Minister fulfils needs for development of Ayethaya Industrial Zone

YANGON, 17 Nov — Ayethaya Industrial Zone In-charge Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, accompanied by Deputy Commander of Eastern Command Col Chit Oo, met with executive directors of the foundry at Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi on 15 November.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the State has invested foreign currency on the foundry with the aim of developing the industrial sector. Local industrialists have also shares in the foundry. Therefore, accounts of the foundry should be kept in accordance with the financial rules and regulations and the accounts should be presented to the chairman of the supervisory committee for the industrial zone, he said. He also urged responsible personnel to make efforts for development of the industrial zone.

After hearing reports of directors of the foundry and officials concerned, the minister attended to the needs of the industrial zone.

During the tour of the industrial zone, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi also visited Aung Myin Shan Star Auto production workshop and Taunggyi Jeep production workshop and gave instructions to responsible persons.

He also visited Theinmin Fertilizer Factory and a Sunflower Fertilizer Factory, and the antimony smelting factory of Genius Group Company and urged responsible personnel of the factory to produce the metal meeting the set standard.

Frank Lampard

LONDON, 17 Nov— Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard has admitted a battle is very much on the cards with defending champions Manchester United to win the Premiership title this season.

The Blues had won back-to-back titles in 2005 and 2006, but the Red Devils snatched the glory for last two seasons. This season Chelsea with Luiz Felipe Scolari at the helm are leading the pack while United are currently third with a game in hand.

Liverpool, meanwhile, are equal on points with the Blues, while former champions Arsenal are fourth nine points behind the leaders. However, England midfielder Lampard believes the Red Devils are the biggest threat.

“The biggest threat!?” would still say Man U,” he said. The 29-year-old, however, is confident that the west London club can win the title this time.

“I do believe we’re going to win the league this time,” said Lampard.

“Manchester United deserved to win it last time but with the squad we’ve got, the belief running through the players and the quality of the manager, I think we’ll do it.”

Guardiola: Title not won in November

BARCELONA, 17 Nov — Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola was keen to quell any title talk after his in-form side opened up a three-point gap at the top of La Liga on Sunday night.

Barca made the most of high-flying rivals Real Madrid, Villarreal and Valencia all dropping points this weekend by defeating Recreativo Huelva 2-0 to put daylight between themselves and the chasing pack.

That was a ninth successive league win for the free-scoring Catalan giants who are looking unstoppable at present, but Guardiola knows there is still a long way to go.

“They are three points which help give us strength, but no league is won in November. What it means is that we are top for another week, and if we are not attentive to our rivals they could close up on us again,” he said.

“Now we need to rest, prepare for the game against Getafe and continue fighting.”

Guardiola - plays down title talk.
Strive for running factories and mills at full capacity

In order to strengthen national economy the government hand in hand with the people is making all-out efforts making better use of natural resources.

Today, industrial zones are being established the length and breadth of the nation for development of both the State-owned industries and private industries. And steps are being taken for boosting the productivity of the State-owned industries while building more new import-substitute factories and workshops.

The Ministry of Industry-1 is building paper and pulp factories to satisfy the local demand for paper. The emergence of the factories helps reduce the import of paper and acquire more advanced techniques.

The 50-ton Paper Mill (Thabaung) of Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 in Thabaung Township, Ayeyawady Division, was opened on 16 November. The paper mill is now producing different kinds of quality paper.

Nowadays, paper factories were built in different regions along with the 200-ton paper and pulp factory and the 50-ton paper mill in Thabaung Township. Those factories and mills are producing paper and pulp to meet the local demand for paper.

As a large number of factories and mills have emerged throughout the nation, continued efforts are to be made to run the factories and mills at full capacity, to ensure better operating ratio, to produce more new items, to reduce production cost and to ensure sufficient supply of raw materials. The emergence of more factories and mills will contribute much to creating job opportunities for local people and regional development.

Earthquake Report

YANGON, 17 Nov — A strong earthquake of intensity 7.5 Richter Scale with its epicenter about 2,000 miles south-east of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory outside of Myanmar (Indonesia) was recorded at (23) hrs, (39) min, (46) sec MST on 16th November 2008. Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.

Dr Lin Tun Tun of University of Medicine 1 discusses Neuro-Ophthalmic Imaging at 20th Ophthalmologists’ conference. —MNA

Myanmar team to take part in ASEAN Competition, Malaysia

YANGON, 17 Nov — A 14-member Myanmar team left here by air for Malaysia on 10 November to participate in the seventh ASEAN Skill Competition to be held in Kuala Lumpur from 11 to 18 November.

Six contestants will take part in the competitions on welding, furniture, installation of electrical appliances. The team includes a supervisor from the Ministry of Labour, experts from Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar Engineering Society. —MNA

Myanmar team seen on their departure for Malaysia to take part in the 7th ASEAN Skill Competition. —MNA

Health Minister meets faculty members of Mandalay medical universities

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Nov — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint met rectors, professor heads of department, lecturers, assistant lecturers and officials of Mandalay University of Medicine, University of Dental Medicine, University of Pharmacy, University of Paramedical Science, University of Nursing and University of Traditional Medicine at Mandalay University of Medicine on 14 November afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the ministry has been able to turn out first-rate doctors thanks to the good traditions of medical teaching. He next stressed the need for the faculty members to train their students to become qualified doctors.

Rector Dr Than Win of Mandalay University of Medicine reported on academic and management matters of the university. Next, professors and lecturers also reported on learning of the students and their proposals on academic matters. The minister then left necessary instructions. —MNA

20th eye specialists’ conference opens

YANGON, 17 Nov — Myanmar Medical Association opened 20th eye specialists’ conference at the association here today. —MNA

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Dr Lin Tun Tun of University of Medicine 1 discusses Neuro-Ophthalmic Imaging at 20th Ophthalmologists’ conference. —MNA

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy
Iraq agrees security pact with US

Suicide car bomber kills fifteen

BAGHDAD, 17 Nov—Iraq’s cabinet yesterday approved a security pact with the United States that will allow American forces to stay in Iraq for three years after their UN mandate expires at the end of the year.

The decision followed months of difficult negotiations and, pending parliamentary approval, will remove a major point of contention between the two allies. Parliament’s deputy speaker, Khalid al Attiyah, said he expected the 275-member legislature to begin debating the document this week and vote on it by 24 November. Yesterday’s vote follows Washington’s decision last week to grant al Maliki the power to amend the draft. The amendment removed what al Attiyah said was ambiguous language that could allow US forces not to adhere to a timeline for their withdrawal from Iraqi cities by the end of June and from the entire country by 1 January, 2012.

Hours after the cabinet approved the security pact, 15 people died and 20 others were wounded in a suicide car bombing at a police checkpoint in Diyala province, northeast of Baghdad, according to police colonel Ahmed Khalifa, chief of Jalula police station. The dead included one police officer. The US military said the attack in Jalula occurred at a police station and that four police and six civilians died.—INTERNET

UK soldier killed in Afghanistan

LONDON, 17 Nov—A British soldier has died in a bomb blast in southern Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defence has said. The soldier, from 2nd Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles, died on Saturday after his vehicle hit an explosive device while on patrol.

He had been taking part in a routine road move when it happened, the MoD said. Next of kin have been informed. His death in Musa Qala, Helmand, takes the number of UK troops killed in Afghanistan since 2001 to 125.—INTERNET

Obama vows Iraq troop drawdown, focus on Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 17 Nov—President-elect Barack Obama, in a major interview aired Sunday, vowed no retreat from his campaign promise to begin pulling troops out of Iraq and switch the military focus to Afghanistan. Obama said that “as soon as I take office, I will call in the Joint Chiefs of Staff, my national security apparatus, and we will start executing a plan that draws down our troops.”

“Particularly in light of the problems that we’re having in Afghanistan, which has continued to worsen. We’ve got to shore up those efforts,” he said.

Obama said that from his inauguration on 20 January, “it is a top priority for us to stamp out Al-Qaeda once and for all” and that killing or capturing the group’s mastermind Osama bin Laden was “critical” to US security.—INTERNET

California fires destroy 1,000 homes, winds ease

LOS ANGELES, 17 Nov—Wildfires hop-scotched around Southern California on Sunday although calmer winds slowed flames that have destroyed almost 1,000 houses, forced tens of thousands to evacuate and turned some neighbourhoods into scenes resembling war zones. A pall of towering, choking smoke blocked out the sun in much of the Los Angeles area and in Orange County to the south-east after flames ripped through tinder-dry brush. The fires jumped freeways and reduced million-dollar mansions and apartment blocks to ashes in about a dozen communities. “I’m just seeing a lot of burned fields, smoke, burned down houses,” said Nicole Gephardt as she looked out toward the Orange County area of Yorba Linda. “This is crazy knowing this is my community and it looks like a war zone,” Officials said wildfires have scorched more than 20,000 acres over the past four days in foothills north of Los Angeles, in Orange County canyons, and in the hilly celebrity enclave of Montecito near Santa Barbara. The fires broke out there on Thursday and incinerated 210 homes before being brought under control.—INTERNET
Financial overhaul added to Obama’s to-do list

WASHINGTON, 17 Nov — Barack Obama hasn’t president yet, but his must-do list just got longer. The newest addition to the lengthy list of tasks after taking office helping oversee the overhaul of the world’s financial regulatory system. That is one of the assignments to the president-elect from current global leaders after their weekend summit, where they pledged action.

“Obama has a tall order,” said Morris Goldstein, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, who spent years working at the International Monetary Fund, the world’s financial firefighter.

“He has a lot of things he has to do quickly in number of areas and doesn’t have a lot of time to think about them,” Goldstein said in an interview.

That will put a lot of pressure on Obama. He did not participate in the emergency two-day summit that concluded Saturday, instead sending representatives to meet with leaders on the sidelines.

After taking the oath of office on 20 Jan, Obama will have to figure out in short order how far his administration is willing to go in revamping oversight of financial companies and products, in the United States and abroad, and nailing down the crucial details.—Internet

Seven killed in British Columbia plane crash

VANCOUVER, 17 Nov — Seven people were killed and one was injured when the charter plane they were flying in crashed on Sunday on a small island on Canada’s Pacific coast, officials said.

The Grumman Goose amphibious airplane operated by Pacific Coastal Airlines went down and burst into flames on Thormanby Island about 90 kilometres (56 miles) northwest of Vancouver, according to the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre.

Police were alerted by a resident of the island who heard what he thought was an airplane crash. The lone survivor walked from the accident site and was rescued by the Canadian Coast Guard from a nearby beach.

Safety investigators were headed to the scene to look for the cause of the accident. The twin-engine aircraft was taking workers to a coastal energy construction site.

It was the second fatal crash for privately owned Pacific Coastal in less than a year. Five people died when a charter plane went down in a wilderness area of northern Vancouver Island in August.—Internet

Indonesia quake kills at least two, tears down houses

JAKARTA, 17 Nov — A powerful earthquake struck an area off Indonesia’s northern Sulawesi early on Monday, killing at least two people and injuring nearly 40 after hundreds of houses collapsed, a disaster official said.

Indonesia briefly issued a tsunami warning which was lifted later, the meteorological office said.

The magnitude 7.5 quake was at a depth of 21 km, with its epicenter 136 km (84 miles) northwest of the provincial capital of Gorontalo, the US Geological Survey said.

A series of further weaker aftershocks struck in the same area of the Celebes Sea bordering the southern Philippines.

Rustam Pakaya, head of the Indonesian health ministry’s crisis center, said initial information showed two people had died, one in Gorontalo after a building collapsed and another in the district of Buol in Central Sulawesi province.

He said 37 people were injured.—Internet

Israeli airstrike kills four Gaza militants

GAZA CITY, 17 Nov — An airstrike killed four Palestinians as they were firing mortars at Israel Sunday, the latest in a surge of clashes that have rocked a 5-month-old truce between Israel and Gaza’s militant Hamas rulers.

In a separate incident, Palestinian rocket fire injured one Israeli.

Both sides say they would like to preserve the truce, which expires next month. But with violence escalating over the past two weeks, the cease-fire appears to be unraveling.

The militants killed in the airstrike were from a small Hamas-allied group known as the Popular Resistance Committees. Abu Attaya, a spokesman for the group, said the four were firing mortars when they were killed.

Abu Muhajed, another spokesman for the PRC, said his group is pulling out of the truce, and Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum threatened retaliation for the killings.

“Today’s crime will not pass without punishment,” he said.—Internet

A quake reading on a seismograph. A strong 7.5-magnitude earthquake struck off Indonesia’s Sulawesi island early Monday, killing one person, toppling homes as people slept and forcing thousands to flee houses and hotels.—Internet

Italian mob terror near Naples

CASAL DI PRINCIPE, 17 Nov — The paratroopers’ armored vehicles had barely taken up position in this fiefdom of the Casalesi crime clan when the mobsters decided to show who was boss.

On a sleepy Sunday, a few hundred yards from where the crack Thunderbolt brigade was deployed with automatic rifles, two gunmen drove down the town’s main street and pumped bullets into a 60-year-old man at a table just inside the entrance of a card parlor. The murder of an uncle of a crime syndicate turncoat left blood oozing across the stone sidewalk and a collective silence by potential witnesses among fellow card players, prompting a wry silence among fellow card players, prompting a wry comment that the victim must have been playing solitaire.—Internet

Colombian performers representing a Spanish conqueror, right, and a warrior perform during the ‘Cuadrillas de San Martin’ indigenous annual festival in San Martin, Meta province, Colombia, on 16 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET
Flooding killed at least 11 people in Vietnam's southern and central regions, submerged thousands of homes in its largest city and stranded air and railway passengers, officials said Sunday.

The country braced for more rain as another tropical storm approached, forecasters said.

Floods caused by surging high tides submerged thousands of homes in the southern commercial hub of Ho Chi Minh City over the weekend, according to state media.

No deaths were reported in six months from Bai-Koum in Kazakhstan, the National daily said. The satellite is ready since July, but sending it into space has been subject to a series of delays.

Salem al Marri, Manager of the DubaiSat-1 programme, said a difficult part of the job was the logistics involved in the launch. With an estimated costs of Dh 146,900 (US 40,000 dollar) for every kilogram being sent into space, the 200 kg DubaiSat-1 could cost at least Dh 29.4 million to launch.

The Emirates Satellite Technology Forum, which was established by a Dubai government decree in 2006 and oversees the building of the satellite, refused to confirm the cost of building it.

A man wades inside the compound of a partially flooded school in My Hung commune, 25 km (16 miles) outside Hanoi on 12 Nov, 2008.—Internet

Floods kill 11 in central and southern Vietnam

Violent storm leaves trail of debris in Australia

A man wades inside the compound of a partially flooded school in My Hung commune, 25 km (16 miles) outside Hanoi on 12 Nov, 2008.—Internet

Sydney, 17 Nov—A violent storm ripped through picturesque tourist hubs in eastern Australia, leaving one person dead and causing damage comparable to that wrought by a cyclone, officials said Monday.

Sunday’s storm tore the roofs off scores of homes, felled trees and power lines that flattened cars and sent corrugated iron sheeting flying through the air and other debris through the air.

“It looks like a bomb—like there’s been a great big bomb go off in our street,” said Davina Thomas, a resident of The Gap, near the eastern Queensland city of Brisbane.

“We still can’t get out of our street,” there’s power lines down, there’s trees across the road and all we can hear is sirens. It’s terrible, my daughter’s had her roof blown off (her house), it’s in the pool now,” she told local radio.

Electricity was cut to around 230,000 homes and businesses as thunderstorms, flash flooding, hailstones and destructive winds battered southeast Queensland, home to the prime tourist destinations of the Gold and Sunshine coasts.—Internet

Plane slides down Philly runway minus front wheels

Philadelphia, 17 Nov—A US Airways Express airliner slid down a runway Sunday during an emergency landing with its nose landing gear. No injuries were reported.

The Philadelphia-bound de Havilland Dash-8 turboprop, operated by Piedmont Airlines, took off from Allentown at about 8:20 am with 35 passengers and three crew members, according to officials of the airline and Philadelphia International Airport.

Before the scheduled landing at Philadelphia, the crew got an indication that the landing gear was not down and did a flyover to confirm that the nose wheels had not deployed, airport spokeswoman Victoria Lupica said.

Fire crews spread foam on the runway as a precaution before the landing at about 9:20 am. The plane skidded down the runway on its nose, but there was no smoke or fire, Lupica said.

Passengers were taken to the terminal by bus.

The cause was being investigated, said US Airways spokesman Morgan Durrant. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board also were investigating, Lupica said. The airport had to be closed for about 25 minutes, Lupica said.

It reported some flights delayed more than two hours midday while the plane remained on one of the four runways.

That runway reopened in the early afternoon, and most flights were running on time, Lupica said.

Beer truck driver accused of driving drunk

A contract beer truck driver has been arrested on suspicion of drunken driving after his rig flipped over. Police said the man, 56, was eastbound on Colorado 58 about 7:30 pm Tuesday when he took an exit ramp for eastbound Interstate 70 too fast. The truck and its 45,000-pound trailer full of beer overturned.

Hippopotamus baby Farasi is seen in its enclosure along with mother Helvetia in the zoo in Basel, Switzerland.

Ice carver Mikhail Fedotov from Russia works on his masterpiece “Bremen’s Town Musicians” in the northern Germany city of Bremen. Some 40 artists turned out to carve 28 figures inspired by the Brothers Grimm fairy tales. The city’s ice sculpture festival opens its doors to the public on 22 Nov and runs through 25 Jan, 2009.

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Hippopotamus baby Farasi is seen in its enclosure along with mother Helvetia in the zoo in Basel, Switzerland.
Chinese, Australian leaders vow to expand cooperation

WASHINGTON, 17 Nov — Chinese President Hu Jintao and Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on Sunday pledged joint efforts to expand bilateral cooperation at their meeting here.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the Group of 20 (G-20) summit on financial markets and the world economy.

Hu said China and Australia are witnessing healthy and rapid development of bilateral ties, with ever deepening mutual understanding and trust. Marked achievements have been secured in the mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, energy, environmental protection, technology, education, culture, law enforcement and tourism, he said.

Bilateral trade is growing rapidly and negotiations on a free trade agreement are making steady progress, the Chinese President said. Hu said both sides are maintaining coordination on major global issues like climate change and the current financial crisis, and have seen increasing consensus and cooperation.

Xinhua

In this photograph taken on 20 June, 2008, children of Indian construction workers with a teacher at a school run by Mobile Creches at an under-construction site in Gurgaon. —INTERNET

All items from Xinhua News Agency

File photo shows a South Korean Navy warship. South Korea announced on Monday it plans to send a warship to combat piracy in the lawless waters off Somalia, where five more Koreans were seized over the weekend.—INTERNET

Alba rejects US intervention in Nicaraguan elections


“We strongly reject the US intervention in the internal issues of Nicaragua and we reaffirm that past elections are of exclusive competence of the Nicaraguan People and their institutions,” Alba said in the communiqué published by the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry.

After an unprecedented victory by the Nicaraguan ruling party during the 9 November elections, the Nicaraguan Government confronted the US interference policy, which tried to discredit the administration of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and his institutions. Meanwhile, a political dispute also took place over electoral results between the ruling party Frente Sandinista de Liberacion Nacional (FSLN) and opposition party Partido Liberal Constitucionalista (PLC). “President Daniel Ortega, as well as the FSLN, have given examples of democracy, when contending at elections during the 1980s and peacefully giving the government to their successors,” Alba said.

Xinhua

Iran loses billions of dollars by gas deal with UAE

TEHERAN, 17 Nov — Iran’s member of Parliament Seied Mohammad Reza Tajeddini said here on Sunday that Iran has lost billions of dollars by a gas deal with a Gulf firm, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Tajeddini regarded the contract between the two sides as illegal, adding that it was against the Constitution and the interest of the Iranian people. He urged Oil Minister Gholamhossein Nozari to sit over the withdrawal of the contract or the amendments on it. Crescent Petroleum, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) firm, signed a deal in 2001 to import natural gas from Iran’s offshore Salman field, in the Gulf, through a pipeline jointly built by Iran and Crescent.

Iran says that it has suspended export of Iran’s gas to the UAE because of the Crescent company’s flagging commitment. —Xinhua

Israel prevents 15 medicineladen trucks into Gaza

GAZA, 17 Nov — Israel on Sunday prevented 15 trucks loaded with different kinds of medicines from passing through one of Gaza Strip crossings, a Palestinian Health Ministry official said.

Mo’aweya Hassanen, chief of emergency and ambulance services in the Palestinian Health Ministry, said in a statement that the Gaza Strip has been under a strict Israeli blockade for 13 days. “The medical situation is worsening and we are living in a severe humanitarian crisis as Israel prevented the entrance of 15 trucks loaded with medicine from the West Bank into Gaza,” said Hassanen.

Xinhua

Mexico makes important achievements in combatting drugs

MEXICO CITY, 17 Nov — Mexico has made “important achievements” in fighting drugs under the current administration, Mexican President Felipe Calderon said on Sunday. Some 43 tons of cocaine have been seized in the littorals of the country since his government took office in December 2006, Calderon said at the welcoming ceremony in Acapulco Port for the arrival of School Vessel “Guahtemoc” after its international tour. “The trafficking of that dangerous drugs” was controlled, Calderon said.

The achievements were attributed to the Mexican Navy’s efforts, which “has been the foundation of combating the enemies (drug traffickers) of Mexico with more efficiency”. —Xinhua

Peru hunts for armed group killing three policemen

LIMA, 17 Nov—Joint military and police operations are underway to identify the armed group which has killed three policemen in the Peruvian region of Ayacucho, said Peruvian Interior Minister Renigio Hernani on Sunday. An armed group allegedly linked to drug traffickers ambushed a road patrol near the Lurico locality of Huanta Province southeast of Lima Saturday night.

Brigadier Luis Tejera, technicians Pablo Chavez and Marco Montero were killed and technician Juan Carazas was seriously injured. The aggressors also took away four AKM rifles and three guns from the policemen. Preliminary investigations have pointed to the remainders of the subversive group Sendero Luminoso (SL) which is allied with drug traffickers.

Xinhua
Japan firm recalls US water

TOKYO, 17 Nov — A Japanese company said Monday it would recall bottles of Crystal Geyer mineral water imported from the United States after consumers complained about a strange smell.

Otsuka Beverage Co Ltd. said in a statement that the recalled water posed no health threat, and the Crystal Geyer bottles may have absorbed smells during the summer when they were kept in storage for a long time.

Kyodo News agency, meanwhile, said an estimated 8 million bottles would be recalled.

Consumers complained the Crystal Geyer smelled like medicine or pesticide, prompting the company to recall the water bottles, Kyodo said. The firm's statement did not give details, including how many bottles it planned to recall. Company officials could not be reached for comment late Monday.

Japen has been hit by several high-profile incidents involving tainted food, including rice and soybeans, and Tokyo is considering creating a new, specialized agency to monitor food and product safety.

In October, a major Japanese instant noodle maker issued a nationwide recall after a woman got sick when she ate a cup of noodles that was later found to be tainted with an insecticide. Another Japanese trading company also recalled a popular dessert imported from China in October after finding chemical contamination in the custard-filled tarts.

Citigroup to cut another 53,000 jobs

NEW YORK, 17 Nov — Citigroup Inc. is cutting approximately 53,000 more jobs in the coming quarters as the banking giant struggles to steady itself after suffering massive losses from deteriorating debt.

The plans, posted on the company’s Web site, are being discussed by CEO Vikram Pandit at the company’s town hall meeting in New York Monday with employees.

The company said total headcount is being reduced by 20 percent from its peak of 375,000 at the end of 2007; the company had already announced in October that it was eliminating about 22,000 jobs from those levels. The total workforce reductions include thousands of jobs that will be lost when Citigroup completes the sale of Citi Global Services and its German retail banking business.

The New York-based bank has posted four straight quarterly losses, including a loss of $2.8 billion during the third quarter. The company said that in addition to job cuts, it plans to lower expenses by about 20 percent, and that is has reduced its assets by more than 20 percent since the first quarter of the year.

Fighting in Congo despite rebel promises to UN

KANYABAYONGA (CONGO), 17 Nov — Villages in the mountains of eastern Congo that once housed tens of thousands of people were nearly deserted Monday after Congo’s army clashed with rebels in some of the worst fighting in a week.

The battles north of the eastern provincial capital of Goma came even as rebel leader Laurent Nkunda promised a UN envoy he would support a cease-fire as well as UN efforts to end the fighting that has displaced 250,000 people since August.

The few people remaining in Kanyabayonga were preparing to leave Monday, packing yellow jerry cans and bedrolls before setting off on foot. Congolese army soldiers also were seen fleeing the rebel advance.

The two sides battled Sunday night about 10 miles (17 kilometers) from here in Rwindi. About 150 people took refuge outside a UN peacekeeping base, huddling beside a shipping container as mortar shells and artillery fire rained down.

Nigerian gunmen seize oil vessel, hold crew hostage

LAGOS, 17 Nov — Gunmen captured an oil firm vessel and its crew in a weekend raid off the shores of Nigeria’s volatile southern Niger Delta region, an army spokesman announced Monday.

“Militants suspected to be from Tompolo’s camp seized one MV Thou Galaxy vessel on the Gbaramatu waterway along Escravos (River),” Lieutenant-Colonel Rabe Abubakar, the military spokesman in the region, told AFP.

“Tompolo” Ekpemupolo is a powerful militant spokesman in the region, an army spokesman told AFP.

The ship was available, Abubakar added.

“It happened yesterday (Sunday) around 10:25 in the morning. The ship was on its way from Singapore to Warri seaport conveying equipment meant for a Chevron project,” he said. Negotiations were underway between the vessel’s owners and relevant government agencies to secure the release of the vessel and its crew, said Abubakar.

Somali pirates seize supertanker loaded with crude

DUBAI, 17 Nov — Somali pirates hijacked a supertanker off the Kenyan coast, seizing the Saudi-owned ship loaded with crude and its 25-member crew, the US Navy said Monday. A spokesman for the US Navy said the pirates hijacked the Sirius Star — a newly commissioned ship owned by Saudi oil company Aramco — more than 450 nautical miles southeast of Mombasa, Kenya.

Somali pirates have seized several ships off the Horn of Africa coast in the past week, but the latest hijacking of a tanker the size of an aircraft carrier marked a dramatic escalation.

Somali pirates are trained fighters, often dressed in military fatigue, using speedboats equipped with satellite phones and GPS equipment. They are typically armed with automatic weapons, anti-tank rockets launchers and various types of grenades.

The tanker seized Saturday is 1,080 feet and can carry about 2 million barrels of oil.

An employee attaches wheels to an Audi A8 on the auto firm’s Neckarsulm assembly line in southern Germany. German Finance Minister Peer Steinbrueck has ruled out a financial rescue package for the auto sector ahead of a top-level crisis meeting over the situation at Opel.
USDA Secretariat member attends dinner in honour of artists and technicians

YANGON, 17 Nov—The Union Solidarity and Development Association held dinner in honour of artists and technicians who had helped a hand in the video feature named “Tomorrow of Aye-yawady”, which hailed USDA’s Annual General Meeting for 2008 at Karaweik Palace in Kandawgyi Gardens yesterday.

Secretariat Member Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the dinner and made a speech on the occasion, saying that artists stimulated national spirit of the public through the might of art in the pre-independence period, while doing their bit. They are engaging in the interest of the State and the people in the time of preserving the independence and building the nation.

Upholding national interests, the artists will be discharging duties of the State and art in the time of paving the way to democracy. The video feature is the one honoring nation-building endeavours of the USDA. In addition to that, it represents the prestige of the entire people. The artists are to carry out duties of the art upholding national interests of the State all the time.

Next, certificates of honour and cash awards were presented to artists and technicians. And Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan handed certificates of honour and cash awards to director academy Zin Yaw Maung Maung, script writer academy Nyein Min, academy Nay Aung, academy Kyaw Ye Aung, Academy Soe Myat Thuzar, Academy Eindra Kyaw Zin and adviser director Hein Soe. Afterwards, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing donated K 64 million fetched from six video features to build the school in Amyar town of Pyapon District of Ayeyawady Division.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint presented certificates of honour and cash awards to artists and the producer. Afterwards, director academy Zin Yaw Maung Maung spoke words of thanks and the USDA hosted dinner to those present. And Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan handed cash awards to the leader of the orchestra of Karaweik Palace and then cordially greeted those present.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, heads of department of the Ministry of Information and officials, officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Myanmar Music Asiayon and Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, artists and technicians and guests.

Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan speaks at the dinner held in honour of artists and technicians.—MNA

Myanmar trounces Philippines 6-0

YANGON, 17 Nov—Myanmar trounced the Philippines 6-0 at the round robin event of the Asia U-16 women’s qualifier in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, today.

Hla Yin Win and Htet Theingi Aye scored two goals each and Frida Saw Su Htwe and Ngwe Swe Taryar one goal each for Myanmar.

Myanmar has gained seven points with two wins, one draw and one loss. — MNA

Health Minister receives Ambassador of EU Representative Office

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Nov—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint received Ambassador Mr Friedrich Hamburger of Bangkok-based EU Representative Office, who has completed his tour of duties, at the ministry here at 10 a.m. today.

MNA

Insein No. 1 BEHS’ old students to pay respects on 21 December

YANGON, 16 Nov —The old students of Insein No. 1 Basic Education High School have planned to hold the respect paying ceremony at the school on 21 December.

The old students must attend a coordination meeting for the respect paying at the school on weekly Sunday at 1 pm.

Those wishing to donate cash funds for the ceremony may contact U Ba Hay (640094), U Saw Pyi Thein (643763), K Soe Myint Naing – Siricandar-(095132505), Ko Myo Thant (556204), Daw Khin San Mu-Insein No 1 BEHS (644405), Daw Khin Yadana Thein (6425383), Daw Nyein Aye-YCDC(095814221), U Tint Lwin- University of Computer Studies (09 5003414).

MNA

Objectives of the 88th Anniversary National Day

* To strengthen nationalistic spirit and uplift national prestige and integrity.
* To promote national education
* Perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State
* To achieve success in implementing the seven-step Road Map

Literary talks in Loikaw

YANGON, 17 Nov—Executive Committee members of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay) and U Maung Maung Oo (Hein Latt) gave literary talks in Loikaw from 10 to 13 November.

Hailing the Sarsodaw Day, writer and reader discussions were also held. Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Win Myint presented K 373,500 for literati doyen in commemoration of Sarsodaw Day to U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) on 12 November.—MNA

NLM
Banks meet

NAV Pyi Taw, 17 Nov — The 105th meeting of Supervisory Committee for Banks of Ministry of Finance and Revenue and executive board of Myanmar Banking Association was held at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, here, this morning, with an address by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Col Hla Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue discussed banking services of national and private banks.

U Than Nyein, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar made discussion on rules and regulations and cash flow of banks. Next, executives of Myanmar Banking Association, personnel of respective banks, managing directors and directors of Central Bank of Myanmar and national banks presented reports on banking services. The meeting came to close with a concluding remark of the minister.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe looks into lab of Food and Drug Administration.—HEALTH

Cash donation for storm-hit regions

YANGON, 17 Nov — A ceremony to donate cash to storm-affected areas was held at the Central Bank of Myanmar (branch) under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue here today.

At the cash donation, wellwishers from No. 4 Tactical Operation Command and regiments and units donated K 1.2 million for 2 houses. MNA

Hole-in-one at Myanmar Golf Club

YANGON, 17 Nov — General Manager of Myanmar Timber Enterprise U Than Saw scored an ace at the hole No. 12 from a distance of 141 yards, while striking Titleist No. 4 ball with Maruman Metabio Iron No. 7 at Myanmar Golf Club on 15 November.

At the time, he was playing together with U Ko Gyi (Global Veneer Co Ltd), U Thaha (Myanmar Timber Enterprise) and U Tin Aung (New Brother Ltd). MNA

MWAF conducts knowledge multiplier programme

YANGON, 17 Nov — The Working Group of Trafficking in Women and Children and that of Rehabilitation and Reintegration of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation held its programme of discussing knowledge and disseminating education at the training centre for young girls in Mayangon township on 15 November.

Present on the occasion were leader of Rehabilitation and Reintegration Daw Tin Tin Nwe, second leader Daw Khin Myo Myint, leaders of sub-working groups Daw Khin May Soe, Prof Daw Htay Htun, Daw Thwe Thwe Win, Daw Po Po Kyi and members, trainees and instructors. They discussed knowledge and disseminated education. Officials concerned replied to queries raised by those present. After discussions, leaders of working groups and leaders of sub-working groups viewed training of young girls. MNA

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun gives a speech at the 105th meeting of Supervisory Committee for Banks and executive board of Myanmar Banking Association.—MNA

Dy Health Minister inspects testing of milk powder, dairy products

YANGON, 17 Nov — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe gave instructions on the occasion in the test for the melamine content in sample milk powder and dairy products and the experts from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Industry-1 on conducting the tests.

After giving necessary instructions, the deputy minister inspected testing of sample milk powder at the Food Chemistry Quality Centre Laboratory, the EUSA Room and testing by applying computer software.—MNA

Use of ingredients for making bread, cakes and other snacks to be demonstrated

YANGON, 17 Nov — The demonstration of making bread, cakes and other snacks will be conducted free of charge by foreign Chefs at Parkroyal Hotel here from 12 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 12 December, with the use of premix of AIC Ingredient Sdn Bhd, a variety of margarine and BOS of LAMSOON Edible Oil Sdn Bhd of Malaysia, chocolate raw materials of Indonesia, KRAFT Cheese of USA, fruit fillings and mayonnaise of MOLLY of Thailand.

Entrepreneurs who are engaged in making bread, cakes and other snacks, owners of coffee shops and those interested in making different kinds of snacks may register at Cherry Xeno Trading Co Ltd, No. 83, Theinbyu Road (Lower Block), Botataung Township, Yangon (Tel 01-201655, 293710, 299130) not later than 8 December for the demonstration.—MNA

Basic English Course for women opens

YANGON, 17 Nov — Organized by the education sub-working group of Social and Culture Working Groups of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, the basic English language course for women will be opened at No. 2 Basic Education High School in Sangyoung township.

The eight-week long course will last from 23 November 2008 until 25 January 2009. The course will be open from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on weekends. Those who had passed the matriculation examination, undergraduates and graduates can apply to attend the course.

The entrance forms are available at No. 2 Basic Education High School in Sangyoung Township. For further information, dial Tel-535497. MNA

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After discussions, leaders of working groups and leaders of sub-working groups viewed training of young girls. MNA
Taninthayi Div to become another edible oil bowl of Myanmar

Article: Myint Maung Soe, Photos: Aung Than

An oil palm farm with an area of more than 10,000 acres in Myeik, Taninthayi Division.

Oil palm fruit are milled to get crude palm oil.

(from page 16) Oil can be extracted from a bunch of fruit of a young oil palm, and 10 to 15 viss of oil can be extracted when it has fully grown up.

We then observed the production line. Harvested oil palm fruit were steamed in boilers, and grinded by machines to boost palm oil output. Then the product was milled by the locally-made milling machines. And then it was boiled to remove the water from the mixture of water and palm oil. Crude palm oil was obtained after all the water in the mixture was vaporized.

The company distributes crude palm oil to the domestic markets. Palm oil is also used in confectionary and to produce cosmetics.

Thirty-five entrepreneurs have run oil palm farms on a large scale in Myeik, Kawthoung and Dawei districts in Taninthayi Division to help ensure edible oil sufficiency of the nation. The government has set the target of 500,000 acres of oil palm in Taninthayi Division. So far, 249,274 acres have been put under the crop in the region.

The company is urged to extend farming the crop year by year to help Taninthayi Division meet the goal of becoming another edible oil bowl of Myanmar.

Translation: MS Myanma Alin: 14-11-2008 ****
G-20 summit “significant” for world to tackle financial crisis

BEIJING, 17 Nov — Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said here on Sunday that the G-20 leaders at the summit were expecting a coal ship to dock later on Sunday. “We will try to stay as long as possible,” she said. A port spokesman denied that a coal ship was expected there later, adding that of the three ships that were unloading, the first would only depart on Monday evening. “We expect the situation to be resolved by then,” the spokesman said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry said Fiery jump: Sri Lanka Police Special Task Force (STF) spokesmen Qin Gang said turmoil. International community said here on Sunday that Chinese Foreign Ministry said they were expecting a coal ship to dock later on Sunday. “We will try to stay as long as possible,” she said. A port spokesman denied that a coal ship was expected there later, adding that of the three ships that were unloading, the first would only depart on Monday evening. “We expect the situation to be resolved by then,” the spokesman said.

Members of the Israeli bomb squad inspect the body of Yaacov Alperon, the reputed head of one of Israel’s most notorious crime families, following a car bomb that killed him near the bus station in Tel Aviv. The explosion sparked fears of an all-out underworld war, police said. — INTERNET

Two arrested over shooting of Derby teenager

LONDON, 17 Nov — Police investigating the murder of a 15-year-old boy gunned down in Derby after an argument with a group of youths said on Sunday they had arrested two more people over the killing.

Adeem Blackwood died in hospital after being shot as he walked with friends in the Caxton Street recreation ground in the East Midlands city on Tuesday evening.

The two suspects, arrested over the weekend, are a 48-year-old woman and a 20-year-old man, Derbyshire Constabulary said.

On Saturday, a 19-year-old local man, Michael Hamblet-Sewell, was remanded in custody charged with Blackwood’s murder.

Police are still questioning an 18-year-old man arrested in connection with the case on Sunday.

China’s “Michael Jackson” a cut ahead in surgery

Shi Sanba smiles in Beijing on 15 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET

A man looks at footwear in a Beijing shopping mall on 17 Nov, 2008. China hopes to use a multibillion-dollar stimulus plan to encourage people to spend, part of an effort to reduce the country’s reliance on exports and insulate it from the global economic crisis. — INTERNET

Greenpeace says blocking Rotterdam harbour basin

AMSTERDAM, 17 Nov — Two Greenpeace ships are blocking a dock at Rotterdam Port used to unload coal as part of a protest against the construction of a coal-fired power plant there, the environmental group said on Sunday.

But a port spokesman called the blockade largely symbolic.

Greenpeace activist Agnes de Rooij said the ships Rainbow Warrior and Beluga II were blocking Rotterdam port’s Mississippi dock, where they were expecting a coal ship to dock later on Sunday. “We will try to stay as long as possible,” she said. A port spokesman denied that a coal ship was expected there later, adding that of the three ships that were unloading, the first would only depart on Monday evening. “We expect the situation to be resolved by then,” the spokesman said.

As the basin is off the main waterway, ships can pass into others parts of Rotterdam port, which extends over 40 kilometres (25 miles). MNA/Reuters

Obama resigns Senate seat and adds White House staff

CHICAGO, 17 Nov — US President-elect Barack Obama resigned his seat in the Senate on Sunday to focus on his transition to the White House, appointing new staff and thanking his home state of Illinois for launching his political career.

“I am ending one journey to begin another,” Obama said in a letter to the people of Illinois, describing his job representing them as one of the highest honours of his life.

“I am stepping down as senator to prepare for the responsibilities I will assume as our nation’s next president,” he said. “But I will never forget, and will forever be grateful to, the men and women of this great state who made my life in public service possible.”

Obama’s resignation as senator means he will not participate in this week’s post-election session on Capitol Hill that could address the ailing economy and struggling auto industry.

Obama’s successor in the Senate will be appointed by Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, a Democrat. — INTERNET

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**UK faces sharp downturn and big rise in jobless**

*London, 17 Nov*—Britain will suffer its sharpest economic contraction in almost two decades next year and the number of people out of work could rise to nearly 3 million by 2010, the Confederation of British Industry said on Monday.

It said it expects the economy to contract by 1.7 percent in 2009 and blamed the fallout from global financial turmoil for the massive revision to the 0.3 percent growth forecast it had issued in September.

The global economy is suffering its worst financial crisis in 80 years, with governments around the world injecting trillions of dollars into the banking system to keep it afloat.

“What is clear is that the short and shallow recession we had hoped for a matter of months ago is now likely to be deeper and longer lasting,” said John Cridland, CBI deputy director-general. —Internet

**Discovery offers way of tracking cancer in blood**

*Chicago, 17 Nov*—Tiny sacs released from tumor cells and circulating in the blood carry genetic information about the tumor, offering a new way to track and treat the cancer, US researchers said on Sunday.

“They contain a little piece of the tumor cell in the blood stream. If you just look at these packets, you basically know what kind of mutations are in the tumor cell,” said Xandra Breakefield of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, whose study appears in the Journal Nature Cell Biology.

These membrane-covered packets, called exosomes, represent a new way of getting information about a cancer, offering a means of choosing the best therapy, seeing how a patient responds to treatment, and possibly offering a way to deliver therapies back to the tumor, Breakefield said. “It’s a whole new concept of cell communication we didn’t know tumors used,” Breakefield said in a telephone interview.

She said for most forms of cancer, there is no good way to know what genetic mutations are in a tumor, short of taking a sample and doing a biopsy.

Many current blood tests, such as the prostate specific antigen, or PSA, test for prostate cancer, simply check for elevated levels of a specific protein.

By using exosomes, doctors might be able to get specific information about a cancer from a simple blood test. “It’s a blood biomarker,” she said. —Internet

**Supply trucks resume travel in Pakistan pass**

*Khyber Pass, 17 Nov*—A reporter says container trucks and oil tankers bound for US and NATO troops in Afghanistan have resumed travel through the Khyber Pass.

A convoy of about 30 vehicles began moving Monday under armed escort after militant attacks prompted their suspension from the critical supply route.

Much of the supplies used by foreign troops in Afghanistan go through the famed, but increasingly perilous passage.

Last Monday, dozens of suspected Taliban militants hijacked several trucks whose load included Humvees heading to the US-led coalition.

Pakistani officials imposed the suspension soon afterward to review security. —Internet

**Sharp-witted elderly shed insight on dementia**

*Chicago, 17 Nov*—People who manage to keep a razor-sharp memory well into their 80s appear to have fewer fiber-like tangles of a protein linked with Alzheimer’s than those who age normally, US researchers said on Sunday.

Lower levels of this protein, known as tau, appear to be a critical factor in maintaining memory skills, they said.

“It was always assumed that the accumulation of these tangles is a progressive phenomenon through the aging process,” Changiz Geula of Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, said in a statement.

“But we are seeing that some individuals are immune to tangle formation and that the presence of these tangles seems to influence cognitive performance,” said Geula, who is presenting his findings at a Society for Neuroscience meeting in Washington.

While most studies of memory and aging involve people with some form of cognitive decline, Geula studied the so-called “super-aged,” or those who maintain sharp cognitive skills in advanced age.

The researchers studied the brains of five deceased people considered super-aged because of their high scores on memory tests at age 80, and compared them to the brains of elderly individuals who had no signs of dementia.

Internet

**Claims Day Notice**

MV OCEAN FRIEND VOY NO ( 9 )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN FRIEND VOY NO ( 9 ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.11.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent for: M/S OCEAN FRIEND**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**Claims Day Notice**

MV SIRI BHUM VOY NO (312)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIRI BHUM VOY NO (312) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.11.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent for: M/S SIRI BHUM**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Claims Day Notice**

MV HOANG SON STAR VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HOANG SON STAR VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.11.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.P.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent for: Bright Shipping Co., Ltd**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**ANNIVERSARY AND BIRTHDAY WISH**

Than Swe-Khin Aye Win

(18-11-2008)

Wishing our beloved parents a very happy 35th Wedding anniversary today and also our loving wishes to Pe Pe for his 66th birthday today.

Thameegyi-Thameenge

**Internet**

**Shoppers pass an advertisement on a high street supermarket window in west London on 6 Nov, 2008.**—Internet
Australia invests in whale research

CANNBERA. 17 Nov— Australia will invest millions of dollars in non-lethal whale research to show Japan that the animals do not need to be killed in order to be studied, the government announced Monday.

The $3.87 million campaign begins just ahead of Japan’s Southern Ocean summer whale hunting season, when its fleet regularly kills more than 1,000 whales for research. Critics say the hunts are a cover for commercial whaling, banned since 1986.

The Australian campaign will invest in aerial surveys, satellite tags and genetic studies.

Environment Minister Peter Garrett said researchers do not need to use “grenade-tipped harpoons.” “Australia does not believe that we need to kill whales to understand them,” Garrett said.

The fund will also carry out an assessment of Japan’s scientific whaling program.

Japan’s Fisheries Agency said last week that its whaling fleet is expected to cut up to 935 minke whales and 50 fin whales this season.

Japan kills the whales under a scientific program that Tokyo says provides crucial data on populations, feeding habits and distribution of the mammals in the seas near Antarctica and the north Pacific Ocean.

Vitamin C or E pills do not prevent cancer

WASHINGTON, 17 Nov— Vitamin C or E pills do not help prevent cancer in men, concludes the same big study that last week found these supplements ineffective for warding off heart disease.

The public has been whipsawed by good and bad news about vitamins, much of it from test-tube or animal studies and hyped manufacturer claims. Even when researchers compare people’s diets and find that a vitamin seems to help, the benefit may not translate when that nutrient is obtained a different way, such as a pill.

“Antioxidants, which include vitamin C and vitamin E, have been shown as a group to have potential benefit,” but have not been tested individually for a long enough time to know, said Howard Sesso of Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston.

The Physicians Health Study, which he helped lead, was designed to do that. It involved 14,641 male doctors, 50 or older, including 1,274 who had cancer when or before the study started in 1997.

They were included so scientists could see whether the vitamins could prevent a second cancer.

Participants were put into four groups and given vitamin E, vitamin C, both, or dummy pills. The dose of E was 400 international units every other day; C was 500 milligrams daily.

Shuttle Endeavour links with space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, 17 Nov— Space shuttle Endeavour linked with the international space station on Sunday, kicking off a huge home makeover that will allow twice as many astronauts to live up there beginning next year.

Commander Christopher Ferguson guided the shuttle to a smooth docking, on image from the Space Shuttle Endeavour is welcomed aboard the International Space Station after docking, on 16 Nov, 2008. Internet

Bothered Cosmos 2104

“Wow,” Chamitoff exclaimed. “You look beautiful... I am smiling from ear to ear.” Internet

Three killed, 25 injured in Jammu road accidents

JAMMU, 17 Nov — Three people were killed and twenty five others injured in different road accidents in the last 24 hours in the Jammu region, police reports here today said.

“One person died yesterday when his tractor turned turtle while working in fields in tehsil Nowshera of Rajouri district,” police said. The deceased has been identified as Nirmal Singh, resident of Lam, Nowshera. Police, however, said the deceased was being shifted to the Government Medical College in a critical condition but he succumbed to his injuries on way to Jammu. Meanwhile, a scooterist was crushed to death by an Army vehicle in Udhampur district.— Internet

Tribal commander, says 16 militants killed in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 17 Nov — At least 16 militants were killed in a fierce clash with tribes and security forces in Pakistan’s tribal region of Bajaur.

According to the local people, a Lashkar or force of the Oruzai clan killed 10 militants and lost its chief Malik Fazal Mabud and important tribal leader Malik Jamdar Khan in the gun battle yesterday, in Gutkai and Bandarae areas of Bajaur, where Army troops had launched an operation in August to clean the area of local and foreign militants hiding there.

Both sides took positions on elevations and used heavy weapons.

Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) spokesman Maulvi Umer claimed that none of his men had been killed and said they had captured 25 members of the Lashkar. He said during a ‘jirga’ they had agreed to leave that area.— Internet

Kashmir bridge collapses; four killed, 19 missing

SRINAGAR, 17 Nov — A bridge under construction over an icy Himalayan river in Indian-controlled Kashmir collapsed Sunday, killing four workers and leaving 19 others missing and feared dead, police said.

Rescuers were searching the banks of the river for more bodies or survivors, said B Srinivas, a senior police official. The incident took place outside the town of Uri, 62 miles (100 kilometers) west of Srinagar, the main city in the region.

The bridge is near the de facto border that separates India and Pakistan, which both claim the Himalayan region.— Internet

Tijuana shootings kill 14-year-old, seven others

TIJUANA, 17 Nov— Prosecutors announced the release of a doctor whose 6 Nov kidnapping in Tijuana helped spark anti-crime protests, but deadly violence continued unabated in the Mexican city across from San Diego. Shootings across Tijuana claimed the lives a 14-year-old girl and seven others, local authorities reported Sunday.

Baja California state prosecutors say the girl and two men were shot down in a Tijuana street on Saturday just before midnight. Assaults in a separate attack on the pool hall used assault rifles to kill four men and one woman. Assault rifles are frequently used in the violent drug cartel turf battles and assassinations that have plagued Tijuana recently.— Internet
Injured Gerrard out of Germany friendly

England midfielders Frank Lampard (right) and Steven Gerrard attend training at London Colney, October 2008. Gerrard and Lampard were both ruled out from Wednesday's friendly international away to Germany in Berlin because of injuries they both suffered last weekend.—Internet

Hull and Man City end losing streaks with 2-2 draw

London, 17 Nov — Hull City and Manchester City both ended their three-match league losing streaks on Sunday as they fought out an open and entertaining 2-2 draw at the KC Stadium.

Hull's flying start to their first top-flight season has been built largely on their away form as at home they had lost three and drawn one of their previous six matches and they struggled to get on top of a lively City side in the early stages. However, they were gifted the lead after 14 minutes when Manchester City defender Tal Ben Haim mistook a backpass to allow Daniel Cousin's shot in and score.

City keeper Joe Hart injured his foot in the incident and had to go off and looks likely to miss England's midweek friendly in Germany.

Hull then returned the compliment when Kamil Zayatte, under no real pressure in his own box, prodded the ball straight to Stephen Ireland for the equaliser after 37 minutes. City then took control and there was nothing for- tunate about Ireland's second goal and he curled in a lovely 20-metre shot just before halftime. Hull levelled with a deflected Geovanni free kick after an hour to set up an exciting finale, though neither side was able to finish off a number of half-chances. In the day's other Premier League match Everton and Middlesbrough drew 1-1 at Goodison Park to extend both teams' unbeaten runs to five games. —Internet

Werder back in scoring groove with Cologne win

Berlin, 17 Nov — Werder Bremen re- discovered their scoring touch on Sunday to beat Cologne 3-1 and get back into the race for European places.

Werder, surprisingly held to a goalless draw with Bochum last weekend, had no such problems in attack once Diego had put them ahead with a penalty in the 15th minute. It was only Werder's fifth league win but it was enough to take them to seventh place with 20 points from 13 games.

"It wasn't our best performance but it will give us a boost in confidence," goalkeeper Tim Wiese told Premiere TV. —Internet

Benfica consolidate second spot with win over Amadora

Lisbon, 17 Nov — Benfica consolidated second place in the Portuguese Premier League with a 1-0 home win over Estrela Amadora on Sunday.

Brazilian defender Sidnei clinched the points for Benfica with a sweet strike from the edge of the box after good work by captain Nuno Gomes five minutes after the restart. Unheralded Leixoes continued their excellent start to the season with a 1-0 win at Sporting on Saturday to stay top of the standings with 19 points from eight matches, one ahead Benfica.

Maritimo, who beat Trofense 2-0 on Friday, champions Porto, who defeated Vitoria Guimaraes 2-0 on Saturday and Nacional Ma- deira, who drew 0-0 with Rio Ave on Sunday, share third spot with 14 points each. —Internet

American Daly to play Australian Masters

Sydney, 17 Nov — Former two-time major winner John Daly has entered next week's Australian Masters, organisers said on Monday.

The 1991 US PGA and 1995 British Open champion has agreed to play the co-sanctioned tournament in Melbourne after recently saying he wanted to play more European Tour events next season.

"I am looking forward to coming back to Australia," Daly said in a statement released by event organisers. "I've always enjoyed my trips there and I'm looking forward to competing at the Australian Masters at Huntingdale."

Daly, who is also entered for this week's Hong Kong Open, has not played in Australia for six years after upsetting local officials on his last visit.

The American was disqualified and then fined at the 2002 Australian PGA after he threw his putter into a lake and stormed off the course without signing his card. Five years earlier, he angered local sponsors who had paid him a hefty appearance fee when he shot a third round 83 then raced through his final round in a little over two hours.—Internet

Federer has tough start and tough finish to 2008

Shanghai, 17 Nov — Novak Djokovic's Masters Cup triumph marked the end of a four-year Shanghai sojourn for the tournament and might also have brought down the curtain on the Roger Federer era at the season-ending championships.

Federer had played in the previous seven Masters Cups and the last five finals, losing out only in 2005 when David Nalb- anian came back to beat the injured Swiss in a fifth set tiebreak.

This week, though, the 13-times grand slam winner bowed out in the group stage for the first time when, hampered by injury and illness, he lost a titanic clash with Briton Andy Murray.

That was his 15th defeat in a season when he lost his world number one ranking and beloved Wimbledon title to Rafael Nadal, prompting speculation that 2008 might have been the beginning of the end for the Swiss master. —Internet

Lucky penalty helps Milan close gap on Inter

Milan, 17 Nov — Kaká scored a contested penalty to help AC Milan cut the gap on Serie A leaders Inter Milan to a point with a 1-0 home win over lowly Chievo on Sunday.

The Brazilian playmaker netted after appearing to be tripped just outside the box by Simone Bentivoglio in 15 minutes.

Napoli also scored thanks to a dubious spot-kick but failed to join Milan on 26 points after two late goals gave Atalanta a 3-1 home win in an incident-packed match in Bergamo.

Champions Inter won 2-0 at Palermo on Saturday thanks to Zlatan Ibrahimovic's superb double while Juventus, now third on 24 points from 12 games, beat Genoa 4-1 on Thursday.

Fifth-placed Lazio missed the chance to move above Juve when they lost 1-0 to struggling AS Roma in a lively Rome derby.

Julio Baptista headed home Francesco Totti's cross on 50 minutes to give Roma only their third league win this term and put last season's runners-up three clear of the drop zone with a game in hand.

Lazio had several opportunities during the late match and were close to equalising despite having Cristian Ledesma dismissed for two yellows 20 minutes into the second half. Roma's Simone Perrotta also received a second booking late on.

Milan drew 1-1 at Lecce last weekend after conceding in stoppage time and they risked a similar outcome at the San Siro by failing to find a second goal to kill off a plucky Chueco.—Internet
S Korea likely to provide N-deal aid to North Korea

SEOUL, 17 Nov — South Korea is likely to provide aid agreed under a deal with North Korea despite differences in the North’s nuclear verification process, South Korea’s Yonhap news agency reported on Sunday, citing a diplomatic source.

“With consultations with respective countries, 3,000 tons of steel pipes is likely to be processed soon,” Yonhap quoted the source as saying.

As a part of a deal it reached with China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States, the energy-starved North was to receive one million tons of heavy fuel oil, and or of equal value for freezing operations at Yongbyon.

It has received about half that amount so far. Earlier in the week, North Korea had said the process of inspectors removing samples from a plutonium-producing nuclear plant was an infringement on its sovereignty and was not part of a disarmament-for-aid deal reached in six-party talks. — Internet

Food banks see more need, fewer donations

NEW YORK, 17 Nov — Jennifer Bingham earned 7.50 US dollars an hour packing boxes for a Jewellery company, but after a short illness she was fired and had to seek help at a food pantry and women’s shelter. “Never expected to get sick,” said Bingham, 51, who had no savings.

Bingham is not alone. The economic downturn triggered by the worst financial crisis in decades is sending more Americans to food banks. But the crisis has also cut donations from companies and individuals, according to a survey for Feeding America, the largest US relief organization.

“We’re seeing more and more people coming to the front door and less and less food coming through the back door,” said Aime Daggan of the Food Bank for New York City. “We’re being squeezed from both sides and we haven’t seen the worst of it.” — MNA/Reuters

Three die in police car chase

LONDON, 17 Nov — Three people have died in a car crash in Oldham after a police chase. Greater Manchester Police said on Sunday.

Two men and a woman died when their Opel Vectra hit a garden wall shortly after 3:30 am. The fourth person in the car, a woman, is in critical condition in hospital. A police officer on routine patrol had been pursuing the Vectra after it refused to stop in Oldham town centre.

In a separate police chase on the M1 motorway in Derbyshire, a male passenger died when a Vauxhall Corsa pursued by police after failing to stop left the northbound carriageway and hit a bank. — Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 18 November, 2008

WEATHER

Monday, 17 November, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below November average temperatures in Kachin and Rakhine States, Magway and Bago Divisions, (6°C) below November average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division and about November average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loleim (4°C) and Hakha (7°C).

Maximum temperature on 16-11-2008 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 17-11-2008 was 69°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-11-2008 was 77%. Total sunshine hours on 16-11-2008 was (10.0) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 17-11-2008 was (Nil) at Mingladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.33) inches at Mingladon,(120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from South at (13:30) hours MST on 16-11-2008.

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

Special feature: According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, the tropical storm “NOUL” over the South China Sea is crossing the South Vietnam Coast.

Forecast valid until evening of 18th November 2008: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Mon and Kayin States, Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in strong winds may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-11-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-11-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-11-2008: Generally fair weather.
Taninthayi Div to become another edible oil bowl of Myanmar

Article: Myint Maung Soe, Photos: Aung Than

Untimely rains

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Nov—According to the (5 p.m.) MST observation today, the tropical storm "Noul" over Vietnam’s south coast continued to move eastwards.

Due to the impact of the storm, rain may be scattered in Mon State, Kayin State, Yangon Division and Taninthayi Division with isolated heavy rains.

Frequent squalls with rough seas will be experienced along Mon and Taninthayi coast and heavy waves will also occur at sea. Surface wind speed in squall may reach up to 40 mph.

MNA

Golf Tournament for the Disabled on 19 Nov

YANGON, 17 Nov — Under the aegis of Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Disabled Sports Federation, the 20th Golf Tournament for the Disabled will be held at Tatmadaw Golf Course on 19 November.

Golfers may register at Myanmar Disabled Sports Federation of Aung San Stadium (Tel 01382455), Major Thein Swe Myint (Retd) (Tel 01542941) and Captain Aung Myint Tun (Retd) (Tel 098024090) not later than 18 November. The golfers are to report to the Tatmadaw Golf Course at 6 a.m. on 19 November.

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