Prime Minister inspects ceremony to destroy seized narcotic drugs in Kengtung

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, and heads of department, left here by air and arrived at Kengtung in Shan State (East) this morning.

The Prime Minister and entourage were welcomed at Kengtung Airport by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Phyo, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, senior military officers, and state level departmental officials.

On arrival at the briefing hall of Mongnai-Kengtung Railroad Project being undertaken by the Myanmar Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation, the Prime Minister heard a report by Project Engineer U Min San Mon on progress in building Kengtung-Monghsat section of the project. Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence gave a supplementary report.

In response to the reports, the Prime Minister called for completion of the whole Kengtung-Monghsat section on schedule by dividing the section into three parts and effectively using heavy machinery.

The Prime Minister proceeded along the completed earthen embankment of the railroad section, and inspected construction of a conduit for the railroad project on Hsinhnaung Hill.

Next, the Prime Minister arrived at the sports grounds of the state in Kengtung, where a ceremony to destroy seized narcotic drugs would take place, and cordially greeted ambassadors and responsible persons of foreign embassies, the resident coordinator of UN agencies, and officials, and guests.

The Prime Minister inspected the display of narcotics to be destroyed, and cordially greeted local people of national races to the ceremony.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein views seized narcotic drugs to be destroyed.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects construction of a conduit for the railroad project on Hsinhnaung Hill in Kengtung-Monghsat railroad section.—MNA
Actively and enthusiastically pursue education

The government is taking all the necessary measures for harmonious development of both basic and higher education sectors for the emergence of an education system that can create a constant learning society capable of facing the challenge of today’s age of knowledge. It has also been making constant efforts to build infrastructures in every region for regional economic development and for parallel development of the entire Union.

Human resources development is a prerequisite for building a modern and developed nation, the new development necessary for building a peaceful Union. Therefore, the government has been building new basic education schools and their total number now has hit 40,679. The number of post-primary schools, where up to grade nine students can study, has reached 6,601; affiliated and branch middle schools total 1,723 and affiliated and branch high schools 1,092.

Multimedia classrooms have been opened in basic education schools in rural areas as well as in border areas. Thus, all those in rural and urban areas have equal access to learning opportunities and it is thanks to the benefit of electronic technologies. For the youths living in various parts of the Union to be able to pursue higher education in their own regions, the government has built 159 colleges and universities. There were only 32 in the past.

As the government, on its part, is fulfilling all the requirements for human resources development necessary for building a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the new generations, on their part, are required to actively and enthusiastically pursue their education.

Shareholders of Co-operative Bank hold AGM

YANGON, 8 Dec—The Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of Co-operative Bank was held at Traders Hotel here yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut said that Co-operative Bank on one hand had to act in accord with the financial policies adopted by the State, on the other hand, had to abide by the laws and regulations of monetary organizations, and central banks; that Co-operatives Bank needed to be main sources of capital for progress of all economic sectors being implemented by the State; that Co-operative bank, in order to serve as the financial background of Co-operative Syndicates and privates, had always been a lender to such organizations; that serious attention was to be paid to sustainable growth of agricultural sector, industrial sector and export sector.

Next, Chairman of the AGM President U Khin Maung Aye of Co-operative Bank gave a speech and sought approval of report of board of directors, 2008-2009 financial statement, audit report. Then new board of directors was elected.—MNA

Korean Ginseng + Linzhi tonic HAGIN introduced

YANGON, 8 Dec—MediMax Trading Co Ltd held a ceremony to introduce the first Korean Ginseng + Linzhi tonic HAGIN along with dinner at Chatrium Hotel here on 6 December.

It was attended by representatives from pharmacies, journalists and guests. Managing Director Dr Zaw Tun Aye of Medi Max Trading Co Ltd extended greetings and Mr U Chan Kim of Korean Ginseng Research Co Ltd explained the facts about the tonic.

HAGIN is the first ever tonic which is produced by the combination of Ginseng and Linzhi without chemical ingredients. It is registered tonic imported from Korea. The tonic is developed by combining the natural antioxidants such as Natural Vitamin E, Royal Jelly and B Carotene plus to Ginseng and Linzhi. So, it can improve the immune system without side effects.

For more information, contact Ph: 559518, 552720, 511137, 09-5015354 and 09-5079398. —MNA
Venezuela acquires thousands of missiles

CARACAS, 8 Dec — President Hugo Chavez said on Monday that Venezuela has received thousands of Russian-made missiles and rocket launchers as part of his government’s military preparations for a possible armed conflict with neighbouring Colombia.

“They are preparing a war against us,” Chavez said during a televised address, repeating a threat he made earlier this month.

Chavez, who has been feuding with Colombia for months, claimed an agreement between Bogota and Washington allowing the US military to increase its presence at seven Colombian military bases poses a threat to his country.

Chavez says his government is acquiring more weapons as a precaution.

“Thousands of missiles are arriving,” Chavez said. The former paratrooper turned-president said he did not specify what types of missiles, but said Venezuela’s growing arsenal includes Russian-made Isla-1S surface-to-air missiles and rocket-propelled grenades.

Chavez, who has been feuding with Colombia and Washington, denies having any plans to attack Venezuela, but Chavez argues they are plotting together a military offensive against Venezuela.

Gas line explodes at ill factory; debris kills one

BELVIDERE, 8 Dec — A gas line exploded on Monday at a technology plant in northern Illinois, sending aloft debris that killed a man at a nearby highway rest area.

The explosion rocked the NDK America Inc. plant in Belvidere, about 70 miles northwest of Chicago, sending trembles through buildings as far as a mile away and echoing throughout the community of about 20,000 people.

“It sounded like a traffic accident — a boom,” said Greg Brown, a school district official. “We thought someone dropped something on the roof. It was like a little earthquake.”

127 Iraqis killed in spate of deadly bombings in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 8 Dec — Five massive car bombings hit the Iraqi capital on Tuesday, killing a total of 127 people and wounding 448, in the third deadliest series of attacks since August.

The attacks came hours before the Iraqi presidency council fixed a new date for the country’s crucial parliamentary elections on 6 March.

The first attack occurred at about 10:25 am (0725GMT) when a car loaded with explosives went off at the park of the new seat of the Finance Ministry after a massive truck bombing on August 19 badly damaged its original building in Zainariya district.

Second later, another car bombing took place near an intersection close to the Interior Ministry in eastern Baghdad, while a third car bombing detonated in the park of a court near the Institution of Fine Arts in Baghdad’s western district of Mansour.

The bombing at the court building apparently targeted the part of the building occupied by the federal court which moved recently from its original place in the building of the Justice Ministry in Salhiyah which was destroyed by a massive truck bombing on 25 October.

A minute later, a fourth car bombing carried out by a minibus loaded with explosives went off at the intersection of the Nidaa mosque, near the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in the al-Qubira neighborhood in northeastern Baghdad.

The powerful blast destroyed dozens of civilian cars which were crowded at the intersection. “I saw dozens of cars were charred and many bodies were scattered at the site and some parts of human bodies were thrown on the roofs of nearby buildings,” Jamal al-Obedi, a witness at the scene told Xinhua.

At least 49 dead in market bombs

ISLAMABAD, 8 Dec — Suspected US missiles killed three people in a Taleban-riddled northwest region early on Tuesday, intelligence officials said, as Pakistanis reeled from a day’s worth of bombings that killed at least 59 in the US-allied, nuclear-armed nation.

The bombings signalled a relentless determination on the part of the militants, who — despite being pressed by a major army offensive along one of their Afghan border strongholds — have sustained a relentless campaign since October that has killed more than 400 people. The missile strike came as US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said Washington was ready to work more closely with Pakistan as soon as Islamabad.

Alleged US missiles kill three in Pakistan

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Japan unveils $81 billion economic stimulus

Tokyo, 8 Dec—Japan’s government agreed on a 7.2 trillion yen ($81 billion) stimulus package on Tuesday, aiming to prevent the economy from tipping back into recession as deflation persists and a strong yen threatens exports.

Economists said the spending, equal to about 1.5 percent of gross domestic output, would not provide a significant lift to an economy dependent on overseas demand for machinery, electronics and cars.

The package was due to be compiled on Friday but the ruling party was forced to add 100 billion yen in spending to appease a small coalition partner whose support is needed to enact legislation smoothly.—INTERNET

Nepal targets China on tourism in 2011

KATHMANDU, 8 Dec—China and India will be the major markets for Nepal in the upcoming Nepal Tourism Year 2011 campaign, Secretary of Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation Nagendra Ghimire has said.

Speaking at the celebration of the 65th International Civil Aviation Day on Monday, Nagendra Ghimire said that tourist arrivals from these countries would make a huge difference in Nepal’s tourism, local media reported on Tuesday.

HK port cargo throughput down 4% in Q3

HONG KONG, 8 Dec—Hong Kong saw the total port cargo throughput fall to 64.4 million tons in the third quarter of the year, down 4 percent over the same period last year, the local statistical authority said on Monday.

Within this total, inward port cargo dropped 2 percent to 36.3 million tons and outward port cargo fell 7 percent to 28.1 million tons, the Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department said.

Seaborne cargo fell 7 percent to 43.1 million tons over the same period last year, while river cargo rose 1 percent to 21.3 million tons.

Imports rose 5 percent to 19.5 million tons while inward transhipments fell 9 percent to 16.8 million tons in the third quarter.

Exports and outward transhipments dropped 8 percent to 10.3 million tons and 6 percent to 17.8 million tons.

Hong Kong port handled 5.6 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) of containers, down 16 percent over last year.

Within this total, laden containers went down 13 percent to 4.8 million TEUs, while empty containers fell 28 percent to 0.8 million TEUs. —Xinhua

Iran to launch oil, gas exploration in Caspian Sea

TEHERAN, 8 Dec—Iran is to start exploration drillings in the Caspian Sea for oil and gas by the end of the current Iranian year (21 March, 2010), the local satellite Press TV reported on Monday.

With the inauguration and operation of Iran-Alborz semi-floating rig, the country can reach a high level of technical knowledge and oil industry technology in deep waters, Press TV quoted an Iranian official at Khazar Exploration and Production Co (KEPCO) as saying.

“There is a bright prospect of finding reserves of crude oil in the region... in the Caspian Sea,” Mahmoud Zirakchianzadeh, a member of KEPCO’s board of directors, said on Monday. —Xinhua

Earlier in July, Iran announced that the country would launch exploration of oil and gas using its domestically-built semi-floating drilling rig in the Caspian Sea.

Iran-Alborz weighs 14,000 tons and is the largest in the Middle East.

Iran’s Oil Minister Gholam Hossein Nozari said in July.—Xinhua

Korea-led consortium, Georgia in $1 billion deal

SEOUL, 8 Dec—A consortium led by South Korea’s state power supplier KEPCO on Tuesday signed a deal for a one-billion-dollar project to build hydroelectric power plants in Georgia, officials said.

KEPCO said it signed a memorandum of understanding with Georgia’s energy ministry to build three plants at Namakhvani in the north to produce a combined 450 megawatts. This would account for 13 percent of the country’s power supply, it said.—INTERNET

A woman collects chemically polluted water from a tap in Ahmedabad, western India, in November. India’s giant Tata Group on Monday unveiled a new low-cost water purifier, which it hopes will provide safe drinking water for millions and cut the toll of deadly diseases.—INTERNET

United Nations Secretary-General’s Message on International Anti-Corruption Day

9 December 2009

The theme of this year’s observance of the International Anti-Corruption Day “don’t let corruption kill development” highlights one of the biggest impediments to the world’s efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

When public money is stolen for private gain, it means fewer resources to build schools, hospitals, roads and water treatment facilities. When foreign aid is diverted into private bank accounts, major infrastructure projects come to a halt. Corruption enables fake or substandard medicines to be dumped on the market, and hazardous waste to be dumped in landfill sites and in oceans. The vulnerable suffer first and worst.

But corruption is not some vast impersonal force. It is the result of personal decisions, most often motivated by greed. Development is not the only casualty. Corruption steals elections. It undermines the rule of law. And it can jeopardize security. As we have seen over the last year, it can also have a serious impact on the international financial system.

Fortunately, there is a way to fight back. The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the world’s strongest legal instrument to build integrity and fight corruption. A new mechanism decided on at the recent Conference of States Parties in Doha means that, from now on, States will be judged by the actions they take to fight corruption, not just the promises they make.

The private sector should not lag behind Governments. Businesses must also prevent corruption within their ranks, and keep bribery out of tendering and procurement processes. I urge the private sector to adopt anti-corruption measures in line with the UN Convention. Companies particularly those that subscribe to the 10th principle of the Global Compact, to work against corruption should pledge not to cheat, and should open themselves up to peer review to ensure that everyone is playing by the same rules.

We all have a part to play. On International Corruption Day 2009, I urge all people to join the UN anti-corruption campaign at www.yournocounts.org. And I encourage everyone to make a pledge: never to offer or accept a bribe. Live by that motto, and the world will be a more honest place and we will increase the chances of reaching the Millennium Development Goals.—UNIC

A worker puts a TV set onto a disassemble line at a recycling plant. A multi-billion dollar pump-priming plan unveiled by the Japanese government is meant to boost a gradual return to health from the country’s worst post-war recession, a rebound that started early this year but is now threatened by deflation and the strong yen’s impact on exports.—INTERNET
Russia, India agree on nuclear cooperation, warship overhaul

MOSCOW, 8 Dec—Russia and India agreed on Monday to boost cooperation in the civilian nuclear energy sector, while finally ending a dispute over a warship overhaul.

After formal talks with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on Monday, visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told reporters that Russia would help build four more nuclear reactors in India, in addition to the nuclear power plant in Kudankulam that is scheduled to be launched next year.

These four reactors will be built after a new site was selected in West Bengal, said Singh.

The Kudankulam nuclear power plant, designed by Russia using Russian technology and expertise, is currently under construction.

“We are at the final stage of the Kudankulam project. If everything goes well, we’ll complete next year the launch of the first stage of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant,” the RIA Novosti news agency quoted Russia’s nuclear chief Sergei Kiriyenko as saying.

On Monday, Russia and India also signed an agreement on cooperation in civilian nuclear energy use, which, Kiriyenko said, was worth several dozen billions of US dollars.

Singh voiced satisfaction over his country’s nuclear energy cooperation with Russia, while Medvedev said the agreement paved the way for large-scale joint work in civilian nuclear energy use. Meanwhile, the two countries have finally ended a dispute over the Admiral Gorshkov aircraft carrier, according to a Kremlin source.

Russia to launch MIM1 module to ISS next year

MOSCOW, 8 Dec—Russia is scheduled to launch a MIM1 experiment module to the International Space Station (ISS) next year, said the head of Russia’s aerospace conglomerate on Monday.

The 7.9-ton module, temporarily named “Twilight” (Sumerki), had been assembled and is awaiting ship to the space station in the next three years.—Xinhua

Elephant kills four in central Nepal

KATHMANDU, 8 Dec—At least four including three of a family died in an elephant attack in Dhanusha district in central Nepal on Monday. According to myRepublica.com report, the elephant has killed four locals of Gosar 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.

Xinhua

China stresses “green economies” and South-South cooperation at UNIDO conference

VIENNA, 8 Dec—Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Yi Xiaozhun, China’s representative to the 13th session of the UNIDO General Conference, said in Vienna on Monday that China considers green industry the direction of economic development in the future.

At the 13th session of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) General Conference, Yi pointed out that “low-carbon economy, green industries, energy saving and new energy are where future economic growth will come from.” Therefore, countries need to align their near-term economic priorities with long-term economic prospects.

“While enabling economic recovery, we should optimize the energy mix, promote industrial upgrading and develop green economies,” he said.

In his speech, Yi also introduced the measures China has taken in this area. In response to the serious impact of the global financial crisis and growing domestic energy and environmental constraints, the Chinese government has adopted such measures as maintaining growth, expanding domestic demand and readjusting economic structure.—Xinhua

Russia’s President Dmitry Medvedev (L) shakes hands with India’s Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as they meet in Moscow’s Kremlin, on 7 Dec, 2009.—Xinhua

Two killed in Airplane crash in US state of Texas

HOUSTON, 8 Dec—Two people were killed on Monday when a small airplane crashed near an airport in the US state of Texas, officials said.

The turboprop-powered airplane crashed shortly after 11:30 am Monday on final approach to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, Texas, killing a man and a boy aboard, according to records from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). It was not clear whether the two were related. The FAA records indicate the plane was registered to a Texas attorney.

Yellow tape surrounded the crash site, where debris lay in an open field in a rural farmland area.

Xinhua

People pose for a group photo while visiting Chinese missile frigate “Xuzhou” at a port in the state of Selangor of Malaysia on 7 Dec, 2009. The missile frigate of the third Chinese fleet for escort mission against pirates arrived in Malaysia on 6 Dec to start a three-day friendship visit after ending its mission.

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Xinhua
A nurse checks an injured Yucai Middle School student in a hospital in Xiangxiang, in south China’s Hunan Province, on 8 Dec, 2009.—INTERNET

Eight killed, 26 injured in China school stampede

BEIJING, 8 Dec—Eight youths were killed and 26 injured when students descending a crowded staircase after evening classes at a school in central China lost their footing amid a crush of bodies, state media and the local government reported on Tuesday.

Students were rushing out of evening study sessions at 9:10 pm on Monday (1310 GMT) at Xiangxiang city’s private Yucai Middle School when some lost their footing and began to fall on top of one another in a stampede on the steps. More than 400 students had been exiting classrooms via an enclosed stairwell just 4 feet (1.2 metres) wide, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

The dead were listed as seven boys and one girl, aged 11-14, while eight other students were hospitalized with serious injuries, according to a local government notice and the official Xinhua News Agency.

CCTV footage shot five hours after the tragedy showed a puddle of blood in a corner of a landing in the darkened, tunnel-like stairwell. “I just can’t describe how I feel,” school guidance counselor Chen Xinwei told the station. “You see these students so full of life and then they’re just gone in an instant. There’s just no way to process it,” Chen said.

Xinhua

Indian Navy thwarted piracy attempt on tanker off Gulf of Aden

NEW DELHI, 8 Dec—The Indian Navy on Monday thwarted a piracy attempt on a Norwegian-flagged tanker off the Gulf of Aden, the Indo-Asian News Service reported.

The Indian Navy ship, on anti-piracy patrol in one of the busiest sea lanes in the Gulf of Aden, got a distress signal that pirates started approaching the Norwegian tanker. It immediately launched a helicopter to thwart the attempt, the report quoted an Indian Navy spokesperson as saying.

The helicopter prevented the piracy attempt while the warship arrived in the area, said the report.

An Indian Navy warship has been patrolling the piracy-infested Gulf of Aden since last year and has thwarted several piracy attempts on commercial vessels by the pirates.—Xinhua

Al-Qaeda claims kidnappings of three Europeans

DUBAI, 8 Dec—A spokesman for Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb claimed the kidnappings of one Frenchman and three Spaniards, seized late last month in Mali and Mauritania, in a sound tape released on Tuesday by Al-Jazeera television.

“Two units of the valiant mujahedeen managed to kidnap four Europeans in two distinct operations: the first in Mali where Frenchman Pierre Camatte was seized on 25 November, and the second in Mauritania where three Spaniards were held on 29 November,” spokesman Saleh Abu Mohammad said.

The spokesman, who identified the Spanish hostages, added that “France and Spain will be informed later of the legitimate demands of the mujahedeen.” He did not go into detail about the demands.

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb is an offshoot of Osama bin Laden’s Al-Qaeda, the terror group that claimed responsibility for the 9/11 bombings in the United States.

Xinhua

NEWS ALBUM

Indonesia’s tallest man

Suparwono(C) is measured by officials of the Indonesian Museum of Records during an awards ceremony in Jakarta. The Indonesian labourer who hoped to be named the world’s tallest man is actually five centimetres (almost two inches) shorter than record-holder Sultan Kosen of Turkey, an official said.

Active commuting can take place of gym

Active commuting — walking, cycling or skating to and from work or school — can make all the difference in being physically active, New York officials say.

Sixty-eight percent of adults living in New York City reported walking or biking at least 10 blocks to run errands or get to work or school during the past month, a report by the city health department said.

Sixteen percent of working adults in New York count walking or biking as part of their daily commute.

“Just 10 minutes of exercise at a time can improve long-term health,” Dr Thomas Farley, New York City health commissioner, said in a statement. “Active commuting is an excellent way to incorporate more exercise into a daily routine.”

However, the report pointed out that people become less active with age. Twenty-four percent of 18- to 24-year-old New Yorkers report fewer than 10 blocks of active travel during the past month, but the proportion grows to 27 percent among 25- to 44-year-olds, 34 percent among 45- to 64-year-olds and 46 percent among those age 65 and older.

Mother gives birth aboard airplane

An expectant mother gave birth to a baby boy aboard a Southwest Airlines plane in flight Friday morning north of Denver, authorities said.

“We now have a new passenger,” a flight attendant announced on the jet’s public address system after the delivery.

The flight, scheduled from Chicago to Salt Lake City, was diverted to Denver when the mother went into labour, KMGH-TV, Denver, reported.

Flight attendants aboard the 737 threw down a blanket in the back of the cabin. A doctor who happened to be on board delivered the baby while in contact with Stat Med, a company with which Southwest contracts for medical emergencies.

After the plane landed at Denver International Airport, paramedics transported the mother and newborn to The Medical Centre of Aurora.

A young girl looks at an art exhibit by artist Jorge Pineda, of the Dominican Republic, at the opening of ‘The Global Caribbean’ exhibit in the Little Haiti area of Miami. The exhibit includes paintings, sculpture and other installations by 25 contemporary artists from Cuba, Trinidad, Haiti, the Bahamas and other Caribbean countries.

This undated photo provided by Christie’s in New York shows the Olivetti manual typewriter on which author Cormac McCarthy typed all of his novels from 1958 to 2009, including ‘The Road’ and ‘No Country for Old Men.’ The typewriter and its original blue carrying case was sold at auction by Christie’s for $254,500, in New York.

Woman sickened by hamburger sues Cargill

CHICAGO, 8 Dec—A former Minnesota dance instructor who became paralyzed and is confined to a wheelchair after eating a contaminated hamburger has sued agricultural conglomerate Cargill Inc for allegedly producing the E. coli-tainted beef, her attorney said on Monday.

Separately, a Cargill unit is recalling more than 20,000 lbs of beef due to possible salmonella contamination that may have sickened two other people.

In a case filed last week, 22-year-old Stephanie Smith of Cold Spring, Minnesota, sued Cargill in the US District Court in Minnesota in connection with the tainted hamburger that left her paralyzed and seriously ill. She may never recover to lead a normal life, her attorney Bill Marler told Reuters.

Marler, who specializes in foodborne illness law, said Cargill and Smith’s family had been in negotiations for a settlement prior to the suit being filed.

“We are worlds apart on what this kid needs for her future,” her attorney said. “We had no alternative but to file.”—INTERNET

Separately, three Europeans were kidnapped in Mauritania on 29 November, in the second kidnapping this year.
The first round matches of the 48th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament 2009 continued at designated sports grounds this evening.

In Group (A) matches held in Eastern Command Zone (Taunggyi), Yangon Command beat South-West Command 3-0 while No. 11 LID won over No. 22 LID 2-0. In Group (C) in North-West Command Zone (Monywa), Southern Command made narrow win 1-0 over Western Command team-B while South-East Command team-B crippled Triangle Region Command team-B 3-1. In Group (D) in Southern Command Zone (Toungoo), Northern Command hammered Coastal Region Command team-B 2-0 while North-West Command beat North-East Command team-A 1-0.

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec— Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye addressed the World AIDS Day 2009 commemorative ceremony at the hall of Sittway Township, Rakhine State on 3 December.

Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye next presented prizes to the prize winning students in the World AIDS Day 2009 commemorative contests. He also viewed the prize winning essays, paintings and wall posters.

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—The Myanmar Industrial Development Work Committee and 10 subcommittees held a meeting to coordinate work for industrial development at the Ministry of Industry-2 at complex building No. (30) here this morning.

Chairman of the Work Committee Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein in his speech dealt with necessary measures for industrial development inclusive of speeding up the industrialization of the nation, improving the industrial sector, and development of human resources.

Vice-Chairman of Subcommittee for Production of Farm Machinery and Machine Tools Director-General of the Agriculture Mechanization Department U Win Maw; Chairman of Subcommittee for Standardization and Quality Improvement Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun; Chairman of Subcommittee for Industrial Research Development and Technology Dissemination Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Kyaw Soe; Secretary of Subcommittee for Development of Small-Scale Industries Director-General of the Cottage Industries Department U Win Myint; Chairman of Subcommittee for Development of Steel Industry and Subcommittee for Rubber Technology Development Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin; Chairman of Subcommittee for Development of Human Resources Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung; Chairman of Subcommittee for Supervising Automobile Production Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw; Chairman of Subcommittee for Drawing Industrial Law Director-General of the Attorney-General’s Office U Han Nyunt; Chairman of Subcommittee for Industrial Information Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Htut; and departmental officials presented reports on work progress.

Secretary of the Work Committee Director-General of the Directorate of Myanma Industrial Planning reported on work done by the work committee.

The minister responded to the reports and gave concluding remarks.— MNA
K 93 billion worth of narcotic drugs...

Chief of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi presses the button to incinerate seized narcotic drugs. — MNA

(From page 16)

Again on 7 August 2009, a joint team of security forces, based on the information from local people,. uncovered and seized 37,600 ATS tablets from a vehicle at Wan Kyauk Lon village, Tachilek township.

When a combined security forces searched a house on 24 August 2009 at Wan Li village, Hong Leik quarters, Tachilek, they discovered a single long rifle, one pistol, (108) 9mm Luca bullets, 964,000 ATS tablets, 21 kilos of heroin powder and 102 blocks of heroin inside the house and in the car parked within the compound and were accordingly seized. Through further investigations, additional 196,200 ATS tablets, 2 blocks of heroin, and 10 kilos of ICE from a house in Wan Lone village and, 24 grams of ICE and 11 grams of Khut-khu from a house at outer Tar Kaw village in Hong Leik quarters, Tachilek were uncovered and seized.

Similarly on 18 October, the joint team managed to seize 80,000 ATS tablets, 10 short M16 magazines, 195 m-16 bullets (100) 9mm bullets (70) 6.5mm bullets, (2) 5.56mm bullets totaling 106 and a grenade from a house of Houng Leik quarters, Tachilek.

Local people at the destruction ceremony of narcotic drugs seized in Eastern Shan State area. — MNA

avens to smuggle in pharmaceutical drugs that contains pseudo ephedrine from a neighbouring country. As soon as we realize that ephedrine, the key chemical required to manufacture ATS can be extracted from this pharmaceutical product, we concentrated our efforts to combat smuggling of pseudo ephedrine.

A developing nation like ours do not have the means and capacity to produce precursor chemicals – only the industrialized countries can do it. As such, these chemicals are brought in from neighbouring countries and though they are being smuggled in as pure chemicals in the past, recent developments had prompted manufactures to smuggle them under the guise of pharmaceutical products. Consequently, countries within the region are exchanging information to combat the changing trends resulting in seizures of pseudo ephedrine drugs used for extracting required raw chemicals.

A joint enforcement team uncovered and seized 8.16 million pseudo ephedrine tablets on 18 February 2009 from 4 trawler-gy vehicles at Chin Shwe Haw check point.

Further investigation reveal that these tablets are from the other side of border town.

Another 414,700 tablets of illegal pseudo ephedrine were seized on 6 May at Wan Tar Pin inspection gate in Kengtung. Again on 1 September, a combined security forces found and seized 48,870 tablets of pseudo ephedrine tablets hidden inside a motor cycle on No. 1 Friendship Bridge in Tachilek.

Similarly, a combined team of security forces seized 31 different types of pharmaceutical drugs that contain pseudo ephedrine totaling 1.68 million tablets on a six-wheel type Hino bus at Naung Nong joint inspection gate at Kengtung on 14 October.

A combined team, at 10:30pm on 10 November, seized 4,567,255 tablets of pseudo ephedrine tablets on a Nissan 12-wheel truck at 16-mile Kyunakhaw check point in Patheinpyi Township. Through further investigation, additional 445,230 tablets of pseudo ephedrine were uncovered at a house in Aungmyatayazan Township at 11:00 am. Follow up information and action resulted in additional seizure of 2,238,550 tablets of pseudo ephedrine from a Fuso 10-wheel truck in the same place in Patheinpyi Township. The total seizure was 7,252,035 tablets, all of which were found to be from neighbouring countries, according to the logo on the tablets.

There is no drugs without raw chemicals known as precursor. No Precursor, No Drugs. It is of great importance to collaborate and cooperate with our neighbouring countries to deter the tide of precursor chemicals changing its flow illegally into our country.

That our anti-drug law enforcement agencies had succeeded in preventing such precursor chemicals evolving into life threatening substances known as narcotic drugs had doubtlessy prohibited the production of narcotic drugs in a huge quantity.

The amount of narcotic drugs, ATS tablets, precursor chemicals and affiliated paraphernalia seized in Eastern Shan State since 26 June 2009 till now is 6,998,554 tablets of ATS, 

(See page 9)
K 93 billion worth of narcotic drugs...

(from page 8)

819.7536 kilos of Heroin, 10.045 kilos of ICE, 156.31855 kilos of raw opium, 0.018 kilo of ATS powder, 0.0394 kilo of damped ATS, 1031 kilos of caffeine, 0.031 kilo of opium oil, 0.018 kilo of dried opium bits.

The total amount of seized drugs, chemicals and affiliated paraphernalia is over K 93 billion, which if converted into US dollar, is over 93 million.

Myanmar believes that it is the responsibility of the nation to strive utmost in combating and eradicating narcotic drugs. With this serious and intense endeavour, it has laid down two strategies and three tactics in accord with the guidance of its Head of State and adopted and implemented 15-year drug elimination programme starting from 1999 to 2014, making use of its own natural resources.

As the programme had now reached the tail end of the second 5-year phase of its duration, our quest to eradicate narcotic drugs can be said to have attained some considerable achievements. The government, on one hand, is scaling up law enforcement measures to combat the menace of drugs and to reduce its production, on the other hand, is also cooperating with UNODC to reduce demand for drugs. UNODC had proclaimed that “No individual, family, or community is safe where illicit drugs take control.” In compliance with the proclamation, nationwide campaigns had been launched to inform and educate the communities on the hazards of drugs and are lending treatment and rehabilitation services for drug users who want to end their habits.

Myanmar, being fully conscious of the fact that it cannot single-handedly combat narcotic drugs and cooperation with the international community, neighbouring nations and regional countries is essential in eradication of narcotic drugs, had accordingly, signed bilateral MoU and cooperating with India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Laos, Russian Federation, Philippines, China and Thailand.

In conclusion, the significant drug seizures mentioned above clearly indicated that Myanmar is employing the three tactics for combating and eradicating narcotic drugs, which are supply elimination, demand elimination, and law enforcement, hand in hand with the public in an unambiguous manner. Responsible public officials, together with members of the communities who are entirely against drug use and who are fully familiar with the hazards this habit entails, will continue to work to this end throughout the nation. The strength and wisdom of our people will be utilized continuously and vigorously in working towards prevalence of peace, tranquillity, law and order and in developing Eastern Shan State region. At the same time, we will strive relentlessly to achieve the targets prescribed in the aforesaid 15-year drug eradication programme.

Next, Dean of Diplomatic Corps, ambassadors, personnel from embassies, resident representatives of UN agencies, Yangon-based drug abuse control officers, responsible persons, and local and foreign correspondents view seized narcotic drugs. — MNA

US, British embassy staff visit NLD Headquarters 26 times in November

YANGON, 8 Dec—The public have condemned the NLD and remained constant vigilance against its Headquarters that has been contacting with the US and British Embassies in Yangon and following their instructions.

The staff of those embassies visited the NLD Headquarters 26 times in the month of November 2009. They met NLD CEC members and seized classified documents. — MNA

Photo shows narcotic drugs to be incinerated at the destruction ceremony of narcotic drugs in Eastern Shan State. — MNA
If positive attitude and honesty are shown, ...

Chan Mya Aye

These days, local political groups and foreign media are found hand in glove making various comments on the open letter Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's offer, and criticizing that it was not proper the offer had not been responded yet. Apparently, they are putting pressure on our country to shape itself into one to the liking of the West Bloc, by chopping and changing about the case.

In reality, they are able to broadcast news stories about the case irresponsibly due to the internal traitors that are stirring up problems. Foreign radio stations can take full advantage of and overstate the cases provoked by internal anti-government groups.

It is common knowledge that NLD's special announcement 6/09/09 and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's open letter to the Head of State came out on 28 September 2009. In the letter, she said that she wanted to cooperate with the government on lifting the sanctions against Myanmar.

A thorough review shows that it was she and the party that called for international sanctions against Myanmar. And she has never stated any hints of changing her mind regarding her policy about sanctions. But only when the US announced to introduce the policy of sanctions plus direct relations with Myanmar, would she offer to work together with the government to lift sanctions. Her offer does not conform to what she did and said previously, and is highly questionable. Anyhow, the government accepted her offers with benevolence. It is global knowledge that after the two meetings between U Aung Kyi and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the government fulfilled her wishes of meeting three foreign envoys from the West Bloc, and NLD CEC.

Then, she delivered the second letter dated 11 November to the Head of State. In the letter, she said she wanted to cooperate with the government in nation-building tasks and to meet ailing NLD CEC members to pay respects to them, to meet other NLD CEC members, and also with the Head of State.

Nowadays, the government is stepping up cooperation with local political forces, and trying to improve ties with the US. It implies that the government has showed its positive attitude in this context. If the other side shows true positive attitude in response, positive results can be visualized. However, the behaviours and acts of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and followers are somewhat doubtful.

The two letters reflect her dishonesty. She should have approached the government in an honest way in order to work out the stalemate. In practice, I feel that her letters suggest her dishonesty, and are designed to tarnish the image of the ruling government, putting all the blame on the government.

If NLD and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi really want to work together with the government in the national interest, they can deliver letters directly to the Head of State. They sent letters by post, but the news about the letters had received media coverage, from the Internet down to the radio stations before the letters were received by the person concerned. In the first time, NLD issued an announcement with the letter as part of it, before the letter was received by the Head of State, thus prompting widespread statements of the news by the media. In other words, the person concerned received the letter only after a wide variety of suggestions had been made through the media to fuel the case. Here, the government was like the parents of naughty children. I am confident that the government suffered due to the fact that it was Inconsiderate of its children to show complete disregard for its benevolent attitude towards them. However, the government showed its magnanimity by complying with their wishes.

Surely, if they had realized and recognized the government’s fulfillment of their wishes, they would have mended their ways. Instead, they went further in the second letter. It was said that they had secretly informed the media about the letter in advance through NLD (Central) Work Youths Group. Then, they tried to hold the government responsible for that as though the government had disclosed the case. In the end, they admitted that the persons who were held responsible were those among the members of NLD.

In the meantime, various media are shouting that it should be done this or that way, it has not been accepted yet, there has been no reply regarding this. It is quite obvious that it was all a ploy to attract the attention of the media by spreading the issue among them. Frankly speaking, I think it was an attempt to put pressure on the ruling government through the media as a way of saying that “We, on our part, have made an offer and the government is to see to the remaining part.”

All will remember that this is not the first time and it has been done before. Even before the two sides could not make any compromise during the meetings between Minister U Aung Kyi and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the latter issued a unilateral announcement dated 8-11-2007 in Singapore via Mr Gambari. Actually, a clandestine plan was made to issue the announcement by taking advantage of the meeting between Mr Gambari and Daw Suu Kyi arranged by the government during his visit to Myanmar. I still remember that the situation got unnecessarily confused as the media was used as a tool by taking advantage of the government’s kind approval. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi herself should have understood that the announcement was to be issued in the media only after reaching agreement between the two sides until the discussion period was over. She might as well have understood that. This time, she has employed the same way again in complicity with the outside anti-government media. This is the insincere way of hers, I think.

One can avoid mistakes. Nobody is perfect. One may make a mistake sometimes and one should not be blamed for making a single mistake. Usually, we say ‘forgive and forget’ when a person makes a single mistake. But when a person makes the same mistake two or three times, we will have to assume that he is doing the mistake on purpose with insincere intention.

It has been three times since Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and NLD used the media as a tool in an insincere way. Their act was not sincere at all. They made the ploy intentionally.

It should be taken into consideration that the attempt of one side to force the other into a corner by making dishonest use of the media might delay the other’s response. If one looks at the event superficially, it can be said that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s offer might be positive. However, making dishonest use of the media like this could make the other side’s direction change. It could also make it hard for the other side to respond positively. Anyway, it is hoped that the government, like parents, will be generous enough to do what should be done.

It was a matter that should have been discussed first between the two sides. But one side made a pre-emptive attempt by disclosing it to the media untimely. Now, the foreign media’s untruthful and fruitless broadcast could prevent the other side’s step forward and make it withdraw the hand it is going to extend. It should have been taken into serious consideration. Opposition groups at home are now trying to avoid embarrassment about their wrong strategy and tactics by making use of the letters like this. And at the same time, they are trying to put the blame on the government with the use of foreign media. It is something that should not be done.

To cut a long story short, it is acceptable that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sent a letter to the Head of State. However, they should not have passed the buck to the government after disclosing the letter to the media with an ulterior motive. If they are really in favour of the interests of the nation and the people and if they are honest and have good intentions, it is the best way for them to put forward their stand frankly and make an honest approach to the government.

Translation: MS+ST
Composers, vocalists honoured for their religious songs and nation-building songs

YANGON, 8 Dec—The Ministry of Information organized a ceremony to honour advisers, composers and vocalists, who had contributed to composing religious songs and nation-building songs, at Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road here yesterday afternoon.

It was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, heads of department, officials, advisers, chairmen and members of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and the Myanmar Music Association, composers, vocalists, artistes, MRTV staff and guests.

The minister delivered an address and presented certificates of honour to advisers U Arnt Maung and U Min Kyi from the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana under the Ministry of Religious Affairs who had contributed to composing religious songs and nation-building songs; U Win Maw (Forever Group Co Ltd) who had donated K 2.8 million, and U Kyaw Win (Shwe Than Lwin Co) who had donated K 1.6 million; vocalist U Than Myat Soe on behalf of U Wunna Tin Soe (Zabei Oo Studio) who had contributed to the recording of background religious music; Chairman of MMAU U Maung Maung Latt on behalf of religious songs composers from MRTV; vocalist Daw Htar on behalf of the vocalists who sang Myanmar Dhamma Puja songs of MRTV; composer Thu Kha Mein Hliaing on behalf of studio religious songs composers; and vocalist Hay Mar Nay Win on behalf of the vocalists who sang studio religious songs.

On behalf of composers, composer Bogale Tint Aung spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony, the minister cordially greeted the attendees.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses the ceremony to honour composers, vocalists for their religious songs and nation-building songs.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents a certificate of honour to Chairman U Maung Maung Latt of Myanmar Music Asiayon.—MNA

Gusto launches graphic design course

YANGON, 8 Dec—Everything we see in our environments every day is decorated with graphic design technology.

Today, graphic design comes into great use for creating colourful billboards and items packed in charming design and package, enchanting logo, journal, magazine as well as website.

Gusto now opened Graphic Design Course with the aim of generating skillful graphic designers.

The training covers lecture on knowledgeable thinking not only for technical skills but also for conceptual skills. The trainees will have a chance to observe both design and colour theories. With teaching practical and tutorial platforms, design theory and colour principle will be taught to the trainees in order that they will be able to create advanced design software.

The software comprising in the teaching on the course are Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign.

Anyone that only knows computer basic knowledge is eligible to attend the course.

Those willing to attend the course may contact No. 26 Gusto Computer Technology Training School, 14th Street (lower block), Lanmadaw Township, Yangon (Ph: 01-222052 or 01-224496).—MNA

Talks on Introduction to AMD Platform Technology & Demonstration on 12 Dec

YANGON, 8 Dec.—Organized by Myanmar Computer Professional Association (MCPA) and sponsored by MSI Authorized Distributor (Royal Smart Co., Ltd), talks on Introduction to AMD Platform Technology & Demonstration will be given by general manager U Ye Kyaw Thein of Compu Tech Servicing & Training Center and R&D Manager U Win Min Zaw of Sunpower Co., Ltd at No. 205, main ward in Myanmar InfoTech, Hline Township here on 12 December. The aim of the talk is to give the knowledge about the use of AMD Processor technology and computer operating system.

Members of MCPA, IT enthusiasts, hardware technicians and interested persons may attend the talks. For more information, contact Room No.4, Ward (4), MCPA office (Ph: 652276).—MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV RAINBOW ANGEL VOY NO (9)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV RAINBOW ANGEL VOY NO (9) are here by notified that the vessels will be arriving on 9.12.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.3 where it will lie subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD
JAPAN

Phone No: 256924/256914

Google upgrades search engine with real-time results

BEIJING, 8 Dec—Google has upgraded its search engine with its search results with data updated in seconds of time in social networking websites like Twitter, according to news reports on Tuesday. In social networking websites are gradually getting popular and are playing a significance role in the modern Web 2.0 technology world, Google certainly would not just sit aside and do nothing.

As youth readership increased in a magazine, so did the number of youth alcoholic beverage advertisements in magazines. As youth readership increased in a magazine, so did the number of youth alcoholic beverage advertisements in magazines. As youth readership increased in a magazine, so did the number of youth alcoholic beverage advertisements in magazines.

INTERNET

Magazine alcohol ads target youth

BOSTON, 8 Dec—Alcohol companies are aiming their magazine ads at youth, researchers at Boston University and Baltimore’s Johns Hopkins University found.

Study co-author Dr Michael Siegel, professor of community health sciences at Boston University School of Public Health, said the study provides strong evidence the companies are targeting underage youths.

The researchers compared 13,513 alcohol advertisements placements in 118 magazines from 2002 to 2006. In magazines with the highest levels of youth readership, researchers at Boston University found.

Turning trash into treasure in Cairo

CAIRO, 8 Dec—In an attempt to help curb the city’s stifling pollution and meet their energy needs too, a few Cairo families have begun to recycle waste—now that the nation’s pigs are gone — by generating biogas from rubbish.

It is an ambitious project that is still in its infancy but may just catch on in this teeming city of 18 million people, often obscured in a dirty grey veil of haze produced mainly by the fumes from millions of car exhausts. The idea has taken added urgency since the slaughter earlier this year of the nation’s pigs—wiped out on government orders supposedly to prevent the spread of swine flu—which would otherwise have eaten much of the waste. The plan to transform organic waste into alternative energy was started by an American, Thomas Culhane, in east Cairo’s Manshiet Nasser slums, which are known locally as Garbage City.

John Crofton, TB researcher, dies at 97

LONDON, 8 Dec—John Crofton, a researcher renowned for his groundbreaking work on the treatment of the tuberculosis, has died at his home in Scotland. He was 97.

Dr Crofton died on 3 Nov in Edinburgh, according to his family and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. The cause of death was not given.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, into a doctor’s family, Crofton was particularly instrumental in finding the combination of drugs needed to combat tuberculosis in the 1950s, when doctors were trying to perfect the use of antibiotics against the often lethal disease, the Royal College of Physicians said.

“The work of Sir John and his colleagues has saved many, many thousands of lives worldwide. Sir John worked tirelessly throughout his life and he was still active until very recently,” the group said in a statement.

Before the antibiotic approach was proven effective, doctors had very few treatment options, usually prescribing bed rest for tuberculosis patients.

Internet
Quitting smoking can reverse asthma damage

GRONINGEN, 8 Dec — Asthmatic smokers may be able to reverse some of the damage to their lungs by snuffing out their cigarettes, Dutch researchers say.

Lead author Martine Broekema of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and colleagues examined patients with asthma who were assessed for the severity of their asthma and allergy, given questionnaires to determine the extent of their smoke-induced symptoms and then underwent bronchial biopsies.

Of the 147 patients, 66 had never smoked, 46 were ex-smokers and 35 were current smokers.

“We found that exposure to cigarette smoke appears to increase the thickness of the epithelium, or lining, of the airways in the lung,” Broekema said in a statement. “This may be the underlying cause of the fact that smoking asthma patients experience more asthma symptoms, such as shortness of breath and phlegm production, compared to non-smoking asthma patients.”

In addition to the epithelial thickening, the researchers found that cigarette smoke negatively affects levels of exhaled nitric oxide, making it an unreliable indicator of asthma severity in smokers, Broekema said.

Earth sensitivity to CO₂ is studied

BRISTOL, 8 Dec — British scientists say the Earth might be up to 50 percent more sensitive to atmospheric carbon dioxide than has been estimated.

University of Bristol researchers, led by Dan Lunt, said their study shows components of the Earth’s climate system that vary over long timescales — such as land-ice and vegetation — have an important effect on temperature sensitivity, but such factors are often neglected in current climate models.

The researchers said they compared results from a global climate model to temperature reconstructions of the Earth’s environment 3 million years ago when global temperatures and carbon dioxide concentrations were relatively high.

“We found that, given the concentrations of carbon dioxide prevailing 3 million years ago, the model originally predicted a significantly smaller temperature increase than that indicated by the reconstructions,” Lunt said. “This led us to review what was missing from the model.” The study showed the increased temperatures indicated by the reconstructions can be explained if factors such as land-ice and vegetation are included in the model.

That, the scientists said, is primarily because changes in vegetation and ice lead to more solar heating being absorbed, which in turn increases warming. Alan Haywood, a study co-author from the University of Leeds, said the findings show studying past climates can provide important insights into how the Earth might change in the future.

Post-surgical blood clot risk

LONDON, 8 Dec — The post-surgical risk for a potentially fatal blood clot is higher and lasts longer than previously thought, researchers in Britain said.

The findings, published in the British Medical Journal, suggests that there is a substantially increased risk of venous thromboembolism — blood clot — after many different types of surgery that lasts for up to 12 weeks post-operatively.

An international team of researchers examined the pattern of increased risk of venous thromboembolism over time and after different types of surgery.

Cellphones help track air pollution

SAN DIEGO, 8 Dec — US scientists say a network of sensors could help asthmatics avoid air pollution. CitiSence, planned by the University of California, San Diego, is a wireless network in which hundreds or thousands of small environmental sensors are attached to the backpacks, purses and jackets of San Diegans going about daily life.

The sensors shuttle information via cellphones to central computers to be analyzed, “anonymized” and sent back to individuals, public health agencies and San Diego at large.

The sensor-wearing people will have the option of also wearing biological monitors to collect basic health information — such as heart rate — making it possible for researchers to investigate the effect of particular environmental pollutants on human health.

“San Diego County has 3.1 million residents, 4,000 square miles and only five official Environmental Protection Agency air quality monitors. We know about the air quality in those exact spots but we know much less about the air quality in other places,” principal CitiSence investigator William Griswold said in a statement.

Experts blame alcohol for cancer rise

LONDON, 8 Dec — Binge drinking habits and cheap alcohol are partially to blame for the increasing number of cancer cases in England, medical experts said.

Experts warn that alcohol consumption is likely related to increases in the numbers of cases involving cancer of the mouth, breast, colon and liver. The Daily Mail reported on Monday. Case figures reveal the number of oral cancers diagnosed in England each year has increased by 53 percent since 1997.

That year, England saw an average of 1,225 oral cancer cases compared with the current rate of nearly 5,000 annually. Similar increases were seen in the number of cases involving cancer of the esophagus, liver and colon, as well as female breast cancer cases.

Climate change could hit mentally ill hard

LONDON, 8 Dec — Two British psychiatrists say a review of research indicates climate change will have major negative impacts on mental illness.

Dr Lisa Page and Dr Louise Howard of the Institute of Psychiatry at King’s College London reviewed recent research on the mental health impact of climate change.

The review, published in Psychological Medicine, concludes the overall burden of mental disorder worldwide will increase — including adverse psychiatric outcome such as post-traumatic stress disorder and major depression in the aftermath of predicted natural disasters such as floods and droughts.

“Climate change is assuming center stage with the upcoming UN conference in Copenhagen [Denmark],” Page said in a statement. “While delegates will discuss the effects of climate change and possible responses by the international governments, we fear that the effects of climate change on mental health will be largely ignored, posing a tremendous risk to the mental health of millions of people in the not-too-distant future.”
Bayern Munich’s Italian striker Luca Toni

ROME, 8 Dec.—Bayern Munich’s Italian striker Luca Toni has claimed he will be returning to Italy while his coach insisted he would not try to stop him. Toni moved to the Bavarian giants in 2006 after winning the World Cup with Italy in Germany.

But after three successful seasons he has found himself left out in the cold by new coach Louis van Gaal for most of this campaign and his repeated outbursts against his coach have seen him left on the bench.

In an interview to be published on Wednesday in Chi magazine, Toni affirmed that he is coming home, presumably during January’s transfer window.

“I miss everything about my country: the fans, my friends, my mummy. I don’t yet know which team I will play for but I’m sure I’ll be coming back to Italy,” he said.

“I’ve made some mistakes here in Germany and I regret them. Those mistakes have cost me my place at the World Cup in South Africa, even if I still hold some hope that (Italy coach Marcello) Lippi will call me.—Internet

Diawara apology over Ronaldo tackle

MADRID, 8 Dec.—Marseille defender Souleymane Diawara issued an apology on Monday for his tackle on Real Madrid star Ronaldo, which resulted in the Portuguese player being sidelined for two months with an ankle injury.

“It was in the heat of the game, nothing more. I’m not a violent player, I’ve never hurt anyone,” Diawara told Spanish sports daily Marca.

Diawara picked up a second yellow card and a sending off for the tackle in the Champions League game on 30 September at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

The Senegalese international will meet Ronaldo again on Tuesday at the Stade Velodrome for the crucial Champions League encounter.

Juve fined again for anti-Balotelli chants

ROME, 8 Dec.—Juventus were on Monday fined for the second time this season for chants their fans directed against Inter Milan’s black striker Mario Balotelli.

Juve were hit with a 25,000-euro penalty just a couple of weeks after they were fined 20,000 euros following a match against Udinese.

Both times it was the Italian under-21 striker of Ghanaian origin who bore the brunt of the fans’ wrath.

Italy’s sporting judge deemed the chants to have constituted “racial discrimination” and said they had been directed against two Inter players, presumably meaning the other one was either Cameroon’s Samuel Eto’o or Muntari Sulley of Ghana.

AFP’s reporter at the game was not aware, however, of any chants of a racial nature or of any other than Balotelli being targeted.

Juventus were on Monday fined for the second time this season for chants their fans directed against Inter Milan’s black striker Mario Balotelli, seen here.—Internet

Seive invited to play in British Open celebration

ST ANDREWS, 8 Dec.—Seve Ballesteros is among 32 former British Open champions invited to play four holes on the Old Course at St Andrews the day before next year’s 150th anniversary tournament.

The Royal and Ancient invited champions to play the first, second, 17th and 18th holes at the Old Course on 14 July.

Ballesteros is still recovering from a brain tumor. But R&A director of championships David Hill said Monday that he hopes “the majority of our former champions will accept the invitation.”

Ancelotti backs under-fire Lampard and Cech

LONDON, 8 Dec.—Chelsea boss Carlo Ancelotti has backed goalkeeper Peter Cech and Frank Lampard to bounce back from being blamed for the club’s defeat to Manchester City at the weekend.

Lampard has been under the spotlight for having an 83rd-minute spot-kick saved by Shay Given.

But Ancelotti shrugged off both incidents as minor blips and insisted Chelsea had played reasonably well at Eastlands.

“This season, I think Cech did very well,” the Italian said. “I like him. He takes the responsibility and likes to come out and catch the ball in the box.

“He could do better if you ask me about the free-kick on Saturday. I think the goalkeeper has to stay on his post and, if the player puts the ball over the wall and in, we have to congratulate him.”

New report repeats Domenech bonus claims

PARIS, 8 Dec.—Raymond Domenech was in line to receive 826,222 euros in bonuses as a result of France’s successful World Cup qualifying campaign, according to a report to be published in Le Monde on Tuesday.

Figures from the French Football Federation (FFF) showed that the France coach should receive 198,000 euros for the 2008-09 season and 328,222 for the current 2009-10 season, with a further 300,000 euros in image rights for both campaigns.

A player who participated in all of the France international matches that took place during the same period stood to receive 563,111 euros.

“Every qualifying match gives rise to a guaranteed minimum of 10,000 euros for each player called up, no matter what the result,” said Le Monde.

“I think the fixed amount is added an additional bonus, as an incentive to qualification, of between 100,000 and 240,000 euros depending on the number of appearances the player has made.”

Real and Barca sweep FIFA world player nominees

PARIS, 8 Dec.—Spanish giants Barcelona and Real Madrid have swept the list of five nominees for the 2009 FIFA World Player of the Year award.

Barcelona are represented by Spanish midfielders Andres Iniesta and Xavi along with Argentine playmaker Lionel Messi, the strong favourite for the award to be handed out on 21 December.

Real Madrid are present thanks to the inclusion of Brazilian Kaka and Cristiano Ronaldo, the Portugal international who won the award last year when in Manchester United colours.

Spanish PM honours Davis Cup winners

MADRID, 8 Dec.—Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero on Monday honoured his country’s tennis team after they defended their Davis Cup title over the weekend, saying they had made Spanish tennis “the best in the world”.

“It was a spectacular series, you managed to make Spanish tennis, without a doubt, the best tennis in the world. You proved it again with this Davis Cup,” he told the players at a reception at his official residence in Madrid.

“You played just like the Roja. What one notices above all is the tremendous teamwork you display,” he said.

“The victory is added to the Davis Cup, the Euro 2008 championship and the World Cup. Spain is the best country in the world.”

Defending champions Spain had sealed their fourth Davis Cup title on Saturday when the doubles pair of Fernando Verdasco and Feliciano Lopez demolished their Czech opponents to give the hosts an unassailable 3-0 lead.—Internet

The winners of the 2009 Davis Cup tennis tournament Rafael Nadal(L) and David Ferrer sign a shirt for Spain’s Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero during a ceremony honouring the Spanish team at the Moncloa Palace in Madrid. Internet

Internet
CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go to the family of Mg Phyo Tha Hwaw (26 yrs) who gave good social hands for Nargis Cyclone Victims, who passed away on (3.12.2009) at near Bogalay work site.

Raina Eckert, Kyaw Swa, Aung Hein, Bo Bo Hein, Wint Naing Myint, Paing Soe, Myo Thi Ha Zaw, Thein Win, Kyaw Hlaing Oo, Ye’ Myo Htun, Nay Myo Oo, Min Min Oo, Ar Kar Oo (Welthung and Solidities Staff)

WEATHER

Tuesday, 8th December, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, isolated light rain have been in Kachin States and Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy 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 Chin and Mon States, Sagaing, Magway and Bago Divisions, (5°C) above December average temperatures in Kayin State and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Haka and Loilem (0°C) each, Namsan, Pinyaung, Heho, An and Tedim (6°C) each and Mindat (7°C) each. The note worthy amount rainfall recorded was Kawthoung (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 7-12-2009 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 8-12-2009 was 58°F. Relative humidity on 8-12-2009 was 76%. Total sun shine hours on 7-12-2009 was (7.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 8-12-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-12-2009 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 (5) mph from East at (17:30) hours MST on 7-12-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 9th December 2009: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperature in Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Npy Taw and neighbourhood area for 9-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-12-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-12-2009: Partly cloudy.
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

K 93 billion worth of narcotic drugs destroyed in Eastern Shan State

Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi explains the efforts made for drug abuse control.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Dec—Destruction ceremony of narcotic drugs seized in Eastern Shan State area was held at the state sports ground in Kengtung, Shan State (East) this afternoon.

It was attended by Vice-Chairman of Central Committee of Drug Abuse Control Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Secretary of CCDAC Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and members, senior military officers, ambassadors from foreign embassies led by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador HE Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong, Resident Coor-dinator Mr Bishow B Parajuli of UN Agencies, Yangon-based drug abuse control officers, division/state, district and township level departmental officials, local and foreign media persons, members of social organizations, town-selders, guests and locals.

Secretary of CCDAC Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi explained the efforts made for drug abuse control.

The secretary said:

The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control has been holding similar occasions for burning and destroying seized narcotic drugs occasionally, both at respective States and Divisions as well as in Yangon. Since 2006, a total of 20 occasions were held in Yangon with another 47 in States and Divisions where the drugs were seized. In Kengtung, Eastern Shan State, destruction ceremonies were held once in 1997, twice in 2006 and another one in 2009, totaling up to 4 and today is the fifth occasion of destroying seized narcotic drugs in this region.

Starting from 26 July 2009 up to this day, there were 20 significant incidents where drugs were being searched, exposed and seized in this Eastern Shan State area. Some of the significant events will be explained here.

At Tachilek Lwei Taw Khan joint inspection station, a combined security forces uncovered and seized 2177 blocks of heroin weighing 761.95 kilos and 340,000 ATS tablets carried on a six-wheel type Nissan vehicle on 7 July 2009. (See page 8)