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Member of SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye of Ministry of Defence attends opening ceremony of new factory

YANGON, 7 Dec—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of Ministry of Defence graced the opening of new factory of Asia General Electric Co Ltd, at the corner of Yangon-Pathein Highway and Hlinethaya-Twantay Bridge Street in the Compound No. 1 of Shwe Than Lwin Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township here this morning and unveiled the stone plaque of the factory.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint, Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint and the chairman of the company formally opened the factory.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence unveiled the signboard of the company. Lt-Gen Tin Aye then unveiled the stone plaque of the factory and sprinkled scented water on it. Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party later signed in the visitors’ book of the factory.

Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party looked round the factory. At the function room of the factory, the managing-director briefed Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party about the salient points of the factory.

Lt-Gen Tin Aye said that it is an essential factory for the nation, speaking of the need to apply advanced technology for boosting production.

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township gaining development momentum

Byline: Myint Maung Soe; Photos: Myo Min Thein (Mayangon)

Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township is one of the townships in Nay Pyi Taw. The township is becoming developed after the government has built Nay Pyi Taw. In particular, one can be aware of development of the township, especially traffic point on Yangon-Mandalay Highway, roads in the township and Thiri Yadana Myoma Market in addition to basic education schools, hospitals and dwellings.

Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township has changed much for better. Recently, Myanma Alin Daily visited Nay Pyi Taw Lewe. We interviewed Chairman of Township.

(See page 7)

Clock Tower at Thiri Yadana Myoma Market in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe.
**PERSPECTIVES**

Tuesday, 8 December, 2009

Ensure all arid zones enjoy adequate potable water

Needless to say human beings cannot live on without water. Irrigation water is an important part of agricultural farming. So, to supply adequate potable water is at the top of the list of the five rural development programmes.

In the past, diarrhoea, trachoma and dermatitis were common in the regions where water is scarce. In the three arid regions: Sagaing Division, Magway Division and Mandalay Division, some villages did not get drinking water, some did not get sufficient water, and some had difficult access to water, totalling 8042. And in other states and divisions, there were 15,183 villages that had difficult access to water.

In order to work out the issue, the government launched the Project for Supply of Potable Water that covers those regions in 2000-2001 financial year. As a result, 8042 villages in the three arid divisions and 14,979 villages in other states and divisions have easy access to clean water.

Now, all the villages in 34 townships in Sagaing Division, 25 townships in Magway Division and 23 townships in Mandalay Division have benefited from the project. In addition, so far, the government has sunk a tube-well in each of the villages in 19 districts.

Contributing to supply of potable water to the people is a meritorious deed. Apart from the government, well-wishers and social organizations are making cash donations with great generosity to help achieve the goal. Therefore, local people in the villages with problems of drinking water have enjoyed sufficient water now.

Extensive supply of adequate drinking water and irrigation water has considerably improved the socio-economic life and living conditions of local residents in the regions where water was scarce long ago. There will be an upward trend in the number of the townships in arid regions that have had access to adequate potable water, if well-wishers and the people continue to contribute cash and services to the lofty goal.

**CONCORDIA Int’l Co Ltd**

introduces GPS directory

YANGON, 7 Dec—The CONCORDIA Int’l Co Ltd conducted a ceremony to introduce installation of GPS directory at the company in Shwegon Plaza, Kaba-aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, here today.

Businessmen wishing to promote their business activities are invited to place advertisements in GPS directory between 9 and 31 December to enjoy one year free advertising programme for 2010.

Those willing to put their detail services and address into Google Earth may email either eng3concordia@myanmar.com.mm or concordia7gn@gmail.com.

For more information, may contact Shwegon Plaza, Yangon office, Kaba-aye Pagoda Road, Bahan township (Ph: 951-544824, 544199, 558170, 549444, 540026, 09-5005912 and Fax: 951-544199), Mandalay office, No.5 (Ground floor), SY building, 30th street, Chinagongyi here yesterday evening.

The dinner was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, departmental heads, responsible persons of Myanmar Motion Picture Asasyon, Myanmar Music Asasyon and Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, artists, technicians and guests.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan gave a speech in honour of the artists and technicians. The minister then presented certificates of honour and cash award to Tin Thao No., Phyo Nwee Soe, Academy Aung Khang, Aung Myin Bo, Nanda and That Mon Myint, Director-General U Khin Maung Soe (IC), Managing-Director U Aung Nyine of Printing and Publishing Enterprise to Nga Pyaw Kyaw, Ku Thoe, Su Kabyar, Kay Kay Moe Myint, Su Myat Theingi.
Turkey refuses US call to send more troops in Afghanistan

ISTANBUL, 7 Dec — Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday ruled out sending more troops to Afghanistan as requested by the United States before heading for Washington.

Erdogan said that Turkey has already contributed the “necessary number” of troops. However, it is willing to train the Afghan army and police. The 1,700 Turkish troops in Afghanistan are involved in patrolling the capital city of Kabul instead of combat missions.

The Turkish Prime Minister made the statement at Istanbul’s Ataturk Airport prior to his visit to the United States.

On Monday, he will meet with US President Barack Obama, who announced last Tuesday the deployment of 30,000 more US soldiers to Afghanistan.

The topic of sending additional troops to Afghanistan is expected to be on the agenda in the meeting between the two leaders. The United States has appealed for reinforcements in the conflict in Afghanistan and it hopes Turkey to play a bigger role in the war against the Taleban and al-Qaeda.

Erdogan said Turkey has invested 150 million US dollars in Afghanistan in the fields of education, health and infrastructure.

Fake drugs trade on the rise

BERLIN, 7 Dec — The trade in counterfeit medicines in the European Union has exceeded the body’s worst fears, the European industry commissioner said on Monday.

The EU had seized 34 million fake tablets in just two months, Gunter Verheugen told German daily Die Welt — including antibiotics, cancer treatments and Viagra.

Verheugen said the European Commission was very concerned about the situation and said he expected the EU to take action to fight the menace of fake pharmaceuticals.

“The number of counterfeit medicines arriving in this border city, ground zero in the drug war — the first time in 10 months that a day had passed without a killing,” Verheugen said.

But by the end of that day, 30 Oct, nine more people were riddled with bullets.

Violent death is a part of life in Ciudad Juarez, a seedy, dust-cloaked metropolis on the banks of the Rio Grande. Bloody bodies hang from overpasses, and children walking to school stumble across hit men filling targets with lead.

While there’s no definitive comparison of murder rates in cities around the world, there’s no question Ciudad Juarez is now among the deadliest. It has had about 2,250 killings this year, a rate of 173 per 100,000 residents. That compares with 37 in Baltimore, the deadliest US city with a population of more than 500,000.

Fear dominates life in Mexico’s deadliest city

CIUDAD JUAREZ, 7 Dec — “Not one person murdered yesterday,” Ciudad Juarez’s leading newspaper proclaimed in a banner headline. It was big news in this border city, ground zero in the drug war — the first time in 10 months that a day had passed without a killing.

The white areas on this coral are a result of bleaching. Scientists are reporting progress toward understanding how this harmful process occurs.

Pirate ransoms drive prices up in Somalia

BOSSASO, 7 Dec — A parcel of land here that sold for $12,000 two years ago now costs more than $20,000. The price of a nice pair of men’s shoes has gone up from $20 to $50.

The reason: pirates.

The influx of millions of dollars in ransoms has changed life in this coastal area, driving prices up and creating a schism between the pirate haves and have-nots. As piracy ramps up again with the end of the monsoon season, the lifestyle of the pirates — big houses, fast cars and easy drugs — is coveted by both religious leaders and ordinary villagers.

Four policemen shot dead in west of Baghdad

RAMADI, 7 Dec — Gunmen attacked a police checkpoint in west of Baghdad on Sunday, killing four policemen, a provincial police source said.

Unidentified gunmen stormed a police checkpoint early in the morning in Abu Ghrabi area, some 25 km west of Baghdad and killed four policemen before they fled the scene, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Iraqi security forces cordoned off the area and sealed off the scene, as the police was investigating the incident, the source said.

Abu Ghrabi area is including the village of Zauba which was the scene of another deadly attack in mid-November, when gunmen disguising in army uniforms stormed the village and conducted a search operation, detaining 13 villagers and executing them just outside the village before they fled the scene.

Death toll rises to seven in Baghdad school bombing

BAGHDAD, 7 Dec — The death toll from a bomb explosion at a school in Baghdad’s eastern neighborhood of Sadr City on Monday rose to 7 with 41 people injured, an Interior Ministry source said.

“The latest reports said that up to 7 students were killed and some 41 others injured by a bomb blast inside an intermediate school in Sadr City neighborhood,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Earlier the source put the toll at 4 killed and 18 injured by the blast.

The explosion occurred before midday when a bomb hidden inside Ali Yasir intermediate school for boys in Baghdad’s Sadr City neighborhood went off and caused the tragedy, the source said. Earlier, an anonymous police source told Xinhua that a civilian was killed and five others were injured when an explosive charge attached to their car detonated while they were traveling in the Masaour district in western Baghdad.

US service member killed in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL, 7 Dec — An US service member was killed by a bomb planted in eastern Afghanistan, NATO said on Sunday.

The American died on Saturday while on foot patrol, Sgt Angela Eggman said. She did not provide further details.

Meanwhile, a NATO airstrike early on Sunday killed six militants who were planting bombs along a road in eastern Laghman province, US military spokesman Col Wayne Shanks said.

In southern Afghanistan, about 1,000 US Marines and 150 Afghan troops continued an operation to disrupt Taleban supply and communications lines in the strategic Now Zad Valley of Helmand Province.
**World trade to fall “unprecedented” 10 pct**

SELANGOR, 7 Dec.—Global trade this year is likely to fall by an “unprecedented” figure of more than 10 percent, the head of the World Trade Organization said on Monday.

Pascal Lamy said governments have made progress in tackling the worst downturn for decades but much remains to be done.

“In February this year, the global economic downturn was peaking,” the WTO director general told a forum in the South Korean capital.

“Less than a year on, progress has been made but we are not yet out of the woods.” Lamy said.

**Indonesia urged to take profit on global economy recovery in 2010**

JAKARTA, 7 Dec.—Indonesia’s National Development Planning Agency said that 2010 is the year of the global economy awakening so that the country must take profit of the momentum to achieve economic growth of at least 5.5 percent, take profit of the momentum to achieve economic growth of at least 5.5 percent.

The Minister of National Development Planning who is also the Chairwoman of the agency Armida Alisjahbana said that the target was the initial step before the government takes moves to accelerate it.

She said that the way is expected to minimize unemployment and poverty.

“2010 is the year of the global economy awakening that should be used by our country so that various problems could be mapped in order to focus on (economic) acceleration in 2011,” he said in Bandung, the provincial capital of West Java over the weekend.—Xinhua

**Starwood to open another 15 hotels in India by 2012**

NEW YORK, 7 Dec.—Starwood Hotels & Resorts (HOT.N) plans to add another 15 hotels in India by 2012 and the hotel operator’s chief executive said that untapped demand in the country could spell swift returns for the new properties.

Starwood on Sunday opened its 25th hotel in India, the Westin Pune Koregaon Park, which falls under the upper-upscale category of hotels. The No 8 hotel operator also operates Le Meridian and Four Points by Sheraton hotels in India.

Typically, hotels begin to deliver a return on their investments in their third of fourth year, but Starwood’s chief executive, Frits van Paasschen, said in an interview on Friday that he expects Indian hotels to fare better.

“Because India is relatively underserved and business is so strong, these hotels will ramp up more quickly,” van Paasschen said, adding it could take only two years.—Internet

**France says UK’s banks must not go back to old ways**

PARIS, 7 Dec.—There is no crisis between France and Britain over financial regulation but British banks must not be allowed to return to the behaviour that caused the crisis, French Budget Minister Eric Woerth said on Sunday.

President Nicolas Sarkozy stirred tensions between the two countries last week by boasting that the appointment of a Frenchman as the European Union’s internal market chief was a “victory” for France and a loss for free-market Britain.

Britain fears the newly appointed Michel Barnier, a former French agriculture minister, will promote intrusive regulation that could undermine London as Europe’s main financial centre.

“There is no reason for there to be a crisis between Paris and London, and moreover, there isn’t,” Woerth told Radio RC2. He said the British press had “as always, got wound up too quickly” by the subject. France should be proud that Barnier got the important internal market portfolio and he would work to make sure deals reached at Group of 20 leaders meetings in London and Pittsburgh were actually put in place, he said.

MNA/Reuters

**New Xinjiang railway expected to boost transport to Europe, central Asia**

URUMQI, 7 Dec.—A railway became operational on Sunday in west China’s Xinjiang Autonomous Region, which is expected to boost the transportation from China to central Asia and Europe, said local railway authorities.

The railway, called Second Urumqi-Jinghe Line, runs 381.5 km and links the region’s capital Urumqi and Jinghe county.

It has a designed transportation capacity of 67.1 million tonnes which expected to grow up to 91.7 million tonnes in the future.

With a designed speed of 120 km per hour, the railway cost 2.77 billion yuan, according to a statement from Xinjiang Railway Bureau.

**Vietnam’s freight transportation up in first 11 months**

HANOI, 7 Dec.—Vietnam’s freight transportation went up 4.1 percent year-on-year in the first 11 months of this year to 583.4 million tons, said a report on the website of the General Statistics Office on Monday.

In this period, the country’s freight transportation by road was 427 million tons, a year-on-year increase of 5.3 percent, said the report.

Vietnam saw a 2.1 percent rise in cargo transportation by river in the first 11 months of this year to 107.8 million tons compared to the same period last year.

The country posted a decline of 2 percent year-on-year to 41.2 million tons in cargo transportation by sea and a decrease of 5.2 percent to 7.4 million tons in transportation of freight by railway from January to November this year.

In the first 11 months of this year, Vietnam’s passenger transportation reached 1.81 billion person-times, up 8 percent year-on-year, according to the office.—Xinhua

**Cargo ships dock at Malaysia’s Klang port near Kuala Lumpur. Global trade this year is likely to fall by an “unprecedented” figure of more than 10 percent, the head of the World Trade Organization said on Monday.—INTERNET**

**Tourists enjoy the sightseeing of icicles formed on the balustrade on the Hakou Waterfall, northwest China’s Shaanxi Province. Sloes of visitors come here to admire and take photo of the Waterfall.—Xinhua**


**Rail to be foundation of green transportation**

COPENHAGEN, 7 Dec—The International Union of Railways (UIC) has called for explicitly including transport within the shared vision of long-term co-operative action of the UNFCCC Parties negotiations at the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen, which it said is vital for the development of sustainable transport systems, with rail playing a fundamental role.

According to UIC, a worldwide organization for international cooperation among railways, on a global scale, transport is responsible for 23 percent of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, which cause global warming.

“Given the role that transport plays in causing greenhouse gas emissions, any serious action on climate change will zoom in on the transport sector,” said Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC.

The real challenge lies in the fact that while other sectors have managed to reduce their emissions, the transport sector emissions have been steadily increasing, said UIC, which has 200 members on all five continents and is headquartered in Paris.


**Taleban key commander killed in NW Afghanistan**

KABUL, 7 Dec—Policedominated Taleban key commander Mullah Amrudin and three others in a fierce clash with Taleban insurgents in Northwest Badghis province, the Afghan Interior Ministry said on Monday.

According to a press release of the ministry, the clash erupted in Taleban hotbed Ghormachi district on Sunday, in which the Taleban command and three insurgents were killed.

The clash also claimed the lives of four policemen, the Press release added.

Mullah Amrudin had been involved in kidnapping government employees, organizing roadside bombings and targeting security forces over the past two years, the press release said.

Taleban militants have not yet made any comment.

More than 40 Taleban militants have been killed elsewhere in Afghanistan over the past two days, according to officials.


**China’s expedition team arrives at Zhongshan station in Antarctica**

ZHONGSHAN STATION, 7 Dec—Some members of China’s 26th exploration team arrived at the country’s Zhongshan Station in eastern Antarctica on Sunday.

They were flown there by helicopter from the icebreaker Xuelong (or the Snow Dragon), which was still breaking ice from nearby toward the station, one of three Chinese research stations in Antarctica.

The members arrived there to prepare for unloading stuff from the icebreaker.

After the icebreaker reaches nearer to the station, around 1,000 tons of scientific research equipment, materials and fuels will be unloaded from the ship to the station by helicopter or snowmobile.

 Afterwards, 20 members of the expedition team will set out from the station on an over 1,300-km distance journey to reach the peak of Antarctica’s inland ice cap, the 4,093-meter-high ice dome A, for scientific research.

Meanwhile, 10 members will set off for inland Antarctica’s Grove Mountain, which is some 500 km south of the Zhongshan Station, to conduct research.

On 11 Oct, the Xuelong carrying the expedition team left Shanghai for Antarctica.


**Elephant kills four in central Nepal**

KATHMANDU, 7 Dec—At least four including three of a family died in elephant attack in Dhamshad district in central Nepal on Monday.

According to myRepublica.com report, the elephant has killed four locals of Godar village, some 125 km south of Kathmandu.

Half-a-dozen others were injured in stampede when the villagers who were either collecting timbers or guarding grazing animals ran towards village.

According to police inspector Shyam KC, the elephant moved towards Chisapani village.

“The elephant has gone mad,” KC said. The police failed to stop it.—Xinhua


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**Ten people killed, Two injured in Ukraine road accident**

KYIV, 7 Dec—Ten people were killed and two others injured on Saturday night in a road accident in southern Ukraine, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported on Sunday. The accident occurred on Saturday at about 21:30 (1930 GMT) near Raygorod Nenirovsky village in the Vinnytsia region when a truck collided with a minibus, Ihor Krol, spokesman for the Ministry of Emergency Situations, was quoted as saying. A total of 12 people including a driver were in the minibus.

Nine people among them were killed at the scene and one died later in hospital. The rest two were rushed to a local hospital for treatment.—Xinhua


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Indonesia to rehabilitate 500,000 hectares of forest in 2010

Jakarta, 7 Dec—Indonesia’s Forestry Ministry will rehabilitate 500,000 hectares of forest in 2010, Kompas daily reported on Monday.

The ministry’s Director General of Forest and Nature Protection Darori said that currently, the rehabilitation programme was conducted in conservation areas. For the first half of the year was 119.5 billion yuan (87 mln Chinese shopping online in 2009

Beijing, 7 Dec—More than 87 million Chinese bought goods online this year, about 24 million more than last year and an increase of 38.9 per cent year-on-year, the Beijing Times reported, citing a recent report by the China Internet Network Information Centre (CNNIC).

Most online shoppers are students or white-collar workers between the ages of 18 and 30, with a monthly income of 1,000 yuan (146 US dollars) to 3,000 yuan (439 US dollars). More women shop online than men, and clothing and home-use products are the most popular goods bought online.

According to the “Report on China’s Online Shopping 2009,” the total sum of national online consumption for the first half of the year was 119.5 billion yuan (17.5 billion US dollars), 89 percent of which through consumer to consumer websites like Taobao.com. CNNIC estimates the total sum of annual online shopping will reach 250 billion yuan (36.6 billion US dollars) this year.

At least 20 killed, 40 injured in road accident in Bangladesh

Dhaka, 7 Dec—At least 20 people were killed and 40 others injured in a collision between two buses in Bangladesh’s central Faridpur District, some 101 km away from the capital Dhaka, on Sunday afternoon, Local Police said.

Chief of Police at the Bhanga sub-district under Faridpur, Marfat Ullah, told Xinhua that the fatal road accident took place on the highway connecting the Bangladesh capital and southern Barisal city, some 180 km away of Dhaka. He said the buses collided at around 4:45 pm local time and flipped over into roadside ditches.

Ullah confirmed the death of 20 people, saying the toll might rise as some of the injured passengers were rescued in critical condition.

Bangladesh has one of the highest fatality rate for road accidents in the world. According to official statistics, more than 10,000 people are killed in various accidents every year—Xinhua

Officer responding to Pa home disturbance killed

PENN HILLS, 7 Dec—Police say an officer responding to a domestic disturbance at a suburban Pittsburgh home has been shot and killed.

Neighbours report hearing 10 gunshots on Sunday night at the home in Penn Hills, an Allegheny County township with about 50,000 resi-dents.

Nancy Salera lives about four houses away and tells the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette she was “absolutely horrified” by what sounded like shots coming from a machine gun.—Internet

10,000 lanterns fly into record book in Indonesia

An ecumenical group launched more than 10,000 twinkling paper lanterns into the night sky from a beach in Indonesia, setting a world record, officials said.

The exact number of the white paper lanterns that floated gently above Carnaval Beach in the capital, Jakarta, late Saturday was to be determined later Monday after Guinness World Records officials figured out how many each of the 7,000 participants launched, said organizer Yama Hazman of Freedom Faithnet Global.

However, it was apparent that the previous mark of 3,682 set in Colombia last 10 Jan had been shattered.

Officials have already presented the participants with certificates stating that a world record was set for flying the most sky lanterns simultaneously, Guinness adjudicator Lucia Sinigagliesi said.

“However, it was apparent that the previous mark of 3,682 set in Colombia last 10 Jan had been shattered. The participants were to be presented with certificates stating that a world record was set for flying the most sky lanterns simultaneously,” the BBC reported.

Institute of Zoology Biswajit Guha said the presents girls were presented with certificates stating that a world record was set for flying the most sky lanterns simultaneously. Officials have already presented the participants with certificates stating that a world record was set for flying the most sky lanterns simultaneously, Guinness adjudicator Lucia Sinigagliesi said.

The flying lantern is a Chinese tradition. It is essentially a paper bag with a block of paraffin with a wick suspended by wire across the opening. The lantern lifts when the wick is lit, warming the air inside like a hot air balloon.

Bones reveal possible human cannibalism

Archaeologists say bones discovered near Herxheim, Germany, are likely the remains of cannibalized people from the early Neolithic period.

The bones probably had been “intentionally mutilated,” the BBC reported. Bruno Boulestin, the leader of a team of archaeologists from the University of Bordeaux in France, said the human bones were deliberately cut and broken, which is evidence of cannibalism.

“We see patterns on the bones of animals indicating that they have been spit-roasted. We have seen some of these bones reveal possible human cannibalism.

Indonesians release lanterns into the sky in an attempt to break a world record in Jakarta on 5 December, 2009. Thousands of people helped break the Guinness World Record for the most number of lanterns released at the same time into the sky, according to organisers. A total of 10,000 lanterns were released.

Singapore Zoo breeds rare Komodo dragon

Singapore Zoo has successfully bred the highly-endangered Komodo dragon, officials said, reporting that the rare baby reptile was in good health.

The 40-centimetre (16-inch) hatchling is the first Komodo dragon born in an Asian zoo outside Indonesia, the native home of the world’s largest lizard species, a spokeswoman told AFP.

In a press statement, assistant director of zoology Bswajit Guha said the hatching of the Komodo dragon, whose gender has not been confirmed, “is one of the most significant moments” for the zoo, one of Singapore’s top attractions.

The breeding of Komodo dragons in captivity “is fraught with difficulties due to incompatible pairings, dearth of experience in egg incubation and over-representation of males in zoos,” he said.

The reptiles are considered one of Indonesia’s national treasures. Komodos can grow up to three metres (10 feet) in length and weigh up to 140 kilograms (310 pounds).

They are listed as “vulnerable” in the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List of Threatened Species. Only 3,000 of the poisonous lizards, native to Komodo and a few other islands in eastern Indonesia, remain in the wild, according to another campaign group, The Nature Conservancy, which does field work in the area.

This photo provided by the Singapore Zoo shows a 40 cm (15.75 inch; 1.31 foot) Komodo dragon, first time born in an Asian zoo outside Indonesia. The reptiles are considered one of Indonesia’s national treasures.

Komodos can grow up to three metres (10 feet) in length and weigh up to 140 kilograms (310 pounds).
Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township gaining development momentum

Byline: Myint Maung Soe; Photos: Myo Min Thein (Mayangon)

Traffic lights at the heart of Nay Pyi Taw Lewe.

Points have been installed. Of them, the traffic point at the heart of the town lies on Yangon-Mandalay Highway. Nay Pyi Taw Lewe is formed with six wards, 59 village-tracts and 253 villages, he added.

Nay Pyi Taw Lewe has favourable climate for agriculture. It has fertile plain farmlands. Paddy, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, black gram, sugarcane and corn are grown. Over 60,000 acres of monsoon paddy and around 3,000 acres of summer paddy are grown annually. Sesame was grown. Black gram is a major crop for the local farmers after the monsoon paddy. In addition, farmers grow sugarcane. Farmers grow sugarcane for nearby sugar mills. Local farmers earn high income based on agriculture. So, rural residents have owned not only bicycles but also motorbikes more than people from the town. According to the sources of Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee, there are about 500 motorbikes in town compared with 2,741 in villages.

A growing number of farmers migrate from rural areas to the town due to high income. In the past, not many houses were on both sides of Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

Now, there are many fine houses along Yangon-Mandalay highway. Many furniture shops can be seen on either side of the highway. It seems that Nay Pyi Taw Lewe is a major furniture market of Nay Pyi Taw.

Those who settle in Nay Pyi Taw may purchase furniture there at low price.

The most prominent market in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe is Thiri Yadana Myoma Market. Located on Yangon-Mandalay highway, it is packed with people and shops. The archway of the market is decorated with a clock tower.

A wide variety of crops and vegetables are sold in the market.

Taw Win bus line and other bus lines run between Taw Win bus terminal near Thiri Yadana Myoma Market and Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana. Now, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe gains development momentum along with Nay Pyi Taw. A new town called Dekkhina Thiri is being established near Nay Pyi Taw Lewe. Nay Pyi Taw Airport is also located near Nay Pyi Taw Lewe. After 1988, the government has built Chaung Mange dam, Madan dam and Palway dam in the area. Now, one can see all-round development of Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township.

Translation: MT  Myanma Alin  (4-12-2009)
If nation lags behind in the media, it will come under alien media influence

Winners in 62nd Anniversary Independence Day commemorative photo contest awarded

YANGON, 7 Dec—The awarding ceremony for the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day (2010) commemorative colour photo contest organized by the Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information was held at the Central Printing Press of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Theinbyu Road here yesterday. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan in his speech said that the number of knowledge, the Age of Technology, as well as IT Age, so all are to work hard to be able to catch up with other countries in technology; that literature is a driving force for development of the nation and the people; that photography is somewhat related to literature; that with technological development, the scope of photography is getting wider, so photographic professionals have to improve the nation’s photography world by staying in touch with advancements in photography; that today, the media have enormous influence, so if the nation lags behind other nations in the media, it will come under alien influence in the media; and photography is of importance in the media, so all have to make greater efforts to stand at the international level. He said that now, a plan is in the process of transforming ASEAN into single community by 2015; that of the three pillars, ASEAN Socio Cultural Community Blueprint (ASCC) is being drawn; that the processes call for boosting cooperation with other ASEAN members in the media; that photographic professionals play an important role in the drive; that in response to the government’s encouragement to the drive for improving photography world in the nation, the professionals have to work hard to help achieve the goal; and that the nation will soon be transformed into a democratic one, so it is required to ensure development of the four pillars: legislative, executive and judicial pillars and the media, which is the fourth pillar to control the first three. He said that in olden days, the nation was in no position to develop the fourth pillar; that the fourth pillar was in great peril due to personal attachment, and sectarianism, thus having adverse effects on the nation and the people; that in reality, the fourth pillar is to be designed to serve the national interest; and that those in the photography world have to remain as a consolidated association in order to improve the nation’s fourth pillar. Chairman of the Myanmar Photographic Society U Pe Myint Oo presented the rules of selecting prizewinning works. The minister presented first prize to Sagaing Aung Kyaw Htin, second prize to Saw Thein Win (City News) and third prize to U Ko Ko Khing (IPRD). Director-General of IPRD U Ye Htut, Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay, Managing Director of PPE U Aung Nyein, and Managing Director of the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint presented consolation prizes to the winners. On behalf of the winners, first-prize winner Sagaing Aung Kyaw Htin expressed thanks. After the ceremony, the minister cordially greeted the attendees.

8th paper reading session of MAAFLFS held

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Dec—The 8th conference on research of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences was held at the convocation hall of Forest Research Department (Yezin) under the Ministry of Forestry here today. Director-General U Khin Win of Arid Zones Greening Department made a speech on the occasion. It was attended by Chairman of Forest Experts Group and members, officers of enterprises and departments under the Ministry of Forestry, resource persons and observers. The paper reading session continues tomorrow.
Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo addresses the opening of the 8th conference of MAAFLFS.—MNA

The 8th conference on research of the Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences took place at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Htay Oo, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo delivered an introductory speech. Chairman of the academy Dr Myint Thein spoke words of thanks.

After the conference, the ministers and the attendees inspected the pavilions on research of the academy.

Nineteen papers on agricultural research were read at the University of Agriculture: 17 papers on forestry research, at the Forest Research Department; and 18 papers on livestock, at the University of Veterinary Science in Nay Pyi Taw.

After the opening ceremony of course No (3/2009) on Prevention of Recruiting Minors for Military Services opened

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, departmental heads, chairman, vice-chairmen, and members of the academy, resource persons, and guests. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo delivered an introductory speech.

Chairman of the academy Dr Myint Thein spoke words of thanks.

Course No (3/2009) on Prevention of Recruiting Minors for Military Services opened

Ministers and the attendees inspected the pavilions on research of the academy. Nineteen papers on agricultural research were read at the University of Agriculture: 17 papers on forestry research, at the Forest Research Department; and 18 papers on livestock, at the University of Veterinary Science in Nay Pyi Taw.

The members were seen off by officials of the Ministry of Sports, members of Myanmar Olympic Committee, the Chairman and executives of Central Working Committee of Myanmar Women Sports Federation, responsible persons from sports federations and families at Yangon International Airport. Altogether 95 athletes were boarded together with the groups. Myanmar athletes groups of sepak tekraw, table tennis, golf and Taekwondo and supervision group led by Director-General U Thaung Htike of Sports and Physical Education Department also left for Vientiane to compete in 25th SEA Games 2009.

Office Computer Teacher Training Course No (1/2009) and Financial Management Course No (2/2009) commence

Ministry for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung addressed the opening of Office Computer Teacher Training Course No (1/2009) and Financial Management Course No (2/2009) at the meeting hall of the ministry here this morning.

In his address, the minister said that the ministry opens the Office Computer Teacher Training Course to recruit the computer teachers who are able to share their computer knowledge to the staff of the factories under the ministry for effective application of the information and security technologies in work sites and the ministry also conducts the Financial Management Course to be able to work with financial attitudes, rules, regulations and financial reports.

He also urged the trainees to strive for the ministry and for the nation with the use of knowledge gained at the training.

The courses are being attended by 55 trainees and they will last for six weeks.—MNA

Myanmar athletes groups leave for Lao PDR to participate in SEA Games

Officials of the work committee and UNICEF, UNHCR, ICRC, Save the Children (Myanmar) and World Vision (Myanmar) on a study tour after the opening ceremony of course No (3/2009) on Prevention of Recruiting Minors for Military Service.—MNA

YANGON, 7 Dec—Myanmar athletes groups of billiard, snooker, boxing, shooting, weight lifting, archery, swimming and Karatedo and supervision group led by Deputy Head of Myanmar athletes group U Thein Aung this afternoon left here for Vientiane of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic to participate in 25th SEA Games 2009.

The courses are being attended by 55 trainees and they will last for six weeks.—MNA

Get-together dinner of MCPA on 12 December

Ministers and the attendees inspected the pavilions on research of the academy. Nineteen papers on agricultural research were read at the University of Agriculture: 17 papers on forestry research, at the Forest Research Department; and 18 papers on livestock, at the University of Veterinary Science in Nay Pyi Taw.

The courses are being attended by 55 trainees and they will last for six weeks.—MNA

Refresher Course for Junior Engineer and Storekeeper Course commences

YANGON, 7 Dec—The Work Committee for Prevention of Recruiting Minors for Military Service and UNICEF jointly conducted Course No (3/2009) on Prevention of Recruiting Minors for Military Service at the local region of Mingaladon Station in Yangon this morning.

The opening ceremony was attended by Chairman of the work committee Maj-Gen Ngwe Thein of the Ministry of Defence and members, resident representatives of UNICEF, UNHCR, ICRC, Save the Children (Myanmar) and World Vision (Myanmar), and 33 officer trainees from Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air).

The chairman of the work committee and UNICEF Resident Representative Mr Ramesh Shrestha delivered speeches. The work committee chairman and members, resident representatives of UNICEF, UNHCR, ICRC, Save the Children (Myanmar) and World Vision (Myanmar) cordially met officer trainees and inspected the local regiment. MNA

School (Thuwanna) here this morning, with an address of Deputy Minister for Construction U Tin Swe. A total of 28 trainees are attending the junior engineer (1) course and 18 trainees the storekeeper (3) course. Both courses will last five weeks. MNA

YANGON, 7 Dec—Myanmar Computer Professionals Association will hold the get-together dinner on the lawns of Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline Township from 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm on 12 December.

At the dinner, completion certificates will be presented to those who passed the examinations conducted by MCPA. Gifts will be presented to those who attend the dinner, and the lucky draw programme including Notebook will be organized. A game contest will be held at the dinner. Prizes have been arranged to transport those who attend the dinner.

Those wishing to attend the dinner may buy the ticket for dinner at the association, Tel: 652276, room-4, building-4, Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline Township. For further information, visit www.mcpayanmar.org. MNA
Newly-inaugurated Mawlamyine Railway Station

Byline: Nilar Win (Shwe Thway Gyi); Photos: Kyemon

Schedules in Mawlamyine-Bago railroad section are No 801/802 Thaton-Mottama down and up local train; No 803/804 Thaton-Myainggalay down up local train; and No 817/818 Thaton-Moppalin down and up local train. The schedules comprise halt stations.

The offices of Division No (8) under the Myanmar Railways are above Mawlamyine Railway Station, and they take responsibilities for winning passenger satisfaction, curbing accidents, ensuring departure and arrival times on schedule, strengthening railroads, boosting incomes, helping passengers with their luggage, operating factories and sheds under the Myanmar Railways at full capacity, curbing derailments of locomotives and passenger coaches, innovations for production of machines and spare parts, keeping in touch with the rights of service personnel, and wiping out misconducts. Manager (Transport/Division) U Nyo Oo and Assistant Manager (Transport/Division) U Maung Maung Lay of Division No(8) constantly supervise transport services, thus achieving satisfaction and recognition from the passengers.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 27-11-2009
Terror of the child snatchers of South Sudan

POCHALLA, 7 Dec—Girls and boys in southern Sudan do not need bogeyman scare stories to make them behave: the child snatchers are real.

“They come with guns and steal our children, then kill the rest of us,” said Aballa Abich, a tired-looking mother waiting for food aid deliveries in the troubled state of Jonglei.

“Day or night they can attack. We are frightened to let our children out of our sight,” added Abich, who comes from the Anyuak people of Pochalla, one of several peoples in the ethnically divided far southwest.

Hundreds of children have been abducted into slavery in a series of bloody clashes between rival groups — including Abich’s five-year-old nephew.

“They took him two years ago when he was out hunting in the bush,” Abich said sadly. “There has been no news since, only attacks taking more children.”

Clashes between the Anyuak’s cow-rearing neighbours in southern Sudan erupt frequently, often sparked by cattle rustling, disputes over grazing or in revenge for previous attacks.

But the small-scale battles have grown in frequency and size in the remote and swampy region which remains awash with automatic weapons from the 22-year civil war between north and south Sudan, which formally ended in 2005. A series of bloody raids this year has left many people in shock, and there has been a sharp increase in attacks apparently deliberately targeting women and children.—Internet

Kuwait sells Citigroup stake for $4.1 billion

DUBAI, 7 Dec—Kuwait’s sovereign wealth fund said on Sunday it booked a profit of $1.1 billion by selling the stake it took in Citigroup Inc less than two years ago when the banking giant was strapped for cash.

The Kuwait Investment Authority said in a statement it sold the preferred shares after converting them to common stock for $4.1 billion. That works out to a gain of nearly 37 percent on its $3 billion investment.

Calls to the Kuwait fund for further details went unanswered. A Citi spokesman declined to comment.

Gulf Arab nations’ sovereign wealth funds have been heavy investors in US and European companies, using their oil wealth to buy large stakes in companies ranging from Citi to Germany’s Volkswagen AG and Mercedes-Benz parent Daimler AG.

Indian court deals blow to Ambani gas project

NEW DELHI, 7 Dec—An Indian court has dealt a blow to plans by tycoon Anil Ambani for a multi-billion-dollar power plant in the energy-hungry country, ordering that the process for acquiring land be started afresh.

The Allahabad High Court in northern Uttar Pradesh state ruled the land acquisition did not have the consent of farmers whose plots were confiscated for the 5.4-billion-dollar plant. The acquisition “cannot be termed acquisition for public purpose” as it was done for a private company, the court said in the ruling.

The judgement, announced late Friday, came as a setback for Ambani’s Reliance Power, which calls the 7,500-megawatt project the world’s largest gas-based power plant.

A Reliance Power spokesman said on Saturday the company was reviewing the ruling and was “fully committed” to the plant.

Virgin Galactic readies maiden suborbital flight

LOS ANGELES, 7 Dec—British billionaire Sir Richard Branson will unveil a craft on Monday that could soon carry tourists on an out-of-this-world trip into space — for a mere 200,000 dollars.

The lunar-like landscape of the Mojave desert between Los Angeles and Las Vegas will stage the roll-out of Virgin Galactic’s SpaceShipTwo (SS2), the brainchild of aerospace engineer Burt Rutan.

SS2, which can carry six passengers and two pilots, plans to begin test flights next year and start commercial flights between 2011 and 2012.

Virgin Galactic, owned by Branson’s Virgin Group and Abu Dhabi’s Abraaj Investments, says about 300 adventurers from around the world have paid a total of 40 million dollars in deposits to guarantee spots on the carbon composite wonder machine.—Internet

Japan to finalize stimulus package

TOKYO, 7 Dec—Japan plans to finalize an economic stimulus package later on Monday to shore up a recovery threatened by a strong yen and deflation.

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said The Nikkei daily has said the package would be worth 24 trillion yen (272 billion dollars), of which 7.1 trillion yen (80.5 billion dollars) would be actual spending, with the remainder loan guarantees and other measures.

“Finally we will make a decision today,” Hatoyama told reporters when asked about the package, which was delayed by disagreements between partners in the ruling coalition late last week.

It is likely to be approved by cabinet on Tuesday, local news reports said.

The package, to be funded by a supplementary budget, was held up on Friday when the financial services minister, Shizuka Kamei, boycotted a ministerial meeting while demanding eight trillion yen in additional spending.

Hatoyama’s centre-left Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) relies on the support of the small party Komei leads, the People’s New Party, to smoothly pass laws in the upper house.—Internet
Australia in $82 b gas deal with Japan

SYDNEY, 7 Dec—Australia has welcomed a $90 billion (82 billion US) deal to supply liquefied natural gas (LNG) to a Japanese power company in what is believed to be the country’s biggest export sales contract.

Western Australia state Premier Colin Barnett said the long-term gas sales agreement between Chevron and the Tokyo Electric Power Company would see 4.1 million tonnes of LNG sent to Japan each year. “The sales contract amounts to some 90 billion dollars,” Barnett told reporters on Saturday. “In my judgement that would be the largest sales contract for any Australian export industry — this is an historic agreement.”

Barnett said the deal would underpin the future of a major offshore gas field and onshore processing development, known as the Wheatstone project, to be developed off the state’s northwest coast.

The premier said the latest deal indicated the massive change underway in the resource-rich state’s economy, which is aiming to position itself as a major source of LNG to Asia’s burgeoning economies. “Currently, the state’s only LNG producer, the North West Shelf Joint Venture, has an annual capacity of 16.3 million tonnes,” he said as a statement.

China vows to promote agriculture development in 2010

BEIJING, 7 Dec—The Chinese government will enhance efforts in 2010 to promote agriculture development, strengthen production supply to the market, and expand rural demand, participants at the Central Economic Work Confer-ence agreed on Monday.

The government will strengthen rural policies to improve farming-related subsidies, increase income of farmers, and expand demand in rural areas, said a statement from the conference. Measures would also be enacted to improve agricultural production capacity, and quicken steps to develop modern agriculture.

The government would maintain relatively stable prices of produce next year, increase the minimum purchase prices for major grain categories, according to a statement from the conference. Financial and fiscal supports would be provided to farmers who start new businesses. Infrastructure construction in rural areas, including reinforcing of large and mid-sized reservoirs, irrigation facilities, improvements to the power grid, and road construction, would be stepped up. The government also underscored improvements to public services in rural areas, to improve education and medical care.

Cambodia reports 480 cases of A/H1N1 flu, five die

PHNOM PENH, 7 Dec—The Cambodian government said on Monday that the total of influenza A/H1N1 dis-ease in the country has reached 480 cases with five deaths. Ly Sovann, deputy director of the communicable disease control department of Ministry of Health said that as of today, five Cambodians have died of A/ H1N1 flu disease and the total cases reach at 480.

In October, the government announced that four peo-ple died of the disease and 237 cases were confirmed. The infected cases are from 13 out of the country’s 24 provinces and cities across the country. Cambodia’s Ministry of Health and WHO have continued their ef-forts in advising people around the country to protect themselves and the families, by saying each individual should cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and dispose of tissue in a bin; wash hands regularly with soap and hot water; do not spit in public; and avoid close contact with sick people.

New Zealand HIV-positive man ‘injects wife with needle’

AUCKLAND, 7 Dec—An HIV-positive New Zealand man pricked his sleeping wife with a needle tainted with his blood, infecting her with the virus, court pa-pers have revealed. It is believed the man wanted to give her the virus, which leads to AIDS, so she would have sex with him again, the New Zealand Sunday Star-Times reported.

According to the documents, the man twice pricked his wife with a sewing needle tainted with his blood. The man has admitted infecting his wife and faces up to 14 years in jail. The 35-year-old man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, has been remanded in custody and will be sentenced at Auckland High Court early next year. According to the court documents obtained by the newspaper, the husband discovered he was HIV-posi-tive during health checks when the family arrived in New Zealand in 2004. His wife and children were not infected.

Policewoman, friend fatally shot in Wisconsin

JEFFERSON, 7 Dec—Police arrested a suspect on Sun-day on charges of fatally shooting a policewoman and her male friend outside a tavern in a small Wisconsin town.

Jennifer Luick, a six-year veteran of the Oconomowoc Police Department, and the other vic-tim were shot about 1 am Sunday outside the Rock Bottom Brewery in downtown Jefferson, 20 miles east of Madison, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported. Luick died in a local hospital. Her friend was taken by helicopter to Froedtert Hospital in Wauwatosa and died there, police said. He was not immediately identified because relatives had not been notified.

Police said they arrested the male suspect but pro-vided few other details. “It’s been a long time since we had a homicide in Jefferson,” Mayor Gary Myers said.

A ticking time bomb of M. tuberculosis had broken through a fence surrounding the cell tower with Darrell Dunafon, 23, of Casa Grande, had walked into the opening and was electrocuted after he touched the live wire.
**One shot, another beaten in fight at Baltimore hotel**

**Baltimore, 7 Dec** — One man was shot in the face and another was severely beaten when a fight erupted early Sunday during a birthday party at a downtown Baltimore hotel, police said.

A woman had rented two adjoining hotel rooms for a birthday party with about 20 young adults when a fight broke out between two 19-year-old men, Raymond Woodland and Marquis Johnson, police said. It’s unclear what started the fight, Baltimore police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said.

Guglielmi said Woodland pulled out a Tech-9 semiautomatic machine pistol and fired one shot, striking Johnson in the face. Then two of Johnson’s friends took the gun, held Woodland down and severely beat him, police said.

Woodland was in critical condition, while Johnson was in serious condition and expected to survive, Guglielmi said.

Woodland, who is on probation for earlier drug charges, was expected to be charged with attempted murder, assault and illegal weapons charges when he’s released from the hospital, Guglielmi said. Guglielmi said he didn’t know if Woodland has an attorney.

Two men were expected to be charged on Sunday night with beating Woodland, Guglielmi said. Officers found the Tech-9 in the room where the party was held at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel shortly after they arrived around 3:15 am.—Internet

**Penguin fighting cancer in Kentucky**

**Newport, 7 Dec** — A penguin undergoing radiation treatment for cancer appears to be doing well at an aquarium in Newport, Ky, an aquarium curator said. Ric Urban, curator of birds and mammals at the Newport Aquarium, said the cancer treatment being given Tica the penguin for a cancerous area on the bird’s tail has garnered attention from aquariums and zoos nationwide. The Cincinnati Enquirer reported on Saturday.

“We’re not alone on an island,” Urban said. “This is being talked about.” The abscess in Tica’s preen gland was first noticed in September and it was later determined to be skin cancer.

Urban said since Tica is only 16, the decision was made not to remove the gland and instead aggressively treat the cancer. The average penguin lifespan is 28 years. “He has produced six viable offspring and can continue to produce,” Urban said of the penguin. Veterinarian Daniel Carey told the Enquirer said attempting to help Tica is a pleasure.

“It’s cool to treat a penguin. We think we can do something important for the medical field and help this guy out,” the medical director at Cincinnati’s CARE Center said.—Internet

**Ampatuan private army seeking help from MILF**

**Shariff Aguak, 7 Dec** — The private army of the Ampatuan clan — the main suspects behind the Maguindanao massacre — are seeking help from the country’s largest separatist group, a military official said Monday. Lt. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, commander of Eastern Mindanao Command, told reporters that over 3,000 members of the Ampatuan’s private army have “tactical alliance” with members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

“They have negotiated with the MILF because the majority of them (militia men) have relatives within the organization. They promised to give them some of their weapons provided the rebel group will help them,” Ferrer said. —Xinhua

**Obsesity gene discovery ‘may cut cases blamed on abuse’**

**London, 7 Dec** — Scientists have discovered what they believe is a genetic cause of severe obesity in children. The team concluded that the loss of a key segment of DNA can be to blame. It said the findings might improve diagnosis of severe obesity — which has been wrongly attributed to abusive overfeeding.

The study, of 300 children with severe obesity by the University of Cambridge and the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, appears in Nature. Some of the children in the study had been formally placed on the social services ‘at risk’ register on the assumption that their parents were deliberately overfeeding them. They have now been removed from the register.

Obesity is increasing throughout the world and is recognised as a major global public health concern. Although much of the problem is due to lifestyle factors such as an unhealthy diet, and lack of exercise, some cases are thought to be down to genetics. The latest study examined each child’s entire genome, looking for deletions or duplications of DNA, known as copy number variants (CNVs).

Experts increasingly believe these CNVs play an important role in genetic disease.
Kuranyi’s 100th Bundesliga goal puts Schalke third

BERLIN, 7 Dec—Ex-Germany striker Kevin Kuranyi scored his 100th Bundesliga goal on Sunday in Schalke 04’s 2-0 win over Hertha Berlin which put the Royal Blues third behind league leaders Leverkusen.

Kuranyi walked out on the Germany team last October leading to national coach Joachim Loew saying he will never select him again, but the 27-year-old forward has been in good form this season with seven goals in 14 league games. Having made his debut for Stuttgart in 1997, Kuranyi went onto score 40 league goals before switching to Schalke and Sunday’s header was his 60th for his club.

Kuranyi profited from a header by Schalke’s Brazil defender Marcelo Bordon to power his own headed effort past Berlin’s goalkeeper Jaroslav Drobny on 59 minutes. Brazilian defender Rafinha then netted a penalty in injury time to seal the 2-0 win over the league’s bottom side. Schalke are now third in the table as Felix Magath’s side closed the gap to three points behind league leaders Leverkusen.

Grenoble break French duck, Lyon floored by Lille

PARIS, 7 Dec—Rock bottom Grenoble secured their first win of the season at the 13th attempt with a long-awaited victory against Toulouse in the French league on Sunday.

Grenoble’s record-breaking 14-game winless start to the season has already guaranteed their place in Ligue 1 history but they finally broke their duck with a deserved 1-0 win over Alain Casanova’s Europa League participants. The home side largely bossed proceedings at the Stade des Alpes but had to wait until the 81st minute to break the deadlock, with Nicolas Dieuze slamming home after Olivier Blondel parried Danijel Ljubojica’s free-kick.

Ronaldo behaviour causes a real stir in Madrid

MADRID, 7 Dec—Cristiano Ronaldo has become a real favourite with Real Madrid fans with his dazzling skills and goals but they saw a different side of the Portuguese captain in the 4-2 home win over Almeria on Saturday when he didn’t celebrate a vital goal with his team-mates and was then sent off for kicking an opponent.

Ronaldo won a controversial 82nd minute penalty — with goalkeeper Diego Alves appearing to get a hand on the ball — with the score at 2-2 but fluffed his spot-kick only for team-mate Karim Benzema to spare his blushes by slotting in from inside the six-yard box to give Real a last-minute goal after shrugging off a Parma defender. Ronaldo strangely walked back to the centre circle in disappointment at missing his penalty although Frenchman Benzema played down the incident afterwards.

Valencia go third in Spanish League

MADRID, 7 Dec—Valencia climbed above Sevilla into third with a 2-1 comeback win at 10-man Athletic Bilbao on Sunday as they stretched their unbeaten run to 15 games in all competitions.

Valencia warmed up for next weekend’s clash with rivals Real Madrid at the Mestalla Stadium with a fine win at San Mames to move three points behind Madrid in the standings with Barcelona eight points ahead having played one game more.—INTERNET

Fulham boss Hodgson supports goal-hero Zamora

LONDON, 7 Dec—Fulham manager Roy Hodgson insisted Bobby Zamora will prove his critics wrong after the much-maligned striker inspired a 1-0 win over Sunderland.

Former West Ham and Tottenham star Zamora has had to endure the taunts of Fulham fans unhappy with his contribution since his five million pounds move from Upton Park last year. Zamora has scored just 10 times in his time at Craven Cottage and has been criticised on the internet and at matches by a section of the Fulham support.

But he underlined his value to Hodgson’s team with the goal that sunk Sunderland on Sunday and took the opportunity to show his frustration at the rough treatment by aiming an angry gesture at Fulham’s fans as he celebrated.

Zamora certainly has the support of his manager and Hodgson said: “Maybe he reads too many of these blogs that people write in to.”—INTERNET

Fulham’s Bobby Zamora (left) clashes with Sunderland’s Anton Ferdinand during their Premier League match at Craven Cottage in London.—INTERNET

Russia’s Svetlana Sleptsova competes during the first leg of the women’s 4x6 km relay at the Biathlon World Cup in Ostersund on 6 Dec, 2009. Germany finished fifth.—INTERNET

Parma maintain fourth after Genoa draw

ROME, 7 Dec—Jonathan Biabiany scored a brace as Parma drew 2-2 away to Genoa on Sunday to keep hold of fourth place in Serie A. With Italy’s top three all playing on Saturday it was the battle for fourth and a Champions League spot next season that took centre stage. Parma came into their match in fourth after Sampdoria’s 3-0 defeat at AC Milan on Saturday had dropped them to fifth.

And with several teams within touching distance of that crucial Champions League qualifying position it promised an exciting afternoon of action.

Nine of women’s tennis top 10 to play at Sydney

SYDNEY, 7 Dec—Nine of the women’s top 10 will compete at January’s Sydney International in the lead-up to the Australian Open Grand Slam, according to organizers. World No 1 Serena Williams heads the line-up, which also includes Dinara Safina, French Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, Caroline Wozniacki and Elena Dementieva.

Victricia Azarenka, Jelena Jankovic, Vera Zvonareva and Agnieszka Radwanska also join a field boosted by Australia’s No 13 Samantha Stosur and Italy’s Flavia Pennetta and Francesca Schiavone. The only top-10 player missing will be world No 6 Venus Williams, who will warm up for the first Grand Slam of the year with an exhibition match in Thailand.

Furyk rallies to win Tiger’s event

THOUSAND OAKS, 7 Dec—Jim Furyk dressed in red and played the part Sunday, holing a clutch par putt and hitting his best shot of the day on the final hole to win the Chevron World Challenge for his first victory in more than two years.

He said the choice of colour was a coincidence, not a statement. Even so, it was fitting conclusion to a week dominated by talk of Tiger Woods. Woods, the tournament host, wasn’t around to present the trophy to one of his favorite players on the PGA Tour. He withdrew because of unspecified injuries from his 27 Nov car accident, yet Woods remained part of every conversation because of worldwide publicity over allegations of extramarital affairs.—INTERNET

Grove Park’s striker Kevin Kuranyi (L) scores a goal during their German first division Bundesliga football match against Hertha BSC in the western German city of Gelsenkirchen.—INTERNET

Real Madrid’s Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo takes his jersey off after scoring against Almeria during their Spanish league match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium on 5 December.—INTERNET

Stuttgart sack Babbel, Gross to take over

BERLIN, 7 Dec—Struggling Bundesliga side VfB Stuttgart on Sunday confirmed the sacking of coach Markus Babbel just a few days before their crucial Champions League clash. Former Tottenham Hotspur boss Christian Gross was named as Babbel’s successor on Sunday evening and the 55-year-old has signed a contract until 30 June 2011.

“I am here to save what still has to be saved,” said Gross who intends beginning work with immediate effect. “I want to get the team back on the road to victory.” Stuttgart need to beat Romanian champions Unirea Urziceni at home on Wednesday to reach the knock-out stages of the Champions League.—INTERNET

Parma coach Francesco Guidolin

Rodrigo Palacio initially put Genoa in position to take fourth with a 14th minute goal after shrugging off a Parma defender. But Biabiany struck on 36 and 59 minutes to give Parma the lead before Rafaelle Palladino equalised eight minutes later, leaving Genoa seventh.

Parma coach Francesco Guidolin

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ADB’s second issue of Panda bonds helps improve China’s capital market

BEIJING, 7 Dec.—The Asian Development Bank (ADB)’s second issue of 1 billion yuan (147 million US dollars) renminbi-denominated bonds, or Panda bonds in China would improve the nation’s capital market and help make it global, expert said on Monday.

Binda N. Lohani, Vice President of ADB said the issue of Panda bond in China’s domestic market marks a milestone in Asia’s local currency-denominated bond market, where the market value had topped 4.2 trillion US dollars in east Asia, he said.

The bond issuance will facilitate cooperation between Chinese government and international multilateral financial institution, and diversify the financing channel for the nation’s non-public sector, said Zheng Xiaosong, head of the international department of the Ministry of Finance.—Xinhua

A man lies on a globe which is a part of an installation in downtown Copenhagen on 6 December, 2009. Copenhagen is the host city for the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009, from 7 December until on 18 December.—Xinhua

WEATHER

Monday, 7th December, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine States, Mandalay, Yangon, and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (5°C) below December average temperatures in Yangon Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Kayin, Mon States, Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were: Lashio (1°C), Hakha (2°C), Namsang (6°C), Heho and Mindat (7°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 6-12-2009 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 7-12-2009 was 57°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 7-12-2009 was 76%. Total sun shine hours on 6-12-2009 was (7.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 7-12-2009 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 (129.41) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southeast at (15:30) hours MST on 6-12-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 8th December 2009: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in Shan and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeayawady, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperature in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 8-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop

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

Newly-inaugurated Mawlamyine Railway Station

Recently, the Myanma Railways put Mawlamyine Railway Station into commission and launched schedules of ordinary trains, passenger and local trains, mail trains, express trains and special express trains from and to the newly-inaugurated transport facility daily. Mawlamyine dwellers, merchants, and passengers from the four corners of the nation are pleased with the station due to smooth and secure transport, cheaper train fare rates than bus fare rates, and lower costs on transport charges.

The train runs with six trains plying between Mawlamyine and Yangon; No 89/90 down and up mail express train between Mawlamyine and Yangon; No 85/86 passenger and local train between Mawlamyine and Bago; and No 175/176 Dawei-Mawlamyine-Yangon up and down train.

Five trains make 10 runs daily between Mawlamyine and other cities such as Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and Yangon. They are No 17/18 up and down express train plying between Nay Pyi Taw and Mawlamyine; No 85/86 passenger and local train between Mawlamyine and Bago; and No 175/176 Dawei-Mawlamyine-Yangon up and down train.

Significant night temperatures

(7-12-2009)

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<tr>
<td>Loilem</td>
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<td>Haka</td>
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<td>Namsan</td>
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<td>Heho and Mindat</td>
<td>7°C</td>
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