as of 2008, ratios of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide increased by 38 percent, 157 percent and 19 percent, respectively, since pre-industrial times before 1750. “What this increase means was that Kyoto was not enough,” said Jarraud, “but without Kyoto, it would be even worse.”

KLM flies world’s first “passenger flight on biofuel”

THE HAGUE, 24 Nov—A Boeing 747, one of four engines powered by a 50-percent biokerosene mix, circled the Netherlands for an hour on Monday for what airline KLM called the world’s first passenger flight using biofuel.—Internet

US, Russia under negotiations over arms reduction treaty

WASHINGTON, 24 Nov—US officials are doing negotiations with their Russian counterparts over the renewal of an arms reduction treaty that expires early next month, the State Department said on Monday.

“The negotiating teams are continuing to work very hard in Geneva, they have agreement on a number of issues, but they are also trying to work out some of the areas where they need to come together,” State Department spokesman Ian Kelly told reporters.

“We are certainly hopeful about it, that we will be able to have a draft agreement that both sides are comfortable with,” he said. The United States and the former Soviet Union signed in 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) that expires on 5 December, 2009. Under the treaty, Washington and Moscow agreed to cut in their nuclear arsenals and to set limits on long-range missiles. During their Moscow summit meeting in July, US President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev agreed to each reduce their nuclear arsenal to between 1,500 and 1,675 warheads within seven years.—Xinhua

China, Italy renew bilateral scientific cooperation

ROME, 24 Nov—Italy and China renewed on Monday a strategic bilateral cooperation in the scientific and technological fields by signing a new agreement for 2010-2012. The treaty was signed by Chinese Vice Minister of Science and Technology Du Zhanyuan and the Italian undersecretary for foreign affairs Stefania Craxi. The ceremonial event was as well attended by China’s ambassador to Italy Sun Yuxi.

Both Du and Craxi praised the importance of the scientific cooperation. “Thanks to the attention and promotion of the two governments, the Sino-Italian cooperation in science and technology has been deeply enhanced,” said Du.

Xinhua

5.1-magnitude quake jolts Mexico Pacific coast

MEXICO CITY, 24 Nov—An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter Scale struck Jalisco, a state on Mexico’s Pacific coast on Monday, the state-run National Seismology Service said.

It was recorded 8 minutes and 41 seconds after midnight as was 192 kilometers (km) southwest of Chihuahua, a town in Jalisco. There have been no reports so far of harm to people or damage to property.

The quake was 30 km deep and was located at 18.05 degrees north and 105.88 degrees west in longitude. The US Geological Survey reported the magnitude as 5.2. On Sunday night, there were three minor quakes in neighbouring Pacific State Guerrero, hitting Zihuatanejo with magnitudes of 3.7, 4.6 and 4.2; and one more in Oaxaca, the next state south along the coast, registering 4.3 on the Richter Scale.—Xinhua

The KLM airplane which runs on biokerosene is seen at Schiphol airport, near Amsterdam. A Boeing 747, one of four engines powered by a 50-percent biokerosene mix, circled the Netherlands for an hour on Monday for what airline KLM called the world’s first passenger flight using biofuel.—Internet

In this 11 Nov, 2009 photo, Dr Igwoho Etuh examines Ahmed MohamedMohamud in a hospital in Kijabe, Kenya. Mohamoud became one of the latest victims of Somalia’s savage war when he was caught in the crossfire between militants and government forces while walking home from the largest market in Mogadishu.—INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 25 November, 2009

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Global PC shipments to rise 2.8% in 2009

BEIJING, 24 Nov—Global PC shipments are expected to rise 2.8 percent in 2009 from last year to total 298.9 million units, showing the market is no longer in the doldrums, according to a new survey.

The new service allows users to connect their laptops to the Internet via the carrier's 3G wireless network.

Job losses to bottom out in 1Q

NEW YORK, 24 Nov — Economists expect the joblessness that has weighed down the nation's economic recovery will start to slow abruptly in 2010, but they predict consumers will continue to keep a tight rein on spending, according to a new survey.

While signs have pointed to the end of the recession, joblessness remains rampant. The national unemployment rate jumped to 10.2 percent in October, the highest in 26 years. About 9 million people currently receive unemployment benefits.

China’s Hong Kong expects to increase legal co-op with Vietnam

HANOI, 24 Nov—China’s Hong Kong Secretary for Justice Wong Yan Lung said here on Monday that Hong Kong is discussing with Vietnam on three legal agreements to expand judicial cooperation.

The agreements cover the mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, surrender of fugitives and transfer of sentenced persons, said Wong.

Wong said that the increase in trade and investment between China’s Hong Kong and Vietnam creates the demand for enhancing cooperation in the legal area.

In the first nine months this year, bilateral trade between Hong Kong and Vietnam went up 13 percent year-on-year, according to Wong. Besides, Vietnam is becoming an increasingly popular tourist destination for Hong Kong travellers. Last year, Hong Kong and Vietnam signed a double taxation avoidance agreement to facilitate trade and investment.

Wong encourages Vietnamese companies and businesspeople to utilize the International Arbitration Center (IAC) in Hong Kong for dispute settlement with partners from other countries or regions.—Xinhua

Job seekers look over a list of jobs at an employment center in San Francisco, California on 20 Nov, 2009. California’s unemployment rate for October hit 12.5 percent, as the pace of job losses slowed in many US states.—INTERNET
Better TB, malaria and AIDS tests urged

MONTEAL, 24 Nov— A Canadian-led team of researchers is urging creation of better quality diagnostic studies for tuberculosis, malaria and human immunodeficiency virus tests.

The team, led by Dr. Madhukar Pai, an assistant professor at McGill University, said a rapid and accurate diagnosis is the first step towards treatment in the fight against infectious disease. But the team, in collaboration with researchers at the World Health Organization’s Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, has highlighted the poor quality of published studies that evaluate the accuracy of diagnostic tests for the three major killer infections.

The researchers say their findings suggest the diagnostic studies on TB, malaria and HIV commercial tests have moderate to low quality and are often poorly reported. The scientists also said sources of bias and variation were present in all the studies.

“The necessary methodological elements such as patient selection criteria, recruitment methods or test interpretation were poorly reported,” said Pai, who led the research. “Moreover, only a small percentage of these studies accurately described the manner in which the tests were conducted and whether they are reproducible.”

“Poorly designed studies can lead to premature or misguided adoption of tests that may have little or no clinical and public health relevance, resulting in incorrect diagnosis and adverse consequences for the patient,” Pai added.

The research appears in the online journal PLoS One.

Insulin and core body temperature linked

LAODLA, 24 Nov — A team of scientists led by the Scripps Research Institute says it has discovered a direct link between insulin and core body temperature.

Although much research has been focused on insulin—a hormone long associated with metabolism and metabolic disorders such as diabetes—the new finding marks the first time insulin has been linked with the fundamental process of body temperature regulation.

The scientists said they found that when insulin was injected directly into a specific area of the brain in rodents, core body temperature rose, metabolism increased and brown adipose (fat) tissue was activated to release heat. The research team also found the effects were dose-dependent to a point—a larger dose of insulin, the more the metabolic measures rose.

“Scientists have known for many years that insulin is involved in glucose regulation in tissues outside the brain,” said Scripps Research neurobioologist Manuel Sanchez-Alavez, first author of the study. “The connection to temperature regulation in the brain is new.”

The researchers said their finding highlights the possibility that differences in core temperature may play a role in obesity and may represent a therapeutic area in future drug design.

The research recently appeared in the online edition of the journal Diabetes and is to appear in the journal’s January print issue.

Tea may help control blood sugar

DALLAS, 24 Nov — Tea has long been heralded as promoting heart health and may reduce cancer risk but a US researcher suggests tea may also help control blood sugar.

Dr. Jo Ann Carson, professor of clinical nutrition at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, says studies from various countries suggest a lifetime consumption of at least two to four cups of tea per day — black tea, in particular — reduces the incidence of type 2 diabetes.

However, Carson says while scientific evidence on tea’s health benefits is limited, all teas — green, white, black and oolong— can be part of a healthy diet. Carson says people have two choices — learn to enjoy iced tea with little or no sugar, or drink sugared iced tea in moderation, generally once a day or less.

An iPod sits in a new toilet stall on display at a promotional event for Charmin Restrooms in New York’s Times Square, on 23 Nov, 2009. The Charmin toilet paper brand, produced by Procter & Gamble, has since 2006 offered free deluxe toilets to the public during the week shopping weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, with some 1.5 million visitors to date, according to the company.

French artist paints Chinese opera

BEIJING, 24 Nov — A French painter shared the stage with Chinese opera performers on Sunday evening in Paris. The event was the finale at the fourth Chinese Traditional Opera Festival in the French capital, and offered a new take on the west-meets-east trend in art.

A Hong Kong opera theatre group brought the Kunqu classic “Peony Pavilion” to Paris to close this year’s Chinese Opera Festival there.

While the costumed artists were reviving the centuries-old romantic story on the stage, a French painter worked behind them, improvising on a ten-meter-long canvas.

Women can quit smoking, lose weight

CHICAGO, 24 Nov — Women who quit smoking while receiving treatment for weight control are better able to control weight and quit cigarettes, US researchers say.

Lead author Bonnie Spring, a professor of preventive medicine at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and colleagues say many women don’t quit smoking because they are afraid of gaining weight because nicotine suppresses the appetite and boosts a smoker’s metabolism.

“Women who smoke often feel caught between a rock and hard place, because they’re concerned about their health but also concerned about their appearance,” Spring says in a statement. “Now they don’t have to choose between the two.”

Spring examined the results from 2,233 smokers in 10 studies from 1991-2007.

The review, published in the journal Addiction, showed that women whose treatment addressed both smoking and weight control were 29 percent more likely to quit smoking in the short term, three months, and 23 percent more likely to quit in the long term, from six to 14 months, than those whose treatment addressed only smoking.

Low amounts of alcohol may hurt health

LIND, 24 Nov — Even low amounts of alcohol consumption may be bad for health, Swedish researchers said.

Study leader Johan Jarl of Lund University in Sweden found with the exception of age 80 and older, men who consumed up to five units of alcohol a day and women who consumed up to 2.5 units a day cost the health service more than alcohol consumption increases the link between alcohol intake actually has a net negative health impact,” Jarl said in a statement. “It is therefore challenged the conventional wisdom that low-alcohol consumption was good for health and caused fewer sick days and higher wages.

“In this study, however, we found that, when including also those diseases where low-consumption increases the risk of morbidity and mortality, low-to-moderate alcohol intake actually has a net negative health impact,” Jarl said in a statement. “It is therefore doubtful if the common explanation of health as the link between alcohol consumption and increased wages is valid in its existing form.”
Domenech ridicules bonus claims

PARIS, 24 Nov—France coach Raymond Domenech on Monday dismissed claims that he had received a bonus of 862,000 euros for successfully guiding the side to next year’s World Cup finals.

The combative 57-year-old—who team reached the finals in controversial circumstances last Wednesday as Thierry Henry’s double handball set up the decisive goal in the 2-1 aggregate victory over the Republic of Ireland—told France Bleu that France Football’s claims over his bonus were way over the mark.

FIFA call crisis talks after qualifiers, betting scandal

PARIS, 24 Nov—FIFA president Sepp Blatter has called an extraordinary general meeting for December 2 following the Thierry Henry handball incident and an ongoing investigation into match-fixing in Europe.

A FIFA statement released on Monday described the ruling body said Monday: “Due to recent events in the world of football, notably incidents at the play-offs for the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa, match control (refereeing) and irregularities in the football betting market, the FIFA President has called an extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee.”

Soderling stuns Nadal at ATP Finals debut

LONDON, 24 Nov—Sweden World No. 9 Robin Soderling clinched a stunning victory over World No. 2 Rafael Nadal 6-4, 6-4 in his debut here on Monday at the ATP World Tour Finals.

This is the second win in a row the Sweden imposed upon the Spaniard after his record-written triumph five months ago at the French Open.

Rafael Nadal of Spain returns the ball to Robin Soderling of Sweden during their ATP World Tour Finals first round tennis match in London on 23 Nov, 2009.—Xinhua

Slavia Prague loan captain Suchy to Spartak Moscow

PRAGUE, 24 Nov—Czech champions Slavia Prague’s captain Marek Suchy is heading to Russia’s nine-time champions Spartak Moscow on a one-year loan, his team said on Monday.

The 21-year-old defender, who was a member of the Czech Under-20 side that reached the under-20 World Cup final in 2007, is expected to sign a loan deal for the next Russian league season beginning next Spring.

Czech champions Slavia Prague’s captain Marek Suchy

“Can confirm the talks with Spartak Moscow are close to a formal conclusion,” said Ondrej Zlamal, spokesman for the two-time defending Czech champions.

Suchy has scored one goal in 108 games for Slavia since his debut at the age of 17.—Internet

Portsmouth goalkeeper James shrugs off injury scare

LONDON, 24 Nov—Portsmouth’s England keeper David James shrugged off the scare of the injury he has sustained in the warm-up for Sunday’s Premier League match against Stoke City.

“I had a scan and it’s just a minor tear, so in some respects I’m happy. We thought it could be worse,” the 39-year-old told local media on Monday.

England coach Capello said earlier this month that he would only bring fit players to next month’s World Cup in South Africa, so James, who has not started a match for England since April, needs to prove his fitness to Capello.

James, 39, said Soderling, who grabbed the chance to substitute World No. 6 Andy Roddick on 23 Nov, 2009.—INTERNET

Wigan fire Zenga after derby draw, hire Rossi

ROMA, 24 Nov—Palermo on Monday sacked coach Walter Zenga, a day after their 1-1 home draw against Sicilian rivals Catania, and appointed former Lazio boss Delio Rossi, Zenga, a former coach at Catania, becomes the sixth Serie A coach to be sacked this season while Luciano Spalletti also quit as AS Roma boss.

His sacking comes as a surprise as Palermo were having a reasonable season and some had been suggesting that Zenga, a former Italy goalkeeper, would be in the running to be the next Inter Milan boss.

Palermo had not won in four games but one of those was a thrilling 5-3 defeat at leaders Inter where Palermo hit back from 4-0 down at half-time to 4-3 at one point.

Prior to those four games they had won three in a row, including a 2-0 success over Turin giants Juventus, prompting Zenga to proclaim that his team could finish in the top four this season. They currently sit 12th but are only seven points off fourth in a tight mid-table.—Internet

Wigan refund fans who witnessed Spurs massacre

WIGAN, 24 Nov—Wigan’s shell-shocked players on Monday offered to refund supporters who travelled to London to watch their side being thrashed 9-1 by Tottenham. The Latics crashed to the second worst defeat in Premier League history as they conceded eight second-half goals at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

Defender Mario Melchiot admitted the result was embarrassing and, along with the rest of his team-mates, will pay away fans the cost of their tickets.

Melchiot told the club’s website, www.wiganlatics.co.uk: “We feel that as a group of professionals we were embarrassed by the way we performed, we feel it was below our standards and this is something we feel we owe to the fans. “Now we have to draw a line under the game, focus completely on training this week and bounce back on Saturday.”—Internet

Nordqvist wins LPGA Tour Championship

RICHMOND, 24 Nov—Lorena Ochoa and Jiya Shin’s duel for LPGA player of the year fittingly came down to the final hole of the season.

Anna Nordqvist won the LPGA Tour Championship on Monday and Ochoa finished second to earn the top player title for the fourth consecutive year.

The 22-year-old Nordqvist shot a final-round 65 to finish 13 under par. Ochoa was two strokes back and won the top player honor when Shin couldn’t chip in for birdie from the front of the 18th hole.

“I always say that I want to stay on top as long as I continue playing, so this is just a great year for me,” Ochoa said.

“It’s been tough in many different ways, but the important thing is I’m at the top.”—Internet

Lorena Ochoa, of Mexico, reacts after hitting her tee shot on the 13th hole during the second round of the LPGA Tour Championship golf tournament on 22 Nov, 2009 in Richmond, Texas.—INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET
Heilig wrote in a blog posting announcing the Google’s vice president of product management day or the past performance of different ads,” language, the content of the website, the time of depending on factors like geographic location, creative elements of a display ad in real-time. automatically pick and choose from thousands of consumer and website. Founded in 2006, Teracent create display advertising customized to specific Monday announced that it has agreed to buy advertising company Teracent west of Seoul, South Korea, on Tuesday, 24 Nov.

Google buys display advertising company Teracent

San Francisco, 23 Nov—Google Inc. on Monday announced that it has agreed to buy Teracent, a startup company whose technology can create display advertising customized to specific consumer and website. Founded in 2006, Teracent is headquartered in San Mateo, California. The company’s machine-learning algorithms can automatically pick and choose from thousands of creative elements of a display ad in real-time. “These elements can be optimized depending on factors like geographic location, language, the content of the website, the time of day or the past performance of different ads,” Google’s vice president of product management Neal Mohan and engineering director Jooerg Heilig wrote in a blog posting announcing the deal.—Internet

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (25-11-2009) (Wednesday)

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<td>North America</td>
<td>(23:30pm - 07:30am) MST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Local Transmission
- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- The Beauty of Tamanyel Region
- The Game of “Gone Nyn Doe”
- Myanmar Movies Impact
- Myanmar Modern Song
- A Glimpse at the Mighty Loggers
- Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Europe/North America Transmission
- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- The Beauty of Tamanyel Region
- The Game of “Gone Nyn Doe”
- Myanmar Movies Impact
- Myanar Art of Making Items in gold
- A Glimpse at the Mighty Loggers
- Myanmar Modern Song
- Creative Decoration for Creative living
- Ever Green Songs “A Lover Spirit” (Pianist:Chit Swe)
- Fantaya, School of Fine Arts!
- Poem Garden “Bobby”
- Myanmar Modern Song
- Extend Irrigation, Boost Agro-Production
- Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

WEATHER

Tuesday, 24th November, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below November average temperatures in Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Sagaing, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below November average temperatures in Magway and Yangon Divisions and between November average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Loilim and Hakha (2°C) each, Tetian (6°C), Minnat and Katha (7°C) each and Pinlaung and Maungkabar (8°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 23-11-2009 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 24-11-2009 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 M.S.T. on 24-11-2009 was 66%. Total sun shine hours on 23-11-2009 was (9.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 24-11-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (111.69) inches at Mingaladon, (122.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (119.41) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (17:30) hours M.S.T on 23-11-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy in the A’adinman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 25th November 2009: Expect the likelihood of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Sea will be moderate in Myanma waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the eastem Myanma areas.


Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC—sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB—generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Kanbalu: A town of development and prosperity in Sagaing Division

Byline & Photos: Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

On our trip to collect news about Linban Dam in Kanbalu Township, we have witnessed the development of the township. We saw endless monsoon paddy fields along the motorway while travelling from Shwebo to Kanbalu Township in Shwebo District, Sagaing Division.

When asked water from which source was used for cultivation of paddy as the township is situated in an arid region, Deputy Staff Officer U Tin Maung Cho of Irrigation Department answered that farms were cultivated with irrigation water.

He added that in addition to five main dams namely Kintat dam, Kabo dam, Kyibinak dam, Beigyi dam and newly-built Linban dam, there had also been ten self-reliant dams in Shwebo District.

It was a cloudy day and the lush and green paddy fields were also pleasing to eyes. We drove along Shwebo-Myitkyina road and finally reached Kanbalu Township. At the right side of the entrance to the township is the stone plaque reading “Kanbalu City.”

After driving about two furlongs along the road with lush and green trees on either side, we were greeted by the town’s glory—Independence monument, floral garden, football pitch and indoor-stadium. We were satisfied with the progress of the township developing in accordance with a town’s characteristics.

At the town centre, we saw a historic monument, Shwe Yakha (Golden Ogre) Yadanar Royal Lake which was beautifully renovated as a symbol of the ancient town. According to records of Kanbalu Township, King Kazana of Kapilawut, in 46 Maha the gaji (Era preceding the Buddhist era), while establishing Myayhtu City, had nine ponds and

Photo shows downtown Kanbalu where independence monument stands magnificently.

Public Holiday Announcement
NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov—The Government of the Union of Myanmar today announced that offices in the Union of Myanmar will be closed on 12 Waxing of Nadaw, 1371 ME (28 November, 2009) Saturday being Bakri Eid public holiday. MNA