England and Italy. Arshavin is also interest from playmaker but there to sign the drid are favourites claimed Real Ma-

21 Nov—Andrei Arshavin in demand

MUNICH, 21 Nov—Bayern Munich coach Jurgen Klinsmann is hoping Landon Donovan will remain with the Bundesliga champions "at least until the end of the season" after agreeing to take the striker on loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Donovan, who has spent the last 10 days on trial in Bavaria, should return to Munich on January 2 for a loan deal until mid-March - when the MLS season commences.

But Klinsmann revealed he is in talks with the MLS, who have already given Donovan their word that he can join Bayern, to try to make the former Bayer Leverkusen striker’s stay a little longer.

"The aim is obviously to see whether we can prolong their colonial administrative machinery. The Year 1920 National Educa-

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—The following is a translation of the full text of the 88th Anniversary National Day message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Esteemed national people,

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you national people on the occasion of the 88th Anniversary of National Day designated to mark the national movements to regain independence and sovereignty of the Union of Myanmar from the colonialists.

We Myanmar people by nature are strongly equipped with nationalistic spirit. So, we preserve sovereignty and take pride in our motherland, race, language, culture, traditions and customs. Throughout successive periods, national brethren have been capable of repulsing any forms of alien invasion at risk to life, inspired by patriotic spirit and Union Spirit.

The colonial education policy of the colonialists was specially designed to prolong their colonial administrative machinery. The Year 1920 National Educa-

Senior General Than Shwe sends National Day message

Government working hard to ensure equitable development of whole Union

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Honouring the 88th Anniversary National Day
**Perspectives**

Saturday, 22 November, 2008

Make continued efforts in accord with National Day objectives

Today, the 10th Waning of Tazaungmon is the 88th Anniversary of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar.

The National Day is a day on which the national movement went down in the annals of the history of Myanmar independence struggle. The national movement sounded clarion call for Myanmar independence struggle when Myanmar was under the colonialist rule.

Myanmar was under foreign subjugation after the colonialist waged three aggressive wars against her.

The colonialists during their rule promulgated the Yangon University Act which was in favour of the colonialism on 1 December 1920. The law not only restricted the Myanmar youths in their pursuit of higher education but also prolonged their rule.

Therefore, patriotic youths equipped with nationalism opposed the colonial education law, and demanded a better education system, thereby culminating in the national movement.

The national movement not only opposed the colonial education system but also rose against the colonial oppression. The 10th Waning of Tazaungmon 1282 on which the national movement was launched was thus designated as the National Day, and the ceremonies to mark it are held yearly.

Honouring the National Day which gave rise to upfift of dynamism of nationalist spirit, the entire national people are to make continued efforts in line with the National Day objectives—to strengthen nationalist spirit and uplift national prestige and integrity, to promote national education, perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State, and to achieve success in implementing the seven-step Road Map.

**Senior General Than Shwe sends National Day message**

(from page 1)

The State’s seven-step Road Map is being implemented step by step to build a peaceful, modern and developed new democratic nation with flourishing discipline. The State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was adopted with the support of 92.48 per cent of the voters at the referendum held in May 2008. Therefore, the entire national people are duty-bound to actively participate with Union Spirit and national fervour in the drive to see to the seven-step Road Map.

In conclusion, I would like to exhort you to work hard with national vigour to materialize the objectives of the 88th Anniversary of National Day:

1. To strengthen nationalistic spirit and uplift national prestige and integrity,
2. To promote national education,
3. Perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State,
4. To achieve success in implementing the seven-step Road Map.—MNA

**Requirements of BEHSs in PyinOoLwin fulfilled**

Yangon, 21 Nov
— Director-General of No. 2 Basic Education Department U Aye Lwin inspected basic education high schools in PyinOoLwin Township yesterday.

During the tour, the director-general visited No. 3 BEHS, Mogogyi BEHS and Watwun BEHS in the township and inspected conditions of the school buildings, laboratories and sanitation.

In meeting with the teachers, the director-general stressed the need for improvement of skills of the teachers and effective use of teaching aids. He also gave instructions on raising the pass rate of the matriculation examination and fulfilled the requirements of the schools.

**Labutta Tsp to get sufficient water**

Yangon, 21 Nov—Ms. Rose Marie, on behalf of International Organization for Migration (IOM), donated 10 beds, and prefabricated health clinics to Pyinsalu Station Hospital in Labutta Township through Deputy Director-General of the Department of Health Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein at the medical facility on 17 November.

The deputy director-general comforted the patients and inspected the medical store and wards.

In meeting with local authorities, heads of township Health Departments and local NGOs at the WHO-run office in Labutta Township, he called for supply of sufficient portable water and clean water and environment conservation.—MNA

**Excursion to S’pore for over-14 students**

Yangon, 21 Nov—National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University will co-organize a two-week academic excursion camp under the arrangements of AT&S Co Ltd in Singapore.

Any student at the age of over 14 may apply for the cold season excursion, where 12 two-hour lectures will be conducted by NUS and NTU. The trip also covers Singapore National Library, Natural History Museum, Singapore Botanical Gardens, and Singapore Discovery Museum.

Interested candidates are to get registered by 5 December, and may contact for further details.
Suicide bomber kills nine in Afghanistan

KHOST, 21 Nov—A suicide car-bomber killed nine people and wounded 16, including two US soldiers, in an attack on Thursday on a government compound in eastern Afghanistan, a government official said.

The Taleban insurgency has intensified over the past two years and the number of foreign troops has gone up to 70,000, about half of them American. Violence has also spread to the west of the country but is still at its worst along the Pakistani border in the south and east.

The bomber blew himself up at the gate of a district government center in Khost province. Khost is next to Pakistan’s North Waziristan region, a militant hotbed. District government chief Abdul Qayoum said nine people were killed, five of them police and guards, and four civilians.

Blast kills 10 at funeral in northwest Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, 21 Nov—A bomb attack killed at least 10 people and wounded 40 at the funeral for a Shi’ite Muslim on Friday in the northwest Pakistani town of Dera Ismail Khan.

The attack sparked an outbreak of shooting around the hospital where the dead and wounded were brought, and police fired tear gas in an attempt to restore order, according to journalists at the scene.

NWFP Information Minister Mian Iftikhar Hussain told Reuters 10 people were killed and up to 30 wounded, though a doctor at the main government hospital put the number of wounded at 40.

The funeral was for a man killed on Thursday, but a Shi’ite cleric was also killed on Friday morning before the funeral.—Internet

Shouting and pounding, Iraqis fight over US pact

BAGHDAD, 21 Nov—Iraq’s Parliament persevered Thursday in its debate on a proposed security agreement with the United States despite raucous attempts by opposition lawmakers to disrupt proceedings ahead of next week’s vote on the deal.

The measure, which would keep US forces in Iraq for another three years, has a good chance of passing in the Shi’ite-led parliament. But the uproar created by loyalists of radical Shi’ite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr suggests the pact could remain divisive as the country struggles for reconciliation after years of war.

If al-Sadr’s group and other legislators opposed to the pact lose by a thin margin in the vote planned for Monday, they might attempt to turn their anti-American message into a defining issue in provincial elections on 31 Jan and general elections late in 2009. His followers planned a major rally on Friday in central Baghdad to protest the security deal, which they view as a surrender to US interests.

In fact, the terms of the pact establish for the first time a clear timetable for the withdrawal of American forces from Iraq. They must be out of cities by 30 June, 2009, and the entire country by the end of 2011. It would also give Iraqi authorities far more oversight over the US military presence than they currently have.

World struggles to take on plague of Somali piracy

NAIROBI, 21 Nov—The UN, African Union and Arab nations struggled to respond Thursday to a surge of pirate attacks, authorizing sanctions and calling for international peacekeepers to address the chaos in Somalia that has spawned an upsurge in sea banditry.

The economic reverberations of the attacks widened as the world’s largest container-shipping company said it would begin sending some slower vessels thousands of miles around southern Africa to avoid the perilous waters on the shorter Suez Canal route. Insurance underwriters and brokers said the increased danger off the east coast of Africa was driving up premiums for shipping operators. The African Union urged the United Nations to quickly send national peacekeepers to address the chaos in Somalia that has spawned an upsurge in sea banditry.

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Russia set to extend presidential term

MOSCOW, 21 Nov — The Russian parliament was expected Friday to approve a constitutional amendment to extend the presidential term from four to six years.

There is widespread speculation in Russian media that the change is aimed at paving the way for a return to the Kremlin by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who remains a popular and powerful figure since leaving the president’s office in May.

The Kremlin maintains the amendment — along with other proposed changes to the terms in office for elected officials — is necessary to ensure the stability of future Russian governments.

President Dmitry Medvedev announced the measures two weeks ago, in his first state-of-the-nation speech on November 5. The lower house of the Russian parliament was having its third and final reading Friday before putting the measures to a vote. — INTERNET

Gunmen attack Nigerian Navy near Shell oil facility

PORT HARCOURT, 21 Nov — Unknown gunmen attacked a navy houseboat in southern Nigeria protecting a Royal Dutch Shell crude oil flow station on Friday, a military spokesman said.

The attack at the Nembe Creek flow station in Bayelsa state in the western Niger Delta took place around 3 am (2 am British time), Rabe Abubakar, spokesman for the joint military task force said. He said the Shell facility itself was not damaged. “There is no report so far of any (deaths) but we are collecting more details,” Abubakar said. A security source working in the oil industry said four naval personnel were injured and receiving treatment while three more were unaccounted for.

Recent attacks by militants on oil facilities in the Niger Delta had largely been focussed on Rivers state in the western Niger Delta but there have been a growing number of violent incidents in Bayelsa and Delta states to the west. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) has said it believes the military are preparing to attack militant camps in Bayelsa and Delta and warned that it will end its cease-fire and resume attacks on the oil industry if it is provoked. — INTERNET

US contractors to lose immunity from Iraqi law

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov — Private contractors working for the US government in Iraq will lose their immunity from Iraqi law under a new pact with Baghdad, senior American officials said on Thursday.

The contractors, who provide everything from personal security to meals for US forces and officials in Iraq, were told they should expect to lose their immunity starting January 1, the State and Defence department officials said.

The agreement, which has yet to be approved by Iraq’s parliament, allows US forces to stay in Iraq three more years. A vote is expected next week on the pact, which replaces a United Nations mandate that expires at the end of this year. — INTERNET

Deadly flash floods hit storm-battered Australian city

Australia

Flash flood’s killed a woman and forced evacuations days after the city was hit by a violent storm, according to officials. — INTERNET

BRISBANE, 21 Nov — Flash flood’s killed a woman and forced evacuations as torrential rain drenched Australia’s battered city of Brisbane on Thursday just days after it was hit by a violent storm, officials said.

The 85-year-old died when she was trapped in her car as it was swept away by floodwaters east of the Queensland state capital, police said. Her elderly husband was recovering in hospital.

More than 1,000 calls were made to emergency services in Brisbane and surrounding areas on the east coast, which were pounded by up to 25 centimetres (nearly 10 inches) of rain over seven hours overnight.

A file photo shows People walk past a giant sculpture featuring Albert Einstein’s formula “E=mc2” in front of Berlin’s Altes Museum. — INTERNET

In Congo’s remote hills, a struggle to survive

In a tense vacuum between war and peace, where little government authority exists, Katembo Mastaki is trying to protect his family the only way he knows how: tethering a ripped piece of plastic sheeting-turned-tent to the merciful barbed wire surrounding a UN base.

“Only God who protects us here,” the 27-year-old teacher said, huddled in the grass and dirt Wednesday outside a UN base in Kanyabayonga. — INTERNET

An armed vehicle belonging to an unidentified private security company escorts a truck near Iskandaria, south of Baghdad. — INTERNET

An employee working on the assembly line of the French car maker group PSA Peugeot Citroen at the Sochaux factory, central France. — INTERNET

China Shenhu Energy, the country’s largest coal miner, said it had paid 299.9 million Australia dollars for a coal exploration licence in Australia. — INTERNET
Verizon Wireless bets on Storm for holiday season

But the Storm, which goes on sale in the United States on 21November, has a different approach to touch-screen typing that RIM hopes will win over people addicted to the keypads on other Black-Berry e-mail devices.

Instead of tapping lightly on the screen, as with iPhone, Storm users have to press firmly until they feel a physical click more similar to the experience of typing on keypads.

Ofcom says Irish the heaviest users of mobile phones

London, 21 Nov — Residents in the Republic of Ireland spent the most time on their mobile phones and sent the most text messages per head in the world last year, according to a report which examines changes in the communications industry.

Known for their ‘gift of the gab’ or talent for speaking, the Irish lead the way in the use of mobile phones, spending around 179 minutes per month on average on their mobiles.

The Irish love of the ‘craic’ or general banter has also spread to texting with mobile phone users in Ireland sending an average of 154 text messages a month, nearly double the figure in Britain.

The International Communications Market report by the British regulator Ofcom said mobile phones were becoming more crucial to people, especially in emerging markets where growth is very strong.

Israel displays airpower it could use against Iran

An Israeli F-16 fighter plane takes off from Ramon Air Base in southern Israel on 19 Nov, 2008.—Internet

RAMON AIR BASE (Israel), 21 Nov — Israel on Wednesday displayed air power it could use to attack Iran’s suspected nuclear weapons project if diplomacy fails to persuade the Islamic Republic to halt uranium enrichment.

Foreign news crews invited on a rare visit to the sprawling Ramon air base could not draw the pilots of specially adapted, long-range F-16 jets into naming Iran as their potential target — but neither they nor those managing the military’s media message made any effort to quash the repeated suggestion.

“We are prepared and ready to do whatever Israel needs us to do and if this is the mission we’re given then we are ready,” said Colonel Amon, who commands the Negev Squadron of F-161 “Sofas” — multi-role strike aircraft designed to both bomb and fight other air forces over long periods and distances.

“Air power has been a major player in every war we’ve fought since 1948,” the colonel, who in line with Israeli military rules did not give his surname, told reporters during the unusual opening of the desert base to the foreign media.—Internet

Endeavour astronaut loses tools in space

An astronaut from the space shuttle Endeavour let slip her tool bag during a spacewalk and watched helplessly as it floated off into space, NASA said.

Astronaut Heide Stefanyshyn-Piper, who took part in the first of the mission’s four planned spacewalks, had just started working on a jammed joint on a solar panel of the International Space Station (ISS) when the accident occurred.

NASA Television transmitted live images showing the tool bag, with all the tools inside, slipping away, after Stefanyshyn-Piper removed grease that had leaked out of a grease gun onto the bag’s contents.

“Oh, great!” she exclaimed.

Mission Control at the Johnson Space Center in Houston however said the mission to work on the ISS’s solar array rotation system would continue.

World’s oldest polar bear dies at Canadian zoo

British Columbia Canadian zoo officials on Tuesday were mourning the death of what is believed to be the world’s oldest polar bear

The 42-year-old bear named Debby died on Monday at a Canadian zoo in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where she had lived since 1967 after being captured as a orphaned cub in the Russian Arctic in 1966. Debby was in declining health due to her advanced age, and veterinarians decided to euthanize her after it was discovered she had suffered multiple organ failure.

She was listed as the world’s oldest polar bear by the Guinness Book of World Records when she turned 41, according to officials at the Assiniboine Park Zoo.

Debby gave birth to six cubs at the zoo where she lived for many years with a male bear, Skipper, who died several years ago at age 34, according to the zoo.

“Pregnant man”: My wife and I are normal couple

Thomas Beatie, known as “the pregnant man,” along with his wife and five month baby girl, appeared in an interview Tuesday together for the first time.

The 34-year-old man said he has been ten weeks and double the figure in Britain.

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CIA faulted in shooting down of missionary plane

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov.—The CIA obstructed inquiries into its role in the shooting down of an aircraft carrying a family of US missionaries in Peru in 2001, the agency’s inspector general has concluded.

The inspector-general’s report said a CIA-backed programme in Peru targeting drug runners was so poorly run that many suspect aircraft were shot down by Peruvian Air Force jets without proper checks being made first.

Unclassified portions of the report were made public for the first time on Thursday by US Representative Pete Hoekstra, the top Republican on the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, who criticized the CIA for the “needless” deaths.

Central Intelligence Agency spokesman Paul Gimigliano said the agency’s director, Michael Hayden, had received the full classified report in August and passed it on to the Justice Department, which declined in 2005 to bring any prosecutions.

A small plane carrying Veronica Bowers, her husband Jim, their son Cory and infant daughter Charity was shot down by a Peruvian jet on April 20, 2001, after it was tracked by a CIA surveillance plane that suspected it was carrying drugs. —Xinhua /INTERNET

Lao Govt urged to plan for nat’l financial fallout

HANOI, 21 Nov.—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Resident Representative Ben Bingham urged Lao Government to form contingency plans to cope with falling exports, reduced remittances, and a slowing national economy which will likely occur as a result of the global financial crisis, the Lao newspaper Vientiane Times reported on Thursday.

Bingham’s concerns were made at a Wednesday meeting with Lao Government officials and development partners in Vientiane, Laos, to discuss the impact of regional and international economic slowdowns on Laos.

When global commodity prices decline, including copper and gold, food and agricultural commodity prices, the value of exports will ultimately decline, said Bingham. Rural provinces which have been reliant on investment in land, agriculture, cash crop exports, tourism sector and textile and garment industry may also be adversely affected by the international economic slowdowns, he said.

The Thai garment industry employs many Lao workers, and if demand for these products drops there will be less jobs and less money being sent back to relatives in Laos. Remittances could also decline from the significant number of Lao people living abroad in the United States, Australia and France, said Bingham.

Therefore, the government of Laos should plan for the possibility that its economic growth may fail to meet projections, said Bingham. At the meeting, Bingham also urged Laos to accelerate efforts to improve the competitiveness of the Lao economy. —Xinhua

APEC supports Russia’s efforts to join WTO

LIMA, 21 Nov.—Foreign and trade ministers from APEC member economies voiced their support on Thursday to Russia’s efforts to join the World Trade Organization (WTO). “We confirmed our support for the participation of the Russian Federation in the WTO and welcomed the progress in its accession negotiations,” they said in a statement issued after a two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting in the Peruvian capital.

APEC economies have been some of the biggest beneficiaries of the open, rules-based multilateral trading system under the WTO, the statement said.

The statement said the APEC ministers responsible for trade meeting provided strong support this year for a prompt and successful conclusion to the WTO Doha Round development agenda negotiations.—Xinhua

Hong Kong launches CDMA2000 mobile network

HONG KONG, 21 Nov.—PCCW-HKT Telephone has launched CDMA2000 mobile service, Hong Kong’s fifth 3G mobile network after the four W-CDMA networks licensed in 2001, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority said, Friday.

Visitors holding CDMA equipment can now enjoy CDMA2000 roaming services, strengthening Hong Kong’s strategic position as a world city and the gateway between the Mainland and the globe.

The Office of the Telecommunications Authority said the new network offers high-speed data and voice services conforming to the CDMA2000 standard in areas covering the Kowloon peninsula and northern Hong Kong Island.

Service coverage will be extended to the airport, Mass Transit Railway stations, road tunnels and boundary checkpoints.

CDMA is one of the major mobile communications standards widely deployed in Canada, the United States, Japan, South Korea and the Chinese Mainland. —Xinhua

Philippine mudslide leaves five dead, two missing

MANILA, 21 Nov.—Five people, including three children, were killed as a mudslide raged through a southern Philippine gold mining town in the wake of prolonged heavy rains, local media reported Friday.

Three underage children, two girls and one boy, were among the five bodies pulled out from a mountainous town in Compostela Valley province Friday morning, local news network GMA News said.

Another news report said they were buried alive when the mudslide hit Monkayo Town.

At least two people were still missing and feared dead, the reporting said, citing local officials.—Xinhua

A graphic on piracy off the Somali coast. A more aggressive military approach is the only answer to an escalation of piracy off Somalia, the world’s biggest oil tanker company said on Friday.—INTERNET

A train moves past Singapore’s container port on 21 Nov, 2008 in Singapore. Singapore’s economy could contract by up to 1 percent next year as a global slowdown undermines demand for exports, the government said on 21 Nov.—INTERNET

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A truck tows away vehicles that are damaged by bullets after a shooting in Monterrey, northern Mexico, on 20 Nov, 2008. Federal police and soldiers confronted unidentified assailants after they tried to search a warehouse in a working class neighbourhood, according to local media. —Xinhua

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A train moves past Singapore’s container port on 21 Nov, 2008 in Singapore. Singapore’s economy could contract by up to 1 percent next year as a global slowdown undermines demand for exports, the government said on 21 Nov.—INTERNET
National goal and National Day resolution

Every nation is home to diverse tribes, ethnic groups or national races. The People's Republic of China, for example, has 55 national races plus Han tribe. Myanmar is a nation where more than 100 national races live together. National races have different names such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan in Myanmar. And among the Chinese national races are Hwe, Pai, Yi, Mongo, Tibet, Han and Tai.

A land where various national races live together sharing joys and sorrows throughout successive periods is a nation. The general term (nation) of various national races in Myanmar is Myanmar. In like manner, the general term of 56 national races of the People's Republic of China is Chinese. Every nation has the general term of various national races concerned.

Some terms for nation are nation, national, national cause, national interest and national spirit.

Myanmar exercised national politics in its effort to regain its sovereignty and independence lost to the British in 1885. At the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) established in 1906, monks and people held discussions about various sectors including religious affairs, and made comments on the colonial rule that had a strong negative impact on the religion, thus keeping track of the public interest and the religion. The interest of national races is national cause.

In September 1920, YMBA branches, and other religious and social organizations across the nation were combined into the General Council of Burmese Association (GCBA). While carrying out its primary tasks, GCBA, hand in hand with students and the Association (GCBA). While carrying out its primary religious and social organizations across the nation of national races is national cause.

Buddhist Association (YMBA) established in 1906, lost to the British in 1885. At the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) established in 1906, monks and people held discussions about various sectors including religious affairs, and made comments on the colonial rule that had a strong negative impact on the religion, thus keeping track of the public interest and the religion. The interest of national races is national cause.

Actually, Myanmar is blessed with water sources, favourable climate, fertile soil, vast area of fallow lands, and natural resources in abundance. If Myanmar people remain united, they can live a peaceful and safe life with national economic growth. If so, the people will be able to enjoy high living standard. So, the policy Myanmar people badly need, they aspire to, and the nation should have introduced is national politics.
The 88th Anniversary National Day
10th Wanig of Tazaungmon 1370
(22-11-2008)

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

MWAF holds roundtable discussions in Bago

YANGON, 21 Nov—Rehabilitation and Reintegration working group of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation organized a round-table discussion at Thukhamein and Hnget Khar Cheroot in Ward 7 of Oaktha Myothit in Bago on 18 November.

Firstly, Leader of the working group Daw Tin Tin Nwe extended greetings.

Next, Deputy Leader Daw Khin Myo Myint and leaders of sub-working groups gave talks on facts about MWAF.

 Afterwards, Leader of the working group Daw Tin Tin Nwe accepted membership applications presented by Daw Khin Maw Maw, leader of environment working group of Bago Division Women’s Affairs Organization, and Daw Aye Thein, chairperson of Bago District WAO. Next, Daw Tin Tin Nwe presented 10 uniforms to owner of Thukhamein Cheroot.

MWAF holds roundtable discussions in Bago

Literture talks in Hpa-an

YANGON, 21 Nov—Organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, literary talks hailing Sarsodaw Day (1370-ME) were held at Zwekapin Hall in Hpa-an Township in Kayan State on 19 November.

Chairman of Hpa-an Township Writers and Journalists Association U Tin Tun Ohn (Manchamiphale) read formal message from Chairman of Myanmar WJA.

At the talks, writer Tekkatho Thinkha, poet Maung Hay Mar and writer Maung Khine Khant gave talks on literature.

Later, joint treasurer U Maung Maung Aye (Maung Hay Mar) received K 400,000 from Chairman of District Peace and Development Council U Saw Myat Htut Win for a ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati (1370-ME) and presented certificates of honour.

Invitation cards for doyen literati

YANGON, 21 Nov—Organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, a ceremony to pay respect to doyen literati in commemoration of Sarsodaw Day will be held at Yangon City Hall here on 2 December.

Chairmen of Township WJA and secretaries are reminded to draw invitation cards in order to attend the ceremony at No.529 the office of MWJA on Merchant Street starting from 25 November.
Chinese goodwill delegation on study tour of Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov — The visiting goodwill delegation led by Mr. Zhang Gaoli, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Secretary of the CPC Tianjin Municipal Committee, accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Guan Mu and officials, arrived at Mandalay International Airport from Nay Pyi Taw on 19 November.

The Chinese delegation was welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, Secretary U Maung Pu and members, Consul-General of China Mr. Tang Ying and officials of Consulate General. Next, the delegation members paid homage to the Sutaungpyae Buddha Image on Mandalay Hill and Mr. Zhang Gaoli signed in the visitors’ book. They then visited Kuthodaw Pagoda and studied the stone inscriptions there.

In the evening, the mayor hosted a dinner in honour of the Chinese guests at Mandalay Hill Resort. Yesterday morning the Chinese goodwill delegation visited Mya Nan San Kyaw Palace in Mandalay. The guests were seen off by Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, MCDC Secretary U Maung Pu and members, the Chinese ambassador and consul-general and Chinese embassy staff.

Mayor’s Cup Tennis winners

YANGON, 21 Nov — The final match of the 4th Yangon Mayor’s Cup Tennis Tournament took place at Thetbyu Tennis Court yesterday. Next, prize presentation ceremony followed. Officials presented cash awards to winners of U-12, U-14 and U-16 boys’ single.

President of Myanmar Tennis Federation U Zaw Win presented cash awards to winners of men’s open singles and doubles. Secretary U Aung Than Win of Yangon City Development Committee presented cash awards to TACCO, All-POWER and YCDC and Pyapon teams which stood first, second and third in team event and handed over championship trophy to TACCO team.

Fishes are Department holds coord meeting, prize presentation ceremony

YANGON, 21 Nov — A coordination meeting of Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries was held at the meeting hall of the department in Ahlon Township here yesterday with an address by Director-General U Khin Maung Aye.

Heads of State/Division Fisheries Department, those in charge of farm and center of quality control on marine products reported on works being carried out by the director-general.

Next, prize-giving ceremony followed. The director-general presented prizes to the heads of Katha and Mawlamyine Districts and deputy head of Shwegu Township Fisheries Department. The deputy director-general also awarded outstanding employees and officials, outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination for 2008 with flying colours.

Courses of Education and Training Department conclude

YANGON, 21 Nov — The closing ceremony of Management Course No. (29/30), Advanced Domestic Course No. (19), Vocational Training Course (Rattan/Bamboo) Course No (6) and Clerical Course No. (56/57) was held at Central Training School of Education and Training Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs on Myawady Mingyi Street in Ward 51 of Dagon Myothit (North) here today with an address by Deputy Director-General U Win Aung of the department.

The deputy director-general presented best trainee awards to the outstanding staff of the respective courses and completion certificates to the representatives.

A total of 157 trainees attended the twelve-week courses.

After the ceremony, the deputy director-general viewed works of the trainees and inspected theaters, hostels and mess and growing of perennial and seasonal fruit trees at the school.
Mayyu Mountain Range to be covered with rubber farms

(from page 16)
Manager U Naing Oo of the Perennial Crops Enterprise (Rakhine State Branch) conducted us round the nursery, saying that output of rubber graft saplings was better than that of seedlings, so a 16-acre rubber farm had been established in the state; that rubber seed were sowed according to the soil and climate to establish a nursery; that in general, rubber seed were sowed from July to September; and that rubber seed turned bad if they were not grown in a week, so they had to take great care in the process.

Mayyu Mountain Range is about 70 miles long, and 100,000 acres can be put under rubber on it. So far, 36 local villages have grown rubber in 2084 acres on the mountain range.

Of a rubber plant, latex is exported, and trunk and branches give sawn timber. So, the rate of K 100 a piece contributes to rubber grafts at the whole rubber plant is about 10 years old, the seeds are sowed. When latex is exported, and a healthy tree is old, the seeds can be sown for successful seedlings. Rubber can be traded freely. Now, the face price of rubber is K 1500 a pound. A rubber plant can be harvested on a commercial scale till it is more than 30 years old. Some farmers replace rubber plants at the age of 30 years with young ones. Rubber is so valuable that it is also called white gold in the figurative sense of the word. In the past, rubber was grown only in some townships of Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi divisions and Mon State. Coming to the knowledge of the lucrative business of rubber farming, national entrepreneurs, companies, and individuals have increased the acreage of rubber farms to over 930,000. Of them, about 340,000 acres of farms have begun to produce latex. In 2007-2008 fiscal year, Myanmar produced 181.3 million lbs of rubber.

Previously, local people did not notice that rubber grows well in their region. Thanks to the talks and organizing measures carried out by the Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise, now rubber farming has become popular in Maungtaw and Thidaunga townships of Maungtaw District, Sittaway, Yathedaung, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw, Maungtaw, Pauktaw and Myebon townships in Sittway District, and Kyaukpyu, Ranbye, Manaung and Anland townships of Kyaukpyu District, and Thandwe, Taung-up and Gwa townships of Thandwe District and the acreage of rubber farms in those regions has reached more than 29,000.

Rubber is grown at the rate of 220 plants an acre. And overall cost for an acre is from one million to over 1.3 million kyats yearly from the first to seventh year. A healthy profit of over 19.2 million kyats can be made from an acre during the period from the eighth to the 30th year. It is calculated at the previous rate of 1000 kyats a pound of rubber. If it is calculated at the face value, the profit from an acre in the same period will touch about 29 million kyats. Rakhine State also grows other perennial crops; oil palm in 110 acres, cashew in 15,588 acres and physic nut in 15,893 acres. The farms are State-owned and private-owned ones. The Rakhine Perennial Crops Enterprise demonstrated growing perennial crops, and when the farms showed successful, it encouraged local farmers to grow perennial crops. Rakhine State lagged behind other regions in development due to poor transport. Unlike in the past, it has now enjoyed cumulative development thanks to new roads and bridges constructed by the government.

The Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise disseminated agricultural methods and allocated land allotments and the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank disbursed agricultural loans to local farmers. It provided loans of over K 106.4 million to private farmers to grow rubber on Mayyu Mountain Range. So, all the targeted 1800 acres were put under the perennial crop. Rakhine State has favourable conditions to grow rubber. For example, it has fertile soil, suitable climate and a good labour market. If many entrepreneurs make investments in rubber farming on a commercial scale on the mountain range, the guidance the Head of State gave during his tour of Rakhine State in 2004 will come to fruition.

As a result, local rubber farmers are doing well in their businesses. Now, there have been many large-scale rubber farms along Gwa-An Road and An-Sittway Road which are linking with Union Coastal Road. The government has given green light for rubber farms in Rakhine State. The region is boosting rubber production. Therefore, rubber farmers of Rakhine State will surely reap the rewards of their prudent investments.

Translation: MS Myanma Alin: 17-11-2008

A nurseries of rubber grafts in Sittway Township, Rakhine State.

A private-owned rubber farm in Minbya Township, Rakhine State.
Famous NYC food critic loses job in sour economy

**New York, 21 Nov**—One of New York City’s most famous food critics is out of a job.

New York magazine confirmed Thursday that Gael Greene — known for her flamboyant hats and influential opinions — is no longer working for the publication.

Magazine spokeswoman Lauren Starke says that in a “tightening economy, our company is simply no longer able to support four separate restaurant critics.” Three other critics remain.

There was no immediate response to an e-mail sent to Greene.

Greene was the magazine’s chief restaurant critic from 1968 to 2002. After that, she wrote a weekly column called “Insatiable Critic.”

Starke says this is Greene’s last week at the magazine, and her last review will appear in Monday’s issue.

Honda to cut global output amid slowing demand

**Tokyo, 21 Nov**—Honda Motor Corp said Friday it will cut production in Japan and Europe by 61,000 vehicles, as it continues to grapple with slowing global demand.

The latest cut means the company is simply no longer able to support four separate restaurant critics.” Three other critics remain.

There was no immediate response to an e-mail sent to Greene.

Greene was the magazine’s chief restaurant critic from 1968 to 2002. After that, she wrote a weekly column called “Insatiable Critic.”

Starke says this is Greene’s last week at the magazine, and her last review will appear in Monday’s issue.

Honda said Thursday production at its Saitama plant, near Tokyo, will be halted through to the end of this month followed by lower daily output, shaving output by 40,000 vehicles.

A cut of 21,000 will be made at Honda’s Wiltshire plant in southwest England, which makes the popular Civic model. Production at the Wiltshire plant was cut 32,000 vehicles earlier this year. Honda had projected an annual output of 228,000 at the plant.

The automaker now expects its domestic production to total 1.27 million vehicles, down 2.4 percent from the 1.31 million projected in April. Honda said it expects global production of about 2.87 million vehicles for the fiscal year ending March 31, down from its earlier projection of 3 million.

Tough economic conditions and tight credit markets have cut into auto sales across the industry this year, forcing many automakers to produce vehicles in the United States to cut production.

Honda said Thursday that it was cutting its North American production by another 18,000 vehicles, bringing the total production cuts to 50,000.

Major shippers skirt Gulf of Aden to avoid pirates

**Mogadishu, 21 Nov**—Rampant piracy off Somalia is forcing shipping companies to avoid the Suez Canal and send cargoes of oil and other goods on a longer journey around southern Africa.

Industry officials said on Thursday Denmark’s AP Moller-Maersk is routing some of its 50 oil tankers around the Cape of Good Hope instead of using the Strait of Hormuz.

“I was considering a similar step. They were responding to Saturday’s spectacular capture by Somali pirates of a Saudi Arabian supertanker loaded with $100 million worth of oil, the biggest hijacking in history.

Scores of attacks in Somali waters this year have driven up insurance costs for shipping firms and the decision to divert cargo around South Africa risks pushing up prices for manufactured goods and commodities.

“We need immediate action from governments to protect these vital trade lanes — robust action in the form of greater naval and military support with a clear mandate to engage, to arrest pirates and to bring them to trial,” Intertanko said.

The head of the International Maritime Organization, Eithnimos Mitropoulos, warned of “a series of negative repercussions” if ships had to reroute.

He said going around the Cape added about 12 days to a typical Gulf-to-Europe voyage, delaying oil supplies, and potentially raising freight rates by 25 to 30 percent.

**Honda to announce more production cuts**

**Detroit, 21 Nov**—General Motors Corp is telling workers that it will make further production cuts at several factories, according to people briefed on the discussions.

The people did not want to be identified because the announcements were still being made Friday morning. The extent of the cuts was unknown.

GM has announced thousands of factory layoffs so far this year and is cutting its salaried staff in order to pare expenses and conserve cash. The company has said it could run out of cash by the end of this year.

GM and its Detroit counterparts are seeking billions of dollars in loans from the federal government. Congress is requiring the automakers to come up with plans to become viable before it will decide on the loans.

**People surround a destroyed car in the slam of Petare in Caracas on 21 Nov, 2008. Heavy rains last night have flooded many neighbourhoods leaving seven dead across the country and at least 400 homeless, local media report.**

**Internet**
Google empowers users to edit search results

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 Nov — If Google delivers useless search results, just erase them and you won’t see them again.

That’s possible under a new system Google Inc unveiled on Thursday. Hoping to give its search engine a more personal touch, Google now lets users reshuffle results so their favorite Web sites get top billing and disliked destinations get discarded the next time they enter the same request. It marks the first time that the Internet’s most popular search engine has allowed its audience to alter the order of search results. Although the revisions won’t affect Google’s closely guarded formulas for ranking Web sites, the Mountain View-based company isn’t ruling out eventually tapping into collective wisdom of the crowds to tweak its Internet-searching algorithms.

For now, Google simply wants to make specific sets of results more useful to each individual that comes to its search engine, said Marissa Mayer, who oversees the company’s search products. Users will have to have a personal login to take advantage of the editing feature. “It should make the search results more dynamic,” she said.—Internet

IAEA says Syria site hit by Israel resembled atom plant

VIENNA, 21 Nov — A Syrian complex bombed by Israel bore multiple features resembling those of a nuclear reactor and UN inspectors found “significant” traces of uranium at the site, a watchdog report said on Wednesday.

But the International Atomic Energy Agency said the findings from an inspectors trip to the site in June were not enough to conclude a covert reactor was there. It said further investigation and greater Syrian transparency were needed.

Obtained by Reuters, the nuclear safeguards report said Syria would be asked to show to inspectors debris and equipment whisked away from the site at Al-Kibar in the country’s eastern desert after the September 2007 Israeli air raid.

The United States gave intelligence to the IAEA last April that Washington said indicated the site was a reactor that was close to being built with North Korean assistance and designed to produce plutonium for atomic bombs.

Syria, an ally of Iran whose disputed nuclear enrichment programme has been under IAEA investigation for years, says the site destroyed was a conventional military building and the uranium traces must have come from munitions used to bomb it.—Internet

Early treatment best for AIDS-infected babies

BOSTON, 21 Nov — Sooner is better when it comes to treating infants born with the AIDS virus, HIV, researchers reported on Wednesday. A South African study of 377 babies found that giving newborns drug therapy right away, typically around 7 days after birth, reduced their risk of dying by 76 percent.

When doctors withheld therapy until there were symptoms of AIDS or until immune system cells called CD4 T-cells dropped to low levels, the death rate was 16 percent, the researchers reported in the New England Journal of Medicine. But among babies who began receiving treatment right away, typically around 7 weeks of age, only 4 percent died after about 40 weeks of care.—Internet

Indian boy thrown under train for writing love letter

PAINA, 21 Nov — A teenage Indian boy was thrashed, paraded through the streets with his head shaved and then thrown under a train for daring to write a love letter to a girl from a different caste, police said on Thursday.

Fifteen-year-old Manish Kumar was kidnapped by members of the rival caste on his way to school, had his head shaved and was thrown under a train as his mother begged for mercy, police in the impoverished eastern state of Bihar said. One man has so far been arrested and a policeman suspended.

The victim’s mother Lalit Devi told police she had watched “helplessly” as the wheels of the train passed over her son.—Internet

Sri Lanka troops say taking more Tiger defences

COLOMBO, 21 Nov — Security forces fought pitched battles with the Tamil Tigers and took control of more rebel defences near their political capital in northern Sri Lanka, the defence ministry said on Friday.

Troops mounted three frontal assaults against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the main battle for Kilinochchi, the de facto capital of the rebels, on Thursday, the ministry said.

The defence ministry has stopped releasing casualty details of its own troops, but said security forces recovered the bodies of two Tiger rebels killed in Thursday’s clashes.

There was no immediate comment from the Tigers, but they tacitly admitted that security forces had breached the main line of defence in the far north of the island.—Internet

Magnate’s body stolen in Austria

VIENNA, 21 Nov — Thieves have stolen the remains of a billionaire who died in 2006 from his vault in southern Austria, moving granite slabs to reach his coffin. Police believe they must have used heavy lifting gear to remove the coffin of German-born Friedrich Karl Flick in the town of Velden, Carinthia.

Flick, who ran a German industrial empire and owned Austria’s largest private forest, died at the age of 79. Austrian media have speculated that his body was stolen for ransom. It is believed that the theft was committed at the weekend but news of the crime only emerged in recent days. The coffin was reportedly made from solid zinc and weighed more than 200kg (441lb). The grave-robbers also had to remove heavy granite slabs to break into the tomb.

He was listed by Forbes magazine shortly before his own death in 2006 as one of the world’s 100 richest people.—Internet
Dad’s in-home smoking may harm family’s health

NEW YORK, 21 Nov—Fathers-to-be who smoke and want to protect the health of their families should take it outside, suggests new research from Korea.

Newborns whose fathers had smoked in the home had higher levels of nicotine in their hair than babies born to non-smoking dads, Dr Moon-Woo Seong of the National Center in Goyang and colleagues found. But infants whose fathers smoked, but only did so outdoors, had no more nicotine in their hair than babies whose fathers did not smoke at all. “Outside smoking substantially reduces maternal and fetal exposure,” they conclude.

The study, reported in the latest issue of the American Journal of Epidemiology, included 63 mother-father-newborn trios. None of the mothers in the study were smokers, or were regularly exposed to second-hand smoke outside the home. In 27 families neither parent smoked, fathers only smoked outdoors in 27 of the families, and in 9 families the father smoked indoors.

Mothers living with smokers had significantly more nicotine and its byproduct cotinine in their hair, Seong and colleagues found, but there were no significant difference between nicotine and cotinine levels in the hair of babies with non-smoking fathers and those with smoking fathers.

However, when the researchers looked separately at indoor and outdoor smoking, they did find higher nicotine levels in the children of indoor smokers compared to outdoor smokers. —INTERNET

More research needed into foodborne diseases

GENEVA, 21 Nov—Foodborne diseases appear to be on the rise in both rich and poor countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday.

More research is needed to determine how much sickness and death stems from contaminated food, such as the tainted Chinese milk that caused kidney problems in more than 50,000 children and killed four, and the US salmonella outbreak that made more than 1,400 people ill, WHO director of food safety Jorgen Schlundt said. An estimated 30 percent of new infectious diseases originate in bacteria, viruses, parasites, chemicals and toxins introduced along food production chains, he told an experts’ meeting.

There are some indications that the foodborne disease burden is increasing. But there is not very good data, it is difficult to say exactly what is happening,” Schlundt said.

About 2.2 million children die each year from diarrheal illnesses including cholera caused by dirty water, food, and poor sanitation, according to the United Nations agency. Food products needed to be monitored at every stage of their handling, Schlundt said. —INTERNET

Astronauts end 2nd spacewalk at space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, 21 Nov—Spacewalking astronauts performed more repair work on a jammed joint at the international space station on Thursday, keeping a tight grip on all their tools so nothing would get away this time.

A $100,000 tool bag was lost during the first spacewalk of the mission two days ago. To everyone’s relief, Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper and Shane Kimbrough deftly stepped through their work without any mishaps. They had double- and triple-checked their equipment before venturing out to make certain everything was tied down. —INTERNET

Warwick, 21 Nov—Researchers said Thursday they have identified the remains of Nicolaus Copernicus by comparing DNA from a skeleton and hair retrieved from one of the 16th-century astronomer’s books. The findings could put an end to centuries of speculation about the exact resting spot of Copernicus, a priest and astronomer whose theories identified the Sun, not the Earth, as the center of the universe.

Polish archaeologist Jerzy Gassowski told a news conference that forensic facial reconstruction of the skull, missing the lower jaw, his team found in 2005 buried in a Roman Catholic Cathedral in Frombork, Poland, bears striking resemblance to existing portraits of Copernicus. The reconstruction shows a broken nose and other features that resemble a self-portrait of Copernicus, and the skull bears a cut mark above the left eye that corresponds with a scar shown in the painting.

Moreover, the skull belonged to a man aged around 70 — Copernicus’s age when he died in 1543.

“In our opinion, our work led us to the discovery of Copernicus’s remains but a grain of doubt remained,” Gassowski said. So, in the next stage, Swedish genetics expert Marie Allen analyzed DNA from a vertebrae, a tooth and femur bone and matched and compared it to that taken from two hairs retrieved from a book that the 16th-century Polish astronomer owned, which is kept at a library in Sweden’s Uppsala University. —INTERNET

Top US justice official collapses

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov—US attorney general Michael Mukasey collapsed and lost consciousness while giving a speech on national security, the US justice department said.

Mr Mukasey, 67, was taken to a hospital for treatment, where his spokesman said he was conscious and alert. Associate attorney general Kevin O’Connor said Mr Mukasey had suddenly started shaking and then collapsed.

The former federal judge has been the top US law enforcement official for about a year. The attorney general was giving an address to the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy at a hotel in Washington at the time he collapsed.

He was looked after by members of his own security detail until an ambulance arrived to take him to George Washington University Hospital. —INTERNET
Wenger calls on FIFA to probe player withdrawals

**LONDON, 21 Nov — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger wants FIFA and UEFA to investigate if players who missed this week’s international friendlies line up for their clubs this weekend or in Champions League games next week.**

“Theoretically, if you do not play in the national team, you cannot play in the game after in the championship — that is the rule,” Wenger told reporters on Thursday.

“It would be very interesting for FIFA and UEFA to make a study of any players who have not played in any national team, and who will play on Saturday or on Tuesday and Wednesday in the Champions League.”

England were hit by the withdrawal of a host of key players, including injured duo Frank Lampard and Steve Gerrard, before their friendly with Germany in Berlin on Wednesday.

The timing of this week’s plethora of friendlies has continued the club versus country debate, with many managers fearing that key players will pick up injuries at a hectic stage of the season.

“The sad situation in that friendly game, mid-November, before games five and six in the Champions League and before important fixtures in the Leagues, is that many players have pulled out because this friendly is very badly positioned,” added Wenger.

“We never withdraw any player. Our players, unless they have a big injury, we send them. We ask them to be cautious with them, especially in friendly games, and this usually happens with national teams, because they are not crazy.

“But this game was not well positioned because it doesn’t prepare them. There is no official game before March now and it is just in front of very important games for the clubs.”

Mourinho and Ranieri finally clash on the field

**Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho. — Internet**

**Milan, 21 Nov — Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho and Juventus counterpart Claudio Ranieri clash for real on Saturday (19:30 GMT) after a number of verbal spats between the former Chelsea bosses.**

“The pair are far from being best of friends given their recent past, differing styles and their clubs’ Serie A rivalry.

Ranieri built up a decent Chelsea side only to be sacked in 2004 and watch Mourinho take over and lead the London club to two Premier League titles.

The debate about how much credit each man deserves for Chelsea’s success rumbles on and at most as soon as Mourinho arrives at champions Inter in June, a personal feud began.

The charismatic and direct Mourinho constrasts markedly with the avuncular and calm Ranieri. The Portuguese has criticised Ranieri’s knowledge of English and accused the 57-year-old of being too long in the tooth among other jibes.

Ranieri has mixed views about his rival.

“I don’t like it how he creates controversies,” he told Gazzetta dello Sport. “I like the fact all players say good things about him — it shows he has a good relationship.”

The long rivalry between the clubs, who have consistently battled against each other for the Italian title, is just as intense and if not more so than the Milan city derby, Inter versus Turin-based Juventus is called the “Derby of Italy”. — Internet

Spanish media demand Eriksson’s resignation

**Sven Goran-Eriksson.**

**MEXICO CITY, 27 Nov — Mexican media called on Sven Goran-Eriksson to quit as national coach on Thursday, a day after his side lost to Honduras and avoided an early World Cup exit by the skin of their teeth. Eriksson’s team sneaked into the final stage of the CONCACAF zone qualifiers on goal difference ahead of Jamaica after Wednesday’s embar- rassing 1-0 defeat in San Pedro Sula.**

“Mexico, who had two players sent off, took only one point from three away games in semi-final Group Two, where they also suffered a humiliating defeat in Jamaica and were held 2-2 by Canada. “Kick him out. It only costs $4 million,” said the sports daily Record, referring to a penalty clause in Eriksson’s contract if he is sacked.

“If they want, Record will pay the first dollar.”

“We’ve qualified for the final stage but that’s where the dreams of a country could go down the drain along with millions of dollars and a golden generation,” added the newspaper. — Internet

Mexico are in the running for the 2008 PGA Tour Player of the Year award.

**MADRID, 21 Nov — Spain coach Vicente del Bosque has the unavoidable task of taking over Luis Aragonés’s Euro 2008 winning squad in July, but has more than proved he has the management skills needed to extend their incredible run.**

The European champions capped their “annus mirabilis” with a 3-0 win over Chile on Wednesday, their 16th victory in 16 matches in 2008, including the Euro 2008 penalty shootout win over Italy, and are unbeaten in 28 games stretching back to a 1-0 defeat against Romania in Cadiz in November 2006.

As well as winning their first major trophy in 44 years, Spain jumped to the top of the FIFA world rankings and head World Cup qualifying Group Five with four wins out of four.

Former Real Madrid boss Del Bosque said it had been an “unforgettable” year and he hoped 2009 would be just as good if not better.

“The players demonstrated their qualities and their ability to shake off man-markers,” Del Bosque said after the victory over Chile in Villarreal.

“It’s a group of players that is united, ambitious and that enjoys itself on the pitch.”

It’s a group of players that is united, ambitious and that enjoys itself on the pitch.” — Internet

**Woods and Harrington front-runners for Player of the Year**

**MIAMI, 21 Nov — World number one Tiger Woods and multiple major winner Padraig Harrington of Ireland are in the running for the 2008 PGA Tour Player of the Year award.**

US Open champion Woods and Harrington, who clinched the British Open and PGA Championship, have been nominated with American Kenny Perry, Fijian Vijay Singh and Camilo Villegas of Colombia, the Tour said on Thursday.

Perry won three PGA Tour titles this season within seven weeks, three-times winner Singh clinched the lucrative FedExCup and a $10 million (6 million pounds) bonus and Villegas claimed the last two playoff events. — Internet

**Germany’s Ballack dependency all too obvious**

**BERLIN, 21 Nov — Germany’s chronic case of Ballack dependency must have made Wednesday’s 2-1 defeat by England uncomfortable viewing for coach Joachim Loew.**

Loew won a trial of strength with his captain last month when Michael Ballack was forced to apolo- gise for a newspaper interview in which he criticised the coach.

Ballack’s main concern seemed to be that German coaches are too ready to discard senior players, and particularly since the defeat by Spain in the final of Euro 2008. Loew makes no apology for judging his players on form rather than reputation but in that sense there will have been plenty to worry him in the match against England. — Internet

Mourinho, Ranieri clash for real on Saturday

The Portuguese has criticised Ranieri’s knowledge of English and accused the 57-year-old of being too long in the tooth among other jibes.

Ranieri has mixed views about his rival.

“I don’t like it how he creates controversies,” he told Gazzetta dello Sport. “I like the fact all players say good things about him — it shows he has a good relationship.”

The long rivalry between the clubs, who have consistently battled against each other for the Italian title, is just as intense and if not more so than the Milan city derby, Inter versus Turin-based Juventus is called the “Derby of Italy”. — Internet

Woods and Harrington front-runners for Player of the Year

**MIAMI, 21 Nov — World number one Tiger Woods and multiple major winner Padraig Harrington of Ireland are in the running for the 2008 PGA Tour Player of the Year award.**

US Open champion Woods and Harrington, who clinched the British Open and PGA Championship, have been nominated with American Kenny Perry, Fijian Vijay Singh and Camilo Villegas of Colombia, the Tour said on Thursday.

Perry won three PGA Tour titles this season within seven weeks, three-times winner Singh clinched the lucrative FedExCup and a $10 million (6 million pounds) bonus and Villegas claimed the last two playoff events. — Internet

**Germany’s Ballack dependency all too obvious**

**BERLIN, 21 Nov — Germany’s chronic case of Ballack dependency must have made Wednesday’s 2-1 defeat by England uncomfortable viewing for coach Joachim Loew.**

Loew won a trial of strength with his captain last month when Michael Ballack was forced to apolo- gise for a newspaper interview in which he criticised the coach.

Ballack’s main concern seemed to be that German coaches are too ready to discard senior players, and particularly since the defeat by Spain in the final of Euro 2008. Loew makes no apology for judging his players on form rather than reputation but in that sense there will have been plenty to worry him in the match against England. — Internet

Mourinho and Ranieri finally clash on the field

**Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho. — Internet**

**Milan, 21 Nov — Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho and Juventus counterpart Claudio Ranieri clash for real on Saturday (19:30 GMT) after a number of verbal spats between the former Chelsea bosses.**

The pair are far from being best of friends given their recent past, differing styles and their clubs’ Serie A rivalry.

Ranieri built up a decent Chelsea side only to be sacked in 2004 and watch Mourinho take over and lead the London club to two Premier League titles.

The debate about how much credit each man deserves for Chelsea’s success rumbles on and at most as soon as Mourinho arrives at champions Inter in June, a personal feud began.

The charismatic and direct Mourinho constrasts markedly with the avuncular and calm Ranieri. The Portuguese has criticised Ranieri’s knowledge of English and accused the 57-year-old of being too long in the tooth among other jibes.

Ranieri has mixed views about his rival.

“I don’t like it how he creates controversies,” he told Gazzetta dello Sport. “I like the fact all players say good things about him — it shows he has a good relationship.”

The long rivalry between the clubs, who have consistently battled against each other for the Italian title, is just as intense and if not more so than the Milan city derby, Inter versus Turin-based Juventus is called the “Derby of Italy”. — Internet

**Spain choose Lopez over Verdasco for Cup singles**

**MADRID, 21 Nov — Spain captain Emilio Sanchez Vicario ignored the world rankings as he chose Feliciano Lopez as his second singles player for the Davis Cup final against Argentina, ahead of Fernando Verdasco.**

“It has been difficult to take the decision,” Sanchez Vicario, missing world number one Rafael Nadal through injury, told reporters after Thursday’s draw for the Nov 21-23 final.

“Fernando is a little bit ahead in the rankings but Feliciano has shown a bit more in training.” — Internet

**Elliott Clarke, Tel Aviv — Argentina’s Davis Cup tennis players Agustin Callieri, Jose Acasuso, Juan Martin Del Potro, David Nalbandian and team captain Alberto Mancini, and Spanish Copa Davis team captain Emilio Sanchez Vicario, and tennis players David Ferrer, Feliciano Lopez, Fernando Verdasco and Marcel Granollers pose for pictures with the trophy of the championship after the draw of the Davis Cup final. — Internet**
Study shows messiness leads to behavior decline

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov— Does a messy neighbour-hood make a difference on how people act? It sure does! Graffiti on the walls, trash in the street, bicycles chained to a fence, all resulted in a decline in how people behaved in a series of experiments.

But some tend to avoid effort or seek ways to gain for themselves. Things like littering or applying graffiti change the circumstances by indicating that others are not behaving correctly, which weakens the incentive for people to do the right thing.—Internet

Chauveur guilty of throwing lover off Sydney’s suicide Gap

SYDNEY, 21 Nov— A court on Friday found a former chauffeur guilty of throwing his lover to her death off Sydney’s fa-mous suicide spot, The Gap, because he feared she would leave him and divulge information about his stockbroker boss.

The decision by the New South Wales state Supreme Court jury ended a 13-year case involving Australia’s best known stockbroker, Rene Rivkin, who killed himself later, a blonde model, an inter-national police hunt and two trials.

Former chauffeur Gordon Wood threw Caroline Byrne, 24, off The Gap in 1995, a sheer cliff drop of 55-plus me-tres (180-plus feet) into the ocean, because she wanted to leave him, the prosecutor told the Supreme Court during the trial.

The latest findings, published in the journal Science, has identified several dirt-covered glaciers—including one that is three times longer than the city of Los Angeles and up to a half-mile thick. The glaciers may be remnants of warmer conditions on the Red Planet.

Earlier this year, another spacecraft, NASA’s Phoenix Mars Lander, scratched below the dirt-covered plains of the planet’s North Pole to uncover a glistening slab of ice.

The latest findings, from a team of 11 scient-ists led by John W. Holt of the University of Texas, will appear in to-day’s edition of Science, a publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Sci-ence.—Internet

Radar finds paydirt in ancient impact craters

HOUSTON, 21 Nov— Scientists led by a Uni-versity of Texas geologist report that data from an unmanned NASA space probe suggests there’s much more ice on Mars than previously thought.

The Mars Recon-naissance Orbiter, ac-cording to an article in the journal Science, has identified several dirt-covered glaciers— incl-u ding one that is three times longer than the city of Los Angeles and up to a half-mile thick. The glaciers may be remnants of warmer conditions on the Red Planet.

Friday, 21 November, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State and Taninhtayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night tempera-tures were (3°C) to (4°C) above November average tempera-tures in Kayah State, Mandalay, Bago, Magway and Ayeeyawady Divisions, (5°C) above No-vember average temperatures in Shan and Mon States and about November average temperatures in the re-maining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall was Loilem(2.09) inches.

Maximum temperature on 20-11-2008 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 21-11-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 21-11-2008 was 64%. Total sunshine hours on 20-11-2008 was (8.5) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 21-11-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.31) inches at Mingaladon,(120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from East at (09:30) hours MST on 21-11-2008.

Bayview report: Weather is generally fair in the North Bay partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 22nd November 2008: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershow- ers in Taninhtayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine, Shan and Kayah States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of cer-tainty is (60%).

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

Forecast outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the whole coun-try.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 22-11-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-11-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-11-2008: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for last weekend of November 2008: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.
Mayyu Mountain Range to be covered with rubber farms

Article: Reporter Singu Soe Win
Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

While we members of the Myanma Alin Daily media team were in Sittway, Rakhine State, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye received and instructed us to observe rubber farms established according to the motto “Mayyu Mountain Range must be covered with rubber farms”, roads and bridges, and regional development. In compliance with the instructions, we visited the nursery and oil palm plantations near the Regional Control Command.

(See page 10)

A nursery of rubber seedlings in Sittway Township, Rakhine State.

Myanmar win Grand Royal Challenge Cup 2008

YANGON, 21 Nov – The final match of the Third Grand Royal Challenge Cup 2008 and a prize-presentation ceremony took place in the football ground of Yangon Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) at 3 p.m. today. Among the spectators was Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

In the match, Myanmar beat Indonesia 2-1. At the prize presentation ceremony, Director U Zaw Htaik of IBTC presented man of the match award to team captain Soe Myat Min; President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw, gifts to the referees; Managing Director U Aung Moe Kyaw of IBTC, best player award to Yazar Win Thein; and MFF President U Zaw Zaw, individual awards and US$ 7500 to the runner-up Indonesian team.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented individual awards, US$ 15000 and the championship trophy to the Myanmar team. — MNA

Football fans seen at the final match of the 3rd Grand Royal Challenge Cup 2008.

NLM

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents Championship trophy to Myanmar team.

NLM