Senior General Than Shwe sends congratulatory message to Mr. Barack Obama on the occasion of his election as 44th US President

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent congratulatory message to the Honourable Mr. Barack Hussein Obama, on the occasion of his election as the 44th President of the United States of America in the 2008 Presidential Election.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends congratulatory message to Mr. Joseph Robinette Biden Jr on the occasion of his election as US Vice-President

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent congratulatory message to the Honourable Mr. Joseph Robinette Biden Jr, on the occasion of his election as the Vice-President of the United States of America in the 2008 Presidential Election.—MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends 10th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Computer Federation and computer associations

Yangon, 7 Nov—At the meeting hall of Myanmar Info-Tech in Hline University Campus, here, this morning, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the 10th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Professionals Association, Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs and Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts Association and presented prizes to the winners.

Chairman of e-National Task Force Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw delivered an address, and President of Myanmar Computer Federation U Thein Oo reported on functions of the federation and associations.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe presented prizes to the winners in the Application Development Competition to mark the 10th Anniversary of the federation and associations. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, prizes to the winners in the ICT Products and Services Competition and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, prizes to the winners in the Educational Project Competition.

Gunners hollow in attack, defence as Red Devils eye first win at Emirates

ARSENAL, 7 Nov—Fourth-placed Arsenal take on defending champions Manchester United, who are one place above the Gunners in the table with a game in hand, in the Premiership showdown at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday.

Arsene Wenger’s side head into the big clash on the back of poor results that saw the Gunners shocked at Stoke City last weekend following from the 4-4 draw to Tottenham. The Gunners were also held by Fenerbahce to a goalless draw in Champions League at home.

On the other hand, Sir Alex Ferguson’s men are in form as they have not lost in last seven games. The Red Devils got the better of Hull City last weekend after an easy win over West Ham last midweek, but had to fight in the title defence of the Champions League when they could only manage a 1-1 draw at Celtic in the group game.—Internet
Produce quality machines for development of industrial sector

The government is striving for development of the industrial sector based on agriculture. The industrial zones, farm implement factories and machines and machine tools factories are being established in an effort to transform the nation into an industrialized one.

For development of industrial zones, foundry plants and forging factories have been built in Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi industrial zones and steel wares are being produced with advanced technology.

Industrial zones with different production capabilities and techniques are located in different regions. So, based on mutual benefit and innovation, all the industrial zones are to strive for industrial development.

Factories and mills in No.1 Industrial Zone of Dagon Myothit (South), Yangon East District are producing transformers, electrical appliances, recycled paper, plastic moulds, plastic items, rattan furniture and rattan-substitute furniture.

Only when the industrial zones are able to produce quality machines for the nation, will the Myanmar industrial sector make progress.

Meanwhile, all the industrial zones are to make efforts for transforming manual operated works into small scale industries, and small and medium scale industries into heavy industries.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon all the industrialists and researchers to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for development of the industrial sector.

Minister receives Korea International Cooperation Agency delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein received Resident Representative Mr Cho Kwang Geol of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and party at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 November afternoon.

They cordially discussed the installation for teaching aids and machinery at Technical School Project (Thagara) being jointly organized by the Ministry of Industry-2 and KOICA.

MWAF donates food and medicine to Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Home for the Aged

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—Head Daw Mya Theingi of MWAF and WAO members of the Ministry of Transport present cash and kind to an elder person. — TRANSPORT
Ahmadinejad welcomes Obama change

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad congratulated US President-elect Barack Obama—the first time an Iranian leader has offered such wishes to a US president-elect since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Pakistan officials says missile strike kills eight or more

ISLAMABAD, 7 Nov—Pakistani security officials say a suspected US missile strike has killed at least eight people in the country’s troubled northwest.

Two attack occurred on Friday in Pakistan’s North Waziristan region, a stronghold of Taliban and al-Qaeda militants blamed for attacks on US troops in Afghanistan.

One Pakistani security official says 10 people died. Another puts the toll at eight. The identity of the victims is not clear.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak on the record to media.

Unmanned US aircraft are believed to have carried out at least 18 missile strikes in Pakistan since August.—Internet

Blast kills 11 in Russia’s N Ossetia region

VLADIKAVKAZ, 7 Nov—A suspected suicide bomber killed 11 people outside a Russian market on Thursday, prosecutors said in one of the worst attacks in months to hit Russia’s turbulent North Caucasus region.

The explosion detonated by a female suicide bomber, the press service of North Ossetian leader Taimuraz Mamsurov said in a statement posted on his official Web site www.ro.ru.

Mamsurov, who held an emergency meeting with his security chiefs, told Russian news agencies the head of a woman, believed to be the suicide bomber, had been found at the scene.—Internet

Syria airs car bomb ‘confessions’

DAMASCUS, 7 Nov—Syrian state TV has shown what it says are confessions by 11 militants behind the car bomb attack in Damascus in September which left 17 people dead.

Among the 10 men and one woman shown was Abdul Baqi al-Hussein, described as being responsible for Fatah al-Islam, a Sunni Islamist group.

Fatah al-Islam fought the Lebanese army in a refugee camp in Tripoli last year.

The broadcast also showed a photo of a man said to have been the suicide bomber in the September attack. Mr Hussein said the bomber was a Saudi man called Abo Aisha.—Internet

Twin blasts in Baghdad kill four, wound seven

BAGHDAD, 7 Nov—Iraqi officials say a suspected US missile strike killed four civilians and wounded seven others in the northern Muslim enclave of Shiek Omar.

A security official said the twin blasts in the capital’s Sunni enclave of Shiek Omar happened at a checkpoint manned by members of an Awakening Council, the term for mostly Sunni groups that have joined forces with the Americans against al-Qaeda in Iraq.

Two civilian bystanders were among those killed in the blast, the official said.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release information to the media.

US GI dies of noncombat related causes in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Nov—The US military says an American soldier has died of noncombat related causes.

The military says in a statement released on Friday that the soldier died a day earlier but gave no further details.

The soldier’s name was not released pending notification of family.

At least 4,192 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003. That’s according to an Associated Press count.—Internet

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Suicide attack kills two soldiers in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 7 Nov — At least two soldiers were killed and four others injured when a blast occurred near a police station in northwestern Pakistan on Thursday, local television reported.

A suicide attacker rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a building next to a police station in Kabal area of the troubled Swat valley, Dawn News TV quoted official sources as saying.

The blast killed at least two paramilitary soldiers and injured four others.

Chinese drug authority halts production of drug company

BEIJING, 7 Nov — A Chinese drug safety watchdog has halted all production at the Wandaishan Pharmaceutical Company in northeastern Heilongjiang Province after it sold contaminated drugs.

At a Press conference on Thursday, the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) said Wandaishan was the manufacturer of an herbal injection suspected of causing three deaths last month.

“This is a serious incident caused by drug contamination,” said Yan Jiangying, SFDA spokeswoman.

The herbal injection product, known as cewujia, was soaked by rain while in storage and thus contaminated by bacteria. It happened in Kunming, capital of southwest China’s Yunnan Province, during a storm on July 1 of this year, Yan said.

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has made important contributions to the domestic health care system, a World Health Organization (WHO) official told an exhibition here on Thursday.

Carissa Etienne, assistant director of WHO, told the opening ceremony of the China TCM Exhibition that in the past decade, China had explored health system reforms that included promoting TCM to improve public health.

Etienne praised the fundamental principles of China’s national health policy, which gave equal importance to TCM and Western medicine.

Brush painting of chrysanthemum highlights in Chongqing

BEIJING, 7 Nov — A huge ink and brush painting featuring chrysanthemums is a highlight of the annual Festival that honours the elegant blossom. The festival is underway in Chongqing — in Nanshan Botanic Park.

The ink and brush painting measures ten meters long and three meters high. What is truly fascinating about the work is that viewed from afar, the painting seems to depict a mountain setting. Only upon closer inspection is it apparent that the painting shows a field of chrysanthemums.

Shangguan Chaoying, painter, said, It features the style of traditional “Xie Yi” or freehand brushwork. The vivid expression and bold outlines are typical. The stalks of the chrysanthemum form the shape of mountains.

Traditional medicine an important part of China’s health system

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Ecuador backs agreement against cluster bombs

QUITO, 7 Nov — Representatives from Latin American and Caribbean countries as well as Norway met here Thursday to discuss an agreement on anti-cluster bombs to be signed in Oslo, Norway in December, the local Press reported.

Emilio Izquierdo, under-secretary for Multilateral Affairs of the Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry, told the Press that the agreement favours the humanities because it “aims to eliminate from earth a weapon that has indiscriminate and disastrous effects”.

Ecuador “is interested in universally promoting the disappearance of this kind of weapons”, Izquierdo said.

According to Thomas Nash, coordinator of the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC), the agreement, supported by more than 100 countries, is expected to be signed on December 3 at a regional conference in Norway.

Cristian Wittman, the CMC representative in Brazil, said that the presence of the agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean region is important as part of the peace heritage that the region is promoting.

Delegates from Latin American and Caribbean countries will participate in the regional conference, which will end on November 7.

Malaysia hopes Obama can change US policy

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Nov — Malaysia hopes that US president-elect Barack Obama, who won the election to become the 44th president of the United States, could change US administration and foreign policies, Malaysian Foreign Minister Rais Yatim said on Thursday.

But we... are hopeful that there will be change with the new administration and leadership under Barack Obama as he himself had promised that if he became the new US president,” Rais told a news conference in Putrajaya, the administrative center of Malaysia on Thursday.

Malaysia had never denied US capability and advancement in weaponry or new technology but it should balance the need for these with human considerations for a more peaceful world, he said.

“What we hope is for US policy to have a more humane face to it for the world, and that Malaysia-US relations would be more cordial and constructive, and for the US to regard Malaysia as a respected partner in the world community,” he added.

Canada to advocate open markets at G-20 summit

OTTAWA, 7 Nov — Canada’s Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Thursday he will advocate open markets and disciplined fiscal policy at the G-20 world leader summit to be held in Washington next week.

He told reporters in Toronto he will push for open markets, clear monetary targets to keep inflation under control, and fiscal policy that keeps taxes down and spending manageable, all backed by a strong regulatory system, when he meets leaders at the meeting aimed to deal with the global financial crisis.

Canada will be a voice for positive change at the summit, with its relatively stable financial system, Harper said at a press conference after meeting with the some top Canadian economists before the G-20 summit.

“Canada is, I think, recognized as having entered this period with a pretty good set of policies. Nobody in the world thinks that Canada was the source of any of these problems or even a complicating factor in any of these problems,” he said.

The G-20 finance ministers are meeting this weekend in Brazil and Canada will argue for an international review of strengthened domestic regulation of financial institutions, Harper said.

Some visitors are attracted by a “Moon Walker” designed by Beijing University of Technology at the 2008 Shanghai International Industry Fair opened in Shanghai, China on 4 Nov, 2008.

A huge ink and brush painting featuring chrysanthemums is a highlight of the annual Festival that honours the elegant blossom.

Painter, said, It features the style of traditional “Xie Yi” or freehand brushwork. The vivid expression and bold outlines are typical. The stalks of the chrysanthemum form the shape of mountains.

So the meaning of the painting is amplified. Painter Shangguan Chaoying has created many large works of free-hand brush painting. This is one of his largest works.
China says economy slowdown should not waver efforts to tackle climate change

BEIJING, 7 Nov—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has warned that the unfolding financial crisis should not waver the world’s efforts in addressing the climate change.

He made the remarks in a high-level conference on climate change that opened here Friday. Representatives of governments, international and non-governmental organizations from nearly 100 countries are taking part in the conference that focuses on technology development and transfer.

“As the global financial crisis spreads and worsens, and the world economy slows down apparently, the international community must not waver in its determination to tackle climate change, nor must they ease in its actions,” Wen said.

He urged developed nations to take responsibility and obligations in addressing climate change, including changing their unsustainable way of life.

Premier Wen also urged developed nations to help developing countries cope with the global climate change.

Peru invites Obama to APEC summit

LIMA, 7 Nov—The Peruvian government has invited US President-elect Barack Obama to a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum this month, Foreign Minister Jose Garcia Belaunde said Thursday.

“We have invited the US president-elect to Peru, but we don’t know whether under the current circumstances he could come,” Garcia Belaunde said.

He added that at this moment, Obama may Mull over the formation of his cabinet and advisors’ team to work with him during his administration.

“We made the invitation and we are waiting for an answer. It is important that he will come, but not necessarily to this event,” Garcia Belaunde said.

The 16th APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting will be held in Lima, Peru, on 22-23 Nov, when 21 leaders of the member economies are expected to discuss the ongoing global financial turmoil and a plan for a new Asia-Pacific free trade community.

Brazil provides $7 bln to SMEs amid global economic crisis

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 Nov—Brazil will provide 15 billion reais (7 billion US dollars) for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), Finance Minister Guido Mantega announced Thursday.

Such measures are the latest actions taken by the Brazilian government aimed at increasing liquidity in the market and the working capital of companies.

It is reported that 10 billion reais (4.67 billion dollars) were obtained from the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES), while the remaining (2.33 billion dollars) funds will come from the state-owned bank Banco do Brasil.

The government will also postpone the deadline for payment of some federal taxes for 10 days.

Mantega said that the actions do not mean the government is bailing out any company as all financial operations are being conducted in normal market conditions.

He also said another package of 4 billion reais (1.86 billion dollars) will be aimed at preventing a sharp fall in car sales.

Britain’s house prices down 2.2% in October

LONDON, 7 Nov—House prices in Britain continue to decline, registering a fall of 2.2 percent in October over the previous month, the country’s largest mortgage lender and leading housing researcher Halifax said Thursday.

The fall in prices for the three months through October was 13.7 percent year-on-year. The average cost of a home in Britain now stands at 168,176 pounds (269,082 US dollars), suffering a 30,000-pound (48,000-dollar) decline over the past year, which is about the level they were in October 2005, the latest Halifax House Price Index showed.

Conditions in the market remained “challenging” due to the financial turmoil and the lack of mortgages, said Halifax.

Texas Gulf—7 Nov—

Paloma strengthened to a hurricane, turns north

TEXAS GULF—7 Nov—Paloma strengthened to a hurricane with winds near 75 mph on Thursday as it churned toward the Cayman Islands and Cuba.

Forecasters say the storm is expected to continue strengthening as it moves north and could become a major Category 3 hurricane by Saturday as it approaches Cuba.

A hurricane warning is in effect for the Cayman Islands, where the storm could dump up to 8 inches of rain, said the US National Hurricane Center in Miami. Paloma may make landfall in Cuba over the weekend, and Jamaica was warned to also monitor its progress, the center said.

The Cayman Islands planned to close its main airport on Friday morning, although no mandatory evacuation was issued, Tourism Minister Charles Clifford said.

“I hope I’m right, but I don’t think this will be a major event,” he said.

Extra flights had been added as of Thursday night for those wishing to leave, and American Airlines and Delta planned to fly in larger aircraft as well. Guests who remain on the island will be moved to higher floors in anticipation of flooding, he said.

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President-elect Barack Obama is accompanied by US Secret Service agents as he arrives for meetings in Chicago, on 6 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET

CHICAGO, 7 Nov—President-elect Obama accepted congratulations from nine presidents and Prime ministers Thursday, returning calls from world leaders who reached out after his presidential victory.

The global financial crisis was among the topics Obama discussed with key US allies he’ll deal with during his administration.

Obama spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter said the president-elect spoke to US Secret Service agents as he arrives for meetings in Chicago, on 6 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET

Kevin Rudd, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso, Mexican President Felipe Calderon, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Sarkozy’s office says they spoke for 30 minutes and characterized the discussion as “extremely warm” as the president congratulated Obama on a “brilliant” election victory. The statement said they discussed international issues, particularly the financial crisis, and agreed to meet in the “quite near future.”

Harper’s office said in a statement that they spoke about an international financial summit in Washington on 15 Nov and its importance for addressing the global financial crisis. Obama had no plans to attend the meeting.—INTERNET

Green tea compound may prevent diabetes

NEW YORK, 7 Nov—A compound found in green tea could slow even very early development of type 1 diabetes, new research in mice suggests.

Green tea contains several antioxidants that have been shown to curb inflammation, prevent cell death, and possibly even ward off cancer.

In the current study, Dr. Stephen D. Hsu of the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta and colleagues tested the effects of green tea’s predominant antioxidant known as EGCG in laboratory mice with type 1 diabetes and Socgen’s syndrome, which damages moisture-producing glands causing dry mouth and eyes.

They fed the mice plain water or water spiked with 0.2 percent EGCG.—INTERNET

Counseling can combat youth violence

For children and teens who suffer violence at the hands of peers, immediate one-on-one mentoring on how to safely avoid conflict and diffuse threats reduces their risk of becoming victims again, a new study says.

The study included 10- to 15-year-olds treated for assault injuries — including gunshot, knife and fist-fight wounds - at emergency rooms at Johns Hopkins Children’s Center in Baltimore and Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., between 2001 and 2004.

Half of the 113 victims were treated and then referred by an ER doctor for at least six sessions of one-on-one counseling and three parent/home visits. The other half of the victims were referred to resources and received two follow-up phone calls.

Ancient cave yields clues to Chinese history

A stalagmite rising from the floor of a cave in China is providing clues to the end of several dynasties in Chinese history. Slowly built from the minerals in dripping water over 1,810 years, chemicals in the stone tell a tale of a strong and weak cycles of the monsoon, the life-giving rains that water crops to feed millions of people.

Dry periods coincided with the demise of the Tang, Yuan and Ming dynasties, researchers report in Friday’s edition of the Journal Science.

In addition, the team led by Pingzhong Zhang of Lanzhou University in China noted a change in the cycles around 1960 coinciding with competing will start.

When grand-parents act as caregivers for children of working parents, the risk of childhood injury is reduced by about half, says a US study that challenges the widespread belief that they don’t adhere to modern safety practices. To the contrary, this research tells us not only is there no evidence to support this assumption, but families that choose grandparents to care for their children experience fewer child injuries,” study author Dr. David Bishai, a professor in Bloomberg’s department of population, family and reproductive health, said in a news release.

Madagascan Ploughshare tortoises found during a raid by Thai police at Chatuchak market in Bangkok in March. Thousands of people throng the market’s aisles every weekend, hunting for bargains, but among the racks of caged creatures is an illegal trade in endangered animals.

A Paraguayan prepares to barbecue beef during an attempt to create the world’s biggest barbecue in Mariano Roque Alonso near Asuncion, in the attempt to get the Guinness World Record for the “Biggest barbecue in the World”, more than 30,000 people grilled 28,000 kilograms of beef on fires covering an area 60 m wide by 100 m long.

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British skipper Dee Caffari stands on her boat at Les Sables d’Olonne, on France’s Atlantic coast November 6, 2008. The Vendee Globe’s 6th edition, a single-handed, non-stop, around the world sailing race with 30 sailors competing will start.
Khabaung Multi-purpose Dam Project greening Sittoung Basin

Article & Photo: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

Nowadays, the government is implementing plans to build dams and river water pumping stations and generating electricity to contribute to the greening of Sittoung basin region and its all-round development.

Sittoung River originates in the basin region and its all-round development.

Khabaung Dam for agricultural and power generation purposes.

4th Traffic Rules Enforcement Educative Show and Contest 10-16 Nov

YANGON, 7 Nov – The 4th Traffic Rules Enforcement Educative Show and Contest will be organized by Yangon Division Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee in conjunction with prize-giving ceremony at Tamadaw Convention Hall on U Wisaya Road here from 10 to 16 Nov. A total of 112 booths – 36 booths of the ministries and departments concerned and 76 booths of private businesses will be staged at the show.

Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Construction, Yangon City Development Committee, departments under the Ministry of Transport, Myanmar Railways, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, Myanmar Insurance, Wireless and Traffic Police Corp and All Bus Lines Committee, Taxi Hire Supervisory Sub-committee and Bandoola Transport Co Ltd will stage their respective booths.

Vehicles and parts, lubricant and engine oil, batteries, computers and accessories, electronics, foodstuffs, paint, cosmetics and medicines will be on display at 76 booths of private businesses.

Talks on uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit given

YANGON, 7 Nov — The informative talks sponsored by the Girl/ Child Sub-Working Group of the Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization was held at No.4 Basic Education Middle School in Hline Township here yesterday.

Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Kyin Myaing made a speech on the occasion.

Next, Ledwinthar Saw Chit gave talks on uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit.

Rocks could be harnessed to sponge vast amounts of carbon dioxide from air

Scientists say that a type of rock found at or near the surface in the Middle East nation of Oman and other areas around the world could be harnessed to soak up huge quantities of globe-warming carbon dioxide.

Their studies show that the rock, known as peridotite, reacts naturally at surprisingly high rates with CO2 to form solid minerals—and that the process could be speeded a million times or more with simple drilling and injection methods.

The study appears in this week’s early edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Peridotite comprises most or all of the rock in the mantle, which undergirds earth’s crust. It starts some 20 kilometers or more down, but occasionally pieces are exhumed when tectonic plates collide and push the mantle rock to the surface, as in Oman. Geologists already knew that once exposed to air, the rock reacts quickly with CO2, forming a solid carbonate like limestone or marble.—Internet

Large areas of Omanti desert are covered with carbonate minerals that have reacted with bedrock.

Article & Photo: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

The 4th Traffic Rules Enforcement Educative Show and Contest will be staged their respective booths.

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Large areas of Omanti desert are covered with carbonate minerals that have reacted with bedrock.
Staff take Diploma in Banking

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — A one-year Diploma Course on Banking No. 1 of Myanmar Institute of Banking (Mandalay), conducted by Myanmar Banks Association, was opened at Myanmar Economic Bank Branch-2 in Mandalay today.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun addressed the opening of the course, saying that opening of the course has aimed at improving the qualification of the staff from banking services and broadening their horizons. The trainees are to put their energy into constant development of banking services vital for development of the State economy, he added.

The secretary of MBA explained facts about the course. It was followed by setting up of signboard of the IBS.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe unveiled the signboard.

The commander and the minister greeted the trainees.

A total of 41 trainees from State-owned banks and private banks are taking the one-year course.

Also present on the occasion were Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Thann Nyein.

Respect paying of No.2 BEHS, Pazundaung on 30 November

YANGON, 7 Nov — Old students will hold a ceremony to pay respects to retired teachers, who discharged duties at No.2 Basic Education High School in Pazundaung from 1966 to 1992, for the fourth time at Tayza hall of the school on 30 November.

The old students wishing to donate cash may contact U Hla Pe (Ph-666417), Daw Tin New (Ph-296268), U Tun Lwin (Ph-202497, 09-514933), Daw Khin Aye Mya (Ph-297167, 09-5141294), U Aung Khin (Ph-249102, 09-5000750), U Aung Kyaw Myint (Ph-291535, 299086), U Aung Win (Ph-240509, 09-5001482), U Zaw Min Oo (Ph-09-5004371), Daw Khin Ma May Ma May Pyone Zaw (Ph-09-5127710), Daw Tin Myo Kyaw (Ph-292086), Daw Khaung Khaung Oo (Ph-09-5152974), Maung Moe (1990-2001) (Ph-09-5151503), Maung Lwin Han (1990-2001) (Ph-290203).— MNA

Development of Taungtha Township inspected

YANGON, 7 Nov — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung on 5 November inspected construction of the two-storey building at Minsu Basic Education Middle School in Taungtha Township.

While in Taungtha, the minister visited Win Thuza Shop and Vest Factory (Taungtha). He viewed thriving paddy plantation of farmer U Aung Hsan on 100-acre model plot irrigated by Kyauktalon Dam in Kyauktalon Village-tract.

In meeting with local farmers, the minister presented cash assistance to the funds of rural power supply through officials.—MNA

Talks on business opportunities on 8 Nov

YANGON, 7 Nov — Trade Myanmar Co Ltd will organize talks on business opportunities for Internet Cafes and Mobile Sale Centers at Room No (102) in Myanmar Info-Tech, Hlinye Township from 1.30 to 2.30 pm on 8 November in commemoration of 10th anniversary of Myanmar Computer Federation and its associations.

Everyone may attend the talks. — MNA

MCPA opens Member Access Centre

YANGON, 7 Nov — With a view to encouraging innovative measures of members of Myanmar Computer Professionals Association, the MCPA opened the Member Access Centre (MAC) and the library at its office of Myanmar Info-Tech in Hlinye Township this morning.

Chairman of MCPA U Khun Oo formally opened the MAC and the library.

The MAC will give free service to the members of MCAPA, and the members may study the latest computer technology, electronic resources and on-line resource and the seminars and meetings may be held at the MAC.—MNA
Rural development tasks supervised in Pyapon Township

YANGON, 7 Nov—Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing on 3 November inspected conditions of Pyapon-Kyonkadun road, development of villages, thrashing paddies, and preparations for fishing work of the local people in Pyapon Township.

During the inspection tour, the minister looked into basic education schools and learning of students. After viewing the site for construction of a cyclone shelter near Seikma Village, the minister presented clothes, food, medicines and seeds to the local people. On Kyonkadun-Kama road, the minister inspected 280 feet long Seikma Bailey bridge and its approach roads.

In Daw Nyein village, he oversaw the site for a cyclone shelter and applying of five computers donated by the Prime Minister at Daw Nyein BEHS (Branch). On his way back to Pyapon, the minister viewed fishing work and salt industries of the local people. —MNA

Bhamo Agricultural Bank to open

YANGON, 7 Nov—Managing Director of Myanmar Agricultural Bank U Tin Lwan inspected the site chosen for construction of Bhamo Bank Branch in Bhamo in Kachin State on 3 November.

He also met bank staff of Bhamo, Shwegu, Myitkina, Moegauk and Moenyn townships and stressed the need for taking measures for settling agricultural loans, bank loans and loans for power tillers in full. —MNA

 Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw visits auto-exchange office in Twantay Township. —CPT

2nd Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament commences

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—The 2nd Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament was opened at Nay Pyi Taw Volleyball Ground this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

In the group (A), NayPyiTaw Development Committee beat Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation at the ground No. 1; and Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 won over Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the ground No. 2. A total of 29 ministerial volleyball teams are taking part in the tournament. They have to compete in 39 matches in the first round, 24 matches in the second round, the knockout round, semi-finals, the third place match and the final match, totalling 71 matches up to 5 December. —MNA

Hole-in-one at Yangon Golf Club

YANGON, 5 Nov—General Secretary of the Myanmar Golf Federation Major Aung Kyi (Retd), on 29 October scored an ace at hole No. 4 from a distance of 160 yards, driving the ball of Srixon (Soft Feel) No. 2 with Katana Iron No. (7) at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon). At that time, he was playing together with U Kyaw Khin (KK), MGF Joint-General Secretary U Yay Htet Doe, U Win Kyi (Su Su Aye Aung), U Tet Toe and U Khan Maung Myint. —MNA

Mawlamyinegyun-Hlinebone-Thitpok-Pyinsalu road under construction

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun on 5 November inspected progress in construction of Mawlamyinegyun-Hlinebone-Thitpok-Pyinsalu road that is included in the Ayeawady Division Road Network Development Project. Between the mile posts 5/6 and 6/7, the minister viewed construction of the embankment with the use of heavy machinery. Deputy Chief Engineer U Than Nyunt conducted the minister round the construction site. The minister gave instructions on efforts to be made for carrying out earth work in open season.

After inspecting the construction works, the minister instructed officials to build hillocks for the local people as preparedness for the natural disasters.

The minister also inspected construction of Mawlamyinegyun-Hlinebone section in Hlaithein Village.

Later, the minister looked into preparations for con-struction of Myinkakon Bridge across Myinkakon River in Mawlmyinegyun Township. —MNA

Minister inspects auto-exchange offices

YANGON, 7 Nov—Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected auto-exchange offices in Twantay, Kawhmu, Kungyangon and Dedaye townships today.

During the inspection tour, he called on officials concerned for timely completion of the new building for the auto-exchange office in Kungyangon Township meeting the set standard.

He also inspected the construction project for the auto-exchange office in Dedaye Township and urged officials concerned to complete the construction work and installation of cables in time.

During the tour, the minister met with staff of the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications at Dedaye Township Peace and Development Council office. —MNA

"Unprecedented" warming drives dramatic ecosystem shifts

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, 7 Nov — While Earth has experienced numerous changes in climate over the past 65 million years, recent decades have experienced the most significant climate change since the beginning of human civilized societies about 5,000 years ago, says a new Cornell University study.

The paleo-climate record shows very rapid periods of cooling in the past, when temperatures have dropped by as much as 18 degrees Fahrenheit (10 degrees Celsius) in a matter of years to decades, “the rate of warming we are seeing [now] is unprecedented in human history,” said Cornell oceanographer Charles Greene, the lead author of the paper appearing in the November 2008 issue of the journal Ecology, which is published by the Ecological Society of America.
Chin State on threshold of development

Article : Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine); Photos : Htay Aung (Kyemon)

(from page 16)

Then, I was looking for someone else to interview. By good fortune, an old man put down the book he was reading. I seized the opportunity to interview him. He said that he was U Kap Dillo and he lived in Far Thauk Ward. He said, "Mostly I read newspapers and political books because I want to read true news stories and to know who are committing destructive acts and who are doing constructive work in order that I can share that with others."

Head of District IPRD U Mann Sein said that the library opens from 9 am to 4 pm on weekdays; that the library was always crowded with visitors; and that the facility had two dailies and publications of 10 genres, totaling more than 5000 copies.

We next visited the TV retransmitting station of the Myanma Radio and TV on the peak of 5800 feet high Mt. Vancar-O. The Minisphans aged between 16 and 30; that it conducted six courses namely tailoring course (basic), tailoring course (advanced), knitting course, mosaic painting course, manual weaving course, and wickerwork course.

Our trip also covered the Nationality Youths Training School under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs. Principal U Aung Myint said that the school looked after and provided school education to needy orphans aged between 8 and 15 till they got their degrees; and the school was established on 30 June 2004.

Then, we visited Nga Hsit Bar Hydropower Station of the Myanma Electric Power Enterprise of the Ministry of Electric Power (2). It generates electricity with the use of the current of Nga Hsit Creek, a tributary of the Manipura River. We received a warm welcome from trainees as we entered the Vocational Training Centre for Women under the Education and Training Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs. Schoolmistress Daw Theingi Kyaw conducted us round the centre. She said that the facility was established on 16 February 2004; that it received needy female orphans aged between 16 and 30; that it conducted six courses namely tailoring course (basic), tailoring course (advanced), knitting course, mosaic painting course, manual weaving course, and wickerwork course.

A panoramic view of Falam at dawn.
US jobless rate at 14-year high

LONDON, 7 Nov—The US jobless rate rose to 6.5% in October, official figures have shown, the highest rate since March 1994.

Figures from the US Labour Department showed US employers cut 240,000 jobs in October, the 10th month in a row that the economy has lost jobs.

The increase means that in the first 10 months of this year, 1.2 million people in the US have lost their jobs. Some economists predict the jobless rate could climb to 8%, or possibly higher, next year.

In the 1980-1982 recession, the unemployment rate rose as high as 10.8% before coming down.

The Labor Department said 481,000 people in the US filed new claims for jobless benefits in the last week of October.

On Friday, car giant Ford announced plans for more job cuts after reporting third quarter losses of $129m. The firm said 2,260 workers in its North American plants would lose their jobs—10% of its North American salaried work force of 22,600.

20 militants killed in Pakistan’s tribal region

ISLAMABAD, 7 Nov—Around 20 militants were killed and ten others injured in Pakistan’s tribal region, official Associated Press of Pakistan reported on Friday.

Security forces, in their ongoing operation in different parts of Bajaur tribal agency, pounded militants’ hideouts, leaving about 16 militants dead and ten others injured, said the report.

Meanwhile, security forces killed four militants Thursday night in the operation in Chinar and Zoorbandar areas.

Rehman Malik, the Advisor to Prime Minister, on Friday told reporters at a news conference in Peshawar, capital city of North West Frontier Province, that the operations against militants would continue until they are eliminated.

Expert panel to advise Chinese army on weather issues

BEIJING, 7 Nov—The Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) set up an expert committee on Thursday that will offer meteorological advice and technical support to the PLA when it undertakes combat training and disaster prevention and relief work.

An official with the PLA General Staff Meteorological Bureau said: “Extreme weather conditions have threatened the safety of soldiers and outfits and affected the effectiveness of weapons and maneuvers in recent years.”

Climate change had caused rising sea levels, affecting the army’s coastal and island strategies and battlefield construction, he said.

The specialist panel, composed of well-known meteorologists and academicians, aimed to “serve the army that conducts various tasks” and “explore the impact that climate change exerts on military activities” so as to offer reliable meteorological decisions.

DPRK to expand relations with Iran

PYONGYANG, 7 Nov — The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) will further develop friendly and cooperative relations with Iran, the official KCNA news agency reported Friday, citing a senior official.

Bilateral ties “forged in the struggle for independence against imperialism and the United States” should be strengthened, said Yang Hyong Sop, vice-president of the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPRK, at a reception Thursday for visiting Iranian Vice President Mohammad Javad Haji Ali Akbari.

In his speech, Akbari said friendly and cooperative relations between Iran and the DPRK, forged by the leaders of the two countries, are developing steadily in the political, economic, cultural and other fields.

Akbari arrived in Pyongyang Thursday, at the head of a delegation of the National Youth Organization of Iran.
**Golfer records five holes-in-one in a week**

KAPAS, 7 Nov—Central Illinois amateur golfer Curt Hocker is on a roll. Five rolls, to be exact. Just ask anyone at the El Paso Golf Club, where the 22-year-old has recorded five holes-in-one in the last week, including two on Saturday. In this year alone, Hocker has seven aces, five on par-4s, and two other double eagles.

“I don’t know what to think,” said Hocker, who works in the club’s pro shop. “After each one I say it’s over, and it keeps happening.”

Friends and family, 15 of whom have witnessed Hocker’s strokes of luck while playing with him, are equally mystified.

“It’s incomprehensible this kind of luck could happen, but it does happen,” said El Paso pro Steve Fulton. “There are other things in life that have been just as weird and eerie that have happened. What are the odds?”

Hocker said he’s just glad that his club membership comes with “hole-in-one insurance.”

“That insurance means the club — and not Hocker — has to honor the golf tradition of buying everyone in the clubhouse a drink after an ace is made.”

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**IEA urges huge investment in oil industry**

PARIS, 7 Nov—The oil industry needs “massive investment” to ward off a possible energy crisis in the next 20 years, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Thursday.

“The immediate risk to supply is not one of a lack of global resources, but rather a lack of investment where it is needed,” the agency said in a summary of its annual World Energy Outlook report to be published in full next week.

“Massive investment in energy infrastructure will be needed” to raise production capacity to meet increasing demands, the report said.

Statistics showed that lack of investment would cause the output of some 800 oil fields to fall by up to 10.5 percent a year on average from 2008 to 2030. Meanwhile, the IEA said global daily oil consumption would rise to 106 million barrels by 2030, or an overall increase of 45 percent.

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**Vietnam GDP growth re-set at 6.5% in 2009**

HANOI, 7 Nov—Vietnam’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth is estimated at 6.5 percent, the People’s newspaper reported on Friday, citing with the adopted resolution by the National Assembly (NA).

The resolution on 2009 socio-economic plan by National Assembly on Thursday put forth changes to other several socio-economic targets previously proposed by the government in the fear of negative impacts of the global economic crisis, deputies agreed.

The GDP growth for 2009 was adjusted at 6.5 percent as saying instead of the proposed seven percent.

The export turnover was altered to 13 percent from the suggested 18 percent, according to the resolution.

Other socio-economic targets were also adjusted to ensure the stable economic development in the 2009 plan.

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**Will Obama stick to the timetable?**

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov— In his campaign to win the White House, a cornerstone of Barack Obama’s campaign was a pledge that from day one in office he would work to end the war in Iraq.

But as Obama readies himself to take the reins as commander in chief, some military and foreign policy experts say Obama may show some flexibility in how he goes about withdrawing troops from Iraq. Any retreat from his campaign promises, however, runs the risk of displeasing the anti-war movement that backed him. At the center of Obama’s plan for Iraq was a call to bring home all US combat troops within 16 months of taking office, but on the campaign trail over the summer—and as conditions on the ground in Iraq improved—Obama’s tone on Iraq also shifted.

Obama increasingly spoke of a “sensible withdrawal” and underscored on the stump that no timetable should be “overly rigid.” He also has been open to keeping a residual force in Iraq for an undetermined length.

Michael O’Hanlon, a national security expert at the Brookings Institution in Washington, said that Obama has enough political capital to free him from “pleasing the left” of the Democratic Party as he presses forward with his strategy for Iraq and Afghanistan.

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A glassblower looks at a glass swan figure at the only one of its kind Museum of the Glass near the town of Beloslav, east of the Bulgarian capital Sofia, on 6 Nov, 2008. **Internet**

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A group of Internally Displaced People (IDP’s) wait for food aid given out by the Red Cross near a camp for IDP’s near the provincial capital Goma. Rebels and pro-government militia clashed for a second successive day in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday, rocking a fragile ceasefire as Kenya announced it would host an emergency summit on the crisis. **Internet**

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**Drive with care**

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov— A vicious cycle of vanishing jobs and stresses on American consumers is spelling deeper trouble for the already sinking US economy.

All the economy’s woes — a housing collapse, mounting foreclosures, hard-to-get credit and financial market upheaval — will confront President-elect Obama when he assumes office early next year. Obama has shifted from campaign mode to the task of building a new Democratic administration. A top priority will be quickly assembling his economics team, including the secretaries of Treasury, Commerce and Labor.

On the crucial jobs front, the situation is likely to move from bad to worse next year.

Employers have slashed jobs in the first nine months of this year. A staggering 760,000 losses have been racked up so far.

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**Vanishing jobs, stressed consumers feed downturn**

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China awards outstanding people in spacewalk mission

BEIJING, 7 Nov—China held a meeting Friday morning to award people who made outstanding contributions to the Shenzhou VII manned space flight.

Chinese President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao and other top leaders Jia Qinglin, Li Changchun, Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang and He Guoqiang attended the meeting. Vice-Premier Li Keqiang announced a decision jointly made by the Communist Committee of China, the State Council and the Central Military Commission, which decides to award Zhai Zhigang with the title of “Space Flight Hero” and Liu Boming and Jing Haiseng with the title of “Heroic Astronaut”.

Chinese President Hu Jintao presented the three with medals and certificates to mark their outstanding performance during the spacewalk mission.

Honda shows wearable device that helps you walk

TOKYO, 7 Nov—Imagine a bicycle seat connected by mechanical frames to a pair of shoes for an idea of how the new wearable assisted-walking gadget from Honda works. 

The experimental device, unveiled Friday, is designed to support bodyweight, reduce stress on the knees and help people get up steps and stay in crouching positions.

Honda envisions the device being used by workers at auto or other factories. It showed a video of Honda employees wearing the device and bending to peer underneath vehicles on an assembly line. Engineer Jun Ashihara also said the machine is useful for people standing in long lines and for people who run around to make deliveries.

“The should be as easy to use as a bicycle,” Ashihara said at Honda’s Tokyo headquarters. “It reduces stress, and you should feel less tired.”

To wear it, you put the seat between your legs, put on the shoes and push the on button. Then just start walking around.

In a test-run for media, this reporter found it does take some getting used to. But I couldn’t sense how it supported my moves, pushing up on my bottom when I squatted and pushing at the on button. Then just start walking around.

Fierce early-season blizzard traps SD motorists

RAPID CITY, 7 Nov — A wintry blast of punishing wind and close to 4 feet of snow in places pummeled the Northern Plains on Thursday, stranding un

known numbers of motorists for a day or more and knocking out power to thousands.

State officials said some people could be without power for days, but they had a simple message for anyone thinking of trying to drive in western South Dakota’s blizzard: Don’t.

“This is a dangerous storm,” Gov. Mike Rounds told reporters in a telephone conference call Thursday evening. “Western South Dakota is basically under a no-travel advisory.”

A long stretch of Interstate 90 was closed, and Rounds said most of the dozens of vehicles stranded along the stretch of highway had not been moved. Some have been stranded for more than 24 hours, he said, adding that search teams can’t get to them because of zero visibility. — Internet

Internet

Evaluating your child’s vision

NEW YORK, 7 Nov — Vision problems in a young child may be difficult to identify, especially before the child starts school. But the earlier these problems are found and treated, the better off your child will be.

The Nemours Foundation offers these warning signs for vision problems in young children: Rubbing the eyes frequently. Sensitivity to light, or difficulty focusing. Problems following an object. Eyes that are frequently red. Frequent tearing. An eye pupil that is white instead of black. — Internet

Internet

Iraqi women who recently returned to Iraq after years in Iran, stand outside a reed hut at a farmers settlement near the Shiite holy city of Najaf, 160 kilometres (100 miles) south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 6 Nov, 2008.

Eleven Iraqi families that fled Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War returned to Najaf, Iraq, two months ago due to the improving security in Iraq. — Internet

Internet

China’s Space Flight Hero Zhai Zhigang poses for a photo with a model of the Stradivarius violin given to him by his wife Guo Yujie. — Internet

A Stradivarius violin on display. A Swiss researcher said Thursday he had hit on an unlikely way of recreating the unique sound of a Stradivarius violin by treating the wood of a replica instrument with mushrooms. — Internet

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**SPORTS**

**Silvestre set to face United**

LONDON, 7 Nov — Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger is ready to gamble on the fitness of Mikael Silvestre after suggesting the defender will face former club Manchester United on Saturday.

The 31-year-old Frenchman suffered a broken nose against Fenerbahce in the Champions League on Wednesday evening.

Silvestre joined the Gunners on a free transfer from the Old Trafford club during the summer but is set to return for the Manchester United match on Saturday.

**Man City 3-2 FC Twente**

Manchester City three minutes into time added on to deal a cruel blow to the Portuguese visitors who had enjoyed the better chances throughout the evening.

But Ronaldo’s goal showed the quality that Manchester coach Carlo Ancelotti was so keen to secure in the off-season as he let fly from just over 20 yards, finding the top corner despite a host of bodies blocking his target.

“I’m happy, not because I scored but because the team has earned an important result,” said the match-winner.

“Everyone worked really hard and we played with a lot of calm. I hope we can continue along this path.”

**Utd boss Ferguson charged by FA**

The charge concerns an incident after English and European champions United’s hard-fought 4-3 Premier League victory against Hull at Old Trafford on Saturday, when Ferguson remonstrated with referee Mike Dean.

Ferguson has been given until 19 November to respond to the charge.

The Scot was clearly unhappy with Dean’s display during a match where he did not send-off Hull’s Michael Turner when the defender upended United and England midfielder Michael Carrick, having previously shown the defender a yellow card.

**Last gasp Ronaldinho saves Milan’s blushes**

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**Sisterly tears as tennis ace Venus win becomes a landslide**

DOHA, 7 Nov — Venus Williams made certain of reaching the last four of the WTA Championships with a landslide 5-7, 6-1, 6-0 victory over sister Serena Williams here on Thursday.

The result brought the first love set between them in any of their 18 WTA Tour matches and twice reduced the younger sister to tears.

The Wimbledon champion’s win over the US Open champion was her third in three days, enabling her to finish her top of her round robin group, and ensuring that she joined Jelena Jankovic and Vera Zvonareva in the knock-out semi-finals of the women’s season-ending event.

But Serena, who has only one win, will need to beat Olympic champion Elena Dementieva on Friday if she is to be sure of keeping alive the chances of an all-Williams final.

“I couldn’t keep a ball in play,” Serena said. “I couldn’t keep more than two balls in play. I have no idea why.

“I have never played like that before. I have never been in a situation where I can’t do anything. I was very, very frustrated.”

**Bent sparks English revival, AC Milan leave it late in UEFA Cup football**

Darren Bent scores his third goal during Tottenham’s 4-0 win over Dinamo Zagreb in a UEFA Cup group match in London on 6 Nov. — Internet

**Last gasp Ronaldinho saves Milan’s blushes**

AC Milan’s forward Ronaldinho (R) celebrates with teammate Clarence Seedorf after scoring a goal Sporting Braga 1-0 at the San Siro on Thursday.

The Brazilian struck three minutes into time added on to deal a cruel blow to the Portuguese visitors who had enjoyed the better chances throughout the evening.

But Ronaldinho’s goal showed the quality that Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti was so keen to secure in the off-season as he let fly from just over 20 yards, finding the top corner despite a host of bodies blocking his target.

“I’m happy, not because I scored but because the team has earned an important result,” said the match-winner.

“Everyone worked really hard and we played with a lot of calm. I hope we can continue along this path.”

**Matteson’s career-low round gives him Disney lead**

Lake Buena Vista, 7 Nov — It didn’t take Troy Matteson long to realize it was going to be a special round of golf Thursday in the Children’s Miracle Network Classic at Disney. Matteson opened with an eagle on the Palm Course, ran off three straight birdies at the turn and wound up with a career-low round of 9-under 63 to take a one-shot lead.

“When you start like that, it kind of puts you at ease,” Matteson said.
Venezuela, Russia discuss 46 cooperation projects

CARACAS, 7 Nov—Venezuela and Russia discussed 46 cooperation agreements during the 5th High Level Inter-governmental Commission held here Thursday. Venezuelan Vice President Ramon Carrizales and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Igor Sechin attended the meeting, which reviewed a series of initiatives to be signed by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Russian President Dimitri Medvedev later this month. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro said after the meeting that “the unipolar world is collapsing and finishing in all aspects, and the alliance with Russia is part of that effort to build a multipolar world.”

Projects being discussed include, among others, the creation of a bi-national investment bank, the opening of a direct air route between Caracas and Moscow, the building of an aluminum plant, the construction of a gas platform off the Venezuela coast, plans for automobile production, and Venezuela’s acquisition of Russian planes and ships.

The two countries also reached agreements on the development of outer space and the use of nuclear energy. Maduro said the two countries “will develop all that has to do with technology and satellite in the space,” and will continue to work at using nuclear energy with peaceful means to generate alternative energy. MNA/Xinhua

Bolivia says to fund drug war after dispute with US

LA PAZ, 7 Nov—President Evo Morales, who has banned US anti-drug agents from working in Bolivia, said on Thursday his country can fight cocaine trafficking on its own.

Bolivia’s administrative capital, La Paz. “We’re capable that with the withdrawal of the DEA, drug trafficking will increase... I trust that our national police is prepared to fight drug traffickers,” Morales told police officers in Bolivia’s administrative capital, La Paz. “We’re capable of funding the operations of the national police against drug trafficking,” he said in a speech. Earlier this year, Morales’ anti-drug czar Felipe Caceres said Bolivia should “nationalize” the fight against the drug trade, saying the government was ready to invest some 16 million US dollars to that end. — MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Friday, 7 November, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MSTD: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan and Mon States, Bago and Yangon Divisions, isolated in Chin and Kayin States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeawady and Taninthayi Divisions, and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3˚C) to (4˚C) above November average temperatures in Shan and Mon States, Bago Division, (3˚C) to (4˚C) below November average temperatures in Chin State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (5˚C) to (6˚C) below November average temperatures in upper Sagaing, Magway and Yangon Divisions and about November average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Hakha (3˚C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pathein (1.53) inches and Kawthong (1.34) inches. Maximum temperature on 6-11-2008 was 90˚F. Minimum temperature on 7-11-2008 was 68˚F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MSTD on 7-11-2008 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 6-11-2008 was (6.6) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 7-11-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.10) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.31) inches at Mingaladon, (120.93) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northeast at (15:30) hours MSTD on 7-1-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 8th November 2008: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Ayeawady and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, Bago Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with temporary gusts are likely at time Gulf of Mannar off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 8-11-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-11-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-11-2008: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for second weekend of November 2008: During the current weekend, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Yangon Division and partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.
2000-acre tea farm to emerge in Natyegan region

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of Ministry of Defence inspects 12-acre Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton plantation of farmer U Tun Tun Win at Sibintha village in Magway Township. — MNA

They observed the thriving 500-acre Manaw Thukha strain monsoon puddy field of farmer U Kyaw Minatalthangon Village in Taungdwingyi Township, and thriving 12-acre Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton plantation of U Tun Tun Win at Sibinthaya Village in Magway Township.

Upon arrival at Natyegan Hill in Ngaphe Township, Minbu District, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, together with Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe, inspected the site chosen for the 2000-acre tea farm project Natyegan of Nay Pyi Taw. They looked into the one-acre pilot cultivation of tea.

At the briefing hall of Public Works at Mile Post No. 19 of Natyegan tour road, they heard a report by engineer U Toe Khaing on arrangements for repairing the 32-mile road section from Mile Post Nos 29 to 61 of Minbu-An-Tattaung Road (Natyegan Hill Road). In response, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw gave instructions, and looked into the one-acre pilot tea plantation of the Forest Department (Magway Division).

In implementing the 2000-acre tea farm in Natyegan region for improving the living conditions of local people and speeding up regional development tasks, the Ministry of Forestry will have to supervise tasks; and the Forest Department (Magway Division), to make arrangements for conservation of department-owned lands. Now, the sites covering protected public forests stretching along Padan-An Road in Natyegan region have been chosen for the project. Nine entrepreneurs will put 2000 acres under tea plantation in 2009-2010.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw also inspected the 3.2-acre coffee plantation and 5-acre tea plantation between Mile Post Nos 15/1 and 15/3 of Natyegan tour road by the Perennials Crops and Farms Enterprise of the Myanmar Industrial Crops Development Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

So far, Ngaphe Township of Minbu District has put 465 acres of land under coffee plants. — MNA

Chin State on threshold of development

Article : Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine); Photos : Htay Aung (Kyemon)

We members of Kyemon media team headed for Falam, as the last itinerary of our long trip to northern Chin State.

Being a district level city, Falam has now developed a lot with administrative buildings, police station, people’s hospital, educational institutions, electric power station, TV retransmitting station, and social buildings.

The hilly city stands at an altitude of 5200 feet. Falam District is constituted with Tiddim, Tonzang, Kyeekha, Thantlang, Reed and Haka townships, and has a population of over 310,000.

We visited the two-storey library run by the Information and Public Relations Department on Bogyoke Road in Ward 4, which was teeming with visitors.

Cupboards stacked with books were kept in a row in the large library. In response to my question, a national race woman with Chin accent said, “I come here in my sparetime. My favorite hobby is reading. I read all genres. There are a lot of publications here. So, it is very convenient for me to choose books.” (See page 10)

Tigers raring to go after defeats to Chelsea and Man United

Brown’s side, only in their maiden Premier-ship season, have been a surprise package in their top-flight with superb performances to their credit. Having beaten Arsenal and Tottenham, Hull rose as high as third in the table, but are now in sixth position following back to back defeats to the title contenders. On the other hand, it has been a struggle for Bolton this season but their victory over Manchester City on Sunday, has given the Trotters the much-needed boost going into the ‘Tigers’ den. The visitors will be without captain Kevin Nolan, who is suspended, but will come across a familiar face in the opposition dugout.

Internet